



The Ellipsis

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. It is used to shorten a long quotation by removing words that don't change the meaning of what is being quoted. Look at the following quotation by Joseph B. Wirthlin:

COMPLETE QUOTATION: Sometimes we make the process more complicated than we need to. We will never make a journey of a thousand miles by fretting about how long it will take or how hard it will be. We make the journey by taking each day step by step and then repeating it again and again until we reach our destination.

QUOTATION WITH ELLIPSIS: Sometimes we make the process more complicated than we need to . . . We make the journey by taking each day step by step and then repeating it again and again until we reach our destination.

DIRECTIONS: Use an ellipsis to shorten the quotation by Joseph B. Wirthlin.

The more often we see the things around us – even the beautiful and wonderful things – the more they become invisible to us. That is why we often take for granted the beauty of this world: the flowers, the trees, the birds, the clouds - even those we love. Because we see things so often, we see them less and less.

