

Ellipsis and Substitution

Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Remember: ellipsis means leaving out words that are understood from the context. Substitution means replacing repeated words or clauses with forms such as one/ones, do so, so or not.

Exercise 1: Ellipsis or substitution?

Write E (ellipsis) or S (substitution) next to each sentence.

1. I can't stay for dinner, but Anna can. ____
2. This printer is too slow. We need a faster one. ____
3. Some students chose the morning class; others the evening class. ____
4. "Will the meeting finish on time?" "I hope so." ____
5. I asked him to call me, but he forgot to. ____
6. The red shoes are cheaper than the black ones. ____
7. James works in London and his sister in Bristol. ____
8. Anyone wishing to change their booking should do so before Friday. ____

Exercise 2: Complete the sentence

Complete each sentence with an auxiliary or modal verb. Do not repeat the full verb phrase.

1. I haven't finished the report, but Marta ____.
2. Ben can drive, but his younger brother ____.
3. They said they would send the documents, and they ____.
4. I don't usually eat breakfast, but my husband ____.
5. Sara has visited Edinburgh, but I ____.
6. You should apologise, even if he ____ not.
7. We thought the plan would work, but unfortunately it ____ not.
8. He might join us later, but I don't think he ____.

Exercise 3: One or ones?

Replace the repeated noun with one or ones where possible.

1. This chair is uncomfortable. Can I use that chair instead?

This chair is uncomfortable. Can I use _____?

2. I prefer the blue notebooks to the red notebooks.

I prefer the blue notebooks to _____.

3. My phone is very old, so I'm going to buy a new phone.

My phone is very old, so I'm going to buy _____.

4. Which biscuits would you like: the chocolate biscuits or the plain biscuits?

Which biscuits would you like: _____ or _____?

5. These exercises are more difficult than the previous exercises.

These exercises are more difficult than _____.

6. I need a clean glass. Is there a clean glass in the cupboard?

I need a clean glass. Is there _____ in the cupboard?

Exercise 4: So, not or do so?

Choose the best substitute: so, not, or do so. You may use an answer more than once.

1. A: Is Leo coming to the conference? B: I think _____.

2. A: Will the weather improve? B: I hope _____.

3. Applicants who want to request extra time must _____ in writing.

4. A: Has the train been cancelled? B: Apparently _____.

5. If you decide to contact the manager, please _____ before 5 p.m.

6. A: Do you think the new system will help? B: I certainly hope _____.

7. A: Is Clara still angry with us? B: I suppose _____.

8. Employees wishing to work from home should _____ through the online form.

Exercise 5: Make the sentences less repetitive

Rewrite each sentence using ellipsis or substitution. Keep the meaning the same.

1. I have never tried skiing, but my sister has tried skiing.

2. I don't like this jacket. Could I try a different jacket?

3. Some people prefer working from home, while other people prefer working in an office.

4. Maya said she would send me the file, and she sent me the file.

5. The first candidate studied economics, and the second candidate studied law.

6. I asked Sam to stay for dinner, but he didn't want to stay for dinner.

7. Do you think prices will fall soon? I hope that prices will fall soon.

8. This laptop is much lighter than my old laptop.

Exercise 6: Sentence transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. I haven't seen the exhibition, but Olivia has seen it.

HAS

I haven't seen the exhibition, but Olivia _____.

2. I would like to come with you, but I can't.

LOVE

I would _____, but I can't.

3. This suitcase is heavier than my old suitcase.

ONE

This suitcase is heavier than _____.

4. Do you think Mia will accept the job? I believe she will.

SO

Do you think Mia will accept the job? I _____.

5. People who want to apply should apply before 30 September.

SO

People who want to apply should _____ before 30 September.

6. Daniel can speak Italian, and his wife can speak Italian too.

CAN

Daniel can speak Italian, and his wife _____.

Exercise 7: Short production task

Rewrite the paragraph so that it sounds less repetitive. Use at least three examples of ellipsis or substitution.

I enjoy studying languages, and my sister enjoys studying languages too. I prefer online courses, but she prefers classroom courses. I have taken several evening classes, but she has not taken any evening classes. We both want to improve our pronunciation, and I think that we will improve our pronunciation if we practise regularly.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. E
2. S
3. E
4. S
5. E
6. S
7. E
8. S

Exercise 2

1. has
2. can't / cannot
3. did
4. does
5. haven't
6. does
7. did
8. will

Exercise 3

1. that one
2. the red ones
3. a new one
4. the chocolate ones / the plain ones
5. the previous ones
6. a clean one

Exercise 4

1. so
2. so
3. do so
4. not
5. do so

6. so
7. not
8. do so

Exercise 5

1. I have never tried skiing, but my sister has.
2. I don't like this jacket. Could I try a different one?
3. Some people prefer working from home, while others prefer working in an office.
4. Maya said she would send me the file, and she did.
5. The first candidate studied economics, and the second law.
6. I asked Sam to stay for dinner, but he didn't want to.
7. Do you think prices will fall soon? I hope so.
8. This laptop is much lighter than my old one.

Exercise 6

1. has
2. love to
3. my old one
4. believe so
5. do so
6. can too

Exercise 7

Suggested answer:

I enjoy studying languages, and my sister does too. I prefer online courses, but she prefers classroom ones. I have taken several evening classes, but she hasn't. We both want to improve our pronunciation, and I think we will if we practise regularly.