



Punctuation for Pauses and Breaks

Today's Standard

8.L.2a - Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.

| Cues | Notes |
|-------------------|---|
| Comma | Commas are used to separate items in a list, clauses, or to indicate a slight pause. |
| Ellipsis | Ellipses are used to show omitted material or a trailing off of thought. |
| Dash | Dashes can create emphasis, indicate an abrupt change, or set off additional information. |
| Pause | |
| Break | Each punctuation mark serves a unique purpose and is not interchangeable. |
| Punctuation usage | Overuse of punctuation can make writing confusing. |

Summary

Understanding the distinct uses of commas, ellipses, and dashes helps improve writing clarity and effectiveness. Each punctuation mark should be used purposefully and not interchangeably or excessively.