

Name _____

Date _____

Commas, Ellipses, and Dashes

Definition

Commas, ellipses, and dashes are punctuation marks with specific functions in writing. Commas separate elements within sentences, ellipses indicate omission or pause, and dashes emphasize information or mark interruptions.

Example

Commas:

Use	Example	Function
Items in a series	"Please bring bread, milk, and eggs."	Separates items in a list
Introductory elements	"After the storm, we assessed the damage."	Sets off beginning phrases
Nonessential elements	"My sister, who lives in Boston, is visiting."	Encloses additional information

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Ellipses:

Use	Example	Function
Hesitation	"I never thought... well, maybe I did."	Shows pause in speech or thought
Omitted text	"The poem begins, 'Roses are red...'"	Indicates missing content from quotation
Trailing off	"If only we had..."	Shows unfinished thought

Dashes:

Use	Example	Function
Emphasis	"The concert—which was sold out—was postponed."	Sets off information with emphasis
Interruption	"He promised to bring the—"	Shows abrupt break in speech
Definition	"Three things—time, money, patience—are essential."	Introduces explanation

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Select the correct answer about punctuation use in sentences related to Angkor Wat.

1. Which sentence correctly uses commas to separate items in a series?

- a) Angkor Wat features stone carvings of dancers, warriors and deities.
- b) Angkor Wat features stone carvings of dancers, warriors, and deities.
- c) Angkor Wat features stone carvings of dancers warriors, and deities.
- d) Angkor Wat features stone carvings of, dancers, warriors, and deities.

2. Which sentence correctly uses dashes for emphasis?

- a) Angkor Wat—the largest religious monument in the world—was originally built as a Hindu temple.
- b) Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, was originally built as a Hindu temple.
- c) Angkor Wat...the largest religious monument in the world...was originally built as a Hindu temple.
- d) Angkor Wat the largest religious monument in the world was originally built as a Hindu temple.

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3. Which sentence correctly uses an ellipsis to show omitted text from a quote?

- a) "Angkor Wat demonstrates remarkable architectural precision..." wrote the archaeologist in her field notes.
- b) "Angkor Wat demonstrates remarkable architectural precision" wrote the archaeologist in her field notes.
- c) "Angkor Wat demonstrates remarkable architectural precision—" wrote the archaeologist in her field notes.
- d) "Angkor Wat demonstrates remarkable architectural precision," wrote the archaeologist in her field notes.

4. Which sentence correctly uses a dash to indicate interrupted speech?

- a) "The temple complex was dedicated to—" our guide stopped as thunder rumbled overhead.
- b) "The temple complex was dedicated to..." our guide stopped as thunder rumbled overhead.
- c) "The temple complex was dedicated to," our guide stopped as thunder rumbled overhead.
- d) "The temple complex was dedicated to" our guide stopped as thunder rumbled overhead.

5. Which sentence correctly uses commas to set off nonessential information?

- a) King Suryavarman II who ruled from 1113 to 1150 CE commissioned the construction of Angkor Wat.
- b) King Suryavarman II, who ruled from 1113 to 1150 CE commissioned the construction of Angkor Wat.
- c) King Suryavarman II, who ruled from 1113 to 1150 CE, commissioned the construction of Angkor Wat.
- d) King Suryavarman II who ruled from 1113 to 1150 CE, commissioned the construction of Angkor Wat.

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Insert the appropriate punctuation mark (comma, ellipsis, or dash) in each sentence.

1. The five towers of Angkor Wat _____ designed to represent Mount Meru _____ symbolize the home of the Hindu gods.
2. "The bas-reliefs at Angkor Wat depict scenes from Hindu epics _____ including the Ramayana and the Mahabharata," explained the tour guide.
3. Visitors to Angkor Archaeological Park should bring water _____ comfortable shoes _____ a hat _____ and sunscreen.
4. "The construction of Angkor Wat must have required thousands of workers _____ " the historian's statement trailed off as she contemplated the enormous scale of the project.
5. The temple faces west _____ unusual for Hindu temples _____ possibly because it was intended to serve as a funerary temple for King Suryavarman II.

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Commas, Ellipses, and Dashes – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. b) Angkor Wat features stone carvings of dancers, warriors, and deities.
2. a) Angkor Wat—the largest religious monument in the world—was originally built as a Hindu temple.
3. a) "Angkor Wat demonstrates remarkable architectural precision..." wrote the archaeologist in her field notes.
4. a) "The temple complex was dedicated to—" our guide stopped as thunder rumbled overhead.
5. c) King Suryavarman II, who ruled from 1113 to 1150 CE, commissioned the construction of Angkor Wat.

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. The five towers of Angkor Wat — designed to represent Mount Meru — symbolize the home of the Hindu gods.
2. "The bas-reliefs at Angkor Wat depict scenes from Hindu epics, including the Ramayana and the Mahabharata," explained the tour guide.
3. Visitors to Angkor Archaeological Park should bring water, comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen.
4. "The construction of Angkor Wat must have required thousands of workers..." the historian's statement trailed off as she contemplated the enormous scale of the project.
5. The temple faces west — unusual for Hindu temples — possibly because it was intended to serve as a funerary temple for King Suryavarman II.