ellipses

Ellipsis (plural: ellipses) is a cohesive device that involves the **omission** of words or phrases from a sentence because they can be easily understood from the surrounding context. It's a way of avoiding repetition and making communication more concise and natural.

Types of Ellipsis

There are three main types of ellipsis, categorized by what is omitted:

1. **Nominal Ellipsis:** The omission of a noun or noun phrase.

   o **Example:** "My daughter wants a new laptop, but I can't afford a new **one**." The word "one" is a substitute for the noun "laptop." However, in ellipsis, the noun itself can be left out entirely, as in:

     ▪ "Which cookies would you like?" "I'll have some **chocolate chip**." (The word **cookies** is understood).

2. **Verbal Ellipsis:** The omission of a verb or verb phrase.

   o **Example:** "John will go to the store, and Mary will **too**." (The words **go to the store** are omitted).

3. **Clausal Ellipsis:** The omission of an entire clause, often in a conversational context.

   o **Example:** "When are you leaving?" "**Tomorrow**." (The full answer would be "I am leaving **tomorrow**").

Ellipsis vs. Substitution

Both ellipsis and substitution are cohesive devices that avoid repetition. However, they work differently:

- **Ellipsis** completely removes the repeated word or phrase, leaving a blank space that the reader or listener mentally fills in.

- **Substitution** replaces the repeated word or phrase with a substitute word like "**one**," "**do**," or "**so**."

Ellipsis is a key tool for creating **cohesion** and a more natural-sounding flow in both written and spoken language.