

## Ellipses

**8.78.** Three asterisks (preferred form), separated by en quads, are used to denote an ellipsis within a sentence, at the beginning or end of a sentence, or in two or more consecutive sentences (see also rule 8.85). If periods are used instead of asterisks, they are also separated by en quads. To achieve faithful reproduction of excerpt material, editors should indicate placement of terminal period in relation to an ellipsis at the end of a sentence.

He called \* \* \* and left. \* \* \* When he returned the \* \* \* .

\* \* \* called \* \* \* and left. \* \* \* he returned the \* \* \* .

He called \* \* \* and \* \* \* . When he returned the \* \* \* .

He called \* \* \* and \* \* \* he returned the \* \* \* . [Two or more consecutive sentences, including intervening punctuation]

**8.79.** Three periods may be used to indicate ellipsis; four periods, when sentence is brought to a close.

He called . . . and left. . . . When he returned the . . . .

. . . called . . . and left. . . . he returned the . . . .

He called . . . and . . . . When he returned the . . . .

He called . . . and . . . he returned the . . . . [Two or more consecutive sentences, including intervening punctuation]

**8.80.** Neither asterisks nor periods are overrun alone at the end of a paragraph.

**8.81.** When both asterisks and periods for ellipsis occur in the copy and periods are not specifically requested, use asterisks throughout.

**8.82.** A line of asterisks (or periods) indicates an omission of one or more entire paragraphs. In 26½-pica or wider measure, a line of “stars” means 7 asterisks indented 2 ems at each end of the line, with the remaining space divided evenly between the asterisks. In measures less than 26½ picas, 5 stars are used. Quotation marks are not used on line of asterisks or periods in quoted matter. Where line of asterisks ends complete quotation, no closing quote is used.

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**8.83.** Indented matter in 26½-pica or wider measure also requires a 7-star line to indicate the omission of one or more entire paragraphs.

**8.84.** An extra indentation is added in indented matter; except where there are too many varying indentions, then all the asterisks (or periods) have the same alinement.

**8.85.** If an omission occurs in the last part of a paragraph immediately before a line of stars, three stars are used, in addition to the line of stars, to indicate such an omission.

**8.86.** If two or more sizes of type are used on a page, 10-point asterisks are indented 2 ems, 8 point and 6 point being alined with the 10-point asterisks.

**8.87.** Equalize spacing above and below a line of stars.