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C2 CLAUSES ≈ 27 MIN

Advanced Ellipsis — *practice on paper*

You recognise the four omission patterns; now tighten fresh reports, comparisons, and follow-up questions on paper.

Omit only	**recoverable material**	and keep the	**contrast visible**	: gapping, stripping, sluicing, or a comparison with than

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ○ 2 · FILL-IN ○ 3 · CORRECT ○ 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT GAPPING OR SLUICING · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each English sentence. On the left, a shared verb is omitted from a parallel branch; on the right, a wh-word carries open information.

- Rita tracks costs; Ben, delivery dates
- Oslo packed laptops; Riga, headsets
- Legal checked clause one; Finance, clause two
- North sold licences; South, support
- Eva chairs reviews; Karim, briefings
- One figure changed; nobody knows which
- A vendor withdrew; we cannot say why
- Someone moved the file; ask who
- The launch slipped; I know when
- One term failed; tell me which

GAPPING	SLUICING

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE THE OMISSION · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Insert exactly the English word given in the cue. This keeps every gap unambiguous; then check the pattern and reference.

01 Quarterly sales were stronger _____ forecast. (use than)

02 The schedule changed, but I do not know _____ . (use how)

03 Priya handles renewals, and Tomas, _____ . (use claims)

04 The board accepted the scope, but not _____ . (use timing)

05 Fewer defects reached support _____ planned. (use than)

06 Something delayed shipping; please find out _____ . (use what)

07 Berlin revised prices, and Madrid, _____ . (use onboarding)

08 The team approved phase one, but not _____ . (use phase two)

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · CORRECT THE OMISSION · APPROX. 7 MIN ●●○

Each sentence contains exactly one marked error. Follow the English cue and change only the named part.

01 Revenue rose higher as projected. (replace only "as")

02 One package vanished — we cannot tell, which. (delete the comma before "which")

03 Design reviewed the mock-up, and Sales reviewed, the copy. (delete the second "reviewed")

04 The committee approved the venue, but it did not the date. (replace the final branch with "but not the date")

05 Hamburg prepared manuals, Cologne training, and Bonn prepared support. (delete the second "prepared")

06 Costs were lower then budgeted. (replace only "then")

BRICK 4 · WRITE CONCISE BUSINESS SENTENCES · APPROX. 8 MIN ●●●

Write one English sentence for each prompt. Omit only material that your sentence makes unambiguous.

01 Task list: allocate three different tasks with only one stated verb.

02 Decision: confirm one point but exclude a second one with stripping.

03 Follow-up: report an unknown problem and omit the rest after a wh-word.

04 Metric: compare a result concisely with a forecast using than.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I omit only material that can be recovered unambiguously.
- ☐ I keep every role and object parallel in gapping.
- ☐ I place no German-style comma before the sluiced wh-word.
- ☐ I use than, not as, after a comparative.

Still unsure? Write the full version first and shorten it again afterwards.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 Rita tracks costs; Ben, delivery dates
Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.

02 Oslo packed laptops; Riga, headsets
Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.

03 Legal checked clause one; Finance, clause two
Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.

04 North sold licences; South, support
Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.

05 Eva chairs reviews; Karim, briefings
Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.

06 One figure changed; nobody knows which
Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.

07 A vendor withdrew; we cannot say why
Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.

08 Someone moved the file; ask who
Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.

09 The launch slipped; I know when
Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.

10 One term failed; tell me which
Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 Quarterly sales were stronger **than** forecast.
Comparison: than follows the comparative.

02 The schedule changed, but I do not know **how**.
Sluicing: how carries the open manner question.

03 Priya handles renewals, and Tomas, **claims**.
Gapping: claims fills the parallel object slot.

04 The board accepted the scope, but not **timing**.
Stripping: only timing remains as the contrast.

05 Fewer defects reached support **than** planned.
Comparison: than follows fewer.

06 Something delayed shipping; please find out **what**.
Sluicing: what carries the open detail question.

07 Berlin revised prices, and Madrid, **onboarding**.
Gapping: revised carries into the second branch.

08 The team approved phase one, but not **phase two**.
Stripping: only the excluded element remains.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 Revenue rose higher **than** projected.
Comparative rule: than follows higher.

02 One package vanished — we cannot tell **which**.
Sluicing: no comma comes before which.

03 Design reviewed the mock-up, and **Sales, the copy**.
Gapping: the second reviewed is omitted.

04 The committee approved the venue, **but not the date**.
Stripping: the second branch stays compact.

05 Hamburg prepared manuals, Cologne training, and **Bonn support**.
Gapping: prepared applies to every location.

06 Costs were lower **than** budgeted.
Comparative rule: than replaces temporal then.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ if every omission remains unambiguous and all visible contrasts stay parallel.

01 Lea tracks invoices, Omar contracts, and Nina complaints.
Gapping: one verb carries three tasks.

02 We retained the warranty, but not the add-on.
Stripping: only the exclusion remains visible.

03 A setting changed, but nobody knows which.
Sluicing: which carries the open question.

04 Returns were lower than forecast in April.
Comparison: than follows lower.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

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