

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 Rita tracks costs; Ben, delivery dates
<i>Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.</i></p> <p>02 Oslo packed laptops; Riga, headsets
<i>Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.</i></p> <p>03 Legal checked clause one; Finance, clause two
<i>Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.</i></p> <p>04 North sold licences; South, support
<i>Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.</i></p> <p>05 Eva chairs reviews; Karim, briefings
<i>Gapping: the shared verb is omitted later.</i></p> | <p>06 One figure changed; nobody knows which
<i>Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.</i></p> <p>07 A vendor withdrew; we cannot say why
<i>Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.</i></p> <p>08 Someone moved the file; ask who
<i>Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.</i></p> <p>09 The launch slipped; I know when
<i>Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.</i></p> <p>10 One term failed; tell me which
<i>Sluicing: the wh-word carries the open question.</i></p> |
|---|--|

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>01 Quarterly sales were stronger than forecast.
<i>Comparison: than follows the comparative.</i></p> <p>02 The schedule changed, but I do not know how.
<i>Sluicing: how carries the open manner question.</i></p> <p>03 Priya handles renewals, and Tomas, claims.
<i>Gapping: claims fills the parallel object slot.</i></p> <p>04 The board accepted the scope, but not timing.
<i>Stripping: only timing remains as the contrast.</i></p> | <p>05 Fewer defects reached support than planned.
<i>Comparison: than follows fewer.</i></p> <p>06 Something delayed shipping; please find out what.
<i>Sluicing: what carries the open detail question.</i></p> <p>07 Berlin revised prices, and Madrid, onboarding.
<i>Gapping: revised carries into the second branch.</i></p> <p>08 The team approved phase one, but not phase two.
<i>Stripping: only the excluded element remains.</i></p> |
|--|--|

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>01 Revenue rose higher than projected.
<i>Comparative rule: than follows higher.</i></p> <p>02 One package vanished — we cannot tell which.
<i>Sluicing: no comma comes before which.</i></p> <p>03 Design reviewed the mock-up, and Sales, the copy.
<i>Gapping: the second reviewed is omitted.</i></p> | <p>04 The committee approved the venue, but not the date.
<i>Stripping: the second branch stays compact.</i></p> <p>05 Hamburg prepared manuals, Cologne training, and Bonn support.
<i>Gapping: prepared applies to every location.</i></p> <p>06 Costs were lower than budgeted.
<i>Comparative rule: than replaces temporal then.</i></p> |
|---|---|

BRICK 4 · WRITE

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 Lea tracks invoices, Omar contracts, and Nina complaints.
<i>Gapping: one verb carries three tasks.</i></p> <p>02 We retained the warranty, but not the add-on.
<i>Stripping: only the exclusion remains visible.</i></p> | <p>03 A setting changed, but nobody knows which.
<i>Sluicing: which carries the open question.</i></p> <p>04 Returns were lower than forecast in April.
<i>Comparison: than follows lower.</i></p> |
|---|--|

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE

Ellipsis and Substitution

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/ellipsis-substitution

PREREQUISITE

Noun Clauses

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/noun-clauses

ALL LESSONS

45+ free lessons

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons

HANOVER

Schaufelder Straße 11 · 30167
englisch-lehrer.com/hannover

BERLIN

Kurfürstendamm 30 · 10719
englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

ONLINE COURSES

englisch-lehrer.com/online
worldwide on Zoom

CONTACT

+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com

