

The car came to a halt and Dr McKenna jumped out with his doctor's bag. I must have looked a strange sight wearing a pinafore dress with a wounded German airman clinging to me for support, but Dr McKenna seemed to take it all in his stride. "Lay him on the ground," he instructed me. "I need to tend to his wounds. We'll sort you out later." We carefully laid him on the floor and Dr McKenna removed his jumpsuit and undid his jacket buttons. Mr Carter took off his own jacket and made it into a pillow to support the pilot's head. Blood spurted from the wound when he pulled the jacket open, but Dr McKenna showed me where to apply pressure so he wouldn't lose any more blood. "Be mended in no time," he reassured me. Skilfully, he applied a dressing and wrapped a bandage round the airman's waist. I helped the doctor with the bandage: he kept me too busy to feel frightened. The pilot muttered his thanks in between the pain. "Right, that's patched him up. Need to get him to hospital so that wound can be properly treated." We helped him to his feet and laid him down on the back seat of the Bentley. "You make a good medical assistant," he smiled at me. "Fancy being a nurse?"

"Girls' work," I said without thinking.

"Is it now?" he asked. "That matter to you? You not a girl then?" I looked down at what I was wearing. I suppose it was an easy conclusion to jump to, considering I was wearing a dress.

"Disguise!" I told him. "Didn't want anyone to recognise me, did I?"

Dr McKenna thought about my answer before changing the subject. "Right, let's get our patient to a hospital first and then we'll see about getting you back to Hulme. There's a hospital at Wythenshawe. It's on the way."

"Aren't you taking me to the police?" I wanted to know.

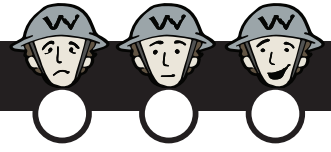
"Now, why would I want to do that?" He smiled back at me.

We got into the car. Dr McKenna sat on the back seat to take care of his patient, so I got into the passenger seat next to Mr Carter. I could hardly believe I was finally heading home. I wondered why Dr McKenna and Mr Carter were helping me. Of course, it could have been a trick; it was possible they were going to deliver me straight to the police station in Manchester. (I presumed they now realised I wasn't a boy called Duncan Spooner.) But somehow I felt I could trust Dr McKenna – he had always shown such kindness.

After an hour, we arrived at the hospital. Dr McKenna got out to look for an orderly and returned with two hospital porters and a stretcher. Between them, they manoeuvred the injured pilot onto the stretcher. Then Dr McKenna came over to my side of the car and opened the passenger door. "I'm staying here. Make sure he pulls through. George will take you home." He took my hand and shook it. "Good luck, Drew," he said as he closed the door. He had called me by my real name. Did this mean he also knew my secret?



Name: _____



I can use ellipses.

Ellipsis is the term that is used when certain words have been missed out of a sentence which, if they were written grammatically, should have been included. We have already seen that in relative clauses there is often an implied relative pronoun – in other words, the pronoun has been omitted.

I could hardly believe (that) I was finally heading home. The word in brackets has been left out.

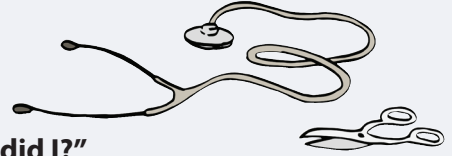
The example above is one type of ellipsis. Another type of ellipsis is very common in informal speech. We do it all the time without realising it. Look at the conversation between Dr McKenna and Drew. The words in brackets have been missed out.

“(Do you) Fancy being a nurse?”

“(That’s) Girls’ work.”

“(Does) That matter to you? (Are) You not a girl then?”

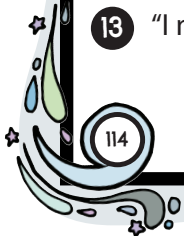
“(It’s a) Disguise! (I) Didn’t want anyone to recognise me, did I?”



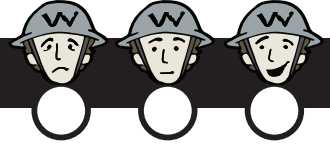
In the conversation below between Mr Carter and Drew, the missing words (if all the sentences had been written grammatically) are written in the brackets. Indicate with an arrow where the missing words belong. (The first one has been done for you.)

- 1 “I would have helped sooner had I known you needed to get back to Hulme,” said Mr Carter. (*that*)
- 2 “You know where you’re going then?” asked Drew. (*Do*)
- 3 “Been there on a number of occasions,” replied Mr Carter. (*I’ve*)
- 4 “To Hulme! Why?” Drew asked. (*You’ve been*)
- 5 “It’s where my wife comes from. Stanley Street,” Mr Carter told Drew. (*She lived in*)
- 6 “That’s my street. What number?” inquired Drew. (*did she live at*)
- 7 “Number fourteen,” Mr Carter answered. (*She lived at*)
- 8 “That’s my house! When?” Drew asked. (*did she live there*)
- 9 “When she was a child,” Mr Carter said. (*She lived there*)
- 10 “Like me then!” exclaimed Drew. (*She’s*)
- 11 “More like you than you realise,” said Mr Carter meaningfully. (*She’s*)
- 12 “What you mean?” asked Drew. (*do*)
- 13 “I mean before she married me, her name was Drew: Drew Hargreaves!” (*that*)

Extension Identify all the ellipses that have been used in the passage and write the sentences in full.



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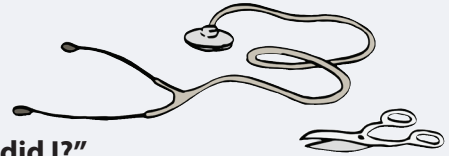
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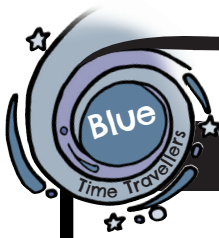
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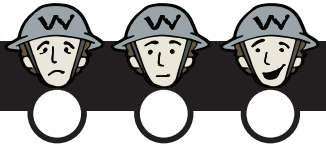
In the conversation below between Mr Carter and Drew, identify which words have been missed out (if all the sentences had been written grammatically), and write the missing words in the brackets.

- 1 “I would have helped sooner had I known (.....) you needed to get back to Hulme,” said Mr Carter.
- 2 “(.....) you know where you’re going then?” asked Drew.
- 3 “(.....) been there on a number of occasions,” replied Mr Carter.
- 4 “(.....) to Hulme! Why?” Drew asked.
- 5 “It’s where my wife comes from. (.....) Stanley Street,” Mr Carter told Drew.
- 6 “That’s my street. What number (.....)?” inquired Drew.
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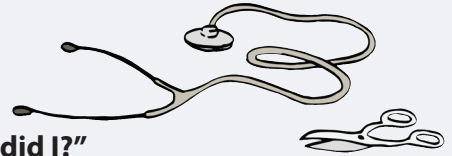
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“(Does) That matter to you? (Are) You not a girl then?”

“(It’s a) Disguise! (I) Didn’t want anyone to recognise me, did I?”



In the conversation below between Mr Carter and Drew, identify which words have been missed out (if all the sentences had been written grammatically), and write the sentences in full. (The first two have been done for you.)

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