

6B

ellipsis and substitution

ellipsis: leaving out subjects and auxiliaries

- 1 He got up **and (he) had** a shower.
She came to the meeting **but (she) didn't say** anything.
We should phone him **or (we should) send** him an email.
We usually have dinner at 10.00, and **then (we) watch** TV.
- 2 They locked the door and windows **before they left**.
We'll have a look at the photos **after we finish** dinner.
He's stressed **because he has** too much work.
She was horrified **when she saw** the mess he had left.
I met Sam **while I was working** in Italy.

- 1 After *and*, *but*, and *or* we often leave out a repeated subject or a repeated subject and auxiliary verb, especially when the clauses are short.
- After *then* we can also leave out a repeated subject pronoun.
- 2 You cannot leave out the subject pronoun after *before*, *after*, *because*, *when*, and *while*.

ellipsis: leaving out verb phrases or adjectives

- 1 Laura has never been to the States, but her sister **has**.
Gary thinks he's right, but he **isn't**.
I didn't like the film, but Mike **did**.
They said I would love the film, but I don't think I **would**.
- 2 I thought I **would be able to** come tonight, but in fact I **can't**.
I know you've never **learned to** drive, but I really think you **should have**.
A You **must** see his latest film!
B I already **have**.
- 3 I haven't been to Egypt, but I'd **love to**.
The students cheated in the exam, even though I **told them not to**.

- 1 We often leave out a repeated verb phrase or adjective, and just repeat the auxiliary or modal verb, or the verb *be*, e.g. *Laura has never been to the States but her sister has been there; Gary thinks he's right, but he isn't right*.
- If the verb we don't want to repeat is the present or past simple, we substitute the verb with *do / does / did*.
- 2 We can use a different auxiliary or modal verb from that used in the first part of the sentence.
- 3 We can also leave out a repeated verb phrase after the infinitive with *to*. This is called a reduced infinitive, e.g. *I haven't been to Egypt, but I'd love to (go)*.

substitution: *so* and *not*

- 1 I'll have finished the work by Friday, or at least I **hope so**.
A Will you be working on Saturday?
B I **suppose so**, unless we get everything done tomorrow.
Mark loves animals, and his sister **even more so**.
- 2 **A** Do you think it'll rain tonight?
B I **hope not**.
A She's not very likely to pass, is she?
B No, I'm **afraid not**.
The children may be back, but I **don't think so**.
I know she liked the present, even though she **didn't say so**.

- 1 We often use *so* instead of repeating a whole \oplus clause after verbs of thinking (*assume*, *believe*, *expect*, *guess*, *hope*, *imagine*, *presume*, *suppose*, *think*) and also after *be afraid*, *appear / seem*, and *say*.
- 2 With negative clauses we use \oplus verb + *not* (e.g. *I hope not*) with *be afraid*, *assume*, *guess*, *hope*, *presume*, and *suspect*.
- We normally use \ominus verb + *so* (e.g. *I don't think so*) with *believe*, *expect*, *imagine*, and *think*.

- a Cross out the words / phrases which could be left out.

- They look happy, but they aren't really happy.
- 1 Everyone else loved the hotel we stayed in, but I didn't like it.
- 2 Nobody expects us to win, but you never know, we might win.
- 3 I didn't take the job in the end, but now I think that I should have taken it.
- 4 I got into the car and I turned the radio on.
- 5 **A** Would you like to come for dinner tomorrow night?
B I'd love to come to dinner, but I'm afraid I can't come.
- 6 We don't go to the theatre very often now but we used to go before we had children.
- 7 I won't be able to go to the exhibition, but my wife will be able to go.
- 8 We met in 2009 and then we got married in 2010.

- b Complete the sentences with a modal or an auxiliary verb in the right form.

- I'd like to help you this week, but I *can't*.
- 1 I'm not vegetarian, but my wife _____.
- 2 I would love to fly a plane, but I know that I never _____.
- 3 Nobody believes me when I say that I'm going to resign, but I _____.
- 4 We thought that Karen would get the job, but she _____.
- 5 In the end they didn't come, even though they had promised that they _____.
- 6 If you haven't seen the film yet, you _____.
It's absolutely fantastic!
- 7 If I could help you, I would, but I'm afraid I _____.
- 8 I don't speak French, but my friend _____.

- c Write the responses using the right form of the verb in brackets and a reduced infinitive or adding *so* or *not*.

- A** Would you like to come round for dinner tomorrow?
B I'd *love to*. (love)
- 1 **A** The weather forecast said it would snow at the weekend.
B I _____. I was planning to do some gardening. (hope)
- 2 **A** Do you smoke?
B I _____, but I gave up last month. (use)
- 3 **A** If you think she's coming down with flu, you shouldn't send her to school tomorrow.
B I _____. She might infect the other children. (suppose)
- 4 **A** Have you spoken to Martin yet?
B No, but I _____ after the meeting. (try)
- 5 **A** Do you think we should leave early to miss the traffic?
B I _____, though I'm really enjoying myself. (guess)
- 6 **A** Why are you going to do a parachute jump?
B I don't know. I _____. (always / want)