Name: _____

Commas for Pauses: Activity

Rewrite each sentence. Use an ellipsis (...) or a dash (—) as shown.

Learn: An ellipsis (...) shows a pause or missing words. A dash (—) shows a sudden break or adds emphasis.

Example: I was going to tell you but I forgot. (show trailing off)

I was going to tell you, but... I forgot.

1. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth" (show words left out)

_____

2. If only I had more time. (show trailing off)

_____

3. The answer is wait for it pizza! (show a dramatic pause with a dash)

_____

4. My sister she's the youngest won. (set off with dashes)

_____

5. I think no, I know we will win. (show an interruption)

_____

6. Well I guess so. (show hesitation)

_____

7. We need one thing courage. (show a break with a dash)

_____

Name: **ANSWER KEY**

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   "Four score and seven years ago... our fathers brought forth"

2. If only I had more time. (show trailing off)

   If only I had more time...

3. The answer is wait for it pizza! (show a dramatic pause with a dash)

   The answer is—wait for it—pizza!

4. My sister she's the youngest won. (set off with dashes)

   My sister—she's the youngest—won.

5. I think no, I know we will win. (show an interruption)

   I think—no, I know—we will win.

6. Well I guess so. (show hesitation)

   Well... I guess so.

7. We need one thing courage. (show a break with a dash)

   We need one thing—courage.