



Aposiopesis

Aposiopesis is a figure of speech in which the speaker or writer leaves a statement incomplete. The use of aposiopesis suggests that the speaker is unable or unwilling to finish speaking due to being overcome by a powerful emotion such as anger, excitement, or fear. The intent is for readers to use their imaginations to fill in what is left unsaid, and the device is most effective when readers can figure out what was intended. Aposiopesis is used to create dramatic or comic effect.

DIRECTIONS: The quotation below is from a soliloquy spoken by Antony at Caesar's funeral in the play *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

"O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me,
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me..."

1. Underline the aposiopesis in the quotation.
2. Is there effect of the device dramatic or comic? Explain your answer.

3. Why is aposiopesis effective here?
