



# 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:** Read the assigned passage.

1. Identify an example of aposiopesis. Write it on the lines below.

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2. Is the effect of the aposiopesis dramatic or comic? Explain.

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3. What is the context of the example you identified? What emotions are involved?

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