

Name _____

Aposiopesis



Types of 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.

There are four types of aposiopesis. Match each type to its definition.

audience-respecting

a thought is left unfinished due to emotional overwhelm

surprising

used to transition between one idea and another

emotional

information is withheld that a reader or audience wants or expects to receive

transition

information is withheld that might be offensive or unpleasant for a reader or audience