

Breaks In Speech Answer Key

Answers will vary. Below are sample correct versions demonstrating proper use of **em dashes** for interruptions and **ellipses** for pauses.

Part A Samples:

1. "If you would just listen to me I can explain-" Alex said as Jordan cut him off.
2. "I was going to tell you about the plan, but-" Mia began before Riley interrupted.
3. "Wait, I think I saw something in the-" Harper started until Sam jumped in.

Part B Samples:

4. "I thought the directions said we should turn left, but now I'm not so sure..." Kade murmured.
5. "Maybe we should just take a break and..." Lila whispered.
6. "I want to say something, but I'm not sure how to begin..." Jonah admitted.

Part C - Teacher should check:

- Interrupted line uses an **em dash** correctly.
- Paused line uses **ellipses** correctly.
- Dialogue uses quotation marks and correct punctuation.

Teacher's Guide

Focus Skill: Using **em dashes** to show interruptions and **ellipses** to show pauses in dialogue.

- Explain that **em dashes** break a line sharply when someone is cut off mid-word or mid-thought.
- Ellipses show hesitation, thinking, or trailing off.
- Model how reading the lines aloud changes with each type of punctuation.