

## 9A GRAMMAR ellipsis

- a Read the story. What difference in style do you notice between the two paragraphs?

Ever since she had been a small girl, Nicky had wanted to get to know her father, but she had never been able to. Whenever Nicky used to ask about him, her mother would shake her head and look angry. Every year on her birthday Nicky used to hope that he would come to visit, but he never did. Nicky's mother told her he was always busy working abroad, but Nicky didn't believe he was. She was constantly talking about him, even though her mother begged her not to. Although Nicky had never met her father, she always felt that one day she would. Sometimes she used to close her eyes and pray that he would contact her. But when he finally phoned on her 21st birthday and asked her if she wanted to see him, Nicky wasn't sure if she did.

Nicky's father gave her his phone number and he said she could contact him whenever she wanted to contact him. Nicky said goodbye, and then she hung up. At first, she was angry that he had got in touch and she wished that he hadn't got in touch. But a few weeks later, she called him and she arranged to see him because she felt they needed to talk. She got on well with him, although she hadn't expected to get on well with him. Nicky decided that she wanted them to meet regularly, and her father promised that they would meet regularly. Five years later, when Nicky got married, no one imagined that her father would be leading her up the aisle, but he was leading her up the aisle.

- b Read the second paragraph again and cross out any words that can be left out.

- c Rewrite the **bold** sentences using *so* or *not*.

1 A Will classes start at the usual time next week?

B **I presume ~~they will start at the usual time~~.** Otherwise the director would have mentioned it.

2 A Do you have any batteries?

B **I'm afraid that we haven't got any batteries.** We sold the last packet yesterday.

3 A Are you going to go skiing next week?

B **I guess I'll go skiing,** though I'm not very excited about it.

4 A Do you think they'll accept the contract as it is?

B **I suspect that they won't accept it.** They'll ask us to change some sections.

5 A Do you think Chris and Angie will come tomorrow?

B **I don't imagine that they will come.** They're very busy right now.

6 A John won't be interested in coming along, will he?

B **I suppose that he won't be interested in coming along.** He has other plans for the summer.

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- d Complete the sentences about yourself.

- \_\_\_\_\_, but I've always wanted to.
- \_\_\_\_\_, but my parents don't.
- \_\_\_\_\_, but I'm not.
- \_\_\_\_\_, but I used to.
- \_\_\_\_\_, even though I should have.
- \_\_\_\_\_, but my friend can.