Ellipsis and Substitution Worksheet: So, Not, One, Do So

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
think / hope / suppose / be afraid + so / not	Is it serious? I hope not. Will she come? I think so.
one / ones for countable nouns	I don't like this shirt. I prefer the blue one.
Auxiliary or to alone (ellipsis)	She can swim, but I can't. I'd like to, but I can't.
do so / do that (formal / neutral substitution)	He promised to call, but he didn't do so.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
'Is it true?' 'I think yes.'	'Is it true?' 'I think so.'
'Will he come?' 'I don't hope.'	'Will he come?' 'I hope not.'
I wanted to go, but I didn't want.	I wanted to go, but I didn't want to.

1. Complete

Complete with so, not, one, ones, do so, or an auxiliary / to.

1. 'Is the shop still open?' 'I think _____.'
2. 'Will it be expensive?' 'I hope _____.'
3. These glasses are dirty. Can I have clean _____?
4. I've never been to Japan, but my sister _____.
5. You can come with us if you want _____.
6. Which jacket is yours, the black _____ or the grey _____?
7. Visitors may take photos, but those who _____ must not use flash.
8. 'Did you lose the match?' 'I'm afraid _____.'

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. 'Are you coming?' 'I (suppose so / suppose it).'
2. 'Is he angry?' 'I (don't think so / think not so).'
3. I like the old flat more than the new (one / it).
4. She said she would help, and she (did / did so it).
5. I didn't want to go, but I (had to / had).
6. 'Has anyone called?' 'I'm afraid (not / no).'
7. He can't cook, but his brother (can / can cook it).
8. Those shoes are nice. Are the (ones / one) in the window cheaper?

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. ‘Will she pass?’ ‘I hope yes.’
2. ‘Is it far?’ ‘I don’t think it.’
3. I’d love to come, but I can’t come it.
4. These are my keys and those are your.
5. She asked me to help, but I didn’t want.
6. ‘Did they win?’ ‘I’m afraid no.’

Writing

Write a short dialogue (8 lines) between two friends planning a trip. Use at least six examples of ellipsis or substitution.

Speaking

- Answer your partner’s yes / no questions only with ‘I think so’, ‘I hope not’, ‘I’m afraid so’ and similar.
- What would you like to do this year but probably won’t be able to?
- Which do you prefer, old films or new ones? Why?
- Is there something you can do that your parents can’t?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 so · 2 not · 3 ones · 4 has · 5 to · 6 one … one · 7 do so · 8 so

2. Choose: 1 suppose so · 2 don’t think so · 3 one · 4 did · 5 had to · 6 not · 7 can · 8 ones

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 ‘Will she pass?’ ‘I hope so.’ · 2 ‘Is it far?’ ‘I don’t think so.’ · 3 I’d love to come, but I can’t. · 4 These are my keys and those are yours / your ones. · 5 She asked me to help, but I didn’t want to. · 6 ‘Did they win?’ ‘I’m afraid not.’

Writing, model answer: A: Do you think we’ll find a cheap flight? B: I hope so. I’ve seen some cheap ones in May. A: May? Can you get time off then? B: I think so, but my boss might say no. I hope not! A: I’d like to go to Portugal. B: So would I. Have you been? A: No, but my brother has. He loved it.