

Appositives

Objective: The objective of this cheat sheet is to clearly define what an appositive is and explain when they may be used.

Overview: A lot of times in writing, a word or phrase we use may need further explanation. Although we use them often, many people do not know the name of this technique they use in writing. This cheat sheet will explain what appositives are and when to properly use them. Now when someone asks what is the name of an explanation following a noun, you can say “It’s an appositive!”

Definition: An appositive is a noun or pronoun — often with modifiers — set beside another noun or pronoun to explain or identify it. Appositives provide information that further identifies or defines it. Appositives are usually framed with commas, but they can also be set off by parentheses or dashes as well.

Appositive phrase

An appositive phrase is a group of words that functions as a noun and **renames another noun or pronoun in a sentence**. It consists of an appositive (a noun) and any modifiers.

Types of appositives phrases

1. Essential Appositive/Appositive phrase

An essential appositive/appositive phrase gives information that is essential/important to identify the noun or pronoun it modifies. It is not separated from the rest of the sentence using commas, and without it, the sentence gives a different meaning.

- My friends **Mangesh and Archit** help me with everything I do.
- My favorite book **The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck** got lost last night.

2. Nonessential Appositive/Appositive phrase

A nonessential or nonrestrictive appositive or appositive phrase gives extra information that is not necessary to identify the noun or the pronoun it modifies. Since it gives extra information (nonessential), it is separated from the rest of the sentence using commas before and after it.

- **Alex**, his headteacher of the school, is very strict.
- **Thor**, the god of thunder, killed **Thanos**, the mad titan, in **Avengers: Endgame**.