

Appositive Phrases

Reteaching

An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun that identifies or renames another noun or pronoun. An **appositive phrase** consists of an appositive plus its modifiers.

Have you heard of the writer Lydia Maria Child? (*Lydia Maria Child* identifies the writer.)

Her best-known work, a poem that begins "Over the river and through the woods," was set to music. (The appositive phrase is underlined.)

An **essential appositive** make the meaning of a sentence clear.

The abolitionist Child wrote to end slavery. (*Child* identifies which *abolitionist*.)

A **nonessential appositive** adds extra information to a sentence whose meaning is already clear. Use commas to set off nonessential appositive phrases.

She is also known for starting a magazine for children, the first of its kind.

A. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in each of the following sentences.

1. The American author Henry David Thoreau lived for a time at Walden Pond.
2. Paula wrote about Edgar Allan Poe, the American poet and short-story writer.
3. John Steinbeck, author of *The Grapes of Wrath*, was raised in California.
4. "God Bless America" was written by the prolific and patriotic composer Irving Berlin.
5. Nathaniel Hawthorne and his friends began their own community, Brook Farm.
6. Will Rogers, a humorist and philosopher, was originally a cowboy.
7. American poet Theodore Roethke received a Pulitzer Prize in 1954.
8. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin describes slavery in the years before the American Civil War.

B. Identifying Essential and Nonessential Appositives

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in each sentence below. On the line, identify each phrase as **E** if it is essential or **NE** if it is nonessential. Add the necessary commas to sentences with nonessential clauses.

1. The poetry of Robert Frost is identified with rural New England, the place where Frost was raised. NE
2. *Spin a Soft Black Song*, a book of poetry for young readers, was written by Nikki Giovanni. NE
3. Katherine Lee Bates wrote the patriotic hymn "America the Beautiful" after viewing the Rocky Mountains. E
4. Author and journalist Louis Bromfield lived part of his life on a farm in Ohio. E
5. The running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, was described in Hemingway's book Death in the Afternoon. E

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More Practice

A. Identifying Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositive phrase in each sentence. Write the noun it identifies to the right. Then identify each phrase as **E** if it is essential or **NE** if it is nonessential, and add commas where they are needed to set off nonessential phrases.

EXAMPLE Maya Angelou, the poet, also teaches. *Maya Angelou, NE*

1. Frederick Douglass established the newspaper North Star in 1847. E - newspaper
2. Age of Innocence, a novel by Edith Wharton, won a Pulitzer Prize. NE - Age of Innocence
3. Ohioan James Thurber authored two books of modern fairy tales. E - Ohioan
4. Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of F. Scott Fitzgerald, wrote a novel about their marriage. NE - Fitzgerald
5. The play A Raisin in the Sun was the first play produced on Broadway by an African-American woman. E - play
6. The play's success brought its writer, Lorraine Hansberry, instant acclaim. E - ~~writer~~ writer
7. Many works of James Fenimore Cooper, a prolific author, describe the tension between society and the individual. NE - Cooper
8. Godey's Lady's Book, an early magazine on manners and fashion, was edited by Sarah J. Hale. NE - Godey's Lady's Book

B. Using Appositives in Sentences

Choose one of the nouns in each sentence that needs clarification or that can be given extra information. Rewrite the sentence, adding an appositive to the noun you chose. Use commas if necessary.

1. My friend wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper.

2. The secretary circulated the notice to the members of the club.

3. Does the clerk know the price of that book?

4. His brother composed a poem for the literary magazine of his school.

5. Edgar Allan Poe wrote poems, essays, and short stories.
