

Appositives

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What is an Appositive? An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that immediately follows and renames another noun or noun phrase.

In the following examples, the noun phrase my first dog renames the noun Lucky, and Jennifer renames My friend.

Lucky, my first dog, used to love to chase squirrels.

My friend Jennifer is never late.

Punctuating Appositives

If an appositive is **non-restrictive**—that is, if it doesn't contain essential information for identifying the noun that it follows—it is off-set by commas.

In the following example, the appositive a doctor is helpful, but does not necessarily identify the preceding noun.

My cousin, a doctor, is going to join the Peace Corps.

If an appositive is **restrictive**—that is, if it contains essential information for identifying the noun that it follows—it does not require any added punctuation.

In the following example, the appositive David identifies the noun that it follows:

My cousin David is going to join the Peace Corps.

Substituting Appositives

An appositive can replace the noun or noun phrase it renames:

My first dog used to love to chase squirrels. Jennifer is never late.

Parenthetical Phrases

Source: <https://www.dailywritingtips.com/8-types-of-parenthetical-phrases/>

A parenthetical phrase, sometimes called simply a parenthetical, is one that is not essential to the framing sentence. In the preceding sentence, the phrase "sometimes called simply a parenthetical" is itself a parenthetical because the segments of the sentence that precede and follow it can be attached to form a complete sentence without it: "A parenthetical phrase is one that is not essential to the framing sentence."

However, a parenthetical can also begin or end a sentence, and though only these three syntactical variations exist, a parenthetical can be categorized as serving one of eight functions. Here is a roster of the types, with a sentence that demonstrates each one:

1. **Absolute phrase:** An absolute phrase, which contains at least a noun or a pronoun and a participle but not a true verb, modifies the entire sentence: "Jane stayed up late, **writing her report.**" (The phrase may also begin the sentence.)
2. **Appositive:** In this case, the parenthetical is an appositive, a noun or noun phrase placed in opposition to another such construction that defines or modifies the first: "If you, **an experienced hiker,** had trouble, how hard will it be for me?"
3. **Aside:** An aside is a statement that is subordinated to the sentence, often denoting an ingratiating or apologetic attitude. It might also be placed within parentheses to more clearly identify it as a trivial comment or between em dashes to signal its sudden and/or unexpected impact: "Her friend, **I hesitate to say,** has betrayed her."
4. **Free modifier:** A free modifier is an unspecialized interruption of additional information: "I stood up and, **brushing off my pants,** continued along my way."
5. **Interjection:** An interjection imparts information about the writer's (or speaker's) state of mind, as in this sentence in which the interjection implies impatience or indignation: "**Well,** what do you have to say for yourself?"
6. **Introductory phrase:** This element preceding the main statement provides context for the sentence: "**While I was on vacation,** I had an epiphany."
7. **Resumptive modifier:** A resumptive modifier includes within its additional detail repetition of an adjective from the sentence: "She was exhausted, **more exhausted than she had ever been before.**"
8. **Summative modifier:** A summative modifier is one that summarizes an idea expressed in the sentence and then adds information about it: "We headed toward the summit, **a goal we had anticipated accomplishing all week.**"