

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.

Parenetical 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.**"