**TOEFL Skill 3: Appositives**

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A noun that comes before another noun in a sentence and has the same meaning.

Sometimes confused as the subject of the sentence.

Appositives are not subjects.

Sally, the best student in the class, got an A on the exam.

The best student in the class got an A on the exam.

Sally got an A on the exam.

Sally, who is the best student in the class, got an A on the exam. Relative clause

Notice the use of commas in the example.

Sally is the subject, ‘the best student in the class’ has the same meaning as ‘Sally’, therefore it is the appositive.

**TOEFL Exam question:**

My friend , George, is attending the lecture.

a. Right now

b. Happily

c. Because of the time

d. My friend

Right now , George is attending the lecture.

Appositives can also come at the beginning of the sentence. That’s why it’s always important to look at the commas used in the original sentence.

An excellent basketball player , **Sarah** rarely misses her basketball shots.

a. An excellent basketball player

b. An excellent basketball player is

c. Sarah is an excellent basketball player

d. Her excellent basketball play

**Sarah** is an excellent basketball player; **Sarah** rarely misses her basketball shots.

**Sarah** is an excellent basketball player. **Sarah** rarely misses her basketball shots.

**TOEFL Exam Exercises**

**Identify if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Correct them if necessary. Identify the subject and verb of each sentence.**

1. The son of the previous owner, the new **owner** is undertaking some fairly broad changes in management policy.

C

1. Last semester, a friend, graduated cum laude from university.

Last semester, a **friend** graduated cum laude from university.

I - missing subject

1. **Valentine’s Day**, February 14, is a special holiday for sweethearts.
2. At long last, the chief executive officer, has decided to step down.

I – At long last, the chief executive officer has decided to step down.

1. Tonight’s supper, leftovers from last night, did not taste any better tonight than last night.

C

1. The only entrance to the closet, the door was kept locked at all times

I - The only entrance to the closet, the door, was kept locked at all times

1. In the cold winter, a wall heating unit, would not turn on.

I - In the cold winter, a wall heating unit would not turn on.

1. The new tile pattern, yellow flowers on a white background, really brightens up the room.

C

1. The high-powered computer the most powerful machine of its type, was finally readied for use.

I - The high-powered computer, the most powerful machine of its type, was finally readied for use.

1. A longtime friend and confidant, the psychologist was often invited over for Sunday dinner.

I - A longtime friend and confidant, the psychologist, was often invited over for Sunday dinner.