

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 AND 10 WRITING/HANDOUT 5

GRAMMAR: The Appositive

(Web resource: <http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/appositive.pdf>)

Recognize an **appositive** when you see one.

An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right beside it. The appositive can be a short or long combination of words. Look at these examples:

The insect, *a cockroach*, is crawling across the kitchen table.

The insect, *a large cockroach*, is crawling across the kitchen table.

The insect, *a large cockroach with hairy legs*, is crawling across the kitchen table.

The insect, *a large, hairy-legged cockroach that has spied my bowl of oatmeal*, is crawling across the kitchen table.

Here are more examples:

During the dinner conversation, Clifford, *the messiest eater at the table*, spewed mashed potatoes like an erupting volcano.

My 286 computer, *a modern-day dinosaur*, chews floppy disks as noisily as my brother does peanut brittle.

Genette's bedroom desk, *the biggest disaster area in the house*, is a collection of overdue library books, dirty plates, computer components, old mail, cat hair, and empty potato chip bags.

Reliable, *Diane's eleven-year-old beagle*, chews holes in the living room carpeting as if he were still a puppy.

Punctuate the appositive correctly.

The important point to remember is that a nonessential appositive is *always* separated from the rest of the sentence with comma(s).

When the appositive *begins* the sentence, it looks like this:

A hot-tempered tennis player, Robbie charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.

When the appositive *interrupts* the sentence, it looks like this:

Robbie, a hot-tempered tennis player, charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.

And when the appositive *ends* the sentence, it looks like this:

Upset by the bad call, the crowd cheered Robbie, ***a hot-tempered tennis player who charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.***

WRITING WITH APPOSITIVES AND APPOSITIVE PHRASES

Combine the following sentences using an appositive or appositive phrase. Use commas as they are needed.

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only child of a wealthy couple. He was elected president four times.
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2. He inspired the American people by speaking on the radio. The radio was the latest technological achievement at that time.
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3. Americans everywhere listened to these speeches. The speeches were called his "fireside chats."
-

4. Though busy as president, Franklin Roosevelt found time for hobbies. He enjoyed working on his stamp albums and building models of ships.
-

5. Eleanor Roosevelt represented the United States in the United Nations. She was the niece of Theodore Roosevelt and wife of Franklin Roosevelt.
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ACTIVITY

Describe the cartoon below with three sentences that include appositives.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WRITING

FORMAL LETTER FORMAT

Example:

1800 Stone Ridge Street
Los Angeles, CA 90001

Your street address
City, State Zip

6 July 2009

Date

Mr. William Shatner
President, Shatner Foundation
344 Final Frontier Lane
New York, NY 10027

Prefix & Full Name of Recipient
Title of Recipient, Organization
Recipient's Street Address
City, State Zip

Dear Mr. Shatner:

or **To Whom It May Concern:**

When using this format, you do not want to indent. Margins on all sides should be one-inch. Start the first paragraph by introducing yourself in a friendly way, and then state the purpose of your letter. Know your audience because it is very important that you keep their attention. Remember, you are not writing to yourself. Use a couple of sentences to explain the purpose, but save the detail for the body paragraphs.

Start the body paragraph by justifying the importance of the main point. In the next few paragraphs, continue the justification with background information and supporting details. Body paragraphs are where you offer solutions, advice, suggestions, or proposals. Write as many body paragraphs as you want, however, keep it short and straight to the point. You do not want to bore the reader to death or look like you're writing an academic essay.

In the closing paragraph, you should restate the purpose of the letter and in some cases, request some type of action. Remind the reader where they can contact you, and make sure to close the letter in a friendly manner.

Sincerely,

Closing,

Leave 4 Spaces to Sign Your Name

Leonard Nemoy
Owner, Android's Lair Comic Book Shop

Your Full Name
Your title, company name

Enclosures (3)

Attachments (# of attachments)

PRACTICE

Individually or in groups of three, watch the short film, “Abducted,” and write a formal letter to its director, Christian Soriano. Try to incorporate an appositive phrase or two into your writing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4OfaXhdldg>

Before writing your formal letter, read the four points below about what make a good short film. (adapted, <https://www.shorescripts.com/what-makes-a-great-short-film/>)

1. A good short film expresses one concept or one idea in a complete way without unnecessary diversions and then gets to its point. The ending is important in a short film and the short film-maker needs to make sure their ending is satisfying, coherent and works with the rest of the film.
2. Short film makers aren't bound by market interests or target audiences or production interference from other entities, so it's a chance for the film-maker to express themselves creatively and find out what they're saying, it's a chance to take some risks, see what you can do that's new or different.
3. Great shorts make an impact, convey a mood, or take viewers on brief but characterful journeys. Whether its stylized vignettes, or hi-energy sci-fi, they still have to make an impact on the viewer in a short span. They have to make the viewer engrossed and think about what they are watching.
4. A short stands out from the crowd. There's no need to worry about doing anything else with your short other than aiming to have a completely engrossed viewer at the other end of the process.

Space for planning:

