

Student Name _____

Student ID _____

EWRT Instructor _____

Date Completed _____



Appositives

Ok, who wants to be even cooler than you already are? If you integrate noun phrase appositives, aka appositives, in your sentences you will improve your cool factor as well as your sentences! Bonus: who wants to use the dash or a colon?

Noun Phrase Appositives Can Help You:

- ✓ Avoid choppiness and prevent unnecessary repetition
- ✓ Figure out what's a sentence vs. a fragment (an incomplete sentences or run on (2 or more sentences punctuated as if it in one sentence)
- ✓ Create more informative and sophisticated sentences of varying lengths
- ✓ Convey the complex ideas that are in your head
- ✓ Write better summaries
- ✓ Better use commas and dashes and even colons!

Using and Punctuating Noun Phrase Appositives in Sentences:

Single noun phrase appositives (aka appositives) are mostly set off by commas. Remember to put a comma after the phrase as well as in front of it when it comes in the middle of the sentence:

Andrew Lam, **author of *Perfume Dreams***, is a commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

This one is pretty simple and useful since in college we include different writers/authors to back up what we are saying.

Appositives can help you define a term or concept, too, and you can also do that with commas.

Creativity, **the ability to make connections between unrelated things and imagine new ways to communicate**, helps folks remain healthy since they are connecting to themselves and the world.

This sentence is informative and avoids choppiness or unnecessary repetition.

Important single phrases can also be set off with dashes. Dashes are a little more dramatic than a comma.

I walk through the rusted iron gate to find, to my horror, the place gutted—an empty structure where once there was life.

—Andrew Lam “Lost Photos”

Dashes are fun and impressive! You can see visually that they are a bit more dramatic than the comma, so you can save them for places you want a little more emphasis. In this case, the writer is telling us more about a place—his childhood home.

You can use a colon with appositives or an appositive if it’s something you want to emphasize even more than a dash. It creates even more of a pause! (You might have only 1 to 2 colons in a short essay.):

It occurred to me, then, that for children of Asian immigrants who covet an expressive, creative life, there is often a hidden price more costly than the regular fares: poverty, years of drudging in the dark, self doubt.

Lam “Notes of a Warrior’s Son”

—Andrew

Appositive Exercise #1:

Directions: Combine at least two of the following sentences using noun phrases whenever you can, as in the following examples.

EXAMPLES:

- a) * Sandra Cisneros’ position in her family affected her personality and career choice.
* Sandra Cisneros’ position in her family was the only daughter amongst six older brothers.

Combined: Sandra Cisneros’ position in her family—the only daughter amongst six older brothers—affected her personality and career choice.

- b) * Michelle Serros wrote *Chicana Falsa* in the early 1990s when she was a college student, and though she was hailed as a “Woman to Watch for the New Century,” she lost her battle with cancer at age 48.
* Michelle Serros was a vegan, surfer, and fourth-generation Californian.

Combined: A vegan, surfer, and fourth-generation Californian, Michelle Serros wrote *Chicana Falsa* in the early 1990s when she was a college student, and though she was hailed as a “Woman to Watch for in the New Century,” she lost her battle with cancer at 48.

Now, you try:

1. * **Michelle Serros discussed really important issues in the Latino community, telling funny stories instead of being oppositional.**

* ~~Michelle Serros was also~~ a great performer.

Cross out the information that repeats in the second sentence and add the appositive to the first sentence.

Combined: A great performer, Michelle Serros, discussed really important issues in the Latino community, telling funny stories instead of being oppositional.

2. * Manuela Soares oversaw the publication of the first five Harry Potter books at Scholastic Books.
* ~~Manuela Soares is now~~ a professor at Dyson College.

Combined:

3. * I like any kind of contemporary literature.
* I like poetry.
* I like flash fiction.
* I like short stories.
* I like plays.
* I like novels.

Combined:

4. * Sherman Alexie is a poet, short story writer, novelist, and performer who has published 24 books, most notably, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
* *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* is an award winning Young Adult fiction book, a must-read.

Combined:

5. * Mariah K. Young describes herself as a shameless eavesdropper and author of *Masha'allah And Other Stories*.
* *Masha'allah And Other Stories* is a short story collection about the "multiplicity of experience" in the Bay Area.

Combined:

6. * Brando Skyhorse received the 2011 Pen/Hemingway Award for his debut novel.
* Brando Skyhorse's debut novel is *The Madonnas of Echo Park*.
* Brando Skyhorse is a graduate of Stanford University.

Combined:

7. * Jhumpa Lahiri feels she grew up in two different worlds.
* Jhumpa Lahiri is the author of *Unaccustomed Earth*.
* The two worlds are the world of her parents and the world of her friends.

Combined:

Appositives #2:

Directions: Try creating your own appositives in at least 2 of the following sentences. Modify the noun in the sentence.

1. Min bought a new car recently—a Rivian truck with all the bells and whistles.
a. a Model S Tesla with a turquoise wrap

b.

2. Creative expression goes beyond drawing or painting to expressive and inventive activities like: cooking, sewing, tagging.

a.

b.

3. This morning, I witnessed a moment of delight--my father telling the staff at his dental office that they deserve a raise.

a.

b.

4. The tired professor sighed in appreciation of her retirement gift, a first class ticket to a remote island paradise.

a.

b.

Now create your own sentence using an appositive in one of these sentences.

1. Write a sentence about a friend, using three appositives in a row, aka a triple whammy appositive.

a). My friend Kim—a whaler lover, a tree hugger, a dog owner—helps to save Monarch butterflies by planting milkweed in her yard.

b).

2. Write a sentence about a possession, using an appositive with a dash or colon.

a). My favorite necklace—a turquoise ring made by my grandfather in the 1970s—holds more sentimental versus monetary value.

b).

3. Using an appositive, write a sentence that might appear in your next essay.

a). Trevor Noah, the author of his memoir *Born a Crime*, dedicates the book to his mother—a tremendous role model and survivor.

b).