

EXERCISE 17. Identifying Appositive Phrases. Write the appositive phrases in each of the following sentences. Underline the appositive in each phrase, and be sure that you know the word to which each appositive refers.

1. Our community has a new organization, a writers' club.
2. Marquita Wiley, a college instructor, started the group at the request of former students.
3. Ms. Wiley, a published author, conducts the meetings as workshops.
4. The writers meet to read their works in progress, fiction or poetry, and to discuss suggestions for improvement.
5. The members, people from all walks of life, have varied interests.
6. One man, a police detective, wants to write stories based on his experiences as an investigator.
7. Another, a retired doctor, likes to write poems, funny limericks, and haunting ballads.
8. One woman, a local librarian, has published short stories but wants to write a historical novel.
9. The club, Writers, Inc., meets twice a month.
10. My youngest brother, Ted, is organizing a similar club for elementary school writers.

Appositives

An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun that follows another noun or pronoun to identify or explain it.

EXERCISE In the following sentences, circle each appositive and draw an arrow from the appositive to the word it identifies or explains.

EXAMPLE: The *Iliad*, an epic poem about the Trojan War, was supposedly written by Homer.

1. Iphigenia, daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, was sacrificed to the gods by her father.
2. Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks, led his warriors to Troy.
3. Their mission was to reclaim Helen, the beautiful wife of Menelaus.
4. Paris, the son of the king of Troy, had kidnapped her.
5. Helen had been promised to Paris by Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty.
6. Thetis, the mother of Achilles, had tried to protect her son from death.
7. When Achilles was born, she had held him by his heel and dipped him into the Styx, the sacred river of the underworld.
8. Achilles, a brave Greek warrior, was eventually killed by a poisoned arrow that pierced his heel.
9. Athena, goddess of wisdom, helped the Greeks in the battle.
10. The king of the gods, Zeus, tried to remain impartial.
11. Achilles killed Hector, the Trojan king's son, and dragged his body around the walls of Troy.
12. Priam, the king of Troy, watched this spectacle and wept.
13. Achilles mourned the death of his friend Patroclus.
14. Hecuba, the wife of Priam, begged her husband not to go to Achilles.
15. The fate of the Trojans was decided on Mount Olympus, home of the gods.
16. Cassandra, daughter of Priam, could predict the future, but no one would believe her.
17. Troy, the city of Priam, was burned to the ground by the Greeks.
18. One of the Trojans who escaped was Aeneas, the founder of Rome.
19. Odysseus, a Greek chief, took ten years to return to his home in Sparta.
20. The *Odyssey*, the story of his adventures, was written by Homer.

Appositive Phrases

An appositive phrase is made up of the appositive and its modifiers.

EXERCISE Underline the appositive phrase in each sentence below.

EXAMPLE: Mr. Lewis, the man who spoke, was very entertaining.

1. San Francisco, home of the famed cable cars, was named for St. Francis.
2. Pennsylvania is named for William Penn, one of its founders.
3. Quebec City, a city in the province of Quebec, is a seaport.
4. New York City, a mixture of many ethnic groups, is still the country's largest city.
5. Montreal, the name of a Canadian city in Quebec Province, means "Mount Royal."
6. Jacques Cartier, a Frenchman, named the St. Lawrence River.
7. Lake Champlain, a lake in upstate New York, was named for Samuel de Champlain.
8. San Jose, the name of a city in California, means "Saint Joseph" in Spanish.
9. San Raphael, also a Spanish name, means "Saint Raphael."
10. The Spanish, early settlers of the California area, left their mark with these place names.
11. In New York, home of several Indian tribes, Indian names are prominent.
12. In New England the names reflect the origins of early settlers, colonists who came from England to seek freedom.
13. Worcester, Gloucester, Exeter, and Cambridge, all English names, brought a touch of England to the New World.
14. All these place names, reflections of history, provide clues about the early inhabitants of the areas.