

Advanced 3
Unit 2 Language Focus 3
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Appositives

An appositive is a noun phrase that follows another noun phrase and provides additional information about it. For example, in the sentence “My brother, John, is a doctor”, the appositive phrase “John” identifies my brother.

Examples:

I was talking to **my friend**, **Sue**.

Washington D.C. has been named after **the first US president**, **George Washington**.

Paris, **the capital city of France**, attracts thousands of tourists on a daily basis.

The Trojan War broke out because **Paris**, **the Greek queen**, escaped from her husband to the ancient city of Troy.

The highlighted words in yellow are appositives for the words highlighted in blue.

Point:

We have to set off an appositive from the rest of the sentence by using commas. If the appositive is at the end of the sentence, we set it off by using a comma before it and the period at end of the sentence.

period (American) = full-stop (British) = the dot at the end of the sentence

More Examples:

The Eiffel Tower, Gustave Eiffel’s masterpiece, can be found on the Champs de Mars.

Frédéric Chopin, a Polish composer, was one of the most celebrated virtuoso pianists of his day.

My childhood friend, Anne-Marie, loved horses.

Point:

In the following sentence, there is a long appositive inside which there are several commas. Therefore, the writer has set off the appositive from the rest of the sentence by using hyphens.

People are summed up largely by the roles they fill in society --wife or husband, soldier or salesperson, student or scientist-- and by the qualities that others ascribe to them.

Source:

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