APPOSITIVES

- An appositive is a word or word group that renames a noun.

  *Rita, a good friend of mine, works as a police officer.*
  
  **NOTE:** a good friend of mine renames or describes the noun Rita.

- An appositive may be a noun, or it may be a group of words acting as a noun.

  *I like tequila, the native drink of Mexico.*
  
  **NOTE:** the native drink of Mexico describes tequila.

- The appositive usually comes after the word it refers to, but in a few cases, like the last sentence above, the appositive may come first.

- If the appositive is a personal pronoun, it should be in the same case as the renamed noun.

  *All of our group, Ike, Phoebe, and I, left early.*

  *He gave the prize to the shortest person, me.*

- Appositives are either nonrestrictive (set off by commas) or restrictive (not set off by commas). A nonrestrictive appositive supplies additional, but nonessential, details about the noun or pronoun to which it refers. A restrictive appositive limits the meaning of the noun or pronoun to which it refers by pointing out which one (or ones).

  *Even Zeke Thornbush, my very best friend, let me down.* (nonrestrictive)
  *Even my friend Zeke Thornbush let me down.* (restrictive)

- Appositives are a good way to reduce wordiness in sentences. Note the following combination of sentences:

  *Houston is a rapidly growing city. Houston is my hometown.*

  By making one of the sentences an appositive, a writer can clarify the meaning of his or her thoughts:

  *Houston, my hometown, is a rapidly growing city.*

  **OR**

  *Houston, a rapidly growing city, is my hometown.*