

# *Appositives*

**An appositive** noun or pronoun explains, or renames, a head noun or pronoun.

Our friends, **the Jones**, sell fresh vegetables.

The head word is “friends”, and the appositive noun that explains “friends” is “**Jones**”.

What did you lose--**this**?

The head word is “What”, and the appositive pronoun that explains “What” is “**this**”.

His favorite hobby, **carving**, fills the winter evenings.

The head word is “hobby”, and the appositive noun (gerund) that explains the head noun “hobby” is “**carving**”.

My job, **to make web sites**, is fascinating.

The head word is “job”, and the appositive noun phrase that explains “job” is “**to make web sites**”.

The idea **that you presented** is original and interesting.

The head word is “idea”, and the appositive noun clause that explains “idea” is “**that you presented**”.

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Put **appositive** nouns and pronouns in the same **case** as the head word. Several words used as a noun phrase are treated as **a phrase**.

This is Maria's [possessive], **the violinist's** [possessive], violin teacher.

Whose [possessive] baseball is this - **yours** [possessive]?

Whom [objective] did you leave off the list - **him** [objective]?

Sara [nominative], **the instructor** [nominative], teaches crochet.

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**Appositive** nouns are often introduced by words like “**or**”, “**namely**”, and similar words.

Three carnations, **or flowers**, form the center of this bouquet.

Three carnations **or other strong flowers** form the center of this bouquet.

I would recommend my dearest friend, namely, **my sister**.

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An **appositive** noun or pronoun taken together **with its objects** and modifiers in a phrase is **called an appositive**.

Her favorite hobby, **parachuting**, nearly killed her.

Her favorite hobby, **parachuting from vintage airplanes**, nearly killed her.

My great aunt, **that lady**, will visit us for a week.

My great aunt, **the lady at the head table**, will arrive next week.

My great aunt, **the lady with the beautiful shawl**, will be with us for a week.