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, the violinist’s, violin teacher.

Whose baseball is this - yours?
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.
Appositives

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

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.