QEP Grammar Extravaganza: Appositives and Prepositional Phrases

Today, we'll learn what an appositive is, how it differs from a prepositional phrase, and how to use both.
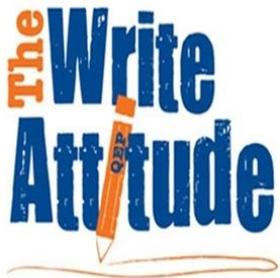
Appositive: Defined

- Appositive = a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right beside it
- The appositive can be a short or long combination of words.

Appositive renaming Joey

Joey, my best friend, plays basketball.
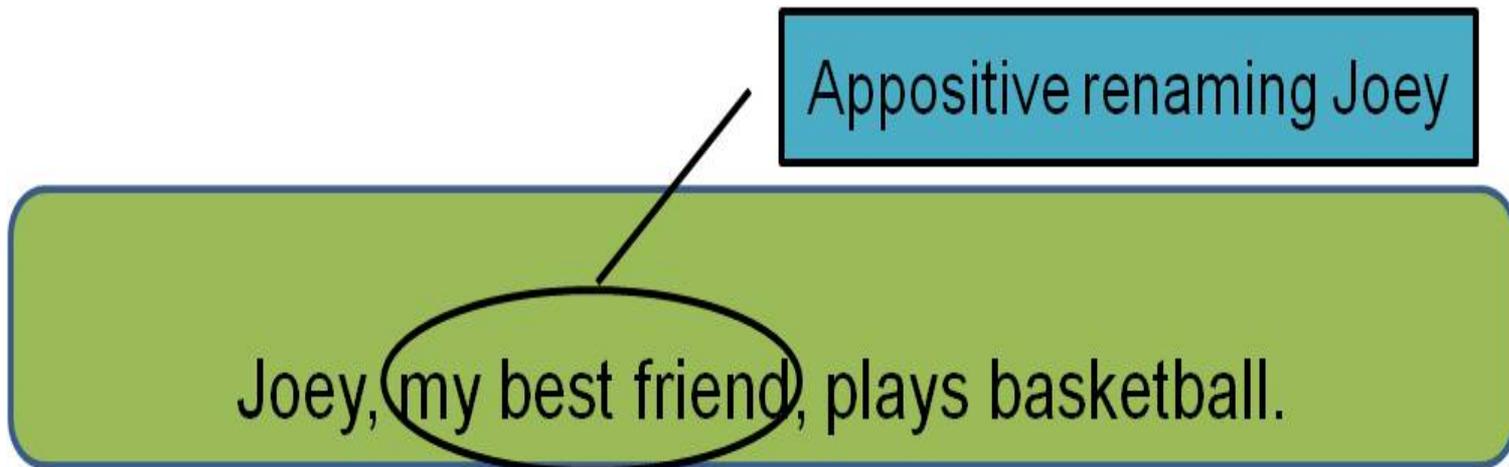
Appositives

- The insect is crawling across the kitchen table.

  – The insect, a ladybug, is crawling across the kitchen table.

- During dinner, Clifford spewed mashed potatoes like an erupting volcano.

  – During dinner, Clifford, the world's messiest eater, spewed mashed potatoes like an erupting volcano.

- Wassily Kandinsky is known for his colorful abstract paintings.

  – A bold innovator, Wassily Kandinsky is known for his colorful abstract paintings.

Practice

Identify the appositive, if there is one, in the following sentences:

1. Carla, the leader of our group, is late again.
2. My neighbor, Melissa, waters her plants everyday.
3. I want a bright red Porsche, a sports car.
4. Kent and Michelle, Kent's wife, are business partners.

Punctuating Appositives

- When the appositive begins the sentence:
  - A hot-tempered tennis player, Robbie charged the umpire.

- When the appositive interrupts the sentence:
  - Robbie, a hot-tempered tennis player, charged the umpire.

- And when the appositive ends the sentence:
  - Upset by the bad call, the crowd cheered Robbie, a hot-tempered tennis player who charged the umpire.

Practice

Combine the sentences, using one as an appositive or an appositive phrase. Add commas where they're needed:

1. The first man on the moon was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was Neil Armstrong.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have bought a new car. They're our neighbors.

3. Meteors are often called shooting stars. Meteors are chunks of metal or stone.

4. Graceland is in Memphis, Tennessee. Graceland is the home of Elvis Presley.

Q&A

You have Questions
We have Answers

Session II

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositions

- A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence.

- Examples include: about, above, across, beneath, beyond, despite, down, during, on, of, through, since, under, until, with, etc.

❖ The children climbed the mountain without fear.

❖ There was rejoicing throughout the land when the government was defeated.

❖ The dog is hiding under the porch because it knows it will be punished for chewing up a new pair of shoes.

Prepositional Phrase: Defined

- Prepositional phrase = a modifying phrase consisting of a preposition and its object

- At the minimum, a prepositional phrase will begin with a preposition and end with a noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause, the "object" of the preposition.

- The object of the preposition will often have one or more modifiers to describe it.

Elements of a Prepositional Phrase

- Has two basic parts: a preposition and a noun/pronoun that serves as the object of the preposition.

o The air reeked of stale food.

   o Prepositional phrase = of stale food

   o Preposition = of

   o Object = food

We went on a business trip That restaurant with the famous pizza was on the way. We stopped for lunch.

Prepositions

- Tommy breathed a sigh of relief when Mrs. Markham announced that she was postponing the due date for the research essay.

  - Tommy, along with the other students, breathed a sigh of relief when Mrs. Markham announced that she was postponing the due date for the research essay.

- The boat almost sunk in the storm.

  - The boat across the lake almost sunk in the storm.

Practice

Identify the prepositional phrase(s), along with the prepositional and object, in the following sentences:

1. Upon my arrival, I was whisked into a secret chamber.

2. I can't complete the report without the information.

3. Who says you can go around the world in 80 days?

4. Come into the garden with me.

Practice

Determine whether the highlighted phrase is an appositive phrase or a prepositional phrase:

1. She left her purse in the writing lab.

2. St. Valentine, patron saint of lovers, was never married.

3. The stories were translated by my professor.

4. We traveled from Biloxi to New Orleans.

5. Lewis Carroll, an author, was also a math lecturer at Oxford University.

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