

# What Is an Appositive?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We use appositives in spoken English all the time. An appositive is a word or phrase that identifies a noun or gives additional information about a noun. Usually the word or phrase is either a noun or a noun phrase, but not always. The appositive is usually next to the noun it is identifying or clarifying.



## Example:

Emily's eldest brother, Sam, climbed on the bus.

In the sentence "brother" is a noun. "Sam" is the appositive, because it means the same thing as "Emily's oldest brother," but it gives more information (clarifies) by telling the reader the name of the brother.

## Keep in mind:

Appositives are complicated!

- There can be appositives with any noun, not just the subject.
- They often, but not always, follow the noun. They can come before the noun or even later in the sentence.
- There may be commas around the appositive, but not always. It depends on the meaning of the sentence. Sometimes there are even dashes or parenthesis around an appositive.

**In each of the following sentences, underline the appositive and circle the noun it is referring to.**

1. His friend Tom went on vacation.
2. My car, the red one with a white top, is out of gas.
3. The class played their favorite game, soccer, at recess.
4. Soccer, a popular sport in France, is played with a black and white ball.
5. The largest state in the U.S., Alaska was one of the last to be admitted as a state.