**6- The Appositive Phrase**

An appositive phrase consists of an **appositive**. It follows or preceeds another noun that it modifies.

* ***What is an appositive ?***

An appositive is a noun or a pronoun that renames or identifiies another noun or pronoun in some way. An appositive can be a single word or many words.

* Yasmina Khadra, **a.k.a Mohamed Moullesshoul**, is an Algerian author born in Kenadessa, **a town situated in Bechar.**
* My uncle, **a doctor specialized in ophtalmology**, is moving near our area.
* Fictional characters **Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple** are both detectives.
* The red colour in that yogurt comes from a bug, **the cochineal.**

**Notice that** :

The appositive phrase serves to **identify or bring new information** about a noun (a person, a place, etc). It comes between two commas, or at the end of the sentence. It can be placed at the begining of the sentence as well.

* **Punctuation :**
* If the appositive is necessary for the meaning, and provides crucial information to a sentence then it is essential. This means that it cannot be left out. No need for commas in this case :

*Ex : The former First Lady Barbara Bush could become the oldest living First Lady.*

Without the appositive, this sentence would be “The former First Lady could become the oldest living First Lady”—we wouldn’t know who the First Lady was. Since “Barbara Bush” is necessary information, we don’t need commas.

* If the appositive is not essential for the meaning and is not crucial in a sentence, it could be left out, then it is nonessential. It must be placed between two commas in this case :

*Barbara Bush, the former First Lady, could become the oldest living First Lady.*

Here, the appositive phrase is « the former First Lady », because it adds information about « Barbara bush ». In this case, it is not crutial to the sentence. We can remove the appositive phrase, and the sentence would still be correct :

*Barbara Bush could become the oldest living First Lady*.

**Remember that :**

* An appositive phrase is always right next to the noun it describes.
* Appositive phrases can come at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.
* Most times an appositive phrase comes after its noun, but sometimes it comes before.
* An appositive phrase does not have a [subject](https://englishsentences.com/subject/) and [predicate](https://englishsentences.com/predicate/), therefore, it is not a complete sentence.

**Let’s practise :**

1. Find in the following sentences the appositive phrases and tell which noun they identify:
   * Sydney boasts an efficient habour and the well-known Sydney Opera House, a marvel in architectural design
   * Paris, the capital of France, has a long history
   * Pasteur was born in Dole, a small town situated in the sourth-east of France, between Dijon and the swiss border
   * Diego Maradona, the son of a factory worker, began his career at the age of nine with Las Gebollitos, a youth team
   * - The Americans had DW Griffith, an extraordinary film-maker, but he was the exception rather than the rule in Hoolywood.
   * The smallest state in the US, Rhode Island is in the northeast
2. Determine whether the appositive phrases in the next sentences are essential or nonessential :
   * My father, an important business man in the city of Dallas, spent much of his free time on the golf course.
   * Youtube, the phenomenally successful video-sharing website, was dreamt up over dinner by three Americans in 2004.
   * Attorney David Jacob has represented several States in the United States in legal affairs, including Washington DC.
   * The newspaper The UK Daily Mail was published for the first time in the 1930s.
   * The Vasco da Gama pillar, a historical monument, was built in the 1500s.
   * Monaco, a city in France, is known to be the wealthiest place in the world.
   * Mohammed Boudiaf, a former Algerian president , was assassinated in June 1992 while giving a speech in Annaba.