# Appositives

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

An **appositive** is a noun added next to another noun to explain or identify the first noun. An appositive can also be more than one noun; it can also be a phrase.

**Examples of appositives:**

1. Mr. Fields, <u>a chef at the Hotel Commodore</u>, won the tennis championship.
2. These grains – <u>rye, oats, and barley</u> – are hardier than wheat.
3. This country has to import one product: <u>coffee</u>.
4. Michael Miller, <u>the economics professor</u>, visited the Allans a few days ago.
5. His favourite game, <u>tennis</u>, is not hard to learn.
6. His chief ambition, <u>to graduate from VCC</u>, was finally realized.
7. My uncle, <u>a farmer</u>, goes to Florida every winter.
8. My uncle, <u>a wheat farmer in Manitoba</u>, goes somewhere warm in the winter.
9. Kenora, <u>once Rat Portage</u>, has a large flour mill.
10. Susan, <u>the tall girl in the back row</u>, has a strong soprano voice.
11. The twins <u>Marilyn and Marie</u> look exactly alike.
12. My friend <u>Tom</u> is taller than I am.
13. Three countries – <u>Austria, Czech Republic, and Hungary</u> – have access to the Black Sea via the Danube River.
14. One of my favourite books is by William Beebe, <u>a famous naturalist and explorer</u>.
15. Bill, <u>an enthusiastic bird-watcher,</u> spends hours every evening down by the lake.
16. We bought some groceries: <u>potatoes, milk, bread, and eggs</u>.

**More facts about appositives:**

Appositives must be **next to** the nouns they explain. Use commas when the appositive information is non-essential to the meaning of the sentence. Use dashes when the appositive phrase contains commas in order to separate it from the rest of the sentence (see #2 and 13). It is also possible to use a colon with appositives (see #3 and 16).

An appositive must agree in number and case with the noun to which it refers. If that noun is singular, the appositive must be singular, and likewise, if the noun is plural, the appositive must be plural.