Appositives

An **appositive** is a noun added 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.)

**Some examples of appositives:**

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

**Some more facts about appositives:**

Appositives must be **next to** the nouns they explain, and they are set off with commas. But it is also possible to use a colon with appositives (see #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.