

# Appositives

- An appositive is a noun or pronoun (and its modifiers) that appears directly after another noun or pronoun to describe or rename it.
- A nonrestrictive appositive adds extra or **nonessential** information to a sentence, and **commas are used** to offset it from the rest of the sentence.
- A restrictive appositive contains information **essential** to the meaning of a sentence, and **no commas are used**.
- Try this simple test to see whether you need to use commas to offset an appositive: First, identify the appositive and read the sentence without the appositive. Then, ask, "Is the meaning still clear and complete?" If the meaning remains clear and complete, the appositive is nonessential, and commas are needed.
- An appositive can be used to combine ideas and information about nouns from different sentences within one sentence.