

Name: _____

Punctuating Appositives

Depending on the kind of information an appositive provides, it might need to be offset from the rest of a sentence. This is most often done with commas, although sometimes other punctuation may be used instead.

Restrictive appositives are essential to the meaning of a sentence. If they are removed, the meaning of the sentence requires clarification.

Do not use commas or any other punctuation to offset restrictive appositives.

antecedent → ← appositive

Example: The popular book Spots to Visit says this park is a must-see stop.
If the appositive is removed, the reader does not know which "popular book" is being referenced. The title is an essential piece of information in this sentence.

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and a red cape with 'STW' on it, is flying through a blue sky with white clouds. He is smiling and has his arms outstretched.

Preview

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The title is not an essential piece of information in this sentence.

Always check punctuation! Since the way you punctuate an appositive tells whether or not information is essential, it can change your meaning.

antecedent → ← appositive

Restrictive: The tall ride Jungle Junction is under construction.
This says the name is essential for clarity, meaning there are multiple tall rides.

antecedent → ← appositive

Nonrestrictive: The tall ride, Jungle Junction, is under construction.
*This says the name is **not** essential for clarity, meaning there is only one tall ride.*