

Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Reteaching

An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun that identifies or renames another noun or pronoun.

The name George has been popular for generations. (*George identifies name.*)

An **appositive phrase** consists of an appositive plus its modifiers.

George Washington, our first president, was considered quite tall.

A. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in the following sentences.

1. Washington was awkward with women until he met his wife-to-be, Martha Custis.
2. No salary was paid to President Washington, our country's first millionaire.
3. He did not live in the White House, today's executive mansion, because it was not built until John Adams's administration.
4. Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, was extremely well educated.
5. He was a gifted architect who designed Monticello, his home in Virginia.
6. Jefferson admired the work of Italian architect Andrea Palladio.
7. Jefferson's most significant achievement, the Louisiana Purchase, doubled the size of the United States.
8. At only 100 pounds, James Madison, our fourth president, was sickly throughout his life.
9. President John Quincy Adams kept an unusual pet, an alligator.
10. Andrew Jackson led the nation to a great victory, the Battle of New Orleans.
11. At his infamous inaugural party, a boisterous riot, Jackson fled for his life.
12. He was the only president ever to kill a man, a scoundrel, in a duel.
13. William Henry Harrison, a long-winded speaker, caught pneumonia while delivering his inaugural speech.
14. His early death caused him to have the shortest term of all the presidents, only one month.
15. President Zachary Taylor grazed his horse, Old Whitey, on the White House lawn.

B. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases and Their Role

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in the following sentences. Underline twice the word that the appositive or appositive phrase renames or identifies.

1. Franklin Pierce had dark, curly hair, his one outstanding physical feature.
2. James Buchanan relied on his niece Harriet as his official hostess.
3. Young Abraham Lincoln, a gangling boy, was largely self-educated.
4. While in the White House, Lincoln was saddened by death of his son Willie.
5. Of all his children, only Lincoln's son Robert lived to adulthood.

Lesson
2**Appositives and Appositive Phrases****More Practice****A. Identifying Appositive Phrases**

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in each sentence. Write the noun it identifies on the blank line.

EXAMPLE Lincoln, a lawyer from Illinois, lost many elections. Lincoln

1. A unique storyteller, Abraham Lincoln was known for his wit. _____
2. Lincoln, a good listener, learned from other people. _____
3. He was a good father to his three sons, Robert, Willie, and Tad. _____
4. The Lincoln boys had a pet turkey, Jack. _____
5. Lincoln gave his famous speech, the *Gettysburg Address*, at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. _____
6. His great achievement, the Emancipation Proclamation, made slavery illegal. _____

B. Using Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Rewrite each of the following sentences, adding the appositive phrase shown in parentheses. Use commas if necessary.

1. Ulysses S. Grant was surprisingly gentle with people and animals.
(a military genius)

2. Grant was praised as the man most responsible for the Union victory in the Civil War. (a graduate of West Point)

3. President Grant is buried in New York City. (the largest city on the East Coast)

4. President Theodore Roosevelt read Kenneth Grahame's book to his children often. (*The Wind in the Willows*)

5. Roosevelt became the namesake of one of America's favorite toys. (the teddy bear)

6. Presidential cow lived on the White House grounds during William H. Taft's term of office. (Mooly Wooly)

7. Taft once got stuck in the bathtub. (an extremely large man)

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Application

A. Writing with Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Combine the following sentences using an appositive or appositive phrase. Use commas as they are needed.

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only child of a wealthy couple. He was elected president four times.

2. He inspired the American people by speaking on the radio. The radio was the latest technological achievement at that time.

3. Americans everywhere listened to these speeches. The speeches were called his "fireside chats."

4. Though busy as president, Franklin Roosevelt found time for hobbies. He enjoyed working on his stamp albums and building models of ships.

5. Eleanor Roosevelt represented the United States in the United Nations. She was the niece of Theodore Roosevelt and wife of Franklin Roosevelt.

B. Using Appositives and Appositive Phrases

You have been elected president of your class. Write a short paragraph describing the goals you have and the people you need to help you accomplish them. Use at least five appositives or appositive phrases in your sentences. Underline the appositives and appositive phrases in your paragraph.
