Appositives

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

- Identify appositives and appositive phrases used in sentences.
- Use commas to punctuate appositive phrases in sentences.

Preparation

Materials Needed

- Chart paper and markers
- Appositives (BLM 8)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the practice text (without the comma in sentence 3) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. If necessary, copy the sentence frames from "Strategies to Support ELs" onto chart paper.

1. Focus

Explain Appositives

Say: *Appositives are nouns that follow a noun or pronoun. They identify the noun or pronoun and give more information about it. An appositive phrase includes an appositive and its modifiers, or words that affect its meaning. Appositive phrases can also follow a noun or pronoun and identify it and give more information about its meaning. Appositives and appositive phrases can be essential or nonessential to the sentence. This means that they can either be important or unnecessary. When appositives or appositive phrases are unnecessary, they are separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.*

Model Using Appositives

Display the modeling text from "Women's Soccer: Keeping the Dream Alive" on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources and read it aloud to students.

American Mia Hamm, already a soccer superstar, stood out.

Modeling Text

Say: *In this sentence, the phrase* ***already a soccer superstar****, tells more about American Mia Hamm. Is it necessary information to have in order to understand the meaning of the sentence? Listen as I read the sentence without the phrase: American Mia Hamm stood out. Does the meaning of the sentence change without the appositive phrase? No, it doesn't. This means that the appositive phrase in this sentence is nonessential, or unnecessary. In this same example, the words* ***Mia Hamm*** *are also an appositive, but this appositive is necessary for us to understand which American. We don't separate* ***Mia Hamm*** *with commas.*

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Appositives

Display the practice text (without the comma in sentence 3) on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work in small groups to identify the appositive phrase in each sentence below. Ask them to decide whether or not the phrase should be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

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1. Talented soccer player Mia Hamm retired soon after her team won gold in 2004.
2. The women's team was on the covers of magazines *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People*, and *Sports Illustrated*.
3. The World Cup was held in the United States in 1999, another big year for women's soccer.

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use "Strategies to Support ELs."

Share Practice Sentences

Invite pairs to share the appositive phrases they identified and whether or not the phrases needed commas to set them apart. Ask the questions below to help students discuss appositives:

- *What is the appositive in the first sentence? Is it necessary information to understand the sentence?*
- *What is the appositive in the second sentence? Does it need commas? Why or why not?*
- *What is the appositive in the third sentence? Does it need commas? Why or why not?*

Make note of students who struggle with this activity. Use this information to plan further instruction.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Beginning ELs are not ready to work on this English grammar skill. While other students collaborate on the small-group practice activity, meet one on one with students to support developmentally appropriate grammar skills based on their independent writing and language level.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to identify appositives and appositive phrases. Read the sentences from the practice activity with students and make sure they understand them. Provide the following sentence frames to help ELs talk about appositives:

The appositive in the sentence is _____.
We use commas because _____.
We do not need commas because _____.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: *We learned that appositives tell more about a noun. Sometimes appositives provide necessary or essential information about the noun, and sometimes the information they provide is unnecessary to understanding the sentence. When we write, we need to remember to use commas to separate nonessential appositive phrases from the rest of the sentence.*

If you would like to give students additional practice identifying appositives in sentences and inserting commas where necessary, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 8. Use students' answers to provide corrective feedback.