

Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Reteaching

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

Submersibles, vessels that operate under water, are used in research. (*Vessels* identifies *Submersibles*.)

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

Submersibles, vessels that operate under water, are used in research.

An **essential**, or **restrictive, appositive** defines the meaning of a noun or pronoun.

The submersible Alvin can dive very deep. (*Alvin* identifies *submersible*.)

A **nonessential**, or **nonrestrictive appositive**, adds extra information about a noun or pronoun whose identity is already clear.

Submersibles, remarkable tools, aid marine biologists.

A. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in the following sentences.

1. Oceanography, the study of the ocean, often requires courage.
2. Many oceanographers work underwater at great depths, a dangerous environment.
3. Without supplies of the gas oxygen, humans cannot work for more than a few minutes below the surface of the water.
4. Tanks of compressed air, part of the equipment of scuba divers, enable these divers to go lower and stay longer underwater.
5. In 1715, English diver John Lethbridge used wood and leather to create the first diving suit.
6. The first safe device for underwater breathing, the aqua-lung, was invented in 1943.
7. Jacques-Yves Cousteau, a famous spokesperson for oceanographic research, was one of the inventors.

B. Identifying Essential and Nonessential Appositives

Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in each sentence below. On the line, identify each phrase as **E** if it is essential or **NE** if it is nonessential. Add necessary commas.

1. Swiss scientist Jacques Piccard is an oceanographic engineer. _____
2. His father Auguste Piccard designed the bathyscaphe. _____
3. In 1953, the two Piccards descended 10,300 feet under the Mediterranean Sea in the bathyscaphe *Trieste*. _____
4. In 1960 Jacques and U.S. Navy officer Don Walsh took an even more dangerous ride in the *Trieste*. _____
5. The scientists descended to 35,810 feet an incredible 6.8 miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean. _____

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

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

EXAMPLE The Pacific, the largest ocean, still holds mysteries. Pacific

1. The Great Barrier Reef, a chain of coral reefs, is located off the northeastern coast of Australia. _____
2. The ship *Endeavour* was under the control of Captain James Cook when it was badly damaged by the reef in the 18th century. _____
3. British explorer and navigator Matthew Flinders was the first to chart the coastline and navigate through an area of the reef. _____
4. The coral is formed by polyps, hardened skeletons of flowerlike water animals. _____
5. The coral formations, hundreds of species of living polyps attached to the coral, are a wide range of colors. _____

B. Using Appositives in Combining Sentences

Combine each pair of sentences by incorporating the information in the second sentence as an appositive in the first. Use commas if necessary.

1. Jacques Cousteau developed his lifelong passion while an officer with the French navy. Cousteau's passion in life was underwater exploration.

2. Cousteau performed oceanic research on his ship. His ship was named *Calypso*.

3. One of Cousteau's inventions was the diving saucer. The diving saucer is an underwater observation vehicle.

4. Cousteau produced *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*. *The Undersea World* was a television series about the drama of marine exploration.

5. In 1974, Jacques Cousteau began the Cousteau Society. The Cousteau Society is an organization that works to protect aquatic life.

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Application

A. Writing with Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Combine each set of sentences into a single sentence by using appositives or appositive phrases. Use commas as they are needed.

1. Jacques Cousteau was a marine explorer, writer, and filmmaker. He produced *The Silent World* (1953) and *World Without Sun* (1966). These films were both winners of Academy Awards.

2. *World Without Sun* is about five men living in an underwater capsule. This movie is a film documentary.

3. Exploring the floor of the ocean requires an underwater vehicle. The ocean floor still is a largely unmapped part of Earth.

4. Scientists have invented the bathyscaphe and other vehicles that can withstand water pressure well. Such underwater vehicles are called submersibles.

B. Using Appositives and Appositive Phrases

You are an oceanographer who has just completed months of research on the waters off the coast of the United States. (Choose a coast.) Write a paragraph for the general public describing what you and your team did and learned. Use at least three appositives or appositive phrases in your paragraph. Underline the appositives and appositive phrases.
