

Reference Note

For more about **essential and nonessential phrases**, see page 322.

Appositives and appositive phrases that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence are set off by commas. If the appositive is essential to the meaning, it is generally not set off by commas.

EXAMPLES My teacher, **Mr. Byrd**, trains parrots. [The writer has only one teacher. The appositive is not necessary to identify the teacher. Because the information is nonessential, it is set off by commas.]

My teacher **Mr. Byrd** trains parrots. [The writer has more than one teacher. The appositive is necessary to tell which teacher is meant. Because this information is essential to the meaning of the sentence, it is not set off by commas.]

NOTE Commas are generally used with appositives that refer to proper nouns.

EXAMPLE Linda, **the editor**, assigned the story.

However, a word or phrase that is commonly accepted as part of a person's name or title is not set off by a comma.

EXAMPLE The Roman Army defeated Attila **the Hun** in A.D. 451.

Exercise 12 Identifying Appositive Phrases

Identify the appositive phrases in the following sentences. Then, give the noun or pronoun that each appositive phrase identifies or describes.

- EXAMPLE**
1. I usually write haiku, poems in a traditional Japanese form.
1. *poems in a traditional Japanese form—haiku*
 1. Our community has a new organization, a writers' club called Writers, Inc.
 2. Marquita Wiley, a college instructor, started the group at the request of former students.
 3. A published author, she conducts the meetings as workshops.
 4. The writers meet to read their works in progress, fiction or poetry, and to discuss suggestions for improvement.
 5. The members, people from all walks of life, have varied interests.
 6. A mechanic by trade, J. D. Ellis writes funny poems about his hobby, bird-watching.
 7. My friend Lusita just had a short story about her people, the Zuni, published in a national magazine.

HELP



A sentence in Exercise 12 may contain more than one appositive or appositive phrase.

- Next week, we'll meet at our regular time, 3:30 P.M.
- Our guest speaker is Pat Mora, a Mexican American poet whose work emphasizes harmony between cultures.
- Have you read her poem "Bribe"?

Review H Identifying Verbal Phrases and Appositive Phrases

Find the verbal phrases and appositive phrases in the following sentences. Identify each phrase as a participial phrase, a gerund phrase, an infinitive phrase, or an appositive phrase.

- EXAMPLE**
- Automobiles have been partly responsible for drastically changing life in the twentieth century.
 - drastically changing life in the twentieth century—gerund phrase
 - Developing the automobile was actually the creative work of many people, but Henry Ford deservedly receives much credit. **1. g.p.**
 - Ford's company, using an assembly line and interchangeable parts, first produced the Model T in 1909. **2. p.p.**
 - Many people in the early 1900s wanted to buy cars because of their low prices and novelty. **3. i.p.**
 - By giving people an alternative to mass transit, automobiles did much to change the social and business scene of the United States. **4. g.p./i.p.**
 - No longer dependent on streetcars and trains, the first motorists used automobiles for going on recreational and family trips. **5. g.p.**
 - Clearly overjoyed with their vehicles, many Americans regarded automobiles as necessities by the 1920s. **6. p.p.**
 - One writer, a famous historian, noted that the automobile industry led to such new businesses as gas stations, repair garages, tire companies, and motels. **7. a.p.**
 - To get a clear idea of changes in automobile designs over the years, look at the picture to the right. **8. i.p.**
 - The photo shows Henry Ford, looking contented and proud, in his first car. **9. p.p.**
 - What are some of the main differences between Ford's car, one of the most advanced vehicles of its day, and modern cars? **10. a.p.**

HELP

A sentence in Review H may contain more than one verbal or appositive phrase.

