Identifying words modified by appositives

An appositive identifies or renames the noun (or noun phrase) right before or after it.

My dog, Noun Phrase Snoopy, Appositive has a long tail. (Snoopy is another name for my dog.)

Most often, **appositives** fall right *after* the nouns they refer to. Less often, they can fall right before the nouns they refer to.

<u>Karen's bike</u>, <u>a shiny red model with training wheels</u>, is brand new.

Appositive

A former World Cup finalist, my soccer coach Moun Phrase makes us run a lot.

Noun Phrase

My cousin | Janna | is funnier than | my cousin | Lou. | Noun Phrase | Appositive | Noun Phrase | Appositive |

What words make up the appositive phrase?

Before the parade, my friend Jennifer Aniston practiced her baton twirls.

Before the parade, my friend **Jennifer Aniston** practiced her baton twirls.

Courtney Cox, a master entertainer, will teach us all how to juggle.

Gourtney Cox, a master entertainer, will teach us all how to juggle.

One of the friendliest pets I have ever met, Will Byer's dog fetches water bottles for every guest.

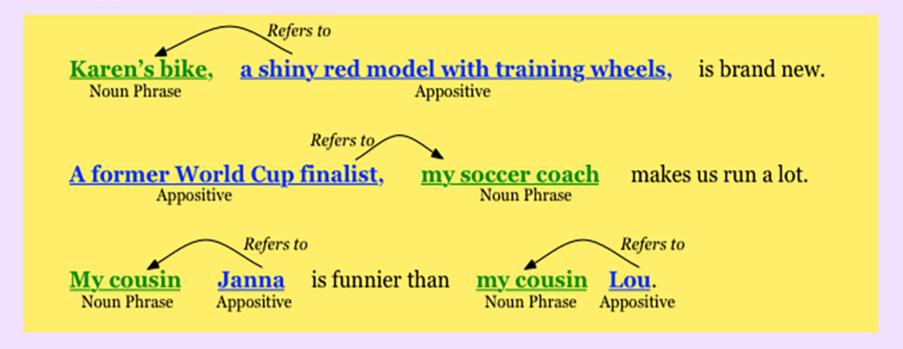
One of the friendliest pets I have ever met, Will Byer's dog fetches water bottles for every guest.

Identifying Appositives

An appositive identifies or renames the noun (or noun phrase) right before or after it.

Appositives are surrounded by **commas** when they <u>aren't</u> absolutely necessary, or *essential*, to understand a sentence.

When appositives are essential to a sentence, they don't take commas.



What does the bold appositive phrase refer to?

A creative genius, Rachel Green built a robot to do her homework.

A creative genius, Rachel Green built a robot to do her homework.

Ella Fitzgerald, a hard-working gardener, accidentally watered her flowers with Coca-Cola.

| Ella Fitzgerald, a hard-working gardener, accidentally | watered her flowers with Goca-Gola.



Interpreting appositives without commas

An appositive identifies or renames the noun (or noun phrase) right before or after it.

 $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{My dog}}}_{\text{Noun}}$ $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{Snoopy}}}_{\text{Appositive}}$ has a long tail. (Snoopy is another name for my dog.)

The meaning of a sentence changes depending on whether or not commas surround the appositive.

- When commas appear on either side of the appositive, the appositive is
 nonessential because the sentence would still be clear without it.
- When commas do not surround the appositive, the appositive is essential because
 the sentence is unclear without it.

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My cousin, Gary, has a cat. (I have many cousins. One is named Gary.)

My cousin, Gary, has a cat. (I have one cousin. His name is Gary.)

Nonessential
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In the first example above, the name "Gary" is essential for us to know which cousin has a cat. In the second example, the commas suggest that "Gary" is nonessential because I have only one cousin.

^{*}Note: If you were referring to someone as "Cousin Gary," the word "cousin" would need to be capitalized. In two examples in the gold box above, "cousin" is not part of the name.

Which option is true based on the sentence below?

Before every track meet, Justin Timberlake's teammate Addison soaks her feet in peanut butter.

> He has more than one teammate He has only one teammate

The principal of my school, Eleanor Young, cancelled class so we could have a water balloon fight.

My school has more than one principal

My school has only one principal

