

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun placed next to a noun or pronoun to identify it.
- An **appositive phrase** includes the appositive and the words that modify the appositive.

Read each sentence. If the sentence contains an appositive, write **A** on the line and underline the appositive word or phrase. If the sentence does not contain an appositive, write **N**.

- Herpetology, the study of snakes and other reptiles, is my favorite subject. \_\_\_\_\_
- Some sources claim that an Australian snake, the inland taipan, is the most venomous land snake. \_\_\_\_\_
- The snake I like best, the king cobra, is another dangerous snake. \_\_\_\_\_
- The mamba, a venomous snake of Africa, is a relative of the cobra. \_\_\_\_\_
- Cottonmouths, or water moccasins, live in the southeastern United States. \_\_\_\_\_
- Cottonmouths are often confused with copperheads. \_\_\_\_\_
- The copperhead, a type of pit viper, is less venomous than the cottonmouth. \_\_\_\_\_
- New World coral snakes, North American snakes, have very potent venom. \_\_\_\_\_
- The coral snake is not aggressive, but its bite is deadly. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rattlesnakes are venomous, but their bites are rarely fatal to humans. \_\_\_\_\_

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- An **essential** or **restrictive appositive** defines a noun so the sentence is easier to understand.
- A **nonessential** or **nonrestrictive appositive** is not necessary to understand the sentence.

Underline the appositive in each sentence. Write **E** if the appositive is essential. Write **N** if the appositive is nonessential.

- The spelling bee, a yearly event at our school, is exciting to watch. \_\_\_\_\_
- Our local television station, KJBR-TV, broadcasts the spelling bee each year. \_\_\_\_\_
- About fifty students, all sixth graders, compete in the spelling bee each year. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mrs. Bates, our school principal, is one of the judges. \_\_\_\_\_
- My friend Katie won the top prize this year. \_\_\_\_\_
- Katie was the only student who could spell the word *spaghetti*. \_\_\_\_\_
- David Bedner, a boy in my class, won second place. \_\_\_\_\_
- Last year's winner, Victor Martinez, presented the awards. \_\_\_\_\_
- My brother Antone plans to enter the spelling bee when he is old enough. \_\_\_\_\_
- Antone is only seven and he can already spell the word *recommend*. \_\_\_\_\_

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- Use commas to set off nonessential appositives.
- Use dashes to show a strong break in thought within a sentence.
- Use parentheses to set off nonessential facts within a sentence.

Read each set of sentences. Circle the letter of the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

- a. Two of my classmates—Savannah and Will—ride home with me after school.

b. Two of my classmates (Savannah and Will) ride home with me after school.

c. Two of my classmates, Savannah and Will, ride home with me after school.
- a. His sister gave all the money she raised (\$25.00) to the charity.

b. His sister gave all the money she raised, \$25.00, to the charity.

c. His sister gave all the money she raised—\$25.00—to the charity.
- a. Everyone in the family, even the pets, prefers cold weather.

b. Everyone in the family (even the pets) prefers cold weather.

c. Everyone in the family—even the pets—prefers cold weather.
- a. The dog (a black and white terrier) will come home with us next week.

b. The dog, a black and white terrier, will come home with us next week.

c. The dog—a black and white terrier—will come home with us next week.
- a. Mr. Kowalski, our scout leader, led the hike up the mountain.

b. Mr. Kowalski—our scout leader—led the hike up the mountain.

c. Mr. Kowalski (our scout leader) led the hike up the mountain.

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- A **nonessential** or **nonrestrictive appositive** is not necessary to understand the sentence. Use commas to set off nonessential appositives.

Proofread each sentence. Then rewrite the sentence correctly. Use commas to set off the nonessential appositives. Correct mistakes in capitalization or punctuation.

1. ruben a boy in my class is a great swimmer.
2. He swims for the city team the Jacksonville Jets.
3. Ruben one of two boys in his Family has three sisters
4. Ruben's sister Bella swims for the Jets too.
5. bella a fourth-grader is one of the top swimmers on the team

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**A. Read each sentence. If the sentence contains an appositive, write *A* on the line and underline the appositive word or phrase. If the sentence does not contain an appositive, write *X*.**

1. Elena, my best friend, is moving to Madison, Wisconsin. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I wish Elena would stay here in Buffalo, our hometown. \_\_\_\_\_
3. My dad showed me Madison on the United States map. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Madison is about 80 miles from Milwaukee, the state's largest city. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Underline the appositive in each sentence. Write *E* if the appositive is essential. Write *N* if the appositive is nonessential.**

5. Madison, the state capital, is the second largest city in Wisconsin. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Elena's father, a florist, plans to open a new flower shop there. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Elena's mother will work for a printing company, Nelson Graphics. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Of all her brothers, Elena's brother Michael is most excited about the move. \_\_\_\_\_

