

## **Standards Focus: Written Language—Identifying and Using Appositives**

An **appositive** is a word or phrase that identifies or renames a noun or pronoun right before it. An appositive often adds emphasis and clarification about the noun or pronoun. Writers use commas when the appositive adds extra information. However, they do not use commas when the appositive makes the meaning of the sentence clear.

James Lincoln Collier, *an author of adolescent historical fiction*, has written many novels in collaboration with his brother. (The *italicized* phrase adds information to the sentence.)

The American novelist *James Lincoln Collier* has written many adolescent historical novels in collaboration with his brother. (The *italicized* phrase clarifies which novelist.)

**Directions:** In the following sentences underline the appositive that renames the noun. Then draw an arrow to the noun it modifies.

1. James Lincoln and Christopher Collier, sons of Edmund Collier and Katherine Brown, have collaborated since the early 1970's.
2. Christopher, the younger brother, taught social studies in Connecticut junior and senior high schools.
3. In 1950 James Lincoln graduated from Hamilton College, a liberal arts school that teaches effective writing, and has been a prolific writer ever since.
4. Together James, the writer, has collaborated with his brother, Christopher, the historian, to make history vivid and interesting for young readers.
5. James expects their books to be exciting, while Christopher thinks of their books as teaching vehicles, lessons on history for kids.

**Directions:** Use the following examples to write sentences of your own with appositives.

6. Tim, a young colonial boy, tells the story of his family and the Revolutionary War.

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Write a sentence of your own about a member of your family using an appositive to rename the subject of your sentence, as above.

7. Sam joined the Continental Army, the Rebels, to fight for freedom against England.

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Write a sentence of your own about another member of your family using an appositive to rename the direct object, as above.

8. The Meeker family runs a tavern in Redding, Connecticut, a well-known Tory area.

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Write a sentence of your own about a your hometown using an appositive to rename the object of a prepositional phrase, as above.

9. Sam gives his father Eliphalet Meeker a hard time about supporting King George.

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Write a sentence of your own about a parent using an appositive to rename the indirect object in the sentence, as above.