

## Exercises for Tutorial 16. Noun Phrase Appositives

**Principle I:** A noun phrase appositive (NPA) always must contain at least one noun, must be located next to the noun that it modifies, and must be set off by commas.

**Principle II:** A noun phrase appositive (NPA) that consists of a series of noun phrases is usually set off by dashes.

**Principle II:** As long as it is located next to the noun that it modifies, a noun phrase appositive (NPA) can occur anywhere in a sentence.

### Exercise 1

**Instructions:** Using Principles I, II, and III, underline the noun phrase appositive (NPA) in the following sentences and then place brackets around the noun or noun phrase that the NPA modifies. Remember to punctuate the NPAs correctly. The first sentence has been done for you.

*Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into the answer boxes, then underline and add brackets.*

1. According to Betty Edwards in *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, a creative person is one who can absorb and process [information]— the ordinary sensory **data** available to all of us.

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*noun modified* *NPA*

2. I fell asleep until I reached my destination, the new island. (Jamaica Kincaid, “My Mother”)

3. The rain drove us into the church—our refuge, our strength, our only dry place.  
(Frank McCourt, *Angela’s Ashes*)

4. Alcatraz island is now covered with flowers: orange and yellow nasturtiums, geraniums, sweet grass, blue iris, black-eyed Susans. (Joan Didion, “Rock of Ages”)

5. It was an ordinary farm, a calf raising, haymaking farm, and very beautiful.  
(Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*)

6. Within the white working-class community the girl will probably find few resources—teachers, church parishioners, family members—who can tell her of heroes or struggles among people of her background.  
(James W. Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*)

7. As a child growing up on this plantation, I could not imagine this place, this house, existing without the two of them here. (Ernest J. Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*)

## Exercise 2

**Instructions:** Using Principles I, II, and III, combine each group of sentences into a noun phrase appositive. Underline the NPA, and then place brackets around the noun or noun phrase that the NPA modifies. Make sure that the NPA is located *next to* the noun or noun phrase that it refers to, and remember to punctuate the NPAs correctly.

*Type, write, or copy-paste into the answer boxes. Revise, underline, and add brackets.*

Example 1:

At the church social we gobbled strawberry shortcake.

It is my favorite dessert.

At the church social we gobbled strawberry [shortcake,] my favorite dessert.

Example 2:

San Francisco has excellent dining options.

It is one of the major cities in California

[San Francisco,] one of the major cities in California, has excellent dining options.

Exercises for 16. Noun Phrase Appositives

1. Constanza has a vibrant personality and a dry, sharp sense of humor.  
She is the Language Arts secretary.

2. My grandfather is overly concerned about his four teenaged grandchildren.  
He is an interfering worrywart.

3. My biggest fear overwhelms me as I proceed on to the suspension bridge.  
It is a form of claustrophobia.  
It is a crippling emotion.

4. I saw the pink Cadillac race down Highway 280.  
It was a giant, finned model with black trim.

5. Jaime keeps my spare key in his study, handy for the times when I lock myself out.  
He is a generous, understanding neighbor.

6. My classmates in English class are helpful when it comes to revising my essays.  
They are the partners with whom I relish sharing my writing.

7. Magic Johnson revealed the results of his HIV test.  
He is a role model for millions of young people all over the United States.  
He is a brilliant athlete.

8. Freewriting gives me the ability to explore my thoughts.

It is an icebreaker.

It is an invention of Peter Elbow.

- 9-13. Write five appositive sentences of your own.

### Exercise 3

**Instructions:** Using Principles I, II, and III, combine each group of sentences into an appositive phrase. Underline the NPA, and make sure that it is located *next to* the noun or noun phrase that it refers to. Remember to punctuate the NPAs correctly.

*Type, write, or copy-paste into the answer boxes. Then revise, underline, and add brackets.*

1. Fred was worried about his son.

Fred was a concerned parent.

2. Timmy had been hanging around Sloppy Joe's with the Notorious Nerdz.

Timmy was Fred's son.

Sloppy Joe's was the neighborhood dive.

The Notorious Nerdz was the creepiest gang in town.

3. The leader of the Notorious Nerdz was the saddest slob in all of Seattle.  
The leader of the Notorious Nerdz was Bill Gatesmith.

4. Bill was well known for his sloppy and sleazy ways.  
His sloppy and sleazy ways were his wrinkled shirts.  
His sloppy and sleazy ways were his smelly suits.  
His sloppy and sleazy ways were his odorous armpits.

5. Timmy seemed to be picking up some of Bill's worst traits.  
Timmy was a nice enough boy until recently.  
Bill's worst traits included his sad habit of hitting on pretty women.  
Bill's worst traits included his irritating tendency to slurp his soda in public.  
Bills worst traits included his way of bragging about all the great robberies he had pulled off.

6. One night Bill and his new buddy Timmy were finally arrested.  
Bill and his new buddy Timmy were the dimwitted duo.

7. Fred was particularly ashamed that his son had been arrested holding up a donut shop with Bill.  
Fred was the laughingstock of Seattle.  
The donut shop was one of local cops' favorite hangouts.  
Bill was an embarrassment to nerds everywhere.

- 8-10. Write three sentences, which contain a series of noun phrase appositives. Remember to punctuate the NPAs correctly.