

Key Points about Appositive Phrases

Appositive phrases are called *appositives*
because they are apposed.

Apposed means put beside,
from *pos*, put, and *apo*, beside.

An appositive phrase is a graceful
way of juxtaposing a quick explanation or definition
so the reader is not confused.

The mayor, *a genial shopkeeper*, was reelected.

Because appositive phrases are *interrupting* definitions,
there is a comma rule for them;
there should be commas before and after
the appositive or appositive phrase:

Front Street, *the cobblestone avenue*, is peaceful.

Notice that appositive phrases
do not have subjects and predicates.
Also, there can be a one-word appositive
or even a date or state appositive (see below);
it is not always a group of words,
but it still needs two commas.

March 10, *1937*, was sunny and clear.
Saratoga Springs, *New York*, is a graceful town.