

Grammarphone #2 by Ben Sweeney

On Appositives

Good day, attendees of the Lane Tech Writing Center blog, and welcome back to the Grammarphone! You may recall that this series describes different grammatical features of the English language and how to use them. This post's subject is **appositives**, noun phrases that describe other pronouns or nouns.

Appositives name or provide extra information about nouns. They can come before or after the noun they describe. In the sentence "Rachel, my best friend, loves dogs," **my best friend** is an appositive for the proper noun Rachel, providing more information about her.

Here are a few examples:

- My boyfriend **Bobby** likes to swim. (*describes friend*)
- Obama, **the 44th president**, is a good public speaker. (*describes Obama*)
- **The author of Poor Richard's Almanack**, Benjamin Franklin was also a Founding Father. (*describes Benjamin Franklin*)
- I was set to swim against Lily, **the state champion**. (*describes Lily*)

How can you tell appositives apart from adjectives? Appositives are always noun phrases. If you replace the antecedent of the appositive (*the noun or pronoun it describes*) with the appositive, the sentence still makes sense. Doing the same with an adjective will result in a nonsense sentence. Let's look at the examples from before, with the appositives replacing their antecedents:

- **Bobby** likes to swim.
- **The 44th president** is a good public speaker.
- **The author of Poor Richard's Almanack** was also a Founding Father.
- I was set to swim against **the state champion**.

Thank you for reading! I hope you were informed. If you have any grammar questions—or want to request a grammar topic be covered—fill out the request form [here](#).