

# Appositives

**5k.** An **appositive** is a noun or a pronoun placed beside another noun or pronoun to identify or describe it.

**EXAMPLES** The Drama Club will be performing a play about the mythological hero **Perseus**. [The appositive identifies the noun *hero*.]  
Only two eighth-graders, **Saul and I**, auditioned for the lead role. [The compound appositive identifies the noun *eighth-graders*.]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the appositive in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Charles Dickens is known for his novel Great Expectations.

1. The scientist Marie Curie was born in 1867.
2. Her husband, Pierre Curie, was also a scientist.
3. The novelist Jack London wrote *Call of the Wild*.
4. Nathan studied the explorer Vasco da Gama.
5. Karen's brother, Darren, plays the flute.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the appositive in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the noun or pronoun that the appositive identifies or describes.

**Example 1.** The character Tom appears in Chapter One.

6. His cousin Ellen has a magnificent geode collection.
7. The famous baseball player Hank Aaron hit 755 home runs.
8. The book *Sounder* is John's favorite novel.
9. Harry told his sister Lana that he would take her to the carnival.
10. My mom, Regina, volunteers at the city library.

# Appositive Phrases

**51.** An **appositive phrase** consists of an appositive and its modifiers.

**EXAMPLES** The restaurant's specialty is paella, **a Spanish dish of rice and various meats and spices**. [The appositive phrase identifies the noun *paella*.]

Paella, **one of the restaurant's specialties**, is a Spanish dish of rice and various meats and spices. [The appositive phrase identifies the noun *paella*.]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the appositive phrase in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Pedro, a tall and slender man, rescued the kitten from the tree.

1. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, was the first European to reach India by sea.
2. Last week, Freddie witnessed an odd event, a pig and a cat taking a nap together.
3. The professor, a woman of keen insight, explained her interpretation of the story.
4. Charles Dickens, author of *A Christmas Carol*, had to work in a shoe polish factory as a boy.
5. The band played "Panther Pride," the school's fight song, during the graduation ceremony.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the appositive phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the noun or pronoun that the appositive phrase identifies or describes.

**Example 1.** The meteor shower, an unpredicted event, caught the scientists by surprise.

6. Hank Aaron, the right fielder from Alabama, broke Babe Ruth's record for home runs.
7. Make sure that you bring the most important item, your permission slip.
8. Paul, his cousin from St. Louis, could juggle six tennis balls at once.
9. The Mexican food, a delicious change of pace, spiced things up in the cafeteria.
10. Leslie's cat, an amazingly smart animal, learned to sit up and roll over on command.