

A spiral-bound notebook with a silver pen resting on it. The notebook is open to a blank page with the title 'Appositive Phrases' and the subtitle 'Making your writing more interesting' written in a cursive font. The pen is a sleek, silver ballpoint pen lying diagonally across the top right corner of the page.

# Appositive Phrases

Making your writing more interesting

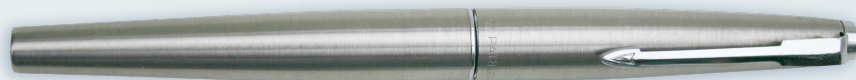
## Do Now: "Spot the Difference" Review

"That night in the south upstairs chamber,  
Emmett lay in a kind of trance."

"That night in the south upstairs chamber, **a hot little room where a full-leaved chinaberry tree shut all the air from the single window**, Emmett lay in a kind of trance."

The difference is called an  
*appositive phrase*.

-This is a trick professional  
writers use.



## What is an appositive phrase?

An **appositive** is a word placed after another word to explain or identify it.

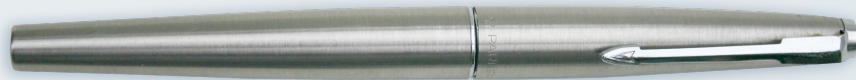
The appositive *always* appears after the word it explains or identifies. It is *always* a noun or a pronoun, and the word it explains is *also* a noun or pronoun.

Example:

My uncle, a lawyer, is visiting us.

- "uncle" is a noun, "lawyer" is a noun.

- "lawyer" explains, or clarifies, "uncle"



## Appositive Phrase

An appositive **phrase** (as opposed to just an appositive) consists of:

- the appositive, or descriptor
- and the noun it identifies.

- it identifies the phrase next to it.

Example:

The boys climbed the mountain,  
one of the highest in the West.



# Where appositives are found

- appositives can occur as sentence openers, or at the beginning of the sentence
- they can split the subject and the verb of the sentence
- or, they can occur as sentence closers, or at the end of the sentence.

## Sentence opener:

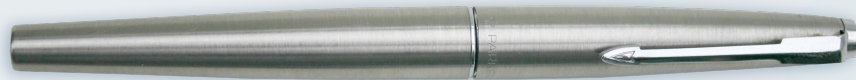
"**A balding, smooth-faced man** he could have been anywhere between forty and sixty." -  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

## Subject-verb split:

"Poppa, **a good quiet man** spent the last hours before our parting moving aimlessly about the yard, keeping to himself and avoiding me.

## Sentence Closers:

"The boy looked at them, **big black ugly insects**."



## Identify the appositive phrase

Find the phrase, and name the type of phrase in your group.

"However, I looked with a mixture of admiration and awe at Peter, a boy who could and did imitate a police siren every morning on his way to the showers."

-*To Catch An Angel*, Robert Russell

"A short, round boy of seven, he took little interest in troublesome things, preferring to remain on good terms with everyone."

-*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*,  
Mildred D. Taylor

