

Appositives

16k. An **appositive** is a noun or a pronoun placed beside another noun or pronoun to identify or describe it.

EXAMPLES The new algebra teacher, **Mr. Rawlings**, will also teach a calculus class. [The noun *Mr. Rawlings* identifies the noun *teacher*, the subject.]

Evergreens, pine trees and fir trees grow new leaves before shedding the old ones. [The noun *Evergreens* describes *pine trees* and *fir trees*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the appositives in the sentences below.

Example 1. The Latin name *Picea* is shared by the blue spruce and the Colorado blue spruce with pines, firs, and other spruces.

- Sometimes, the needles of a spruce tree might not have their famous color, blue-green.
- Spruce trees usually are found growing along water sources, streams or springs.
- Picea glauca*, the white spruce, may have blue-green needles.
- Also called a Canadian spruce, this tree prefers a milder climate, the forest.
- Mass plantings of this spruce in a landscape, windbreaks, continue to be popular.

EXERCISE B Underline the appositive in each sentence below. Then, draw an arrow to the word that the appositive identifies or describes.

Example 1. At the end of the novel, Chapter 17, the cowboy rode off into the sunset.

- Walter paid less for ten high-density diskettes, a package, than he had a month ago.
- Did you help our guest, Aunt Tovah, get settled in the guest room?
- Traffic on the freeway was in its usual congested state, gridlock.
- Celebrities, the young couple usually traveled in disguise.
- Our debate is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, instead of Friday.
- Han's new book, a novel, will be in bookstores by the middle of the month.
- All of the new baseball team members, rookies, reported for practice a week early.
- Sally made an appointment to discuss her schedule with her counselor, Ms. Whitson.
- Follow these easy steps to make my favorite dessert, gingerbread.
- The cartoon characters Tom and Jerry tickled my funny bone.