INTRODUCTION
An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that tells us more about another nearby noun. It looks like a relative clause but there are no words like ‘which, who or that’.

Here is an example:

Sparky, my first cat, loved to catch mice. (The appositive is my first cat.)

Why use an appositive in your writing?
1. It is an easy way to add details.
2. It can change choppy sentences into nice sentences.

TWO KINDS OF APPOSITIVES
1 Important: Must stay in the sentence because it gives meaning. For example:

Have you read the novel War and Peace?
Have you read the novel?

If we take out the appositive - War and Peace – we wouldn’t know which book the speaker was talking about.

2 Optional: Not necessary. These appositives are surrounded by commas.

Here is an example:

My cousin, a teacher, is coming to South Korea.
My cousin is coming to South Korea.

PRACTICE
Read these sentences. What is the appositive? Is it important or optional?

1. Jack, my sister’s old dog, loves to chew on slippers.
2. A city on the south coast, Busan is famous for green mountains, raw fish and pretty sunsets.
3. Jack, my brother, is having a party next week.
4. The singing group FT Island will be performing this summer in Busan.
5. Mars, the fourth planet from the sun, is also called the Red Planet.
6. The movie Interstellar was showing at the theater last night.
MORE PRACTICE
Rewrite these sentences by combining them with an appositive.

1. My aunt lost her favorite ring. It was a gift from her sister.
2. The Han River flows through Seoul. It is South Korea’s second longest river.
3. The first man in space was from Russia. He was Yuri Gagarin.
4. I sat beside Mr. Black. Mr. Black is a local prosecutor.
5. Janet’s dog sat under a tree and panted. Her dog is a mutt.
6. Dr. Jones loves to bake bread. He is a prize-winning baker.
7. Mexico City is the biggest city in the world. Mexico City has many interesting places to visit.

EVEN MORE PRACTICE
Read the text. Rewrite the text with appositives.

Pepper spray is a weapon that can easily irritate the eyes and result in temporary blindness. Pepper spray is an organic material that comes from cayenne pepper. The spray normally comes in a can, which is often small enough to be carried in a pocket.
ANSWERS

PRACTICE
Read these sentences. What is the appositive? Is it important or optional?

1. Jack, my sister’s old dog, loves to chew on slippers. (optional)
2. A city on the south coast, Busan is famous for green mountains, raw fish and pretty sunsets. (optional)
3. Jack, my brother, is having a party next week. (optional)
4. The singing group FT Island will be performing this summer in Busan. (important)
5. Mars, the fourth planet from the sun, is also called the Red Planet. (optional)
6. The movie Interstellar was showing at the theater last night. (important)

MORE PRACTICE
Possible answers.

1. My aunt lost her favorite ring. It was a gift from her sister.
   My aunt lost her favorite ring, a gift from her sister.

2. The Han River flows through Seoul. It is South Korea’s second longest river.
   The Han River, South Korea’s second longest river, flows through Seoul.

3. The first man in space was from Russia. He was Yuri Gagarin.
   The first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, was from Russia.

4. I sat beside Mr. Black. Mr. Black is a local prosecutor.
   I sat beside Mr. Black, a local prosecutor.

5. Janet’s dog sat under a tree and panted. Her dog is a mutt.
   Janet’s dog, a mutt, sat under a tree and panted.

6. Dr. Jones loves to bake bread. He is a prize-winning baker.
   Dr. Jones, a prize-winning baker, loves to bake bread.

7. Mexico City is the biggest city in the world. Mexico City has many interesting places to visit.
   Mexico City, the biggest city in the world, has many interesting places to visit.

EVEN MORE PRACTICE

Pepper spray, an effective weapon, can easily irritate the eyes and result in temporary blindness. An organic material made from cayenne pepper, the spray is normally sold in a canister that is small enough to be carried in a pocket.