

Using Appositive Phrases

Sometimes you probably find that you are writing a sentence to explain something in a sentence you have already written. When this happens, you can often turn the sentence that explains into an appositive phrase.

An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun placed beside another noun or pronoun to identify or explain it. An **appositive phrase** is made up of an appositive and its modifiers.

Original:	That ceramic bowl is inlaid with crystals. It was a birthday gift.
Combined:	That ceramic bowl, a birthday gift, is inlaid with crystals.

NOTE: Appositive phrases are set off by commas.

With a little practice with appositive phrases, your writing will appear polished and you will sound knowledgeable.

DIRECTIONS Combine the following sentences. Use at least one appositive in each sentence. Punctuate and capitalize each sentence properly.

1. Pottery can be valuable or quite ordinary. Pottery consists of items made of baked clay.

2. Earthenware is a common type of pottery. It is covered by a colored glaze.

3. Stoneware is a heavy pottery fired at high temperatures. It can be glazed.

4. Two types of pottery are not usually glazed. These are a stoneware called jasper and an earthenware called terra cotta.

5. Fine china is soft-paste porcelain. Soft-paste porcelain is the most delicate type of pottery.

6. One of the oldest ways of making pottery is the coil method. It is also one of the simplest.

7. A potter's wheel is often electrically powered. It is one of the devices used to shape clay.

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Answer Key

Answer Keys:

Answers will vary. These are sample answers.

1. Pottery, items made of baked clay, can be valuable or quite ordinary.
2. Earthenware, a common type of pottery, is covered by a colored glaze.
3. Stoneware, a heavy pottery fired at high temperatures, can be glazed.
4. Two types of pottery, a stoneware called jasper and an earthenware called terra cotta, are not usually glazed.
5. Fine china is soft-paste porcelain, the most delicate type of pottery.
6. One of the oldest ways of making pottery, the coil method, is also one of the simplest.
7. A potter's wheel, one of the devices used to shape clay, is often electrically powered.