6. Van’ka Zhukov, a boy of nine who had been apprenticed to the shoemaker Alyakhin three months ago, was staying up that Christmas eve.

Anton Chekhov, “Van’ka”

Sentence Closers
7. The boy looked at them, big black ugly insects.

Doris Lessing, African Stories

8. Hour after hour he stood there, silent, motionless, a shadow carved in ebony and moonlight.

James V. Marshall, Walkabout

9. He had the appearance of a man who had done a great thing, something greater than any ordinary man would do.


Practice 1

Unscrambling
Each scrambled sentence has one or more appositives. Identify them. Then unscramble the sentence parts and write out the sentence, punctuating it correctly. Compare your sentences with the originals on page 117 in the references.

1a. struggled as usual
b. she
c. to maintain her calm, composed, friendly bearing
d. a sort of mask she wore all over her body

D. H. Lawrence, “The Blind Man”

2a. an old, bowlegged fellow in a pale-blue sweater
b. the judge
c. and was reading over some notes he had taken
d. had stopped examining the animals
e. on the back of a dirty envelope

Jessamyn West, “The Lesson”

3a. the tyrannosaur
b. with huge flaring nostrils
c. a long snuffling inhalation that fluttered Baselton’s trouser legs
d. gave Baselton a smell

Michael Crichton, The Lost World

4a. talked continually of virginity
b. the son of a jeweler in Winesburg
c. one of them
d. a slender young man with white hands

Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio

5a. went over to Tom Willy’s saloon
b. in the late afternoon
c. Will Henderson
d. and editor of the Eagle
e. owner

Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio

6a. and the jingle of trace chains
b. was louder
c. drag of brakes
d. the sound of the approaching grain teams
e. thud of big hooves on hard ground.

John Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men

7a. with the butt of a teamster’s whip
b. once Enoch Bentley
c. old Tom Bentley
d. struck his father
e. and the old man seemed likely to die
f. the older one of the boys

Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio
8a. with devil-may-care eyes and a long humorous nose
b. Mr. Mick Malloy
c. tall cashier with a dignified face
d. a nice sort of fellow
e. tall, young secret gambler
f. a gentlemanly bank clerk
g. became Mr. Malloy

Practice 2

Imitating
Unscramble both lists of sentence parts to make two sentences that imitate the first model. Then, imitate the same model by writing your own sentence. Finally, write imitations of the other models, making all of your sentence parts like those in the model.

Model: Beside the fireplace old Doctor Winter sat, bearded and simple and benign, historian and physician to the town.

John Steinbeck, The Moon Is Down

Other Models
1. A tall, rawhide man in an unbuttoned, sagging vest, he was visibly embarrassed by any furnishings that suggested refinement.

Conrad Richter, “Early Marriage”

2. His car, a perfectly maintained 1960 Thunderbird that was his pride and joy, stood in the driveway.

Stephen King, Needful Things

3. Sara watched him as he walked, a small figure for his ten years, wearing faded blue jeans and a striped knit shirt that was stretched out of shape.

Betsy Byars, The Summer of the Swans

Practice 3

Combining
Study the model, and then combine the sentences that follow into one sentence that imitates the model. Change the first sentence to resemble the first sentence part of the model, the second sentence to resemble the second sentence part of the model, etc. Compare your sentences to the ones on page 118 in the references. Finally, write your own sentence that imitates the model.

Example
Model: Mr. Cattanzara, a stocky, bald-headed man who worked in a change booth on an IRT station, lived on the next block after George’s, above a shoe repair store.

Bernard Malamud, “A Summer’s Reading”

Sentences to Be Combined
a. This is about Jan Carter.
b. She is an unabashed, suntanned flirt.
c. She had smiled at him in the cafeteria line.
d. She transferred to the department near Tom’s.
e. She transferred for a “chance” meeting.
Combination
Jan Carter, an unabashed, suntanned flirt who had smiled at him in the cafeteria line, transferred to the department near Tom's, for a “chance” meeting.

Imitation
Tom Zengler, the slower, more heavy-handed pianist who had studied under Professor Samione for a decade, performed in the recital hall near Jacob's, with an obvious competitive attitude.

1. Model: Among the company was a lawyer, a young man of about twenty-five.
   Anton Chekhov, “The Bet”
   a. She was near the statue.
   b. She was an obvious tourist.
   c. She was an oriental lady.
   d. She had a Kodak camera.

2. Model: Sady Ellison, the daughter of Long Butt Ellison, worked as a waitress for Turkey Plott in a defiant and condescending fashion.
   Wayne Kemodle, “Last of the Rugged Individualists”
   a. This is about Gone with the Wind.
   b. That is the movie with the most reissues.
   c. It originated as a novel.
   d. The novel was of the old South.
   e. The novel was by someone who was unglamorous.
   f. The someone was also unknown.
   g. The someone was an authoress.

3. Model: Captain Bentick was a family man, a lover of dogs and pink children and Christmas.
   John Steinbeck, The Moon Is Down
   a. “Missouri” is a casserole.
   b. The casserole is special.

Practice 4

Expanding
At the slash mark, add an appositive phrase. In Part 1, the first few words are provided and the number of words omitted from the original is noted in brackets after the slash mark. Approximate that number. In Part 2, add whatever seems appropriate. Compare your appositive phrases with the originals on page 118.
Part 1

1. Thus, one noontime, coming back from the office lunch downstairs a little earlier than usual, he found her and several of the foreign-family girls, as well as four of the American girls, surrounding Polish Mary, one of the / [8], who was explaining in rather a high key how a certain “feller” whom she had met the night before had given her a beaded bag, and for what purpose.

   Theodore Dreiser, An American Tragedy

2. The rest were standing around in hatless, smoky little groups of twos and threes and fours inside the heated waiting room, talking in voices that, almost without exception, sounded collegiately dogmatic, as though each young man, in his strident, conversational turn, was clearing up, once and for all, some highly controversial issue. one that / [12].

   J. D. Salinger, Franny and Zooey

3. Out in the distances the fans of windmills twinkled, turning, and about the base of each, about the drink tank, was a speckle of dark dots, a herd of cattle / [13].

   Glendon Swarthout, Bless the Beasts and Children

4. Perhaps two or three times a year we would come together at a party, one of those teen-age affairs which last until dawn with singing and dancing and silly games such as “Kiss the Pillow,” or “Post Office,” the game which / [18].

   Henry Miller, Stand Still Like the Hummingbird

Part 2

1. My bed was an army cot, /.

   James Thurber, “The Night the Bed Fell”

2. He, /, had fled because of superior perceptions and knowledge.

   Stephen Crane, The Red Badge of Courage

3. I had hardly any patience with the serious work of life which, not that it stood between me and desire, seemed to me child’s play, /.

   James Joyce, “Araby”

4. There was Major Hunter, /, / (two appositive phrases)

   John Steinbeck, The Moon Is Down

Putting the Appositive Phrase to Work
Write sentences containing two appositive phrases that identify two different objects, persons, or places within the same sentence. Each of the two phrases must be at least ten words long.

Example

Elvis Presley, the famous king of 50s rock and roll who achieved fame overnight, made his first national appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show,” a live television music and variety program during which the camera man was given special directions for shooting the Presley performance.