

Name: _____


Date: _____ Pd.: _____

Recognizing Appositives, Appositive Phrases, and Kennings

To *appose* means to place next or near to. Appositives are words that are placed next to nouns or pronouns to explain them more fully by renaming them. When an appositive is accompanied by modifiers, it is called an appositive phrase. Look at these appositive phrases from *Beowulf*:


Hrothgar, their lord, sat joyless
In Herot.

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____


... he came riding down,
Hrothgar's lieutenant, spurring his horse...

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

In the first example, the appositive phrase immediately follows the noun Hrothgar and provides more information: Hrothgar was their lord. The appositive phrase in the second example is separated from the pronoun to which it refers, but it also provides more information: he was Hrothgar's lieutenant. These phrases do not change the meaning of the noun or pronoun to which they refer; they merely add more information. Because they are nonrestrictive (not absolutely necessary for the reader's understanding), these appositive phrases are set off by commas.

Exercise A, Identifying Appositive Phrases: Read these lines from *Beowulf*. Underline each appositive phrase once. Then circle the noun or pronoun it renames and draw an arrow from the appositive to the circled word.

1. He was spawned in that slime,
Conceived by a pair of those monsters born
Of Cain, murderous creatures banished
By God, punished forever for the crime
Of Abel's death.

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

2. ... so Herot
Stood empty, and stayed deserted for years,
Twelve winters of grief for Hrothgar....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

3. In his far-off home, Beowulf, Higlac's
Follower and the strongest of the Geats. . . .

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

4. So Beowulf
Chose the mightiest men he could find,
the bravest and best of the Geats....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

5. Listen! I've stood on these cliffs longer
Than you know, keeping our coast free
From pirates, raiders sneaking ashore
From their ships, seeking our lives and our gold.

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

6. Glittering at the top
Of their golden helmets, wild boar heads gleamed,
Shining decorations, swinging as they marched....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

7. That Shepherd of evil, guardian of crime,
Knew at once that nowhere on earth
Had he met a man whose hands were harder....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

8. Grendel escaped,
But wounded as he was could flee on his den,
His miserable hole at the bottom of the marsh....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

9. ... the Danes
Had been served as he'd boasted he'd serve them; Beowulf,
A prince of the Geats, had killed Grendel. ...

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

10. So Hrothgar's men lived happy in his hall
Till the monster stirred, that demon, that fiend,
Grendel, who haunted the moors....

Appositive: _____ Renames: _____

Exercise B, Using Appositive Phrases to Combine Sentences: Combine each pair of sentences two (2) different ways by turning one into an appositive or appositive phrase. Remember to set nonrestrictive phrases off with commas. What is a nonrestrictive phrase? _____

1. Fourteen men went with Beowulf. Beowulf was their fearless leader.

a. _____

b. _____

2. They sailed in a mighty vessel. Their ship was the master of the sea.

a. _____

b. _____

3. Hrothgar welcomed Beowulf and his men to Herot. Herot was the strongest hall ever built.

a. _____

b. _____

4. The warriors were terrified by the sight of Grendel. Grendel was the most powerful monster ever known.

a. _____

b. _____

5. Beowulf gave the monster's arm to Hrothgar. Beowulf was a prince of the Geats. Hrothgar was king of the Danes.

a. _____

b. _____
