

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

The Terms of the Treaty

4. Appositives

An appositive is a noun-phrase placed beside a noun to explain it more fully. It is a key tool in making your sentences more interesting and more concise; they are useful to convey a large amount of information in the minimum number of words.

You use an appositive to explain or expand an idea in the text.

You can frame an appositive using commas, but I tend to use brackets or en-dashes ('-') instead.

Consider the following sentence:

“On 25 March Lloyd George issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum.”

On the webpage I was able to provide a hyperlink for anybody who doesn't know what the Fontainebleau Memorandum was. In an essay, however, you would need to explain it. You could do so in two sentences:

“On 25 March Lloyd George issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum. The Fontainebleau Memorandum was a public statement supporting the League of Nations.”

But it is less clumsy to use an appositive:

Or “On 25 March Lloyd George issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum, a public statement supporting the League of Nations.”

1. Identify the appositive in the following sentence:

- Germany was not allowed to place any troops in the Rhineland, the strip of land next to France.

2. Suggest suitable appositives to complete the following sentences:

- Lloyd George persuaded Clemenceau to accept the League of Nations, _____.
- Lloyd George persuaded Wilson to accept reparations, _____.
- Germany had to accept Clause 231, _____.

3. Create a sentence using the given appositive:

- a free city run by the League of Nations

4. Convert these two sentences into a single sentence using an appositive:

- “Queen Mary of Romania turned up in person and flirted with Wilson. He considered her a dreadful woman, but Romania came away with Transylvania.”

5. Brainstorm a range of suggested appositives for the following sentence. Then decide which would be the best in the specific context of the sentence:

- The Treaty of Versailles, _____, is often regarded as a cause of World War II.

6. One of the key features of my style of writing, and a main way in which I make my writing so dense, is the use of varied and complex appositives. This webpage contains some – can you find them?