

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.

Consider the following sentence:

“On 25 March Lloyd George issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum, then he persuaded Clemenceau to accept the League of Nations, and Wilson to accept reparations, and the Conference was saved.”

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 three sentences:

“On 25 March Lloyd George issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum. The Fontainebleau Memorandum was a public statement supporting the League of Nations. Then he persuaded Clemenceau to accept the League of Nations, and Wilson to accept reparations, and the Conference was saved.”

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, then he persuaded Clemenceau to accept the League of Nations, and Wilson to accept reparations, and the Conference was saved.”

1. Identify the appositive in the following sentences:

- Thousands of people, hoping to get a hand-out in the final treaty, turned up to lobby the Big Three.
- The German delegation, watching but not allowed to take part, were given the Treaty on 7 May 1919.
- Germany, barely over the Bavarian Soviet, had no choice but to accept whatever was decided,

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:

- at that time, fighting a war of independence against Russia
- barely over the rebellion of the Bavarian Soviet,
- the strip of land, 50 miles wide, next to France
- a free city run by the League of Nations

4. 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.

5. 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?