

## SENTENCES BUILDING: A POSITIVE AND VERBALS

Two special kinds of modifiers add to our range of possibilities for expanding the basic sentence. The first one of these represents a special use of nouns. The second represents a special use of verbs, or rather *parts* of verbs.

1. We may put a second noun next to another noun to add further information: “Diane, *a sophomore.*” We call this added second label an **appositive**. It usually appears after a comma, or between two commas if the sentence continues. Often the appositive carries other material with it: “Verona, *a city in Italy.*” Unlike an adjective, the appositive usually comes *after* a noun.

**Adjective:** His *short* assistant was a well-known actor.

**Appositive:** His assistant, a *midget*, was a well-known actor.

**Adjective:** My cousins loved the *incomparable* Tarzan.

**Appositive:** My cousins loved Tarzan, *king of the jungle.*

In each of the following pairs, add the information from the second sentence to the first as an appositive. Set the appositives off by commas.

**Example:** A woman ran for vice president. *She was a member of Congress from Queens.*  
(Result) A woman, *a member of Congress from Queens*, ran for vice president.

1. Columbus reached the New World. *He was an Italian navigator.*

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2. Elizabeth did battle against Spain. *She was the queen of England.*

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3. We visited Machu Picchu. *It is a famous site in Peru.*

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4. Aerobics suddenly became popular. *It is a blend of dance and exercise.*

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5. Popular historians glorified Washington. *He was our first President.*

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2. We may use a **verbal** instead of an adjective to modify a noun. A verbal is part of a verb and can be removed from the complete verb and put to other uses. One verbal frequently used as a modifier is the *-ing* form (**present participle**). This is the form that appears after *is*, *was*, and other forms of *be* to show action in progress: *is talking*, *was idling*, *has been investigating*, *will be visiting*.