

## 1 Here's the Idea

- ▶ **An appositive is a noun or pronoun that identifies or renames another noun or pronoun.** An **appositive phrase** consists of an appositive plus its modifiers.

**Passengers in a hot-air balloon ride in the gondola,  
a small basket beneath the balloon.**

APPOSITIVE PHRASE

## Essential and Nonessential Appositives

Appositives and appositive phrases can be essential or nonessential.

- ▶ **An essential or restrictive appositive is needed to make the meaning of the sentence complete.**

If you mentally cross out the appositive in the following sentence, the meaning of the sentence is incomplete.

ESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE

**The British tycoon Richard Branson has made several attempts to circle the world nonstop in a balloon.**

- ▶ **A nonessential or nonrestrictive appositive adds extra information to a sentence. It is not needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear.**

NONESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE PHRASE

**Steve Fossett, an American financier, is another dedicated competitor in around-the-world ballooning.**

Take another look at the sentences above. Notice that no commas are used with an essential appositive. A nonessential appositive, on the other hand, is set off with commas.