

How do I combine short, choppy sentences?

One way to combine short sentences is to make one of the sentences into an appositive. An appositive is a group of words that follows a noun, renaming or explaining it. The following example shows how two short sentences are combined with an appositive. (See pages 512–514 for other ways to combine sentences.)

TWO SHORT SENTENCES

Branch Rickey worked to integrate sports.
He was the general manager of the Dodgers in 1947.

COMBINED SENTENCE WITH APPOSITIVE

Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Dodgers in 1947,
worked to integrate sports.



Rewrite the following paragraph, using appositives to make the four short sentences into two longer ones.

Jackie Robinson is an inspiration to many people. He was the first black player in the major leagues. In his book, Robinson gives much of the credit for his career to Branch Rickey. Rickey is an important man in professional sports.



Combine choppy sentences. Read your essay. Look for sentences you could combine using an appositive.

Lined writing area for student response.

Have I punctuated my appositives correctly?

An appositive is an explanatory word or phrase that identifies or renames a noun. An appositive should be set off from the rest of the sentence with commas. (An appositive that comes at the end of a sentence should be set off with just one comma.)

Herman Calloway, the leader of a jazz band, doesn't have time for Buddy.
Buddy is afraid of Herman Calloway, a grumpy band leader.



Copy the following paragraph. Then insert commas to set off three appositives.

Bud a ten-year-old boy thinks he can take care of himself. His mother has died, and he has been living in an orphanage. One night he packs his suitcase and heads down the road to Grand Rapids a big city to the east. The whole time he wonders about Herman Calloway the man on the poster.

A large area of the page is filled with horizontal lines, providing space for the student to copy the paragraph and insert commas to set off three appositives.