



SHELL  
EDUCATION

Getting to the

Teacher  
Resource CD  
included

Level

6

# Core of Writing

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**Essential Lessons**  
**for Every**  
**Sixth Grade**  
**Student**

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# Adding Details

## Standards

- Uses a variety of strategies to draft and revise written work
- Uses prepositions in written compositions

## Materials

- Chart paper
- Markers
- *Adding Details Notebook Entry* (page 121; addingdetails.pdf)
- Writer's Notebooks

## Mentor Texts

- *Little Women* by Louisa M. Alcott
- *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
- *Football in Action* by John Crossingham
- *Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building* by Deborah Hopkinson
- See *Mentor Text List* in Appendix C for other suggestions.

## Procedures

*Note:* More experience with and exposure to quality literature provides opportunities for students to hear, see, and explore many examples of sentence fluency.

## Think About Writing

1. Tell students that they have practiced several sentence patterns and are becoming quite adept at using a variety of sentence structures. Explain to them that authors continually explore the written language of others to gather new ideas for their own writing. Understanding the construction of sentence structures and patterns can improve their confidence as writers.
2. Review mentor texts, if desired, and discuss how appositives and prepositional phrases add detail.

## Teach

3. Tell students, "We will practice the use of phrases—appositive and prepositional—to add information and variety to our sentences." Share with students that appositives are nouns or noun phrases that identify or rename another noun. A prepositional phrase is a group of words that begins with a preposition and can tell how, when, or where something took place. Explain to students that using both types of phrases brings new sophistication to their sentence structures.
4. Write the following sentences on a sheet of chart paper. Point out the appositives and prepositional phrases in both. Discuss as a group how these parts make the sentences more interesting and varied than other sentences.

The mountain, Pike's Peak, (*appositive*) stretched into the sunset (*prepositional phrase*).

# Adding Details (cont.)

The girl's best friend, the next door neighbor's daughter, (*appositive*) played in the falling raindrops (*prepositional phrase*).

## Engage

5. Have students *Turn and Talk* with partners or triads to orally create sentences with an appositive and a prepositional phrase to strengthen their writing. Provide students with sticky notes and have each pair and/or triad write a sentence to share with the group. Ask group members to provide support and encouragement to each other.

## Apply

6. Provide students with the *Adding Details Notebook Entry* (page 121) and have them practice writing sentences with prepositional phrases and appositives. They can use the sentence starters provided or write their own. Have students work on the *Your Turn* section before proceeding to their writing folders. They can explore revisions in their own writing projects.

## Write/Conference

7. Provide time for students to work. Scan the room to see if there is anyone who needs assistance getting started. When everyone is engaged, select a group to reteach the mini-lesson. Then, rotate around the room to have conferences with individual students or small groups.

## Spotlight Strategy

8. Spotlight students who are using prepositional phrases and appositives in their writing. For example, "Listen to how Felix added these phrases to make his sentence sound much more interesting."

## Share

9. Have students share their writing in pairs or small groups. Ask students to praise each sentence effort and give feedback to each group member.

## Homework

Tell students to select three advertisements and listen to specific sentence patterns. Ask students to listen for examples of appositives and prepositional phrases.

# Adding Details Notebook Entry

## Adding Details

Authors continually explore the written language of others to gather new ideas for their own writing. Understanding and using phrases adds a dash of variety, energy, and pizzazz to sentences.

**Appositives** are nouns or noun phrases that identify, rename, or explain another noun.

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition and can tell how, when, or where something took place.

Using both in your sentences provides details and adds variety in a text. For example:

The mountain, Pike's Peak, stretched into the yawning sunset.

A mischievous lad, hiding in the bushes, swiftly darted between the buildings.

### Your Turn:

Use these sentence starters as a pattern to create your own stylistic sentences. You may use these or create your own.

The best team ...

My favorite author ...

The holiday season ...

