APPOSITIVES

An appositive is a noun that renames another noun. When the appositive occurs in a phrase, the modifiers in the phrase modify the appositive, not the original noun. For instance, in the following example, the appositive, men and women, is preceded by the modifiers trained and certified. Appositives can occur anywhere in the sentence where there is a noun or a pronoun. When diagramming the appositive along with its noun or pronoun, place it by the noun or pronoun within parentheses as shown below:

Example: Scuba divers, trained and certified men or women, are allowed to swim underwater to the Aquarius.

Exercise 5: Diagramming Subjects, Appositives, and Verbs
Aquarius, the World’s Only Underwater Laboratory

Directions: Print the following exercise. In each sentence, draw an arrow from the subject to the verb. The information between the subject and the verb, which has a comma before and after, contains the appositive. Underline the words that actually rename the subject. The rest of the words are words that modify
the appositive. Place the subject, its appositive, and the verb on
the diagram frame provided. The first sentence has been done
for you.

1. Scientists, men and women from the Woods Hole Oceanographic
   Institution in Massachusetts, began a nine-day Aquarius Mission
to study coral reefs in greater detail than before.

   Scientists (men and women) began

2. Aquarius, the world’s only undersea laboratory dedicated to science,
is located 3.5 miles offshore near Key Largo in the Florida Keys
   National Marine Sanctuary.

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3. The aquanauts, a six-member team, will evaluate how nutrients are
delivered to coral reefs from upwelling of deeper Gulf Stream waters,
terrestrial runoff, and sewage pollution.

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4. No scientific conclusion, a finding based on studies, can be made
about a link between sewage pollution and the decline of the offshore
reefs.

5. In the past, most studies, measurements and samplings of the ocean, were conducted from boats at the surface.

6. These prior recordings, monthly or quarterly measurements, will not compare to the readings of the reef conducted several times a day by the new team.

7. These fine-scale measurements, direct recordings on the reef, would not be possible without the extended dive times and technical capabilities of the Aquarius.