

Grade 7 Quarter 2 Unit 2 - Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers

Teaching Points: We can identify, edit, and replace dangling and misplaced modifiers in sentences and paragraphs to better improve our writing

Standard: CC1.4.7F

Materials:

- Dangling Modifier Packet – included
- *Language Network* for back up references, if needed
- Document Camera –

Connection: *As we are writing, oftentimes we move so quickly that we forget about placing modifiers in the correct place in the sentence causing much confusion and delay. By examining dangling modifiers, we can improve the comprehension of our writing. Today we will go through some of the examples in the packet, and then complete the worksheet and the final check.*

Modeling: (I do):

- Distribute the packet and place the first page of the note sheet up on the board via the document camera. Read through the examples.

Guided Practice (we do):

- Complete the example lessons, work with a partner to finish

Independent Practice: (You do):

- Complete the worksheet independently, then do the Final Check independently.

Sharing /Closure: Share out answers and discuss any issues with specific problems as needed

Grade 7 Quarter 2 Unit 2 - Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers

Assessment: Complete the Final Check portion of the packet to review and demonstrate understanding

Reflection

TARGET SKILL: Modifier Revision

What are dangling and misplaced modifiers?

What Is a Dangling Modifier?

A dangling modifier is a modifier that has nothing to modify. Remember, modifiers describe a word or make its meaning more specific. A dangling modifier is an error caused by failing to use the word that the modifier is meant to be describing.

Examples of Dangling Modifiers

Here is an example of a dangling modifier (shaded):

Having read your letter, my cat will stay indoors until the ducklings fly off. ✘

In this example, the missing word is *we*. A correct version would be:

Having read your letter, we will keep our cat indoors until the ducklings fly off. ✔

(In this example, the modifier *Having read your letter* is modifying *we* as it should.)

Logically, the wrong example suggests the cat read the letter.

Here is another example of a dangling modifier (shaded):

Meticulous and punctual, David's work ethic is admirable. ✘

In this example, the missing word is *David* (as a standalone subject). A correct version would be:

Meticulous and punctual, David has an admirable work ethic. ✔

(In this example, the modifier *Meticulous and punctual* is modifying *David* as it should, not *David's work ethic*.)

Logically, the wrong example suggests David's work ethic is meticulous and punctual.

Here is another example of a dangling modifier (shaded):

Having seen Blackpool Tower, the Eiffel Tower is more impressive. ✘

In this example, the missing word is *she*. A correct version would be:

Having seen Blackpool Tower, she thinks the Eiffel Tower is more impressive. ✔

(In this example, the modifier *Having seen Blackpool Tower* is modifying *she* as it should, not *the Eiffel Tower*.)

Logically, the wrong example suggests the Eiffel Tower saw the Blackpool Tower.

A Dangling Modifier As a Misplaced Modifier

Sometimes, a modifier can dangle a bit. This happens when the word being modified is present but is not next to its modifier. Look at this example:

Vicious smelly creatures with huge tusks, the ship's crew found it difficult to drive the male walruses from the beach. ✘

This is still a dangling modifier, but it's not dangling fully because the thing being modified (*the male walruses*) is present. This is better known as a misplaced modifier.

This is a correct version:

Vicious smelly creatures with huge tusks, the male walruses were difficult for the ship's crew to drive from the beach. ✔

More Examples of Misplaced or Dangling Modifiers

A misplaced modifier is in a modifier that is in the wrong place.

- The pretty girl fast ran. *Fast* is modifying girl, so it is misplaced.
- Hoping it would rain, the umbrella was brought by Ann. *Hoping it would rain* is modifying Ann, since Ann is the person who was hoping it would rain. As written, this sentence makes it sound as though the umbrella was hoping it would rain. While an umbrella might very well hope for such a thing, umbrellas aren't really capable of hoping and so the sentence is illogical.

A dangling modifier modifies something that never actually appears in the sentence. For example:

- Hoping it would rain, the umbrella was brought. In this sentence, there isn't a single person mentioned who has the ability to hope it would rain. The subject being modified is missing entirely and the modifier is left dangling all by itself.

Worksheet for Misplaced or Dangling Modifiers

Now that we have reviewed what a misplaced and dangling modifier is, here is a quick worksheet to help you grasp the concept.

Five sentences are listed below. Label whether the sentence is a misplaced modifier (M), a dangling modifier (D) or correct. The answers are at the bottom.

1. Always eager for cake, the birthday party was attended by everyone.
2. Forgetting that the microphone was on, the whole audience heard the singer's fight with his wife.
3. Wagging her tail, the new puppy climbed into my lap.
4. After painting all day, the bright new watercolor was drying in the sunshine
5. Late as always, Mike made quite an entrance when he came to the party.
6. I nearly made fifty dollars today.
7. When we opened the leather woman's purse, we found the missing keys.
8. The job scarcely took an hour to complete.
9. I only have five minutes to talk with you.
10. The striking Honda's paint job made everyone gasp.
11. David won the fight even he was smaller in size.
12. Had a stomachache while taking his dinner.
13. Around the age of five, my father took me to the circus.
14. Jane left her new bag in the taxi that she bought last week.
15. Walking three miles a day, his legs increase their muscle mass.
16. Having entered the market, the fishy smell was everywhere.
17. Being a traveling salesman, my mom seldom saw my dad.
18. Fearful of flying, the airplane is not for me.
19. Passing through the park, the vandalism of benches became clear.
20. Being young, my parents did not understand me.

Final Check

Use the suggestions given below to revise and proofread the following excerpt from the rough draft of one student’s essay. Then correct errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling using proofreading marks. Finally, copy your corrected draft onto a separate sheet of paper.

- Be sure it is clear which word is being modified.
- Make sure that sentences are complete and that subjects and verbs agree.
- Be sure transitional words and phrases are adequately and accurately used.
- Check that all words are spelled correctly.

There are many differences between Malcolm X and Russell Baker. Both men was born in 1925 and spent there childhoods in the poverty of the Depression era. Malcolm and his family had to deal with racism and the Ku Klux Klan. Baker grew up to be a newspaper reporter and a Pulitzer prize-winning writer. Malcolm X, after spending five years in jail for burglary, found his calling as an Islamic minister and a leader of black

Draft

nationalism. To find similarities, a closer look is needed.

Grade 7 Quarter 2 Unit 2 - Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers

<http://www.myenglishgrammar.com/exercise-12-modifiers/1241-misplaced-modifiers-and-dangling-participles.html>