

Identify Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers #2

A modifier is a word or group of words that describes another word or phrase in the same sentence. A **misplaced modifier** appears to describe the wrong part of the sentence, usually because it's too far away from the word or phrase it should be modifying.

Example: Mack lagged behind the tour guide, weary from a long day of sightseeing in Savannah.

→ This wrongly suggests that Mack's tour guide, rather than Mack, was exhausted from sightseeing.

A **dangling modifier** appears to describe the wrong part of the sentence because the word or phrase it should be modifying is missing from the sentence altogether.

Example: Walking into the science lab, the test tubes and beakers were on the table.

→ This wrongly suggests that the test tubes and beakers were walking into the lab.

Underline the misplaced or dangling modifier in each sentence.

- 1 Having grown in popularity over the last few years, many Americans have picked up the hobbies of baking and reading.
- 2 The costumed runners at the Kindness in Action 5k were encouraged by event volunteers and sponsors in cars decked out in brightly colored clothing.
- 3 In World War II, a cat nicknamed "Unsinkable Sam" survived the sinking of three naval ships, whose real name was Oscar.
- 4 Eagerly awaiting takeoff, Lexi's bag was tucked underneath the seat in front of her.
- 5 To avoid poking the horse with their sword, the tradition of mounting a horse from the left side dates to a time when riders wore a sword on their left.
- 6 The ferry boat full of uneasy passengers swayed in the choppy water trying not to feel sick along the way.
- 7 During Mrs. Harding's geography review session, we discussed the Indian Ocean's location and weather patterns in her windowless classroom.
- 8 My cousin, Michael, gifted me a souvenir from his summer vacation in Italy that was a replica of the Colosseum.
- 9 The third largest living land animal, I quietly observed the hippopotamus sleeping half-submerged in the shallow water of the Nile River.
- 10 Alayah was ecstatic when her mom handed her a new phone case with an ear-to-ear grin.

Draw the meaning of the sentence below. Pay attention to the misplaced or dangling modifier.

Bree shouldered her backpack, already feeling hot, and set off to begin her five-day trip.

Drawings will vary. The misplaced modifier, "already feeling hot" indicates that the backpack was hot, rather than Bree.