

Identify Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers #1

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: Peter donated some of his old books to the library that he no longer needed.

→ This wrongly suggests that Peter no longer needed the library.

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: Attempting to relax, the sagging cushions made it difficult to sit still.

→ This wrongly suggests that the sagging cushions were attempting to relax.

Underline the misplaced or dangling modifier in each sentence.

- 1 Steaming in the crisp autumn air, Ellie inhaled the savory aroma of her homemade vegetable soup.
- 2 Nina always brings back gifts for her nieces and nephews that she finds in her travels.
- 3 Shelby checked her supplies, grinning with anticipation, to ensure she was prepared for the sunrise hike.
- 4 Purring contentedly, Arlan smiled at the sight of the cat curled up in the beam of sunlight.
- 5 Stroopwafels are cookies created by Dutch bakers that feature two thin layers of baked wafer dough and a sweet caramel syrup filling.
- 6 The sun had already begun to set when, after searching all day, our dog Skippy was spotted walking confidently toward our house.
- 7 With a spiral staircase and large bay windows, Hector thought the apartment looked like a setting from a movie.
- 8 While listening to music, Zion folded dozens of origami cranes in his bedroom made of colorful paper.
- 9 Joseph glanced at the water below, shaking with nerves, as he prepared himself for his first competitive dive.
- 10 Hummingbirds prefer brightly colored flowers that provide ample nectar native to the local ecosystem.

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

Raina couldn't stop gushing about her cousin's cello recital on the car ride home.

Drawings will vary. The misplaced modifier "on the car ride home" indicates that the cello recital was happening while riding in the car.

Staring wistfully out at the rain, her new roller skates sat abandoned by the door.

Drawings will vary. The dangling modifier "staring wistfully out at the rain" indicates that the roller skates were staring at the rain.