HOW TO FIX MODIFIERS?



IDENTIFYING DANGLING MODIFIERS

• After stealing the TV, the police caught the thief.

Modifier: After stealing the TV

Modified Subject: the police (Wrong)

Correct Sentence: After stealing the TV, the thief was caught by the police

A modified subject usually sits write after the modifier. When a modifier wrongly modifies a subject in a sentence it is called dangling modifier. Dangling modifiers are found in the beginning of a sentence.



IDENTIFYING MISPLACED MODIFIERS

She nearly combs her hair for ten minutes every night.

Modifier: nearly

Modified Subject: combs her hair

Correct Sentence: She combs her hair for nearly ten minutes every night.

• A modifier that appears incorrectly in the sentence is called a Misplaced modifier. Misplaced modifiers usually appear in the middle or in the end of a sentence.



IDENTIFYING SQUINTING MODIFIER

Whispering quickly annoys her.

Modifier: quickly

Modified subject: not clear

Correct Sentence: Whispering annoys her quickly.

 When a modifier does not clearly modifies any subject in the sentence it is called a squinting modifier.



CORRECTING DANGLING MODIFIERS

Method 1: Rewrite the Main Clause

Ex: After getting lost, the owner finally found the puppy.

Corrected: After getting lost, the puppy was finally found by the owner

Method 2: Rewriting the Modifier

Ex: When in class three, my mother went back to college.

Corrected: When "I" was in class three, my mother went back to college.



CORRECTING MISPLACED MODIFIERS

- The parrot spoke to the little boy in the cage.
- Correct: The parrot in the cage spoke to the little boy.
- The robber was a tall man with a mustache weighing 90kgs.
- Correct: The robber was a tall man weighing 90kgs with a mustache.
- I gave the woman an umbrella who was interviewing for the job.
- Correct: I gave an umbrella to the women who was interviewing for the job / I gave the woman who was interviewing for the job an umbrella.

