

# Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #30

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## **FOCUS**      Dangling / Misplaced Modifiers

A **dangling modifier** or a **misplaced modifier** does not clearly modify what the writer intends to modify.

## **CONNECT TO WRITING**

A dangling modifier is an adjective or adverb that does not have a clear connection to the word, phrase, or clause to which it refers. A dangling modifier usually takes the form of a present participle (“\_\_ing”), a past participle (“\_\_d,” “\_\_t,” “\_\_ed,” “\_\_en”), or an infinitive (*to* + the base form of a verb). To eliminate the dangling modifier, place the “do-er” of the sentence as the subject of the independent clause or combine the phrase and independent clause.

**Example:** Removed from her desk, Paula put the backpack on the floor. (Her backpack was removed from the desk; not *Paula*.)

A misplaced modifier does not modify what the writer intends because of where it is placed in the sentence. To eliminate misplaced modifiers, place them close to the words that they modify.

**Examples:** I only ate the fresh vegetables. In this sentence only is the modifier. (The writer does not mean that the *only* thing she does with fresh vegetables is to eat them.)

## **PRACTICE**

Re-write the two example sentences above by revising the dangling or misplaced modifiers.

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## **WRITE**

Re-write these sentences by revising the dangling or misplaced modifiers.

After reading the comic book, the movie was not nearly as exciting as I had hoped.

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Debra almost spent \$100 for that new pair of shoes. In fact, she spent exactly \$99.99.

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## **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers**

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #23 Practice Answers**

I told them myself IP because Patty would not tell them herself IP. Patty never thought of anyone but herself RP. When Patty first asked me herself IP, I said, “You should tell them what you did before they find out themselves RP.” Patty never apologized herself IP for what she did.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #24 Practice Answers**

1. PN 2. OP 3. T 4. PN 5. T

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #25 Practice Answers**

1. who 2. whose 3. that 4. which 5. Whom

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #26 Practice Answers**

1. Each watches her own television show. 2. Everyone except James and Pete helps me on the work project. 3. Both of them are ready for a vacation. 4. After they go to the movies, several go out for dessert. 5. Neither gives us much hope that our team will win the league this year. 6. I know others want to be involved in this decision.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #27 Practice Answers**

1. Few of the actors remember their lines. 2. A great deal is known about television actors. 3. Fewer vegetables are better than many. 4. Some of candies taste like they are stale.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #28 Practice Answers**

1. He has carefully listed his reasons for the purchase. 2. Paid a large amount for her services, the woman was happy to help. 3. Built by Native Americans, the caves were interesting. 4. They have never tried to sell any of their artwork.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #29 Practice Answers**

1. Waiting for the train, the young man paced impatiently. 2. He was expecting the train to arrive on time. 3. After calling his parents, the boy decided to cancel the ticket and come home. 4. Mostly, but not always, he will be travelling by jet from now on.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #30 Practice Answers**

1. Paula removed the backpack from her desk. She placed the backpack on the floor. (From her desk Paula removed the backpack and placed it on the floor.) 2. I ate only the fresh vegetables.