

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #30

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.

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.

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

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31 Practice Answers

1. closer 2. harder 3. more 4. worse 5. happier

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32 Practice Answers

1. quickest 2. more 3. biggest 4. best

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33 Practice Answers

1. more (less) difficult 2. more outstanding 3. more (less) incredible
4. more ridiculous 5. more (less) suspiciously 6. more (less) suspected 7. more (less) nervously

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34 Practice Answers

1. most considerate 2. least specifically 3. most carefully 4. most understood
5. most simply 6. least frequently

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35 Practice Answers

was LV; had HV told; were HV going; did HV not turn LV; to be LV; would HV not have HV
lied; felt LV; had HV; would HV be LV; seems LV; should HV find

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36 Practice Answers

1. permission 2. possibility 3. requirement 4. need 5. expectation 6. ability
7. advice

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #37 Practice Answers

1. Penny helped at the senior center after school. 2. Cowboys roped and branded their cattle.
3. That radio station played all of my favorite songs. 4. Tamesia touched her left cheek every
time she raised her hand in class.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #38 Practice Answers

1. Larry was enjoying the beautiful sunsets at the beach. 2. They were expecting a lot of money
for their used car. 3. Her friends were sleeping in the living room when the fire alarm sounded.
4. Rosie was going to the movies.