**Dangling Modifier**

A modifier does exactly what it sounds like: it changes, alters, limits, or adds more info to something else in the sentence. A modifier is considered dangling when the sentence isn't clear about what is being modified. For example, "The big" doesn't make sense without telling what is big which leaves "big" as a dangling modifier; but, "the big dog" is a complete phrase.

***How Modifiers Dangle***

Since a modifier has to add more information about something, by definition that means the something it is modifying or limiting has to exist. That means, of course, that you can't just say “The happy”. If you did, people would immediately ask you: "the happy what?" That missing what is the thing being modified.

In simple sentences, it is usually easy to understand what a modifier is modifying, but when we begin adding more information into longer sentences it seems challenging to find whether a modifier is modifying the intended object/person or is left dangling. Moreover, modifiers don't always have to be simple words or phrases like happy, and sentences aren't always simple.

Phrases can also act as modifiers, providing additional information about something else in the sentence. When this occurs, and when sentences become more complex, dangling modifiers can sometimes exist and get lost in the complexity of the language.

Therefore, we must make sure that **the thing being modified is explicitly stated** in the text; otherwise we would be left with **a dangling modifier error** in the sentence.

***Dangling modifiers errors***

A dangling modifier error occurs when we don’t clearly state the noun that is supposed to be modified by the modifying phrase. These are especially common with participle phrases. For example:

“**Walking down the road**, the birds were singing.”

Because the sentence does not state who was walking down the road, is seems that it was the birds, which is probably not the intended meaning. The sentence needs to include another noun or pronoun being described by the phrase to correct the dangling modifier. For example:

“**Walking down the road**, I (or she, he, Mary, the couple, etc.) heard the birds singing.”

**Additional Example**

Original: Having financed the car through the bank, it will take three years to pay for it.

Revised: Having financed the car through the bank, he will take three years to pay for it.

**Set-1 Correct the following sentences**

1. Hungry, the leftover pizza was devoured.
2. With a sigh of disappointment, the expensive dress was returned to the rack.
3. Hoping to excuse my lateness, the note was written and given to my teacher.
4. After reading the great new book, the movie based on it is sure to be exciting.
5. Before engaging in strenuous aerobic exercise, warm-up activities are necessary.

**Set-2 Choose the correct answer based on the concept of modifier**

1. Although closed for renovation, architecture students with a college pass can gain entry to the historic monument.
2. Although closed for renovation
3. Closed for renovation
4. Although it is closed for renovation
5. Closed on account of renovation
6. Having closed for renovation
7. Knowing that the area was prone to earthquakes, all the buildings were reinforced with additional steel and concrete.
8. Knowing that the area was prone to earthquakes,
9. Having known that the area was prone to earthquakes,
10. Since the area was known to be prone to earthquakes,
11. Since they knew that the area was prone to earthquakes,
12. Being prone to earthquakes,
13. With the assistance of informats, cases can often be made against otherwise elusive criminals.
14. With the assistance of informats, cases can often be made against otherwise elusive criminals
15. cases can often be made against otherwise elusive criminals with the aid of informats
16. With the assistance of informats, litigators can often make cases against otherwise elusive criminals
17. With the assistance of informats, we can often make cases against otherwise elusive criminals
18. Otherwise elusive criminals can often have cases made against them with the assistance of informats
19. Although many people think of peanuts as nuts, peanuts actually belong to the legume family.

A. Although many people think of peanuts as nuts,

B. Although often being thought of as nuts,

C. Although often thought of as nuts,

D. Although many people think of nuts as peanuts,

E. Although many people thought of peanuts as nuts,