**Squint Modifier**

If we place a modifier too far away from the thing it describes, it can become a **misplaced modifier**. In some cases, a modifier may be in the correct position for its intended recipient, but too close to another element, making it look like it is describing the wrong thing; this is known as a **squinting modifier**.

Occasionally we use a modifier in the correct technical position, but its meaning can be misconstrued because of another word that is too close to it. This usually happens with adverbials, as they can appear before or after the words they modify. For example:

* “*The way he sings****so often****annoys me*.”

*So often* seems like it could be modifying either *sings* or *annoys*, because it’s technically in the correct position for both. We should rewrite the sentence to make it more clear what is meant:

* “*The way he sings****so often****is annoying to me*.” (modifies *sings*)

***or***

* “*The way he sings annoys me****so often***.” (modifies *annoys*)

***Additional Examples of Squinting Modifiers***

1. *Cycling up hills* ***quickly*** *strengthens your quadriceps.*

(In this example, the adverb quickly is a squinting modifier. It is unclear whether quickly pertains to Cycling up hills or strengthens.)

1. *Taking a moment to think* ***clearly*** *improves your chances.*

(In this example, the adverb clearly is a squinting modifier. It is unclear whether it pertains to think or improves.)

***Fixing a Squinting Modifier***

*Like most misplaced modifiers, a squinting modifier can be fixed by changing its position in the sentence or by rewording. For example:*

1. *Cycling up hills strengthens your quadriceps* ***quickly****.*
2. *Taking a moment to think* ***clearly*** *about the issue improves your chances.*

**Set-1 Correct the following sentences**

1. The pie you baked recently went missing.
2. Those who miss lessons frequently fail the exam.
3. Sweety loves her Barbie only because it was her first doll.
4. Running often is hard.
5. The chef told his students finally the pudding had risen.

**Set-2 Correct the following sentences**

1. What you hear often you will believe.
2. Instructors who cancel classes rarely are reprimanded.
3. We agreed at our first meeting to implement the new procedures.
4. We can't accept completely abstract logic is ambiguous.
5. Showering with very hot water quickly causes dry skin to develop.
6. Getting married often changes your financial situation.
7. Listening to loud music slowly gives me a headache.