

Module II :Modifiers

1. Which of the following sentence is correct?

- a. **Hearing the good news, I was happy.**
- b. Hearing the good news, happiness was mine.
- c. Hearing the good news, happy I was.
- d. Hearing the good news, mine was happy.

Correct Answer: Hearing the good news, I was happy. *Explanation:* In this sentence, “Hearing the good news” is a participle phrase that modifies the person who does the hearing. Therefore, the subject of the principal clause will be “I.”

2. Choose the correct sentence:

- a. Entering the room, the light was off.
- b. **Entering the room, I found the light off.**
- c. Entering the room, the light was found off by me.
- d. Entering the room, the room was found dark.

Correct Answer: Entering the room, I found the light off. *Explanation:* A lifeless thing (like the light) can't feel or see anything. Only the living person “I” can understand the condition of the room.

3. Having been served lunch_____.

The sentence is incomplete. Choose the one which best completes the sentence.

- a. The problem was discussed by the members of the committee.
- b. It was discussed by the members of the committee, the problem.
- c. **The members of the committee discussed the problem.**
- d. d. A discussion of the problem was made by the members of the committee.

Correct Answer: The members of the committee discussed the problem.

Explanation: The subject of the sentence should be living persons who can discuss the problem.

4. No confusion of the grammatical subject occurs in the sentence:

- 1. Young and inexperienced, the task seemed easy to me.
- 2. Young and inexperienced, it seemed to be an easy task for me.
- 3. **Young and inexperienced, I thought the task easy.**
- 4. Young and inexperienced, it was an easy task for me.

Correct Answer: Young and inexperienced, I thought the task easy. *Explanation:*

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Thinking is a mental process that can only be done by a person. As the person can think, “I” will come as the subject of the sentence.

5. Choose the correct sentence:

- a. While running in the park, his hand was dislocated.
- b. While running in the park, it was his hand that dislocated.
- c. While running in the park, his hand which was dislocated.
- d. While running in the park, he dislocated his hand.

Correct Answer: While running in the park, he dislocated his hand. Explanation: A hand can't dislocate alone; it is the person “he” who dislocates his hand by accident.

6. In which sentence is the modifier correctly positioned?

- a. Tanya almost drank the whole bottle of cold drink by herself.
- b. Almost Tanya drank the whole bottle of cold drink by herself.
- c. Tanya drank almost the whole bottle of cold drink by herself.
- d. All of the above

7. Identify the sentence with an error in use of modifier:

- i. His brother had to see a doctor with indigestion.
 - ii. His brother with indigestion had to see a doctor.
- a. i
 - b. ii
 - c. Both i and ii
 - d. None of the above

8. Identify the sentence with an error in use of modifier:

- i. While reading *The Grapes of Wrath*, the characters evoke pity.
 - ii. While I was reading *The Grapes of Wrath*, I felt pity for the characters.
- a. i
 - b. ii
 - c. Both i and ii
 - d. None of the above

Exercise 2

There are some modifiers in the following examples which are either **misplaced**, altering the writer's intended meaning of the sentences, or **dangling** because they do not really modify anything in the sentence. Underline the modifier and identify if the sentence has a **misplaced**, or a **dangling** modifier. If the sentence is correct, write **no error**.

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- i. He greeted his parents at the door in a night gown. (Misplaced) _
- ii. Sitting silently, the book kept his attention. (Dangling) _
- iii. Srishti had her photographs blown up in an envelope. (Misplaced) _
- iv. The lady washed the car in her bathing suit. (Misplaced) _
- v. Delivering the mail, a stray dog attacked the man. (Dangling) _
- vi. She bought a cake from the bakery with chocolate icing. (Misplaced) _
- vii. I returned the shirt to the store that my friend gave me. (Misplaced) _
- viii. With a smile, she accepted the ring. (No Error)
- ix. Tired and dirty, Ritesh asked for more time to finish the job. (No error)
- x. Since failing the first test, I have studied harder. (No error)

Exercise 3

Correct the following sentences with modifier errors in them. Modifiers have been underlined for your convenience.

- i. His aunt walked in as he was scrubbing the floor with her new baby.
His aunt walked in with her new baby as he was scrubbing the floor.

- ii. Having finished the work, the television was turned on.

Having finished the work, Tanya turned on the television.

- iii. Jonita thought about throwing a party for her mom, her mom while she walked in the park.

While she walked in the park, Jonita thought about throwing a party for her mom.

- iv. Ajit almost found five thousand bucks under his sofa.

Ajit found almost five thousand bucks under his sofa.

- v. Bessy bought a kitten for my sister she calls Lucy.

Bessy bought a kitten she calls Lucy for my sister.

- vi. They are looking for a babysitter for their precious baby who does not drink and owns a car.

They are looking for a babysitter who does not drink and owns a car for their precious baby.

- vii. The mysterious woman walked toward the car holding an umbrella.

Holding an umbrella, the mysterious woman walked toward the car.

- viii. The young lady was walking the dog on the telephone.

The lady on the telephone was walking the dog.

- ix. The mother served biscuits to the children wrapped in aluminium foil.

SEMESTER IV.

[PRACTICE]

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The mother served biscuits wrapped in aluminium foil to the children.

x. Charlie spotted a stray puppy driving home from work.

Driving home from work, Charlie spotted a stray puppy.

xi. We returned the juice to the waiter that was sour.

We returned the juice that was sour to the waiter.

Exercise 4

Correct the following sentences. Each sentence has a modifier error.

i. Reading a book in the bedroom, the cat was seen under the bed.

Reading a book in the bedroom, I saw a cat under the bed.

ii. Riding in the sports car, the world whizzed by speedily.

As Vanshika was riding the sports car, the world whizzed by speedily.

iii. Tearing up the papers, all my important documents were destroyed.

Tearing up the papers, I destroyed all my important documents.

iv. Opening the door of the oven, a burning smell filled the kitchen.

Opening the door of the oven, I could smell burning in the kitchen.

v. Changing gear, the car had difficulty getting up the steep hill.

A- Changing gear, the driver had difficulty getting the car up the hill.

B- When she changed gear, she had difficulty getting the car up the hill

vi. Upon hearing her exam results, the news gave her an unexpected surge of joy.

When she heard the news of her exam results/Upon hearing the news of her exam results, she was filled with an unexpected surge of joy.

vii. While visiting Old Delhi, the pigeons were a charming attraction.

While visiting Old Delhi, she found the pigeons a charming attraction.

viii. Going into the valley, the snowy Himalayas were visible.

Going into the valley, we saw the snowy Himalayas.

ix. To see well, the lights in this room need to be adjusted.

To see well, you must adjust the lights in this room.

x. Walking toward the forest, the sun began to set.

Walking toward the forest, I watched as the sun began to set.

