

COMPANION WITH FAITH

WRITING GUIDE



DANGLING MODIFIERS

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What is a Dangling Modifier?

- A **dangling modifier** has no concrete or logical reference in the sentence to which it can attach itself and therefore is said to dangle (**it has nothing to modify**)

Most dangling modifiers are verb phrases that are not attached to the intended subject.

The issue with these is that the reader could misinterpret the sentence.

Dangling modifiers appear at the beginning of a sentence in an opening clause. In this case, the subject should be the first thing that comes after the comma of the opening clause.

This "subject, however, is illogical even though the sentence is usually understood anyhow.

What are Some Types of Dangling Modifiers?

- 1-DANGLING PRESENT PARTICIPLE

EX. Walking down the street, the sky was a brilliant blue. X

Grammatically, this sentence implies that the sky was walking down the street, and this is clearly not the writer's intention.

Rewrite: Walking down the street, I noticed the sky was a brilliant blue.

Rewrite: While I was walking down the street, the sky was a brilliant blue.

2-DANGLING PAST PARTICIPLE

EX. Shocked by the gravity of the situation, something had to be done.

Here, one could interpret that something is shocked by the gravity of the situation.

Rewrite: Shocked by the gravity of the situation, they knew they had to do something.

3-DANGLING INFINITIVE

EX. To complete the survey properly, the form must be signed and sealed in the provided envelope.

The form is obviously not the one completing the survey.

Rewrite: To complete the survey properly, participants must sign and seal the form in the provided envelope.

4-DANGLING GERUND PHRASE

EX. After having danced all night, it was late, and no restaurants were open.

Trick

When the independent clause begins with there is, there are or an ambiguous it, dangling is inevitable. Rewrite the sentence to avoid these constructions.

Rewrite: After having danced all night, they realized it was late and no restaurants were open.

5-DANGLING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

EX. Like a kid in a candy store, his eyes were bulging at the sight of all they had to offer. ✗

His eyes were clearly not like a kid in a candy store, though that is how the sentence is grammatically understood.

Rewrite: Like a kid in a candy store, he was so thrilled that his eyes were bulging at the sight of all they had to offer. ✓

6-DANGLING APPOSITIVES

EX. An expert in the field, the professor's work was the focus of the conference. ✗✗

The professor and not his work is an expert in the field.

Rewrite: An expert in the field, the professor was the keynotes speaker and his work the focus of the conference. ✗

- MISPLACED MODIFIERS

Dangling modifiers fall under the larger category of misplaced modifiers.

They are like dangling modifiers in that they attach themselves to an **illogical subject**.

They are different in that they are not always found in opening clauses Misplaced modifiers can be found anywhere in a sentence.

Most experts agree that misplaced modifiers are incorrect.

Forms of Misplaced Modifiers

1-MISPLACED RESTRICTIVE CLAUSE

EX. She put the sparkly red stilettos on her feet that she bought in Oz. XX

Rewrite: She put the sparkly red stilettos, which she bought in Oz, on her feet

This also extends and applies to all the "danglers" For example. ✓

2-MISPLACED PRESENT PARTICIPLE

EX. The teacher was strict on students using detention as a means of discipline. X

This sentence implies that it was in fact the students who were using detention as a means of discipline.

Rewrite. The teacher, using detention as a means of discipline, was strict on students. ✓

3-MISPLACED PAST PARTICIPLE

EX. They did their homework aided by their parents. X

This sentence implies that the homework was aided by their parents, instead of the children being aided by their parents for their homework.

Rewrite: Aided by their parents, they did their homework. ✓✓

4-MISPLACED GERUND PHRASE

Ex. Barbie and Kelly went to see the doctor having had the day off work. X

The structure of the sentence indicates that the doctor had the day off work.

Rewrite: Barbie and Kelly having had the day off work, went to see the doctor.

5-MISPLACED PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Ex. The child raced up the magical maroon tree with his eyes full of adventure X

The word order suggests that the tree has eyes that are full of adventure.

Rewrite: The child, with his eyes full of adventure, raced up the magical maroon tree.

6-MISPLACED APPOSITIVES

EX. The car's engine, a high-class automobile, has a great deal of horsepower.

This implies that the engine is a high-class automobile. X X

Rewrite: The car, a high-class automobile, has a great deal of horsepower.

Classwork Exercises

1- Having become frustrated trying to solve difficult problems, -----

- ☒ A- no colleagues were nearby to share ideas.
- ☒ B- colleagues were important for sharing ideas.
- ☒ C- ideas couldn't be shared with colleagues.
- ☒ D- I missed having colleagues nearby to consult.

2- Dotted with pin- sized knobs, another visitor noticed my fascination with a tiny writing desk and its drawers.

A- No change ☒

B- Another visitor, dotted with pin sized knobs, noticed my fascination with a tiny writing desk and its drawers. ☒

C- Another visitor dotted with pin sized knobs noticed my fascination with a tiny writing desk and its drawers.

☒ D- Another visitor noticed my fascination with a tiny writing desk and its drawers, dotted with pin-sized knobs.

3-Approaching a doorway in which dangles a red envelope-filled with green paper money, -----

A- the lion's teeth snare the envelope.

✓ ~~B~~-the lion snares the envelope with its teeth.

~~X~~ C-envelope is snared by the lion with its teeth.

D- teeth of the lion snare the envelope.

4-Although demanding and deadline driven, ----- can be a lucrative and rewarding field for people who love gaming and have prepared themselves with necessary skills and knowledge.

✓ ~~A~~-video game design

B-the choice of video game design

C-you should choose video game design because it

D- choosing to design video game

5-In determining how working time and responsibility would be divided, -----
--that the arrangement provided fluidity and consistency for the employees whom they jointly managed.

~~X~~ A- steps were taken by Levine and Rocco to ensure

~~X~~ B-there were steps taken by Levine and Rocco to ensure

~~C~~-Levine and Rocco took steps to ensure

~~X~~ D-Levine and Rocco's steps ensured

Modifier

6- Led by vocalist Marlene Smalls, -----

A- Gullah tradition is preserved by the help of the Hallelujah singers of South Carolina through songs and stories.

B- the Hallelujah singers of South Carolina help to preserve Gullah tradition through songs and stories.

C- the songs and stories of Gullah tradition are preserved through the Hallelujah singers of South Carolina.

D- it is Hallelujah singers that help to preserve the songs and stories of Gullah tradition in South Carolina.

7- Feeling, perhaps, that their votes do not matter, -----

A- the number of young people going to the polls are becoming increasingly smaller.

B- the number of young people going to the polls is increasingly smaller.

C- increasingly smaller number of young people are going to the polls.

E- young people are going to the polls in increasingly smaller numbers.

modifier

8- To help freshmen and sophomores in selecting their courses, -----

A- candid reviews of courses and instructions compiled by juniors and seniors.

B- candid reviews of courses and instructions being compiled by juniors and seniors.

C- and to compile candid reviews of courses and instructions by juniors and seniors.

(Subject)

Ⓐ- juniors and seniors have compiled candid reviews of course and instructions.

9- Though they had earlier indicated otherwise, -----

A- it was eventually decided upon the legislators to have the bill passed.

B- it was eventually decided upon by the legislators to pass the bill.

C- the legislators' eventual decision was passing the bill.

Ⓐ- the legislators eventually decided to pass the bill.

Sub

10- Spread by rat fleas, -----

A- millions of people in medieval Europe were killed by bubonic plague.

B- and millions of medieval Europeans killed by bubonic plague.

C- this led to the killing of millions of medieval Europeans by bubonic plague.

Ⓐ- bubonic plague killed millions of people in medieval Europe.

prep. phrase

11- Among the most flavorful cuisines in the United States, ----- one of the most popular.

A- New Orleans has also become

B- New Orleans has also become famous as

C- the cuisine of New Orleans is also

D- cuisines in New Orleans also have become

mod.

12- Selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1990, -----

A- over 719 hours in space were spent by Dr. Allen Ochoa on three flights by 2001.

B- by 2001, and on three flights, Dr. Ellen Ochoa spent over 719 hours in space .

C- three flights and 719 hours were spent by Dr. Ellen Ochoa in space by 2001.

✓ D- Dr. Ellen Ochoa had spent over 719 hours in space on three flights by 2001.

Sub

modifier

13- Sometimes called "the founder of art in Texas", -----

✗ A- a sculpture of William Jennings Bryon was completed by Elisabeth Ney in her Austin studio in 1899.

✗ B- William Jennings, Bryan's sculpture was completed by Elisabeth Ney in 1899.

✗ C- in her Austin studio, Elisabeth Ney having completed, a sculpture of William Jennings Bryon in 1899

D- Elisabeth Ney completed sculpture of William Jennings Bryan in her Austin studio in 1899. *Sub.*

14- Known by millions for both his recordings and his roles in Hollywood -----
was dubbed one of the most famous "crooners" in show business.

A- movies, ^x and Frank Sinatra

B- movies, Frank Sinatra

^x C- movies; therefore, Frank Sinatra

^x D- movies, so it was Frank Sinatra who

Phrase () Subject

15- ----- underground, Florida environmentalists work to educate the public on the dangers of ground pollution.

A- Having millions of gallons of freshwater

[✓] B- Because millions of gallons of freshwater are

C- Because of freshwater in the millions of gallons

D- By considering that there millions of gallons of freshwater

16- -----, my sister and I visited many country fairs, where my parents would exhibit their prize livestock.

^x A- As a child growing up on a farm

^x B- A child who grew up on a farm

C- Farm children and growing up

[✓] D- Growing up on a farm

17- Travelling through Yosemite, -----

~~X~~ A- the scenery of waterfalls and granite peaks, which we photographed, was beautiful.

~~X~~ B- The waterfalls and granite peaks were the beautiful scenery we photographed

✓ C - we photographed the beautiful scenery of waterfalls and granite

D- we photographed the scenery of waterfalls and granite peaks, being beautiful.

- 18- Although women in the Wyoming territory voted as early as 1869, -----
until ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

A- suffrage for women throughout the United States not being established

B- suffrage for women throughout the United States which had not been established.

C- it did not establish suffrage for women throughout the United States.

✓ D- suffrage for women throughout the United States was not established.

19- Indicating their desire to extend free enterprise, ----- in 1993.

→ A- Canadians elected a member of the progressive conservative party, Kim Campbell, as Prime Minister

B- Canadians' election of a member of the progressive conservative party as Prime Minister was Kim Campbell

C- Kim Campbell of the progressive conservative party was elected Prime Minister of Canada

D- the progressive conservative party's Kim Campbell was elected Prime Minister of Canadians

Homework Exercises

— 20-Though now one of the most famous artists, -----for his technique of splattering paint a canvas

- ☒ A- critics once ridiculed Jackson Pollock
- ☒ B-critics once were ridiculing Jackson Pollock

C- Jackson Pollock once ridiculed by critics

☒ D-Jackson Pollock was once ridiculed by critics

med.

☒ 21-Mindful of the growing popularity of compost piles among home gardeners, ----
----- attract vermin.

☒ A- experts warn that adding meat, dairy products, or cooking grease to compost will

B-adding meat, dairy products, or cooking grease to compost, this is what experts warn will

C- and with warnings from experts that adding meat, dairy products or cooking grease to compost will

D- warnings from experts concerning the addition of meat, dairy products, or cooking grease to compost will

22. Born in Colombia in 1928, ----- *modifier*

A- the Nobel Prize in literature was awarded in 1982 to Gabriel Garcia Marquez for his many novels.

B- the Nobel Prize in literature, awarded to Gabriel Garcia Marquez in 1932 for his many novels.

C- Gabriel Garcia Marquez's many novels were why he was awarded he Noble Prize in literature in 1982.

→ D- Gabriel Garcia Marquez was awarded the Noble Prize in literature in 1982 for his many novels. *Subject*

23. When visiting a rain forest, ----- *modifier*

A- the preservation of the environment should be the tourist's concern.

B- the environment and its presentation should be the tourist's concern.

C- the preservation of the environment should be what concerns tourists.

D- the tourist should be concerned with the preservation of the environment. *Subject*

24. ----- for 190 miles through the heart of Alabama.

~~A- As a place that is home to 131 species of fish, the Cahaba River is flowing~~

~~B- A place that is home to 131 species of fish, the flow of the Cahaba River flows~~

✓ C- Home to 131 species of fish, the Cahaba River flows

D- It is a home for 131 species of fish but also the Cahaba River flows ✓

modifier

25-Once almost entirely devoted to pineapple production, -----

A-tourists, who enjoy its mountain trails and nature preserves, are now attracted to the island of Lanai.

B- mountain trails and nature preserves are enjoyed by tourists now attracted with the island of Lanai

C- mountain trails and nature preserves are enjoyed by tourists, who are now attracted to the Island of Lanai

Sub the island of Lanai now attracts tourists, who enjoy its mountain trails and nature preserves.

modifier

26-After listening to the concert's first movement, which sounded like a medley of every had tune I had ever heard, -----

A- the second movement surprised me with its beauty and originality.

B- the second movement was surprisingly beautiful and original

I I was surprised by the beauty and originality of the second movement

D- to my surprise, the second movement had beauty and originality

27- Living on a diet of fruits and insects, the flexible snout and lips of the sloth bear blow away dirt in its search for food.

A- No change

B- The sloth bear, which lives on diet of fruits and insect, uses its flexible snout and lips to blow away dirt in its search for food.

C- The sloth bear's flexible snout and lips, living on a diet of fruits and insects, and blowing away dirt in its search for food.

D- The sloth bear's flexible snout and lips, living on a diet of fruits and insects, blow away dirt in its search for food.

28- Carrying signs and waving flags, -----

X A- the company's corporate office was surrounded by angry demonstrators demanding better health benefits.

X B- the company corporate office, surrounded angry demonstrators demanding better health benefits.

Subject C- angry demonstrators demanding better health benefits surrounded the company's corporate office.

D- angry demonstrators surrounding the company's corporate office demanding better health benefits.

29- By investing in Saturn's rings, -----into the composition of stars and planetary systems.

A- it is hoped by scientists to achieve greater insight

B- it is hoped that that scientists' insight will be more greatly achieved

C- the insight of scientists will be achieved more greatly, hopefully

✓ Ⓐ Scientists hope to achieve greater insight

30- Nominated for vice president of the United States in 1884 and 1888, -----
of women's rights and social equality

A- and frontier feminist, is Marietta Stow endorsing protection

✓ Ⓑ frontier feminist Marietta Stow endorsed protection

C- thus frontier feminist Marietta Stow is endorsing protection

D- which is Marietta Stow, who had endorsed the protecting

31- While trimming his forsythia bush, an overgrowing mass of vegetation that had just begun to flower, -----

A- an indignant bee stung poor Mr. Nettle on the wrist.

B- there was an indignant bee that sting poor Mr. Nettle on his wrist.

C- poor Mr. Nettle's wrist was stung by an indignant bee.

✓ Ⓓ poor Mr. Nettle was stung on the wrist by an indignant bee.

32- On the verge of giving up, -----

A- Geisel's story finally hit upon an image that became its basis.

B- an image that Geisel finally hit upon became the basis of his story

Sub C- Geisel finally hit upon the image that became the basis for his story

D- the story was finally based on an image the Geisel hit upon

33- Far from marking the end of investigative journalism, -----

A- cooperation among journalists and ordinary citizens has been facilitated by the advent of the digital age through an increase in the number of potential investigators.

B- the number of potential investigators has increased since the advent of the digital age owing to the facilitation of cooperation among journalists and ordinary citizens. (Subject)

C- the advent of the digital age has increased the number of potential investigators by facilitating cooperation among journalists and ordinary citizens.

D- by facilitating cooperation among journalists and ordinary citizens the advent of the digital age has increased the number of potential investigators.

34-In 1453, English King Henry VI became unfit to rule after falling gravely ill. As a result, Parliament appointed Richard, Third Duke of York, who had a strong claim to the English throne, to rule as Lord Protector. Upon recovering two years later, _____ forcing an angered Richard from the royal court and precipitating a series of battles later known as the Wars of the Roses.

☒ A) Henry resumed his reign,

☒ B) the reign of Henry resumed,

☒ C) Henry's reign resumed,

☐ D) it was Henry who resumed his reign,

modifier

35-Despite being cheap, versatile, and easy to produce, _____ they are made from nonrenewable petroleum, and most do not biodegrade in landfills.

A) there are two problems associated with commercial plastics:

☒ B) two problems are associated with commercial plastics:

C) commercial plastics' two associated problems are that

☒ D) commercial plastics have two associated problems:

modifiers

36- In assessing the films of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, _____ have missed his equally deep engagement with Japanese artistic traditions such as Noh theater. Sub

- ☒ A) (many critics) have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but
- B) Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
- C) there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources, but they
- D) the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources; they

37- Based on genetic evidence, archaeologists have generally agreed that reindeer domestication began in the eleventh century CE. However, since uncovering fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia, _____ may have begun much earlier. mod

- ☒ A) researcher Robert Losey has argued that domestication
- ☒ B) researcher Robert Losey's argument is that domestication
- ☒ C) domestication, researcher Robert Losey has argued,
- ☒ D) the argument researcher Robert Losey has made is that domestication

38-African American Percy Julian was a scientist and entrepreneur whose work helped people around the world to see. Named in 1999 as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years, _____ led to the first mass-produced treatment for glaucoma. *modifier.*

☒ A) Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine in 1935; it

B) in 1935 Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine, which

☒ C) Julian's 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine

D) the alkaloid physostigmine was synthesized by Julian in 1935 and