

- Modifiers are words, phrases or clauses that provide description in sentences.
- Modifiers "modify" the meaning of the subject, verb, or complement by *describing* and *limiting*.
- Modifiers are adjectives, adverbs and modifying phrases.

Modifier may be a word:

- The red car.
- The happy puppy.

Modifiers may be *phrases*:

- Prepositional phrase:

The package arrived from Amazon.com.

– Noun phrase:

We obtained the required papers.



- Infinitive phrase:

We will try to complete the diagnostic today.

– Participle Phrase:

The technician taking readings discovered a fault.

- Appositive Phrase:

H₂0, <u>pure water</u>, is good to drink.



Modifier may be a clause:

- The girl, whom you spoke to a minute ago, is dead!

Misplaced Modifiers

- Misplaced modifiers are the words that, because of the <u>awkward</u> <u>placement</u>, do not describe the words the writer intended them to describe.
- They obscure the meaning of a sentence.

How to correct a Misplaced Modifier?

Modifiers should come, if possible, next to the words they modify. If several expressions modify the same word, they should be arranged so that no wrong relation is suggested

When fried, I like okra.

I like okra when fried.

Tony bought an old car from a crooked dealer with a faulty transmission.

Tony bought an old car with a faulty transmission from a crooked dealer.

I nearly earned a hundred dollars last week.

I earned nearly a hundred dollars last week.

We could see the football stadium driving across the bridge.

Driving across the bridge, we could see the football stadium.

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Dangling Modifiers

- A dangling modifier is a word or phrase that cannot logically describe, limit, or restrict any word or word group in the sentence.
- A modifier that opens a sentence must be followed immediately followed by the word it is meant to describe. Otherwise, the modifier is said to be dangling, and the sentence takes an unintended meaning.

How to correct a Dangling Modifier?

While smoking a pipe, my dog sat with me by the crackling fire.

How to correct it?

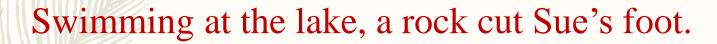
- 1. The modifier could be placed immediately next to the object that it is describing
- While smoking a pipe, I sat with my dog by the crackling fire.
- 2. One way to fix dangling modifiers is to insert the implied subject into the sentence.
- While I was smoking a pipe, my dog sat with me by the crackling fire.

Getting out of bed, the tile floor was so cold that Yoko shivered.

- Getting out of bed, Yoko found tile floor so cold that she shivered all over.

OR

- When Yoko got out of bed, the tile floor was cold that she shivered all over.



- Swimming at the lake, Sue cut her foot on a rock.
- When Sue was swimming at the lake, she cut her foot on a rock.

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