

Modifiers Exercises Answer Key SAT

Choose the correct answer from the following options

1. Although sleep-inducing and stress-relieving, seeking acupuncture treatments can actually have other health benefits. (Test 4, 43)
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. electing to have acupuncture treatments
 - c. acupuncture**
 - d. many would most benefit from acupuncture because it

Choice C is the best answer because “acupuncture” is the logical subject for the modifying phrase “sleep-inducing and stress-relieving.” Choices A, B, and D all create a dangling modifier.

2. Having waited for what seemed like eternity for the mailman to deliver the present, the house was full of screaming children. (Test 1, 24)
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. the children were screaming inside the house.**
 - c. screams from children were coming from inside the house.
 - d. screaming children were screaming inside the house.

Choice B is the best answer because it correctly uses the participial phrase “Having waited...” as an adjective modifying “the children.”

3. We laughed just as carelessly as we had back in high school, when we would lie in the forest next to the school on top of two smooth rocks and exchange stories and funny pictures.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. in the forest on top of two smooth rocks next to the school
 - c. on top of two smooth rocks in the forest next to the school**
 - d. next to the school in the forest on top of two smooth rocks

Choice C is the best answer. It most clearly organizes the three prepositional phrases “on top of two smooth rocks,” “in the forest,” and “next to the school.” Choice A is incorrect because it implies that either the forest or the school is “on top of two smooth rocks.” Choice B is incorrect because it sounds as if the forest is on top of two smooth rocks. Choice D is incorrect because it also sounds as if the forest is on top of two smooth rocks.

4. Going back home, the double rainbow was seen by everyone on the train.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. the double rainbow was seen by everyone at the train.
 - c. everyone on the train saw the double rainbow.**
 - d. the double rainbow saw by everyone on the train.

Choice C is the best answer. This sentence contains a dangling modifier, and only choice C clearly states that it was “everyone on the train” who was “going back home,” and not the “double rainbow” as what was “going back home.”

5. Jill was worried about how her mother would react to her poor grades, but in gauging her reaction, she did not seem to be at all angry or upset.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. by gauging her reaction, it showed that she was not
 - c. a gauge of her reaction indicated that she did not seem to be**
 - d. gauging her reaction, she did not seem to be

Choice C is the best answer because it correctly fixes the misplaced modifier. Currently, the modifying phrase “in gauging her reaction” is describing Jill’s mother, when in reality is is Jill who is gauging her mother’s reaction. Choice D and B both do not fix the misplaced modifier issue.

6. On my most recent visit to the grocery store, I came across a cereal brand I used to always eat as a child walking through the aisles.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. walking through the aisles, I came across a cereal brand I used to always eat as a child.**
 - c. a cereal brand I used to always eat as a child I came across walking through the aisles.
 - d. as a child I used to always eat a cereal brand, walking through the aisles.

Choice B is the best answer because it places the prepositional phrases in a sequence that makes the most sense. Choice A is incorrect because it sounds as if it is the cereal brand that is walking through the aisles. Choice C and D are incorrect because they sound awkward and confuse the original meaning of the sentence.

7. I sent a present to my best friend full of candy.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. I sent full of candy a present to my best friend.
 - c. To my best friend I sent a present full of candy.
 - d. I sent a present full of candy to my best friend.**

Choice D is the best answer because it most clearly organizes the three prepositional phrases. Although choice c also organizes the phrases in a clear manner, it is written in a passive voice.

8. Even after paying for the expensive shoe shine, the leather shoes still seemed to have a dull twinge.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. she still had leather shoes that seemed to have a dull twinge**
 - c. her leather shoes still seemed to have a dull twinge
 - d. there was still dullness to the shoes

Choice B is the best answer because it should be a person, not shoes that paid for the expensive shoe shine.

9. During the American Revolution in 1775, dogs were used to hunt and as comfort animals for soldiers, a time when the colonies were divided into Patriots and Loyalists.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. **Dogs were used to hunt and as comfort animals for soldiers during the American Revolution in 1775**
 - c. During the American Revolution in 1775, dogs were used to hunt and as comfort animals for soldiers
 - d. In 1775, during the American Revolution, dogs were being used to hunt and as comfort animals,

Choice B is the best answer because the words “a time” appear after the comma, indicating that the information that comes before the comma should refer to that time. Only choice B indicates a time, “1775,” at the end of the sentence.

10. During the Women’s Suffrage Parade in 1913, thousands of women, 9 bands, and 30 floats gathered in Washington D.C. the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration (a time when quality of life in America was improving).
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. During the Women’s Suffrage Parade in 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration, thousands of women, 9 bands, and 30 floats gathered in Washington D.C.,
 - c. **Thousands of women, 9 bands, and 30 floats gathered in Washington D.C. the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration during the Women’s Suffrage Parade in 1913,**
 - d. In 1913, thousands of women, 9 bands, and 30 floats gathered in Washington D.C. the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration during the Women’s Suffrage Parade,

Choice C is the best answer. Although the parentheses imply that the information is nonessential, the rule for dangling modifiers is exactly the same as it is when only a comma is present. Because the parenthetical information begins with the phrase “a time,” the immediate preceding information should also refer to a time.

11. During the Women’s Suffrage Parade in 1913, thousands of women, 9 bands, and 30 floats gathered the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration in Washington D.C. (a time when quality of life in America was improving).
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. (at the time, American quality of life was improving)
 - c. (a formal introduction of Wilson into presidency)
 - d. **(the city where America’s government was centered)**

Choice D is the best answer. The noun that comes before the open-parenthesis is “Washington D.C.” which is a city. Thus, the parenthetical information must begin by referring to that fact. Choice D is the only option that starts with “the city,” referring to Washington D.C., so it must be the answer.

12. Sprinkled with glitter, another customer noticed the cupcake I was purchasing and asked the baker for the same one. (Test 2, 21)

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. Another customer, sprinkled with glitter, noticed the cupcake I was purchasing and asked the baker for the same one.
- c. Another customer sprinkled with glitter noticed the cupcake I was purchasing and asked the baker for the same one.
- d. **Another customer noticed the cupcake, sprinkled with glitter, I was purchasing and asked the baker for the same one.**

Choice D is the best answer because it identifies the cupcake, rather than the customer, as being “sprinkled with glitter.”

Fix the following Sentences:

More than one answer may be correct. Suggestions are given below.

- 1. Taking hours to finish assisting one customer, the inefficiency of the Department of Motor Vehicles often frustrates people and makes it a place of high tension.
 - a. Taking hours to finish assisting one customer, the Department of Motor Vehicles often frustrates people with its inefficiency and is a place of high tension.
- 2. An American Baptist minister and activist born in Georgia, open housing, economic rights, and voting rights were what Martin Luther King Jr. pushed for.
 - a. An American Baptist minister and activist born in Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr. pushed for open housing, economic rights, and voting rights.
- 3. Born in a small town in Missouri, Mark Twain’s birth name is actually Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
 - a. Born in a small town in Missouri, Mark Twain actually had a birth name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens.