

Misplaced modifiers worksheet high school

I'm not robot!

Identifying misplaced modifiers is tricky! She helped the boy with a rope. Is there a misplaced modifier in the previous sentence? Yes, there is! See if you can identify the other misplaced modifiers in this printable grammar worksheet. This grammar activity for middle school students is great for improving reading and writing skills. While it is ideal for 7th - 9th grade, it can be used where needed. This misplaced modifiers activity is perfect for both parents and teachers to use in the classroom or at home. Live worksheets > English Finish!! Please allow access to the microphone Look at the top of your web browser. If you see a message asking for permission to access the microphone, please allow. Close A modifier is a word or participial phrase that provides more information about something being discussed in the sentence. Sometimes, modifiers can get lost or misplaced in a sentence. When this happens, things can get very confusing! Keep reading for examples of this common grammatical error, as well as a helpful misplaced and dangling modifiers worksheet for extra practice. misplaced and dangling modifiers examples Misplaced and dangling modifiers may be confusing, but they're easy to fix. The trick is knowing which type of modifier you're dealing with. That depends on the noun that you're modifying and how close it is to its modifier. A misplaced modifier is a modifier that is in the wrong place. As a result, it appears to modify the wrong noun. Misplaced: The salesman tried to sell a car to a customer that was broken down. (Broken down is the modifier, but because it's closest to customer, it sounds like the customer is broken down instead of the car.)Corrected: The salesman tried to sell a broken-down car to a customer.Misplaced: Mrs. Harris hung the lovely student's drawing on the wall.(Lovely should modify drawing, but it sounds like it modifies student instead.)Corrected: Mrs. Harris hung the student's lovely drawing on the wall.Misplaced: Let's adopt the dog from the animal shelter with black spots.(Placing the phrase with black spots after shelter instead of dog makes it sound like the shelter has black spots.)Corrected: Let's adopt the dog with black spots from the animal shelter. A dangling modifier modifies a noun or verb that never actually appears in the sentence. Correcting dangling modifiers require a bit more editing than rearranging words; you need to add the noun or verb that the modifier is describing. Misplaced: Expecting rain, the umbrella was propped up against the wall.(The umbrella can't expect rain. The person who was expecting rain, and who propped the umbrella against the wall, is missing from the sentence.)Corrected: Expecting rain, Nancy propped the umbrella against the wall.Misplaced: Holding the mail in one hand, the door was locked.(The door can't hold the mail in one hand. Without another subject, the sentence doesn't make sense.)Corrected: Holding the mail in one hand, I realized that the door was locked.Misplaced: After leaving the office, the cat jumped right in front of Howard.(Did the cat leave the office? Who did?)Corrected: After leaving the office, Howard startled when a cat jumped right in front of him. Read the five sentences listed below. Decide whether the sentence is a misplaced modifier (M), a dangling modifier (D) or is correct (C). You can also download and print a complete dangling and misplaced modifiers exercises with answers below. 1. Always eager for cake, the birthday party was attended by everyone. 2. Water from the sprinklers started to rust the brand-new child's bike. 3. Driving to the party, the present rattled around in the trunk. 4. Forgetting that the microphone was on, the whole audience heard the singer's fight with his wife. 5. Wagging her tail, the puppy climbed into my lap. This misplaced and dangling modifiers worksheet features 10 identification questions similar to the exercise above. It also has a section for writing corrected version of these sentences. View & Download PDF How did you do on the five practice questions? Check your answers below. 1. (M) Always eager for cake is modifying everyone.Corrected: Always eager for cake, everyone attended the birthday party. 2. (M) Brand-new should modify bike, not child.Corrected: Water from the sprinklers started to rust the child's brand-new bike. 3. (D) The present is not driving.Corrected: Driving to the party, we heard the present rattling around in the trunk. 4. (D) The singer is the person who forgot the microphone was on.Corrected: Forgetting that the microphone was on, the singer fought with his wife for the whole audience to hear. 5. (C) This is correct. The puppy was the one wagging her tail. Checking for misplaced and dangling modifiers is a great start to making writing understandable. If you'd like more ways to clarify your communication, learn when you should eliminate passive voice in your writing. You can also check out a quick slideshow that provides tips for cleaning up your vocabulary and word choice. Staff Writer Correcting Misplaced Modifiers Modifiers are words or phrases that provide additional detail about a subject, verb or object in a sentence. Modifiers can be words or phrases; for example, the word "pretty" can modify "girl," and the phrase "who was smart" can also modify "girl." According to the rules of grammar, modifiers should be placed as close as possible to the person or thing that they are modifying. When a modifier is not placed properly in the sentence, it can create confusion and is considered to be a "misplaced modifier." The Participial Phrase Explained (With Examples) Do you ever get your verbals mixed up? It's hard to tell the difference between gerunds, infinitives and participles, but once you identify how they're used, you'll figure it out in no time. Learn more about participles — and the participial phrases formed with multiple words — with these explanations and examples. A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that doesn't clearly relate to the word or phrase it is intended to modify. In prescriptive grammar, misplaced modifiers are usually regarded as errors. Mark Lester and Larry Beason point out that misplaced modifiers "do not make sentences ungrammatical. Misplaced modifiers are wrong because they say something the writer did not intend to say" (McGraw-Hill Handbook, 2012). A misplaced modifier can usually be corrected by moving it closer to the word or phrase it should be describing. See Examples and Observations below. Also see: Practice in Avoiding Misplaced Modifiers "Plastic bags are a favorite of grocers because of their price, about 2 cents per bag compared to 5 cents for paper. Used widely since the 1970s, environmentalists now estimate between 500 billion to a trillion bags are produced annually worldwide." (Savannah Morning News, January 30, 2008)"An hour later a chubby man in a wrinkled suit with pasty skin walked in." (David Baldacci, The Innocent. Grand Central Publishing, 2012)A Swiss farmer has discovered a huge trove of ancient Roman coins in his cherry orchard. . . . Weighing around 15kg (33lb), he discovered the coins after spotting something shimmering in a molehill." (BBC News, November 19, 2015)"Bank worker tried to film naked women as they lay in tanning booths on his mobile phone." (Headline in the Daily Mail [UK], September 6, 2012)"For many people eating spoonfuls of Marmite every day would be their worst nightmare, but for St John Skelton it's his dream job. . . . Despite being loathed by millions across the world, St John can't get enough of the stuff and eats it almost every day." ("Meet the Man Who Earns a Living Eating Marmite." The Sun [UK], April 14, 2012)"Princess Beatrice, who is starting a history degree at Goldsmiths College, London, later this year, was photographed running in the surf on the island of St Barts with her American boyfriend Dave Clark dressed in a blue bikini last month." ("Sarah, Duchess of York Defends Princess Beatrice's Weight Against 'Ride' Critics." The Daily Telegraph [UK], May 13, 2008)"April Dawn Peters, 31, of 2194 Grandview Way, in Cosby, [was] arrested Sept. 19, at 10:30 p.m., and charged with aggravated assault after she allegedly hit a man on his head at least five times with a hammer that she was having sex with." (Newport [Tenn.] Plain Talk, September 22, 2012)"And when upon your dainty breast I layMy wearied head, more soft than eiderdown." (William Nathan Stedman)"They just said it's going to rain on the radio." ("Tiger" comic strip)"You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian composers, artists, and writers are buried daily, except on Thursdays." (in a guide to a Russian Orthodox monastery)"Historians have been kept guessing over claims [that] Dr James Barry, Inspector General of Military Hospitals, was in fact a woman for more than 140 years." (The Daily Telegraph [UK], March 5, 2008)"One of three sisters, Hilda's father was a butcher who ran four shops in Oldham." ("Tot of Sherry Keeps Hilda Going!" Oldham Evening Chronicle [UK], August 20, 2010)"Her only full-time paid employee is a pleasant young woman with a nose ring named Rebecca, who sits at the front desk." (reprinted in The New Yorker)She handed out brownies to children wrapped in Tupperware." (reprinted in The Revenge of Anguished English, by Richard Lederer)"After being busted on drug charges in Los Angeles last month, a federal judge will decide on Friday whether to rescind his probation and send the rapper back to prison." ("Rapper T.I. Talks Man off Ledge." Slate, October 14, 2010)"Comedian Russell Brand revealed he did have sex with model Sophie Coady during a High Court hearing on Monday." ("Russell Brand Confesses in Court. . . ." The Daily Mail [UK], December 24, 2013) "Never has the competition for the Most Egregiously Misplaced Modifier Bloopie been hotter. Among the candidates:"Lands' End, the Direct Merchants, on their bathing attire: 'We can fit you in a swimsuit that fits and flatters--right over the phone!' 'The swimsuit flatters over the phone? . . . Better to swing the end of the sentence to the front, where the pronoun to be modified can be found: 'Right over the phone, we can fit you' etc.' And here's a juicy one from Minute Maid: 'Help today's U.S. Olympic Hopefuls become tomorrow's Olympic Champions by purchasing Minute Maid Quality Products.' Athletes do not become tomorrow's champs by purchasing anything; swing the end around to the beginning and attach it to a you: 'By purchasing . . . you can help' etc."The winner in this category? The envelope, please: It's Honda Motor Cars, with its wildly swerving claim. 'While pleasing to your eye, the air passing over and around the body hardly notices it.' Air is not 'pleasing to your eye'; the car's body should come immediately after the modifying phrase. Thus: 'While pleasing to your eye, the body is hardly noticed by the air passing over and around it.' That formulation would not make a whole lot of sense, either, but at least the modifier would be attached to the right noun."(William Safire, "On Language: The Bloopie Awards." The New York Times, May 17, 1992) "Certain modifiers are slippery: they slide into the wrong position in the sentence. The most dangerous are only, almost, already, even, just, nearly, merely, and always. No: They almost worked five years on that system. Yes: They worked almost five years on that system. In general, these slippery descriptors should appear just before the terms they modify." (E. H. Weiss, 100 Writing Remedies. Greenwood, 1990) "Where to use only in a sentence is a moot question, one of the mootest questions in all rhetoric. The purist will say that the expression: 'He only died last week' is incorrect, and that it should be: 'He died only last week.' The purist's contention is that the first sentence, if carried out to a natural conclusion, would give us something like this: 'He only died last week, he didn't do anything else, that's all he did.' It isn't a natural conclusion, however, because nobody would say that and if anybody did it would be likely to lead to stomping of feet and clapping of hands, because it is one of those singy-songy expressions which set a certain type of person to acting rowdy and becoming unmanageable. It is better just to let the expression go, either one way or the other, because, after all, this particular sentence is of no importance except in cases where one is breaking the news to a mother. In such cases one should begin with: 'Mrs. Gormley, your son has had an accident,' or: 'Mrs. Gormley, your son is not so good,' and then lead up gently to: 'He died only last week.'"The best way is often to omit only and use some other expression. Thus, instead of saying: 'He only died last week,' one could say: 'It was no longer ago than last Thursday that George L. Wodolgotting became an angel.' Moreover, this is more explicit and eliminates the possibility of a misunderstanding as to who died."(James Thurber, "Our Own Modern English Usage: Only and One." The New Yorker, February 23, 1929. Reprinted in The Owl in the Attic and Other Perplexities. Harper & Brothers, 1931) Pronunciation: MIS-plast MOD-i-FI-er

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