

**20.5****Misplaced Modifiers • Practice 1**

**Misplaced Modifiers** A misplaced modifier seems to modify the wrong word in the sentence. It should be placed as close as possible to the word it modifies.

<b>MISPLACED MODIFIERS</b>	
<b>Misplaced</b>	<b>Improved</b>
We bought an album at that store <i>that cost three dollars.</i>	At the store we bought an album <i>that cost three dollars.</i>
The thief missed the necklace on the bed <i>in a box.</i>	The thief missed the necklace <i>in a box</i> on the bed.

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Misplaced Modifiers.** Underline each misplaced modifier. If the sentence is correct, leave it unmarked.

**EXAMPLE:** The musician signed autographs with a clarinet in hand.

1. The house was broken into that he recently purchased.
2. Bob gave his cassette deck to his sister with Dolby.
3. The book won a prize with many color photos.
4. Damaged in the accident, Phil saw his car in the repair shop.
5. The books that you want will cost thirty-five dollars.
6. The man asked to see the surgeon growing restless in the hospital.
7. The bus is leaving for the city with your luggage in it.
8. The mirror reflected the view in the silver frame.
9. The room with a view of the sea has been rented.
10. We saw many art galleries driving from city to city.

**Exercise 2** **Correcting Misplaced Modifiers.** Rewrite the sentences below, improving the position of the misplaced modifiers.

**EXAMPLE:** The only store is closed in town.

The only store in town is closed.

1. We need two more things from the store to eat for lunch.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The car hit a spectator leading the parade.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Bruce ordered a soda and a sandwich with chocolate ice cream.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. My sisters ran from the gazebo shouting my name.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. John reminded me to remember my notebook twice.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**20.5****Misplaced Modifiers • Practice 2****Exercise 1**

**Identifying and Correcting Misplaced Modifiers.** Write each sentence, correcting all misplaced modifiers.

1. The pianist played a new composition sitting on the piano bench. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Turning green, I watched the lights. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We boarded the train with three suitcases heading toward our winter home in Florida. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. We heard the bus had crashed on the radio. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. I arranged the flowers for my mother using the new vase. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Cranky and tired, I put the baby down for a nap. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The seals looked hopefully at us desiring more sardines. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Growling with hunger, I listened to my empty stomach. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. We heard that a forest fire had started nearby while preparing to go on vacation. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Barking loudly at the squirrel, I frowned at the dog. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2**

**Identifying and Correcting Misplaced Modifiers.** The following paragraphs contain ten misplaced modifiers. Rewrite each sentence in which there is a misplaced modifier so that the position of the modifier is improved.

Sagging and needing repair, Mrs. Henderson called the construction company to fix her porch. Too busy to come out immediately, she had to wait two weeks. Staring at the damage, an idea began to form in her mind. When in high school, shop had been one of her classes she thought, optimistically, that the porch might be easy enough to fix herself.

Getting out her tools, the excitement began to build. After working for several days, the porch was disassembled. Finding the problem, the supports had to be replaced. Going to the lumber store, the wood was not very expensive. Piling the wood into the truck, the back window was blocked. Driving home, the mirrors on the sides of the truck were very useful.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## 20.5

## Dangling Modifiers • Practice 1

**Dangling Modifiers** A dangling modifier seems to modify the wrong word or no word at all because the word it should modify has been omitted from the sentence.

DANGLING MODIFIERS	
Dangling	Improved
<i>Walking to school</i> , her notebook was lost.	Walking to school, she lost her notebook.
<i>When she was still in grade school</i> , Alice's aunt bought a house in Kansas.	When Alice was still in grade school, her aunt bought a house in Kansas.

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Dangling Modifiers.** Underline each dangling modifier. If a sentence has no dangling modifier, leave it unmarked.

**EXAMPLE:** There were two meal stops driving to Atlanta.

1. Eating in the restaurant, his manners were deplorable.
2. Brought before the judge, the plea was not guilty.
3. Snatched from its mother's arms, the child cried pitifully.
4. Performing before a real audience, her talent was quickly recognized.
5. Swimming in the pool, his chores were left undone.
6. A group of new houses were needed entering the development.
7. Turning the corner, I saw my mother and father.
8. To bake a cake, all the ingredients should be assembled first.
9. Driving from the hotel, the Rideau Canal was seen on the left.
10. After I opened the letter, I realized my good fortune.

**Exercise 2** **More Work with Dangling Modifiers.** Underline each dangling modifier. If a sentence has no dangling modifier, leave it unmarked.

**EXAMPLE:** Frightened by the announcement, the room was silent.

1. When he was a cadet at West Point, John's father became a four-star general.
2. Running rather slowly, the library seemed a distant goal.
3. While practicing in the gym, sneakers must always be worn.
4. Sinking rapidly, the pool was soon empty.
5. Many different kinds of barns were seen cruising along the country road.
6. When Audrey appeared at the door, I shouted for joy.
7. Looking at the catalog, an expensive lamp stood out.
8. Sweeping up Lexington Avenue, his long beard was the center of attention.
9. Trampling through the snow, her bags began to tear.
10. Her towel could not be found leaving the shower.