

## **GRAMMAR UNIT:**

Common Grammatical Errors that every 8<sup>th</sup> grader should know

## **OBJECTIVE:**

Identify and revise grammar errors so that your writing improves

# MISPLACED MODIFIERS

and

# DANGLING MODIFIERS

[https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;\\_ylt=A0LEVjrDoW5YvCUAt7snnlIQ?p=misplaced+modifiers&fr=yhs-mozilla-002&fr2=piv-web&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-002&vm=r#id=21&vid=37e59902ad01926020afb1bd603864d9&action=view](https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=A0LEVjrDoW5YvCUAt7snnlIQ?p=misplaced+modifiers&fr=yhs-mozilla-002&fr2=piv-web&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-002&vm=r#id=21&vid=37e59902ad01926020afb1bd603864d9&action=view)

First of all, a reminder...

Modifiers can be **words**, (like adjectives and adverbs)  
**phrases**, (like participial phrases  
or prepositional phrases)  
or **clauses**. (like adjective and adverb  
clauses)

The rule is that **a modifier should be close to the word it is supposed to describe**. When they are misplaced, the meaning of the sentence is not clear.

Hanging on the wall, my mom really liked the picture.

Baking in the oven, John waited for the pizza.

I sent a poster to Mom rolled in a tube.

After a long hot walk, the wonderful shade tree came into view.

While trying to get ready for school, the doorbell rang suddenly.

Reading the book, the characters seemed real to her.

Hanging on the wall, my mom really liked the picture.

Baking in the oven, John waited for the pizza.

I sent a poster to Mom rolled in a tube.

After a long, hot walk, the wonderful shade tree came into view.

While trying to get ready for school, the doorbell rang suddenly.

Reading the book, the characters seemed real to her.

# AMBIGUOUS

- not clear in meaning  
because of being able to  
be understood in more  
than one way

# Clear

-crystal clear clarity  
is a quality of good  
writing

Writers need to avoid  
misplaced and dangling modifiers  
because these cause the meaning  
of a sentence to be unclear.



**While I was bowling, I knocked down all the pins with closed eyes.**

Which modifier or modifying phrase, if any, is misplaced in the above sentence?

- A. all the pins
- B. I knocked down
- C. I was bowling
- D. with closed eyes

Which of these sentences has an ambiguous reference?

- A. Benjamin is bringing his girlfriend home on Saturday to meet his parents.
- B. Rajesh lost his platinum watch when he went rock climbing last week.
- C. I saw the driver of the bus standing on the corner yesterday afternoon.
- D. The storm that frightened us last night left behind a beautiful rainbow.

Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- A. Chewing on a bone, Henry couldn't get his dog to play fetch.
- B. Bob tinkers with his car every day, wanting to be a mechanic.
- C. Caroline decided to buy the shirt that had pink flowers on it.
- D. Yolanda looked for her retainer in the trash, which she lost.

Only they were left in the store when the doors locked.

What is the modifier or modifying phrase in the sentence?

- A. doors
- B. left
- C. store
- D. Only

# “Why should we care?”

## INFORMAL

- Rules of grammar are not always followed as carefully.
- This is OK for everyday, casual communication.
- The danger is the potential for bad habits to form—habits that are hard to break!

## FORMAL

- Follow the rules.
- Be more conscientious and pay attention to details.
- It is important to do things the right way in all academic situations.
- You are smart and educated and that should be represented in the way you communicate with others!