**Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers Study Guide**

**Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers**

A modifier should be placed as close as possible to the word it modifies. Often prepositional phrases, verbal phrases or adjective clauses are too far away from the word they are meant to modify.

**Misplaced Modifiers**: A misplaced modifier appears to modify the wrong word in a sentence. They often distort the meaning of the sentence or make it impossible for the reader to understand the meaning. To correct misplaced modifiers, move it closer to the word it modifies.

Ex: *Slithering through the wet grass,* we watched the garden snake.

* “we” are doing the slithering here, not the snake
* We watched the garden **snake** *slithering through the wet grass*.

**Dangling Modifiers**: A dangling modifier appears to modify either the wrong word or no word at all because the word it should logically modify is missing from the sentence. To correct a dangling modifier, add the missing word and rewrite the rest of the sentence as necessary.

Ex:- *Pausing briefly to congratulate Barbara*, the conversation continued.

* the conversation paused to congratulate Barbara?
  + *Pausing briefly to congratulate Barbara*, **we continued** the conversation.

*Driving through the desert at night*, the cactuses looked eerie*.*

* Cactuses that can drive are eerie!
  + *Driving through the desert at night*, we thought the cactuses looked eerie.

**Exercise 6: Recognizing and Correcting Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers.**

***Each of the following sentences contains an underlined phrase or clause. On the line beside each sentence, indicate whether the modifier is misplaced, dangling, or correct. Then, correct the sentence if it needs correcting.***

1. Flying over the countryside, the cars and houses looked like toys. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. The messenger spoke to the receptionist who delivered the package. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. The golfer made a hole-in-one with the green-and-white umbrella. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. At camp, home seemed very far away. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. A man leaped into the water over the ship’s rail. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. To get to town quickly, the highway is best. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. While jogging one morning, the solution was suddenly obvious. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Smashed beyond repair, Rob saw his watch lying on the court. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. A banana split was served to each guest, dripping with chocolate sauce. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Wandering aimlessly in the woods, the first sight of camp was welcome. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 7:** **Correcting Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers Exercise.**

***ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, REWRITE the following paragraph to correct any misplaced or dangling modifiers.***

Stan is a successful architect and interior designer whose custom-built homes stagger the imagination. Priced beyond what the average person can afford, his unique inspiration can be seen in the house on the corner. The front of the house is made entirely of glass. Extended outward from the second floor, eight vertical steel pillars support a balcony. Within the center of the house, a huge tropical aquarium rests on a marble floor five feet in diameter. A wrought iron staircase winds its way around the aquarium connecting the first and second stories. Recessed in the ceilings, each room is softly lit by fluorescent lights. To enjoy music in any location, there is a dial on the wall next to the thermostat. In the winter, fireplaces provide warmth; in the summer, cool air is circulated by fans. By closing your eyes and dreaming, the house can become yours.