

## MISPLACED MODIFIERS

(Note: Refer to Discovery, 320-324, for additional practice.) When modifiers (adjectives and adverbs) are out of place, too far away from the word they modify, the sentence will be awkward or confusing. Misplaced modifiers may be single words, phrases, or clauses. Study the following examples.

1. The following words are often misplaced: almost, only, just, even, hardly, not, nearly, merely. Most often, these words are placed in front of the words they modify.

Misplaced: My sister only has two children.

Correct: My sister has only two children.

2. Here is an example of a misplaced phrase

Misplaced: The little girl screamed at the library at her mother.

Correct: At the library, the little girl screamed at her mother.

3. Here is an example of a misplaced clause.

Misplaced: I held the ticket tightly in my hand that my friend gave me.

Correct: I held the ticket that my friend gave me tightly in my hand.

## DANGLING MODIFIERS

(Note: Refer to Discovery, 324-327, for additional practice.)

A dangling modifier is an introductory word group--participle, gerund, infinitive, or elliptical clause--that does not refer logically to the noun or pronoun that follows it. Study the following examples.

Dangling participle: Driving west, the scenery was beautiful.

Correction: Driving west, they saw beautiful scenery.

Dangling gerund: After watching the game, the snacks were put away.

Correction: After watching the game, we put away the snacks .

Dangling infinitive: To survive in this heat, you must water your plants daily.

Correction: To survive in this heat, new plants must be watered daily.

Dangling elliptical clause: While watering, a hornet stung Janet.

Correction: While watering, Janet was stung by a hornet.

Directions: Revise the following sentences to correct misplaced or dangling modifiers.

1. The tall boy led the parade with red hair.
2. My brother just listens to one radio station.
3. After dancing solo on stage, the audience applauded Anna's performance.
4. While taking a nap, the volcano erupted.
5. The new student will take the corner seat wearing the muscle shirt.
6. Hoping the weather would improve, the corn was planted during the heat wave.
7. Unfortunately, I can only take three students to the concert.
8. Totally destroyed by the tornado, he had to rebuild his barn.
9. While standing in line, the thunder could be heard.
10. Kathy donated a television to the Youth Center that she no longer used.