

# UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT MODIFIERS

## Modifiers

### What are Modifiers?

A modifier changes, qualifies, clarifies or limits a particular word in a sentence in order to add emphasis, explanation or detail. Hence, modifiers are descriptive words such as adjectives or adverbs.

For example : I'm going to Café More for a vegetarian pizza.

Here, the modifier vegetarian gives extra information about what kind of 'pizza' it is.

Modifier can be an adjective or an adverb

A modifier can be an adjective that modifies a noun as in the above sentence.

I'm going to "Café More" for a vegetarian pizza. (Here the noun 'pizza' is modified by the adjective vegetarian. A modifier can be an adverb that modifies a verb.

For example, The student carefully proof read her thesis (Here the verb proof read is modified by the adverb carefully)

Why use modifiers ?

Modifiers enhance and brighten language

### A modifier can be a phrase or clause

#### Phrase Modifier

Example, Rama studied in the library.  
Here the phrase 'in the library' gives us extra information about the verb 'studied'.

#### Clause

Example : They boy who was at the store bought pastries.  
The above sentence demonstrates an adjective clause because a group of words

modify the noun 'boy'.

### Modifiers make communication efficient and effective

Description of Sohan's daily activities sound boring without the use of modifiers	Description of Sohan's daily activities sound interesting and descriptive after the use of modifiers
Sohan Woke Sohan ate Sohan dressed Sohan worked Sohan ate Sohan worked Sohan drove Sohan exercised Sohan showered Sohan slept	Sohan woke up at 5 am after a restful sleep. He ate a veg sandwich with some cold coffee for breakfast. He chose to wear a blue suit with a red tie on a white shirt. He left for work at 10 am. After an important meeting he ate a hearty lunch. After a lighter schedule post lunch, he drove back and exercised rigorously at the gym. He called it a day after a warm shower and slept peacefully after a hectic day.

### What are misplaced modifiers?

A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase or clause that is improperly separated from the word or clause it modifies or describes. This separation leaves the sentence sounding awkward, illogical and confusing.

**Example :** The waiter served a crispy dinner roll to the woman that was well buttered.

**Correction :** The waiter served a crispy dinner roll that was well buttered to the woman.

### Examples of misplaced modifiers

Misplaced	Correct
The little girl screamed at the library at her mother.	At the library, the little girl screamed at her mother.
On her way home, Shikha found a gold man's watch.	On her way home Shikha found a man's gold watch.
The shopkeeper sold the photo frame to the buyer with pure leather casing.	The shopkeeper sold the photo frame with pure leather casing to the buyer.
My friend only has two children.	My friend has only two children.

I held the gift tightly in my hand that my friend gave.	I held the gift that my friend gave me tightly in my hand.
---	--

### What are dangling modifiers?

A dangling modifier is an introductory word group – it can be a participle, a gerund, an infinitive or elliptical clause that does not refer logically to the noun or pronoun that follow it.

Unlike misplaced modifiers, dangling modifiers cannot be fixed simply by moving it to a different position in the sentence. It calls for adding additional information or rearranging the structure of one of the phrase or clause.

**Example :** When nine years old, my mother enrolled in a computer class.

**Correction :** When I was nine year old, my mother enrolled me in a computer class.

**Example :** Looking towards the East, a storm stirred up dust and debris.

**Correction :** Looking towards the East, I saw that a storm stirred up dust and debris.

### Examples of dangling modifiers

Dangling	Correct
Having been fixed the night before, Shalini could use her laptop.	Since the laptop had been fixed the night before, Shalini could use it.
Hoping to excuse my lateness, the note was written and given to my teacher.	Hoping to excuse my lateness, I wrote a note and gave it to my teacher.
After reading the great new book, the movie based on it is sure to be exciting.	After reading the great new book, Pankaj thought the movie based on it was sure to be exciting.
Reading the regulations the dog did not enter the park.	After reading the regulations, I did not enter the park with my dog.
Having finished the assignment, the TV was turned on.	Having finished the assignment, Rohit turned on TV.

**Task : Do as directed**

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

1. The tall girl led the choir with red hair.
2. My mother just listens to one radio station.
3. After dancing solo on stage, the audience applauded Tulika's performance.
4. While taking a nap, the cylinder exploded.
5. The new student will take the corner seat wearing the purple 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 cyclone, Mohit had to rebuild his farm.
9. While standing in line, the thunder could be heard.
10. Malini donated a television to the orphanage that she no longer used.

**Task : Do as directed**

**Activity :** Write "C" if the modifier is correctly placed; write "MM" if it is misplaced. In the "MM" sentences, rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. The woman was stopped for speeding in the pink saree.
2. I almost saw the whole movie, but I feel asleep towards the end of it.
3. Prem promised to clean the car running out the door.
4. The names were those of the lovers carved on the tree.
5. There are only three seats left in the cinema hall.
6. Every two hours the nurse told Rajat to take a pill.
7. Sitting on the swing, I took my last sip of tea.
8. The man walked toward us wearing a bright blue suit.
9. The plane crashed into a mountain carrying 200 passengers.
10. Ria hardly ate any food at the banquet dinner.

**Task : Do as directed**

**Activity :** Write "C" if the modifier is correctly placed; write "MM" if it is misplaced. In the "MM" sentences, rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. Raman watched the mechanic fix the bus with curiosity.
2. I earn ten thousand rupees a month scarcely.
3. Reaching into the refrigerator, I found the bowl of salad.
4. We borrowed a vacuum cleaner from a neighbor that was broken.

5. Climbing up a tree, Mona saw a squirrel.
6. Gautam, running quickly, disappeared around the corner.
7. The child was rescued after the house was set on fire by a fireman.
8. We've almost found all the pieces of the shattered vase.
9. Shalini vowed on her birthday to go paragliding.
10. We need gas badly.

**Task : Do as directed**

**Activity :** In the blank beside each sentence, mention the dangling modifier (DM) or misplaced modifier (MM).

1. The truck on the bridge which is green is mine.
2. Feeling hot, sweaters were taken off.
3. I showed my cat to the veterinarian with the fleas.
4. Manu told me he was getting married that afternoon at night.
5. Swimming out into the sea, the current grew stronger.
6. Walking along the shore, a cruise ship suddenly appeared.
7. He kept a tiny black book of all the women he had dated in his desk.
8. Upon entering the room, the messages are easily seen.
9. When only a toddler, Dad took me scuba diving.

**Task : Do as directed**

**Activity :** Draw a line under the dangling modifier in each of the following sentences.

1. Driving in heavy old traffic, my head started to pound.
2. Crossing the border, my car was searched.
3. Searching my wallet, my missing credit card was found.
4. A shovel was used, digging the hole.
5. Laughing hysterically, the story was repeated.
6. Reaching the finals, the game was won by the Dare Devils.
7. Playing skillfully, touchdown was made by the visiting team.
8. Raising his hand, the question was answered by Man Mohan.
9. Planting tomatoes, her knees got filthy.
10. Speaking for the committee, the issue was raised by Sudhir.

