

17. Dangling Modifiers

Background Information

A dangling modifier is a modifying phrase or clause that does not clearly or sensibly modify any word in the sentence. When a modifying phrase begins a sentence, it should be followed by a comma, and then the word that the phrase modifies.

(*Example:* Playing soccer, I hurt my knee.
Not: Playing soccer my knee was hurt.)

Answer Key

Answers may vary somewhat, but the following are sample corrections of these sentences. The misspelled words are *neighbor's*, *sale*, *announcement*, *vacuuming*, and *favorite*.

1. Mr. Schimmel saw his neighbor's garage sale sign nailed to a post.
2. I saw several sets of miniature animals arranged in the showcase.
3. correct (except "announcement" is misspelled)
4. A bee stung me while I was weeding the garden this morning. OR: While I was weeding the garden this morning, a bee stung me.
5. The baby woke up while I was vacuuming the hall. OR: Because I was vacuuming the hall, the baby woke up.
6. Climbing to the top of the Empire State Building, I saw the entire city of New York. OR: I saw the entire city of New York when I climbed to the top of the Empire State Building.
7. After we had hiked several hours in darkness, the moon rose and lit our way. OR: The moon rose and lit our way after we had hiked several hours in darkness.
8. correct (except "favorite" is misspelled)
9. His big toe was sprained when he was playing football. OR: Playing football, he sprained his big toe.
10. I was afraid the baby might fall since she was standing up in the high chair. OR: As the baby was standing up in the high chair, I was afraid he might fall.

Additional Activities

1. Write a list of introductory modifiers (e.g., *Whining loudly*, *Planning the party*, *Avoiding the mud puddle . . .*) on the board. Have students use these to write complete sentences, being sure to follow each introductory modifier by a word that it can sensibly modify.
2. Have students construct sentences with dangling modifiers. Read some of these aloud to the class. Allow students to correct the sentences.

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Directions: Eight of the ten sentences below contain dangling modifiers. Correct these eight sentences by rewriting them in the space under the sentence. You may rearrange the words in the sentence or add words if needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear. Do not rewrite the sentences that are already correct. Circle the five misspelled words. Rewrite each word correctly in the Spelling Box.

1. Nailed to a post, Mr. Schimmel saw his nieghbor's garage sail sign.
2. Arranged in the showcase, I saw several sets of miniature animals.
3. Hurrying for my first class, I saw the anouncement on the wall.
4. Weeding the garden this morning, a bee stung me.
5. Vacuming the hall, the baby woke up.
6. Climbing to the top of the Empire State Building, the entire city of New York was visible.
7. After hiking several hours in darkness, the moon rose and lit our way.
8. Turning on the radio, I heard my favrite song.
9. Playing football, his big toe was sprained.
10. Standing up in the high chair, I was afraid the baby might fall.



SPELLING BOX	1. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	4. _____

