

## Dangling Modifiers B

**23c.** Avoid using dangling modifiers.

A *dangling modifier* is a modifying word, phrase, or clause that does not sensibly modify any word in a sentence.

**EXERCISE A** Read each sentence below, and decide whether it has a clear meaning or it contains a dangling modifier. On the line provided, write *C* for *clear* or *DM* for *dangling modifier*.

**Example** DM 1. Stapling the pages in order, the report was ready to be turned in.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After playing the banjo for several years, Larry's favorite music became jazz.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. To make a good grade in the class, homework will need to be done on time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. At the top of the slide, the child grinned happily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. To fix the faucet, a wrench will be needed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Having chosen a topic, Juan's paper merely required writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. To win this game, our team will need to practice hard and prepare.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After building a diorama, Eli will show his work to the historical society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Cloudy and overcast, the pilots couldn't see the runway from a mile away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. After taking out the recycling, Maya's next chore was to mow the yard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. To make an omelet, eggshells will need to be broken carefully.

**EXERCISE B** On the lines provided, revise each sentence below to correct the dangling modifier.

**Example** 1. Looking in the dressing-room mirror, the pants were too big. \_\_\_\_\_  
Looking in the dressing-room mirror, the customer saw that the pants were too big.

11. After rowing across the channel, the water grew less choppy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Convinced of the prisoner's innocence, the judgment was that he should be set free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. While typing on the computer, my cat Riley kept bothering me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Applying the final coat, my painting for art class was almost finished. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
15. To improve the neighborhood, a small park was built. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Misplaced Modifiers A

**23a.** Avoid using misplaced modifiers.

A *misplaced modifier* is a modifying word, phrase, or clause that seems to modify the wrong word or word group in a sentence. To correct a misplaced modifier, place the modifying word, phrase, or clause as close as possible to the word or words you intend it to modify.

**MISPLACED** High up on the wall, I saw a fly. [Was I high up on the wall or was the fly?]

**CORRECT** I saw a fly high up on the wall.

USAGE

**EXERCISE A** Some of the following sentences contain misplaced modifiers. In those sentences, underline the modifying clause or phrase that is misplaced. If a sentence is correct, write C before the number.

**Examples 1.** We discussed our trip to Ghana at the neighborhood community center, which we had wanted to visit for years.

C **2.** Our guide Celia was invaluable during that time.

1. Celia said after her trip she would show slides of Ghana.
2. We took a ferry on the lake called the *Akasombo Queen*.
3. Tourists can stay in guest houses visiting the coast.
4. Years ago the country now called Ghana was known as the Gold Coast.
5. Our tour guide could speak English, Twi, and Nzima in Ghana.

**EXERCISE B** On the lines provided, revise the following sentences to correct misplaced modifiers.

**Example 1.** Felipe saw a giraffe riding his bike down the road next to the zoo. \_\_\_\_\_

Riding his bike down the road next to the zoo, Felipe saw a giraffe.

6. Exhausted, the ribbon snapped as the winner of the marathon ran through. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. There is a stereo in the store that is on sale. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Investigators tested pollution levels equipped with elaborate instruments. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Mr. Jewesson spotted several moose canoeing down the river. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Jorge brought a stray puppy to the movie theater, which was too excited to stay quiet. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_