

# Misplaced Modifiers

# What is a misplaced modifier?

**REMEMBER: ADVERBS AND  
ADJECTIVES MODIFY WORDS!**

A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies / describes.

In other words, it modifies a different word than it is supposed to. This can really change the meaning of the sentence!

## MISPLACED MODIFIER: THE BEAR



# Misplaced Modifier

Spitting out hot lava, my friend took photos as the volcano erupted.



MISPLACED MODIFIERS ARE WORDS OR PHRASES THAT DO NOT CLEARLY POINT TO THE WORDS OF PHRASES THE MODIFY, IN THIS WAY OBSCURING THE MEANING.

AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WOULD BE THE MAN TO MY LEFT ORDERING DESSERT IN A RESTAURANT

The waiter served a piece of cake to the man with a cherry on top.

WHY IS THERE A CHERRY ON MY HEAD!  
THIS IS ALL WRONG!

The waiter served a piece of cake with a cherry on top to the man.

This is much better!



celebrating the relationship between pets and their people

# EAT, RAY, LOVE

Rachael Ray  
finds inspiration  
in cooking  
her family  
and her dog



TODAY I SAW A MAN RIDING  
A MOTORCYCLE WITH  
A BROKEN LEG...



...OR WAS IT A  
MAN WITH A BROKEN LEG  
WHO WAS RIDING A MOTORCYCLE?

NOPE. IT WAS THE FIRST  
ONE FOR SURE.

# DANGLING MODIFIER: THE PUPPY



I FED SOME TURKEY  
TO MY PUPPY,  
AND PUT IT IN THE  
MEAT GRINDER.  
[WWW.KIBIN.COM](http://WWW.KIBIN.COM)



## Dangling Modifiers Raise the Dead



After returning from the dead,  
my sister took the plants outside.

Covered with hot melting  
cheese I ate the pizza.



I ate the pizza covered with  
hot melting cheese.



1. In the microwave, the man cooked the popcorn.
2. He noticed a kangaroo driving his motorcycle.
3. Emma read the cartoon laughing loudly.
4. Shining in the distance, I saw a star.
5. Wrapped in silver foil, I ate my hamburger.
6. People were chased by my dogs on bikes.
7. Taped to the wall, the girl read the note.
8. We saw a bear hiking along with our cameras.
9. Stained with mustard, he accidentally wore his white shirt to work.
10. After laying a three pound egg, the farmer held up his prize chicken.

## **SB Idea: Misplaced Modifier Posters:**

- 1. Each table needs to divide into two even groups.**
- 2. Each group will receive a sentence with a misplaced modifier and a blank poster.**
- 3. Divide the poster in half.**
- 4. One half of the poster needs the original (incorrect) sentence and a drawing to go with it.**
- 5. The other half needs the correct sentence and a drawing to go with it.**
- 6. Use color/marker/bold outlines**