

Name _____

Date _____

Dangling Modifiers

A **dangling modifier** is a word or group of words (usually a phrase) that describes or modifies something in a sentence. However, when the sentence does not clearly identify the word or phrase being modified, the modifier is said to "dangle." Dangling modifiers often appear at the beginning of a sentence and can confuse readers if not written clearly.

Why It Matters: Dangling modifiers can make sentences unclear or misleading, which is why writers must ensure that the subject being modified is clearly stated in the sentence.

Examples:

Dangling Modifier: Hoping to improve, the essay was rewritten.

Corrected: Hoping to improve, the student rewrote the essay. The subject of the modifier, "the student," is now clear.

Below are 9 sentences with dangling modifiers. Revise and make them clear and precise.

1. To bring attention to child poverty, the first step was forming an organization.

2. Separating used syringes for plastic parts, harm to the little girl's health is likely.

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Dangling Modifiers

3. Sharing their few possessions, generous hearts are found among the poor.

4. Finding poverty everywhere in the world, it's hard to imagine ending the problem.

5. Hoping to create change, the organization was formed by a group of young activists.

6. Inspired by the stories of struggling workers, the speaker's words resonated with the audience.

7. After attending the rally, the issue of child labor became more urgent.

8. Working long hours with little pay, the lives of many children are filled with hardship.

9. While walking through the market, the sights of poverty were overwhelming.

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Dangling Modifiers – Answer Key

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Examples:

Dangling Modifier: Hoping to improve, the essay was rewritten.

Corrected: Hoping to improve, the student rewrote the essay. The subject of the modifier, "the student," is now clear.

Below are 9 sentences with dangling modifiers. Revise and make them clear and precise.

1. To bring attention to child poverty, the first step was forming an organization.

To bring attention to child poverty, the activists formed an organization.

2. Separating used syringes for plastic parts, harm to the little girl's health is likely.

While separating used syringes for plastic parts, the little girl is likely to harm her health.

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Dangling Modifiers – Answer Key

3. Sharing their few possessions, generous hearts are found among the poor.

Sharing their few possessions, the poor demonstrate their generous hearts.

4. Finding poverty everywhere in the world, it's hard to imagine ending the problem.

Finding poverty everywhere in the world, people find it hard to imagine ending the problem.

5. Hoping to create change, the organization was formed by a group of young activists.

Hoping to create change, a group of young activists formed the organization.

6. Inspired by the stories of struggling workers, the speaker's words resonated with the audience.

Inspired by the stories of struggling workers, the audience resonated with the speaker's words.

7. After attending the rally, the issue of child labor became more urgent.

After attending the rally, the participants felt the issue of child labor become more urgent.

8. Working long hours with little pay, the lives of many children are filled with hardship.

Working long hours with little pay, many children endure lives filled with hardship.

9. While walking through the market, the sights of poverty were overwhelming.

While walking through the market, I found the sights of poverty overwhelming.