

Name _____

Date _____

Avoid Misplaced Modifiers

A modifier is a word or group of words that provides additional information about another word in a sentence. **A misplaced modifier** occurs when the modifier is not placed next to the word it is intended to describe. This can confuse readers and lead to unclear or incorrect meanings. Follow these steps to fix misplaced modifiers:

- **Find the Modifier:** Locate the descriptive word, phrase, or clause in the sentence.
- **Identify the Word It Modifies:** Determine what the modifier is supposed to describe.
- **Place the Modifier Correctly:** Move the modifier so that it is as close as possible to the word it describes.

Each sentence below contains a misplaced modifier. identify the error, and rewrite each sentence to place the modifier correctly.

1. Major Wiles made a list of thirty children's names fulfilling his duty.

2. Little Eneas was the only one of all the children the Major knew.

3. Leaving the reservation, Major Wiles was sure that the children would have better lives.

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4. The children had tears and fearful faces who were leaving their families.

5. Eneas would give up the only culture he had known at the school in Oregon.

6. The train was coming down the tracks that would change the children's lives forever.

7. Sitting by the window, the train whistle startled the children.

8. The teacher explained the assignment to the students in her office.

9. Running through the park, the ice cream fell from the cone.

10. The old man gave a lecture about responsibility to the crowd waving his cane.

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Avoid Misplaced Modifiers – Answer Key

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Each sentence below contains a misplaced modifier. identify the error, and rewrite each sentence to place the modifier correctly.

1. Major Wiles made a list of thirty children's names fulfilling his duty.

Fulfilling his duty, Major Wiles made a list of thirty children's names.

2. Little Eneas was the only one of all the children the Major knew.

Of all the children, Little Eneas was the only one the Major knew.

3. Leaving the reservation, Major Wiles was sure that the children would have better lives.

Major Wiles was sure that the children would have better lives after leaving the reservation.

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Avoid Misplaced Modifiers – Answer Key

4. The children had tears and fearful faces who were leaving their families.

The children who were leaving their families had tears and fearful faces.

5. Eneas would give up the only culture he had known at the school in Oregon.

At the school in Oregon, Eneas would give up the only culture he had known.

6. The train was coming down the tracks that would change the children's lives forever.

The train coming down the tracks would change the children's lives forever.

7. Sitting by the window, the train whistle startled the children.

The children sitting by the window were startled by the train whistle.

8. The teacher explained the assignment to the students in her office.

In her office, the teacher explained the assignment to the students.

9. Running through the park, the ice cream fell from the cone.

While running through the park, the boy dropped his ice cream cone.

10. The old man gave a lecture about responsibility to the crowd waving his cane.

Waving his cane, the old man gave a lecture about responsibility to the crowd.