

In order to have sentences to make sense and to create effective paragraphs, writers must pay attention to how they write. Ideas must be presented in a logical manner so that the reader can follow the writer's intent.

**Misplaced modifiers** are words that are misplaced in a sentence; when this occurs, a misunderstanding can occur. These modifiers usually can be relocated in the sentence to create an effective sentence.

**Dangling modifiers** are those constructions that begin a sentence with a verb + ing and other words followed by a comma. In this case, whoever or whatever is doing that activity must immediately follow the comma.

Walking around the lake, **the maple tree** was changing color for the fall.

Error: the maple tree is not walking around the lake.

Correction: Walking around the lake, we saw that the maple tree was changing color for the fall.

To create **parallel structure**, a listing of nouns, verbs, and adjectives (words or phrases) should be in the same form and in the same pattern to be considered parallel. Parallel structure keeps the ideas consistent and ensures that the sentence and ideas are unified.

Identify the error. Write MM for misplaced modifier, DM for dangling modifier, P for parallel structure error.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Writing slowly, the essay was not finished within the 45-minute time limit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. You will only need to buy one dozen eggs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I nearly missed the exam in the history class because of the bus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The student knew how to write, how to read, and had the understanding about how to study.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. To please the teacher, some assignments were turned in.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. An auto mechanic knows how to check for leaks and checking fluid levels in the engine.

Correct the following sentences.

- 7. While watching the exciting football game, commercials are irritating.

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8. The adult students are learning to type and writing.

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9. The new grocery store is located by a soccer field which was made of natural stone and brick.

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10. A family heirloom was found in the back closet that had been considered lost.

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11. Budgeting his money carefully, his paycheck lasts all month.

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12. The coffee shop has a large menu, amazing beverages, and the prices are reasonable.

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13. To lose weight, fried foods and excessive calories should be avoided.

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14. The jacket's color is bright but a distraction.

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15. She asked Tom to take a bike ride by the lake on the cell phone.

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Write a paragraph about a current event. Use strong modification and parallel structure. Use a variety of sentence length and styles. Connect the sentences and ideas with transition words. Proofread to ensure that there are no dangling modifier, misplaced modifiers, and parallel construction errors.