

## Dangling and Misplaced modifiers

**Directions:** In each sentence, underline the one misplaced or dangling modifier. Then rewrite each sentence so that its intended meaning is clear.

### PART I

1. Kwan returned the overdue book to the librarian behind the desk with apologies.
2. A group of students talked about fishing with live bait in the shop class.
3. The shipwrecked sailors almost went without food and water for a week.
4. Invitations to graduation exercises were nearly sent out to five hundred people.
5. Jumping at a sudden noise, the razor nicked Dean's face.
6. Just before leaving for home, the secretary's telephone rang.
7. While hiking through the state park, many animals can be seen.

## **PART II**

1. The instructor told the students to sit down in a loud voice.
2. The children placed their soup on the windowsill, which was too hot to eat.
3. After her husband's death, the widow almost refused all invitations to out.
4. Residents of the burning house were carried out by firemen wearing pajamas.
5. Involved in a noisy game of Monopoly, the summer eveing together was enjoyable for us.
6. Growing thinner every day, Albert's diet is really working.

**PART III. Each one of the following sentences contains one misplaced and one dangling modifier. Underline them, and rewrite the sentence so that it is written correctly,.**

1. Will was disappointed when he looked in the refrigerator. There had been lots of spaghetti last night. His roommates, however, almost had eaten all of it. Frowing agnirly, nothing but a few stands of spaghetti were left.



#### **PART IV**

Eight of the sentences in the following passage contain a misplaced or dangling modifier. Underline them and rewrite the parts of the sentences that contain the errors so that the intended meanings are clear.

Ted and Linda decided to give their friend Garry a surprise birthday party that he would never forget. Working hard to make everything perfect, their menu was planned weeks in advance. They ordered a beautiful cake from a bakery with thirty-five candles. They bought five flavors of ice cream for the party, which they hid in the freezer. They scattered dozens fo colorful balloons around the house, which they filled with helium. Finally, excited and pleased with all they had done, the guests were eagerly awaited.. Linda saw people starting to arrive through the window. However, Garry was nowhere in sight. Suddenly, with a gasp, Ted realized that he had forgotten to bring the guest of honor. Rushing off in search of Garry, the party finally started—an hour late. “This party was supposed to only be a surprise for Garry,” Ted said to the crowd, “but it turned out to be surprising for us as well.

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## PART V

Eight of the sentences in the following passage contain a misplaced or dangling modifier. Underline them and rewrite the parts of the sentences that contain the errors so that the intended meanings are clear.

Spending the evening together recently, a group of friends got talking about their most embarrassing moments in grade school. Pauline volunteered to tell hers first. “We were having gym class,” she said. “Bouncing on the trampoline, my shorts fell down and completely off my feet.

“While taking a test, I was caught cheating,” remembered Lin. “I had written the answers to the test on my fingernails. I was asked to write ‘I will never cheat again’ one hundred times on the board by the teacher. All my classmates almost looked at me as if I were a criminal.”

Finally Karen told a story about a classmate, Marta. “Since Marta had just moved from another state, none of us knew her,” she said. “Being taller than any of us and gawky, we found her weird, and we didn’t make friends with her. Going out to recess one day, it began to snow. As usual, Marta asked if she could play with us, and this time we said ‘yes.’ While tying her to the swings, Marta asked what game this was. We told her she was a prisoner and we’d come to rescue her later, but then the recess bell rang. So we left her tied to the swings with evil laughs. The teachers found her pretty soon, and we all got in big trouble. I saw Marta again recently.” Karen continued. “Still tall, she’s now also gorgeous and rich—and a model in New York.