

Misplaced Modifier

Misplaced modifier is an adjective or adverb (word or words: phrases or clauses). It occurs in the wrong place (as its name signifies). As a result, the meaning will be confusing.

Eg: She served sandwiches to the children on paper plates.

Misplaced M

(On paper plates) is the modifier. It affects the meaning because sandwiches are said to be served on paper plates not children.

To fix the problem with misplaced modifier: we need to move it to the right place as shown in the following example:

Eg: She served sandwiches to the children on paper plates.

on paper plates  Misplaced M

Dangling modifier

Dangling modifier occurs when the connection between the modifier and the word that is modifying is not clear; it seems that the modifier modifies nothing. Consequently, the meaning will be unclear.

Eg: Having finished the assignment, the TV was turned on

Dangling modifier  (X) **word that the modifier is modifying**

The connection between the modifier (**Having finished the assignment**) and the word (X) is not found, so the modifier seems to modify **nothing**.

To fix the problem with dangling modifier, we need ask the following questions: what does this modifier modify? and who has done the action?

What does "**Having finished the assignment**" modify? Sure, it must modify a person not TV.

Who has done the action? The answer is: we don't know. In this situation, we need to find a subject with the least words we can and keep the meaning unchanged.

To fix the above sentence, we need to add words or turn the sentence into active form.

Having finished the assignment, Ali (choose any name) turned on the TV.

Always in my thoughts, your teacher