

## Grade 7 Playlist: Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY L.7.1.C:*

- Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.

### Welcome

A common grammatical issue that many writers encounter involves misplaced and dangling modifiers. While such errors are easy to miss, the dangers involve the author's meaning to be misunderstood or different from what was intended, as well as potentially confusing the reader. However, there is a process that writers can use while editing to make sure their sentences are grammatically correct when using modifiers:

1. Find the modifiers.
2. Make sure each modifier has something to modify.
3. Make sure the modifier and word it is connected to are as close as possible.

### Watch!

Watch these videos to see the three-step process in action:

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers (Part 1):

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y088\\_oOzwCo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y088_oOzwCo)

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers (Part 2):

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsKJ\\_is\\_cjw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsKJ_is_cjw)

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- recognize and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers.
- understand how word order affects the meaning of a sentence.

### Review

#### Key Terms

- A **modifier** refers to a word, phrase, or clause (especially adjectives and adverbs) used to describe another part of a sentence. (e.g., "The cute, young puppy." The words "cute" and "young" are modifying the noun, "puppy.")



- A **misplaced modifier** refers to a word order problem, when a modifier is placed too far away from the noun or pronoun it is describing or modifying. The modifier should be as close to the word it is modifying as possible (e.g., “We barely ate any vegetables.” The modifier, “barely,” should be moved to after “ate,” to make: “We ate barely any vegetables.”).
- A **dangling modifier** is when a modifying word, phrase, or clause has nothing to modify in the sentence, which makes it “dangle” (e.g., “While hanging out at the park with her friends, a bee stung her.” The reader does not have enough information to make sense of the sentence, as the bee was not hanging out with friends. The sentence could be revised to: “While hanging out at the park with her friends, she was stung by a bee.”).

### Practice!

Complete the following activity to practice identifying misplaced modifiers:

- <https://www.opened.com/assessment/recognizing-misplaced-modifiers/1093088>

### Exploring the Standard

One of major responsibilities that writers have is to make sure their writing makes sense for their readers; otherwise, the intended meaning or expected interpretation can be misconstrued or misunderstood. In order to combat this, word order within a sentence warrants careful consideration. Writers need to make sure their modifiers are correctly placed, and their modifying phrases or clauses are correctly connected.

### Watch!

Here is another video that breaks down modifying sentences even further:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txK\\_5awcCnE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txK_5awcCnE)

### Example 1: Misplaced Modifiers

Misplaced modifiers occur when the modifier is improperly separated from the phrase or clause it modifies or describes. However, misplaced modifiers can be easily revised by a simple change in word order within the sentence. The key is to remember where certain/different modifiers should be placed:

1. Simple adjectives come before the subject:
  - Incorrect: I found a silver woman’s ring.
  - Correct: I found a woman’s silver ring.

Because the word “silver” modifies the “ring,” the modifier is placed before the subject it modifies.

