

English 092 Unit 2.2.1

Modifiers Quick Review

Definition: A modifier is an adjective, adverb, phrase or clause that describes or provides information about (modifies) another word.

1. Misplaced Modifier

When a modifier is not directly next to the word it modifies, the meaning of the sentence can sometimes be unclear. This is called a misplaced modifier. To correct the sentence, move the modifier directly next to the word it modifies.

Example:

Sue bought the cheese from the deli with the holes and strong odour.

Revised to correct misplaced modifier:

Sue bought the cheese with the holes and strong odour from the deli.

2. Dangling Modifier

Dangling modifiers have no clear word to refer to or modify. You will usually need to add a word to clarify who or what the modifier refers to.

Example:

While eating dinner, the phone rang.

Revised to correct dangling modifier:

While I was eating dinner, the phone rang.

Sentences to Practice

1. After eating six bowls of chili, it was hard to sit still.
2. While driving the car, a deer ran across the road.
3. Sue made a sandwich for her husband loaded with cheese and ham.
4. Bob nearly ate three bowls of pasta.
5. Miles saw his wife coming home through the window.