**Misplaced Modifiers**

* **Your Diagnosis.** You have **misplaced modifiers** which is causing confusion in your writing.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. First of all, **what is a modifier**? A **modifier** changes, clarifies, qualifies, or limits a particular word in a sentence in order to add emphasis, explanation, or detail. **Modifiers** tend to be descriptive words, such as **adjectives** and **adverbs**. **Modifier** **phrases**, such as **adjective** **clauses** and **adverbial** **phrases**, also exist and tend to describe **adjectives** and **adverbs**.

**Modifiers** can cause confusion or unintentional humor in a sentence when they are placed too far from the **noun** they are modifying. In order to correct this, you must **move the modifier closer** to the **noun** it modifies.

* **The Cure!** First, identify what is causing confusion. Then, identify the **adjective** or **adverb** or **phrases** that are to blame. You’ll need to **rewrite the sentence to place these modifiers closer to the noun they are modifying.** Review [**this adjectives resource**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035073)and [**this adverbs resource**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035063) if you need to brush up on those terms.

![cartoon-eyes[1]]() **Be on the lookout for…**

**Phrases that are oddly placed:**

* + **EXAMPLE:** The robber was described as a man with a mustache weighing 170 pounds.
		- *His mustache was 170 pounds?*
	+ **REVISED**: The robber was described as a 170 pound man with a mustache.

**Phrases that cause ambiguity:**

* + **EXAMPLE**: The exchange students we met for coffee occasionally asked us about American slang.
		- *The students met with us occasionally or occasionally asked about our slang?*
	+ **REVISED**: The exchange students we occasionally met for coffee asked us about American slang.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page. ![C:\Users\jmillis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WEYT8JLT\Light-Bulb[1].jpg]() 🡪**

**Rewrite the following sentences to correct the misplaced, ambiguous, or awkwardly placed modifiers.**

1. That morning, I shot the deer in my pajamas.
2. My mother asked if I would like a new kitten with great enthusiasm.
3. Instructors who cancel classes rarely are reprimanded.
4. The old Marlboro ads featured a man on a horse smoking a cigarette.
5. She saw a puppy and a kitten on the way to the store.