

Exercise on Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

In the following pairs, one sentence is correct; and the other sentence has a misplaced or a dangling modifier. Mark the CORRECT sentence.

1. A_____ Looking toward the south, a funnel-shaped cloud stirred up the dust.
B_____ Looking toward the south, I saw a funnel-shaped cloud stir up the dust.

Answer A is incorrect. The funnel-shaped cloud was not looking toward the south while it stirred up dust.

Answer B is correct.

2. A_____ They saw a fence made of barbed wire behind the house.
B_____ They saw a fence behind the house made of barbed wire.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The fence, not the house, is made of barbed wire.

3. A_____ After following the vision program for two weeks, my doctor told me that my eyesight had improved.
B_____ After I had followed the vision program for two weeks, my doctor told me that my eyesight had improved.

Answer A is incorrect. The doctor did not follow the vision program.

Answer B is correct.

4. A_____ We saw several birds looking out our window.

B_____ Looking out our window, we saw several birds.

Answer A is incorrect. The birds were not looking out our window. We were looking out our window at the birds.

Answer B is correct.

5. A_____ The four men eating lunch talked quietly in the corner.

B_____ The four men talked quietly in the corner eating lunch.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The men, not the corner, are eating lunch.

6. A_____ Racing across the parking lot, the bus was reached before the door closed.

B_____ Racing across the parking lot, I reached the bus before the door closed

Answer A is incorrect. The bus is not racing across the parking lot.

Answer B is correct.

7. A_____ Being only five, the doctor did not know how to operate on me.

B_____ Because I was only five, the doctor did not know how to operate on me.

Answer A is incorrect. The doctor was not five years old.

Answer B is correct.

8. A_____ Mary nearly watched two hundred movies last year.

B_____ Mary watched nearly two hundred movies last year.

Answer A is incorrect. Mary watched nearly two hundred movies. She did not “nearly watch.”

Answer B is correct.

9. A_____ To enter the contest, you must send an entry form with your slogan.

B_____ To enter the contest, an entry form must be sent with your slogan.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. An entry form is not entering the contest.

10. A_____ I remember seeing the picture of the firefighter who had been injured on the morning news.

B_____ I remember seeing on the morning news the picture of the firefighter who had been injured.

Answer A is incorrect, unless of course, the firefighter was injured on the morning news.

Answer B is correct.