

Sentence problems:

1- Fragments/ run-ons/ comma splices:

• Comma Splices

It occurs when two independent clauses are joined with a comma that is not followed by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet)

Examples:

the snow needs to be shoveled, get going on it right away

I had class at 9a.m., I woke up at noon.

• Run-On Sentences

A run-on sentence (sometimes called a “fused sentence”) results when two complete thoughts (a.k.a. “independent clauses”) are joined without any punctuation separating them. Hence, your sentence just runs on and on...

Example: I had class early this morning I woke up at noon.

Solutions for Revising Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences:

1. Separate sentences with a period:

I had class early this morning. I woke up at noon.

2. Join sentences with a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction:

I had class early this morning, but I woke up at noon.

3. Join sentences with a semicolon:

I had class early this morning; I woke up at noon.

4. Join sentences with a semicolon followed by a conjunctive adverb:

I had class early this morning; however, I woke up at noon.

5. Join sentences using a subordinating conjunction:

Although I had class early this morning, I woke up at noon.

• Sentence Fragments

Fragments results when an incomplete thought is punctuated as if it were complete sentence.

Sentence Fragment: *Down by the bay.*

That looks like a complete sentence because it begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, but it is not. It begs the question, what is down by the bay?

Fragments can happen for a lot reasons (maybe there is no subject, maybe there is no verb, or maybe you've written a modifying phrase that isn't actually modifying anything). The previous example could be edited many different ways to achieve a complete sentence, but here's one example:

Correction: *The blue heron landed down by the bay.*

Now I have both a subject ("blue heron") and a verb ("landed").

2- Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers

A modifier is a phrase or word meant to describe or explain part of a sentence. When modifiers are used correctly, the meaning of the sentence is clear. When modifiers are used incorrectly the meaning of the sentence can change drastically. Using modifiers correctly will improve the clarity of your work. Watch out for the two modifier mistakes:

- Dangling Modifiers
- Misplaced Modifiers

Dangling Modifiers

"A dangling modifier is a word or word group that refers to (or modifies) a word or phrase that has not been clearly stated in the sentence" (Harris 118). When a sentence begins with a phrase that is not directly connected to the subject that it refers to, that phrase is "dangling." The following are examples of incorrect modifiers and how to correct a dangling modifier:

Examples:

Incorrect: Driving past The Bread Box Café, the sun peeked through the clouds.

This sentence implies that the sun was the "doer of the action", that the sun was driving past The Break Box Café.

Correct: Driving past The Bread Box Café, Suzanne saw the sun peek through the clouds.

Incorrect: Having just met the new roommates, it was certain that this year would come down to survival of the fittest.

In this sentence the subject “it” takes on the action of “having just met the new roommates.”

Correct: Having just met the new roommates, Joey was certain that this year would come down to survival of the fittest.

Misplaced Modifiers

“A misplaced modifier is a word or word group placed so far away from what it refers to (or modifies) that the reader may be confused. Modifiers should be placed as closely as possible to the words they modify in order to keep the meaning clear” (Harris 120). The following are examples of incorrect modifiers and how to correct a misplaced modifier:

Examples:

Incorrect: The Girl Scouts went wild when they were told that they had raised one million dollars by selling cookies at the troop meeting.

The way this sentence is written means that during the troop meeting the Girl Scouts raised one million dollars. However, “at the troop meeting” should actually refer to where “they were told.”

Correct: The Girl Scouts went wild when they were told at the troop meeting that they had raised one million dollars by selling cookies.

Misplaced modifiers can also be just one word. These are some of the frequently misplaced one-word modifiers: almost, even, hardly, just merely, nearly, only (Harris 121). Changing the location of these individual words changes the meaning of the sentence.

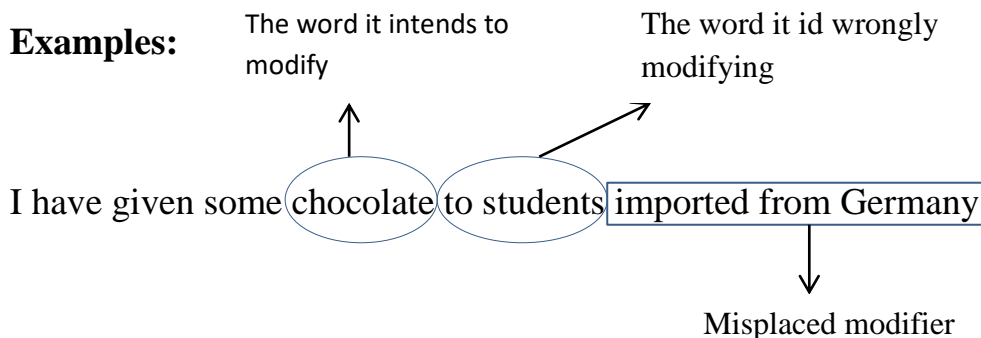
Example: The student passed almost all of her classes.

This sentence means that she passed *most* of her classes, but not all of them.

The student almost passed all of her classes.

This sentence means that she came close to passing all of her classes but didn’t actually pass any of them.

Examples:



Thinking about the story, the movie started

Dangling modifier

It is a dangling modifier since the sentence does not have the word or words the modifier can or intends to modify

Misplaced modifier	Dangling modifier
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The intended word or words to modify is there in the sentence 2. It does not need any extra word/ words to correct the sentence. 3. It is corrected by placing the intended word or words next to the modifier. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sentence doesn't have the intended word or words to modify. 2. It needs the intended word or words to be infused in the sentence, close to the modifier. 3. It is corrected by either infusing the intended word/ words next to the modifier or changing the participle phrase (working as a modifier) into a dependent clause.

Misplaced modifier	Dangling modifier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found my phone walking down the road. <p>Walking down the road, I found my phone .</p> <p>I, walking down the road, found my phone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While talking over the phone, the train left. • While talking over the phone, I missed the train. • While/When I was talking over the phone, the train left.