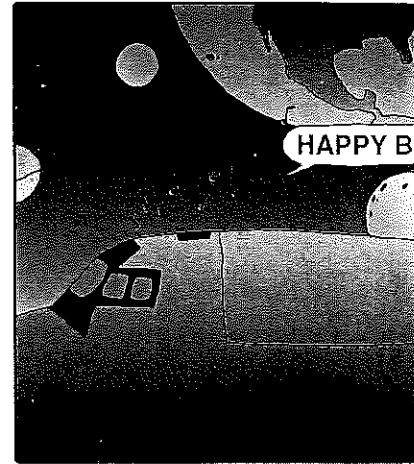


# Misplaced Modifiers

Modifiers are words, phrases, and clauses that describe the simple subject or simple predicate of the sentence. The key to using modifiers effectively is to make sure that you place them as close as possible to the words they modify. Misplacing the modifier makes the sentence confusing and sometimes silly. (Turn to page 91 in *Write Source 2000* to examine misplaced modifiers in more detail.)



## EXAMPLE

*Confusing Sentence:*

**John Glenn returned to space shortly after turning 77 on October 29, 1998.**  
(It sounds as if John Glenn turned 77 on October 29, 1998.)

*Clear Sentence:*

**Shortly after turning 77, John Glenn returned to space on October 29, 1998.**

## Directions

Rewrite the following sentences to correct the misplaced modifiers. The first one has been done for you.

- John Glenn relaxed on the day before the flight with his family.

*On the day before the flight, John Glenn relaxed with his family.*

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- He was eager to begin his second flight into space with all the media in attendance.
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- 

- After being away from flight for many years, the new space program was an opportunity that Glenn couldn't resist.
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4. The space crew spent the morning adjusting their bulky space suits along with John Glenn.

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5. Because he's the oldest American astronaut to fly in space, one reporter is planning to publish a book about John Glenn and his flight.

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6. Many local residents were able to watch the launch of the space shuttle from their own backyards.

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7. Wearing bulky space suits, the ground crew helped the astronauts board the shuttle.

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8. The president of the United States came to watch the space shuttle lift off with a congressional delegation.

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Next Step John Glenn was the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the earth. Using the Internet or other research tools, find out more about him and his career. Then write a paragraph about your findings. Ask a classmate to check your writing for misplaced modifiers.