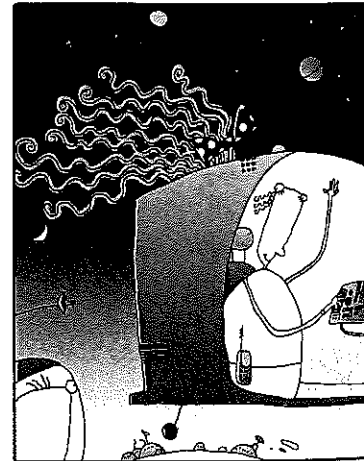


# Misplaced Modifiers

Making certain your sentences are clear is a critical part of writing well. **Misplaced modifiers** occur when a modifying word or phrase is placed too far away from the word it modifies in the sentence. When that happens, either the modifier seems to modify a word that it cannot sensibly modify, or it is left without any word to modify at all. (For more information, turn to page 91 in *Write Source 2000*.)



## EXAMPLE

*Misplaced Modifier:*

**People driving a car with long hair should keep their windows closed.**

(The sentence incorrectly states that the car has long hair.)

*Corrected Version:*

**People with long hair should keep their windows closed while driving a car.**

(It is now clear that it is people who have long hair.)

## Directions

Rewrite each of the sentences below. Correct the errors in modifiers by moving the modifier closer to the word it should modify or by adding or changing words in the sentence. The first sentence has been done for you.

- The girl in the car with long blond hair waved at Alex.

*The girl with long blond hair waved at Alex from the car.*

---

- Screaming and shrieking, I discovered the boy running down the highway.
- 
- 

- To make the team, coaches recommend that you practice long and hard.
- 
-

4. I chased Dan as he jogged around the track on my scooter.

---

---

5. I could see Mrs. Smith trimming her flowers from the open doorway.

---

---

6. Hanging on for dear life, the bicycle crashed into the shrubbery.

---

---

7. Wandering down the hall, the baked chicken smelled wonderful.

---

---

8. To achieve good grades, teachers will tell you to listen carefully.

---

---

9. Buried under a pile of clothes, I found my old sweater.

---

---



Next Step Explain why a favorite fictional character from a book, a film, or a TV program appeals to you. Underline each modifying phrase you use and draw an arrow from the phrase to the word it modifies. Avoid any misplaced or dangling modifiers.