

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

Directions: Choose the sentence that expresses the thought most clearly and effectively and that has no errors in structure.

1.
 - A. Filled with fat, Marjorie refused to eat the cheese.
 - B. Marjorie, filled with fat, refused to eat the cheese.
 - C. Marjorie refused to eat the cheese, filled with fat.

2.
 - A. To make sure the package arrives on time, it should be sent express mail.
 - B. To make sure the package arrives on time, send it express mail.
 - C. To make sure the package arrives on time, express mail is the best way to send it.

3.
 - A. Pulling out of the mall parking lot, the traffic kept me from being able to make a left turn.
 - B. Pulling out of the mall parking lot, a left turn was difficult to make because of all of the traffic.
 - C. Pulling out of the mall parking lot, I found it difficult to make a left turn because of all of the traffic.

4.
 - A. The teacher promptly administered the test at the stroke of twelve.
 - B. The teacher administered the test promptly at the stroke of twelve.
 - C. Promptly the teacher administered the test at the stroke of twelve.

5.
 - A. After passing the GKT, Geraldine's classes were available at the University of Florida.
 - B. After passing the GKT, classes at the University of Florida were available for Geraldine.
 - C. After Geraldine passed the GKT, she was able to take classes at the University of Florida.

6.
 - A. After taking the three-day workshops, comma rules were less confusing for Jerrod.
 - B. After taking the three-day workshops, the rules for commas were less confusing for Jerrod.
 - C. After taking the three-day workshops, Jerrod found the comma rules less confusing.
7.
 - A. Nedra finished the research project for her class that was due tomorrow.
 - B. Nedra finished the research project that was due tomorrow for her class.
 - C. Due tomorrow, Nedra finished the research project.
8.
 - A. Picking up his whistle in his baggy swimsuit, the lifeguard blew it.
 - B. The lifeguard, picking up his whistle in his baggy swimsuit, blew it.
 - C. The lifeguard in the baggy swimsuit picked up his whistle and blew it.
9.
 - A. Full of fear, Joe grabbed the fire extinguisher when his sizzling steak burst into flames.
 - B. Joe grabbed the fire extinguisher full of fear when his sizzling steak burst into flames.
 - C. Joe grabbed the fire extinguisher when his sizzling steak burst into flames full of fear.
10.
 - A. Swerving erratically, the '98 Acura drew the attention of a Florida Highway Patrol officer.
 - B. Swerving erratically, a Florida Highway Patrol officer noticed the '98 Acura.
 - C. Swerving erratically, the driver of the '98 Acura drew the attention of a Florida Highway Patrol officer.

Answers: 1. c, 2. b, 3. c, 4. b, 5. c, 6. c, 7. b, 8. c, 9. a, 10. a

If you have further questions about this skill or about the answers to this exercise, please visit the Learning Commons or sign up for a live Brainfuse conference.