

Name:

Date:

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

Practice

A **misplaced modifier** is too far away from the word it modifies. To correct a misplaced modifier, rewrite the sentence with the modifier in the correct place. A **dangling modifier** does not make sense because the word it should modify is not in the sentence. You will need to rewrite a sentence slightly to correct a dangling modifier. Dangling and misplaced modifiers can be words, phrases, or clauses.

Misplaced modifier: The student has checked out that book **with the red hair**.

Correct modifier: The student **with the red hair** has checked out that book.

Dangling modifier: **After losing his sight, Milton's** Sonnet XIX was written.

Correct modifier: **After losing his sight, Milton** wrote his Sonnet XIX.

A Underline the misplaced modifier in each sentence. Then, rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. The librarian will show you books about Milton at the information desk.

2. Every student almost has read something written by Milton.

3. We learned that Milton was married three times in class.

B Fix each dangling modifier. You will have to change the wording slightly.

1. Reading Milton's sonnets, the footnotes helped me.

2. Expelled from school, the conflict Milton had was with a tutor.

3. Married to Mary Powell, her entire family moved into the poet's home.

Answers:

1. **Reading Milton's sonnets, I found the footnotes helpful.**
 2. **Expelled from school, Milton had a conflict with a tutor.**
 3. **Married to Mary Powell, Milton had her entire family move into his home.**
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Assess

A Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What is the misplaced modifier in this sentence?

Famous for centuries, we are studying Milton in literature class.

- A. studying
B. Famous for centuries
C. we are studying Milton in literature
D. in literature class

2. What is the dangling modifier in this sentence?

After losing his sight, Milton's third wife and daughters recorded his verses.

- A. After losing his sight
B. his sight
C. Milton's third wife and daughters recorded
D. his verses

3. In which sentence is the modifier placed correctly?

- A. During the reign of Charles II, Milton was imprisoned.
B. During the reign of Charles II, we learned that Milton was imprisoned.

B Rewrite each sentence to fix the misplaced or dangling modifier.

1. Reserved, Milton's popularity while in school was not very great.

2. Regarded as one of England's greatest poets, we studied Milton's sonnets last week.

3. Milton's wife soon returned to her family, who was seventeen when they married.

4. In spite of his gentle appearance, our teacher said that Milton was a willful student.

5. Sonnets are not Milton's most well known work, with their fourteen lines.

Answers:

1. **Reserved, Milton's popularity was not very great while he was in school.**
 2. **Regarded as one of England's greatest poets, Milton's sonnets were studied by us last week.**
 3. **Milton's wife soon returned to her family, and she was seventeen when they married.**
 4. **In spite of his gentle appearance, our teacher said that Milton was actually a willful student.**
 5. **Sonnets, with their fourteen lines, are not Milton's most well-known work.**
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