

Advanced 2
Workbook, Unit 3: Language Focus 3
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Dangling Modifiers

dangling = not fixed; hanging; suspended

Dangling modifiers are phrases that are not clearly or logically related to the word they are intended to modify. They can lead to confusion or unintended meanings.

Point:

Whenever we use an adverbial phrase in a sentence, the implied subject of the adverbial phrase needs to be the same as the subject of the sentence. If the two subjects are different, the adverbial phrase is called “a dangling modifier”.

Point:

An appropriate method to solve this problem is converting the sentence from active to passive or vice versa.

Examples:

Wrong: Having scored a very beautiful goal for Liverpool, the spectators applauded Mohamed Salah for ten minutes nonstop.

The Implied Subject of the Adverbial Phrase: Mohamed Salah

The Subject of the Sentence: Spectators

The two subjects don't match and are different; therefore, we have a dangling modifier.

Right: Having scored a very beautiful goal for Liverpool, Mohamed Salah was applauded by the spectators for ten minutes nonstop.

Wrong: Having arrived in the city, a taxi took me to the hotel.

The Implied Subject of the Adverbial Phrase: I

The Subject of the Sentence: a taxi

The two subjects don't match and are different; therefore, we have a dangling modifier.

Right: Having arrived in the city, I was taken to the hotel by a taxi.

More Examples:

1. **Dangling Modifier:** “Walking through the park, the trees looked beautiful.”
 - **Issue:** The modifier “walking through the park” doesn't logically connect to “the trees.”
 - **Correction:** “While walking through the park, I noticed that the trees looked beautiful.”

2. **Dangling Modifier:** “Having studied all night, the exam was challenging.”
 - **Issue:** The modifier “having studied all night” should logically modify the person who studied (I), not the exam.
 - **Correction:** “Having studied all night, I found the exam challenging.”

3. **Dangling Modifier:** “Being late, the bus was missed.”
 - **Issue:** The modifier “being late” doesn’t logically connect to “the bus.”
 - **Correction:** “Being late, I missed the bus.”

4. **Dangling Modifier:** “With a broken leg, the marathon was impossible.”
 - **Issue:** The modifier “with a broken leg” should logically modify the person (I), not the marathon.
 - **Correction:** “Because I had a broken leg, running the marathon was impossible.”

Point:

Remember that clear placement of modifiers ensures that your sentences convey the intended meaning without confusion.

Source:

[Advanced 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)