

## Dangling Modifiers

A **dangling modifier** is a word, phrase, or clause that does not logically modify any word in the sentence. Unlike a sentence with a misplaced modifier, a sentence with a dangling modifier is often missing some important information—most commonly the subject of the sentence. Or if the subject is stated at all, it is buried in the sentence as a direct object.

▮▮▮▶ Correct a dangling modifier by rewording the sentence. Add a word or words that the phrase or clause can modify.

**DANGLING** Looking out my kitchen window, two foxes ran across the yard.

**CORRECT** When I looked out my kitchen window, I saw two foxes run across the yard.

**DANGLING** After searching for hours, the missing letter turned up on my dresser.

**CORRECT** After searching for hours, I found the missing letter on my dresser.

### TEST-TAKING TIP

A dangling modifier is a frequently-tested sentence error. You can recognize one by asking yourself if a nonessential phrase or clause describes the noun nearest it. See item 5 on page 313.

### EXERCISE 10 Editing Sentences

On a separate piece of paper, rewrite each sentence to correct dangling modifiers.

1. After agreeing to a cease-fire, the fighting began again.
2. Having crossed the finish line, the spectators watched as the exhausted skier collapsed.
3. Flapping in the breeze, I watched the towels on the clothesline.
4. After hiking in the darkness for half the night, the sun finally rose.
5. Sitting alone in the house, every noise seemed suspicious.
6. Before ending the discussion, the budget cuts came up.
7. Flying south for the winter, we saw several flocks of geese.
8. While racing for the train, the man's hat blew off his head.
9. Before leaving for the play, dinner was served.
10. After studying hard all year, a good grade was earned.