

4.6 Clarity - Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

↔?Adjective?⇒ The ↔?Adjective?⇒ marks -ing words and phrases that serve as nouns or as adjectives.

Check to be certain that the -ing adjective word or phrase is positioned immediately before or after the word that it modifies/tells about.

If the -ing word/phrase is a subject or an object, it is a noun.

No need to revise

If the -ing word/phrase is not a noun, it is an adjective.

You MAY need to revise

If the adjective -ing word/phrase is not right before or after the word that it modifies,
the sentence must be revised.

If there is no word that the -ing word/phrase could modify,
the sentence must be revised to include a word that the -ing word/phrase can modify.

Only sentences with "-ing" modifiers are printed. (If an "-ing" word is accompanied by a "to be" verb within the previous three words, the "-ing" word serves as part of a verb phrase. These "-ing" words are not modifiers; therefore, they are not printed.)

More Information

Misplaced Modifier My assistant saw my mistakes ↔?Adjective?⇒ typing my manuscript.

Revision **Typing** my manuscript, my assistant saw my mistakes. OR
My assistant, **typing** my manuscript, saw my mistakes.

Dangling Modifier My mistakes were easy to see ↔?Adjective?⇒ typing my manuscript.

Revision **Typing** my manuscript, I easily saw my mistakes. OR
I, **typing** my manuscript, easily saw my mistakes.

Procedure

First part of the symbol = ?Adjective?

?Adjective?: Is the -ing word or phrase an adjective?

Step 1: Is the -ing word/phrase any of the following?

Subject of the verb

Object of the verb

Object of an infinitive (to + a verb)

Object of a preposition (of, with, in, of,)

If the -ing word/phrase is a subject or an object, it is a noun.

The answer to ?Adjective? is "No."

The -ing word/phrase is not an adjective; it is a noun.

No need to revise

If the -ing word/phrase is not a noun, it is an adjective.

The answer to ?Adjective? is "Yes."

The -ing word/phrase is an adjective.

You MAY need to revise

Second part of the symbol = ↔ ⇒

↔ ⇒: Is the adjective word or phrase right before or after the word that it modifies or describes?

Step 2: If the -ing word/phrase is not right before or after the word that it modifies, move the -ing phrase.

If there is no word that the -ing word/phrase could modify, revise the sentence to include a word that the -ing word/phrase can modify.

Writer's Workbench found **14 -ing word(s) and/or phrase(s).**

The tempest offers a wild ↔?Adjective?⇒beginning for Prospero's work.

A return to the tempest scene should reveal more themes ↔?Adjective?⇒regarding art which will continue to advance the action.

The ↔?Adjective?⇒devastating power of passion becomes clear in the action of the King's men, especially Antonio and Sebastian.

As well as **↔Adjective?⇒being** the absence of external noise, it presupposes an interior order capable of **↔Adjective?⇒reaching** out to chaos and **↔Adjective?⇒unifying** it.

↔Adjective?⇒Living on a primitive island for twelve years, Prospero has done nothing but indulge his whims in “rough magic.”

The end of the tempest scene, too, as well as its characters, has went to a further **↔Adjective?⇒bearing** on the **↔Adjective?⇒beginning** of the creative process.

The characters scatter, **↔Adjective?⇒losing** contact with each other.

The **↔Adjective?⇒resulting** suspense gives a **↔Adjective?⇒feeling** of incompleteness, but as the next scene opens, the **↔Adjective?⇒controlling** factor of the tempest is revealed.

Prospero, then, enters into the crisis of his life as a man and as an artist by **↔Adjective?⇒creating** a tempest.