

Misplaced Modifiers

Using Humor to Teach Complicated Grammar Rules



Institute for
Excellence in
Writing

Listen. Speak. Read. Write. Think!

© 2019 Institute for Excellence in Writing, L.L.C.



He wore a straw hat on his head,
which was obviously too small.

Corrections



Although exhausted and weary, the coach kept yelling, "Another lap!"

Corrections



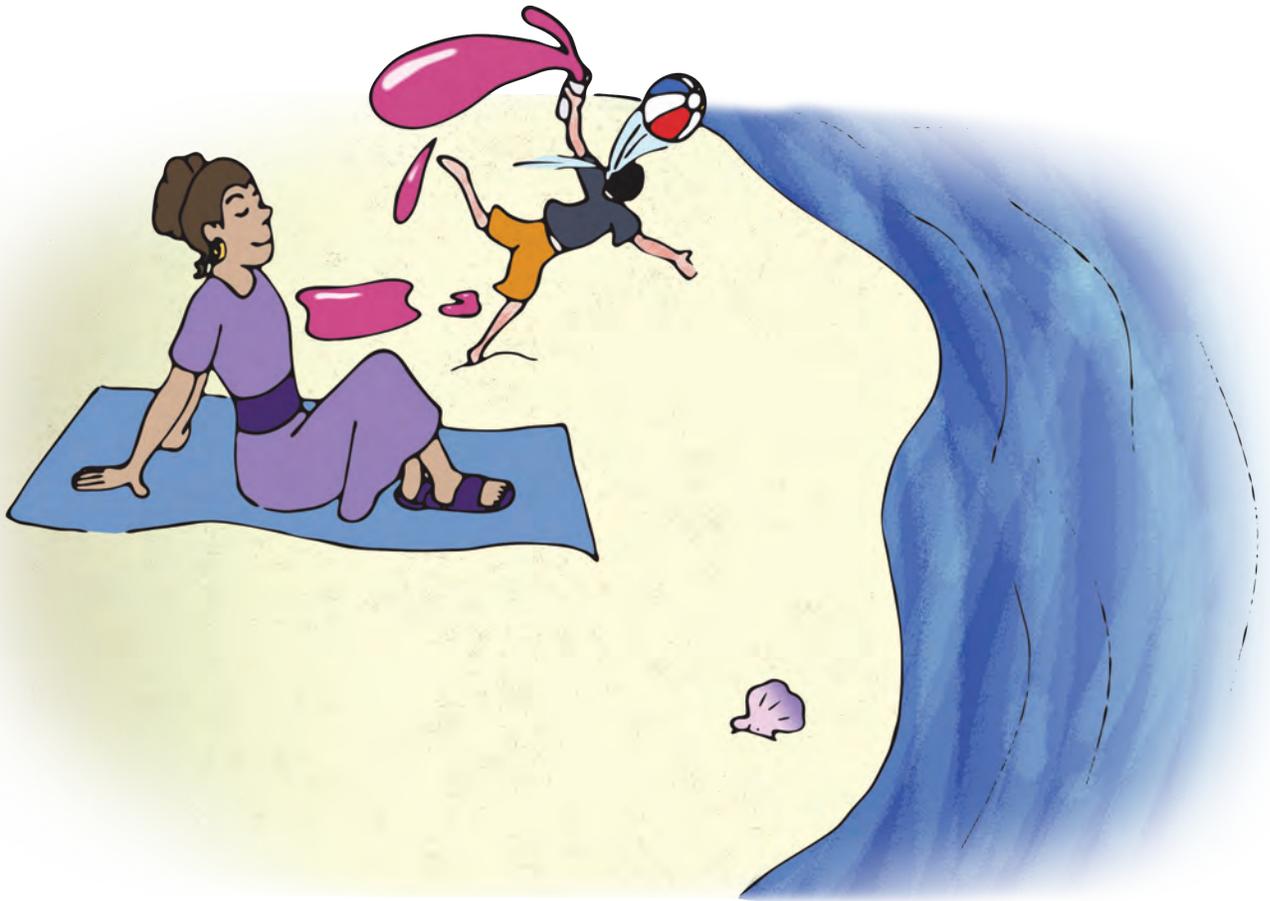
Hanging in the art gallery, my friend
was delighted by the painting.

Corrections



Diego found a tiny tree taking a walk in the park.

Corrections



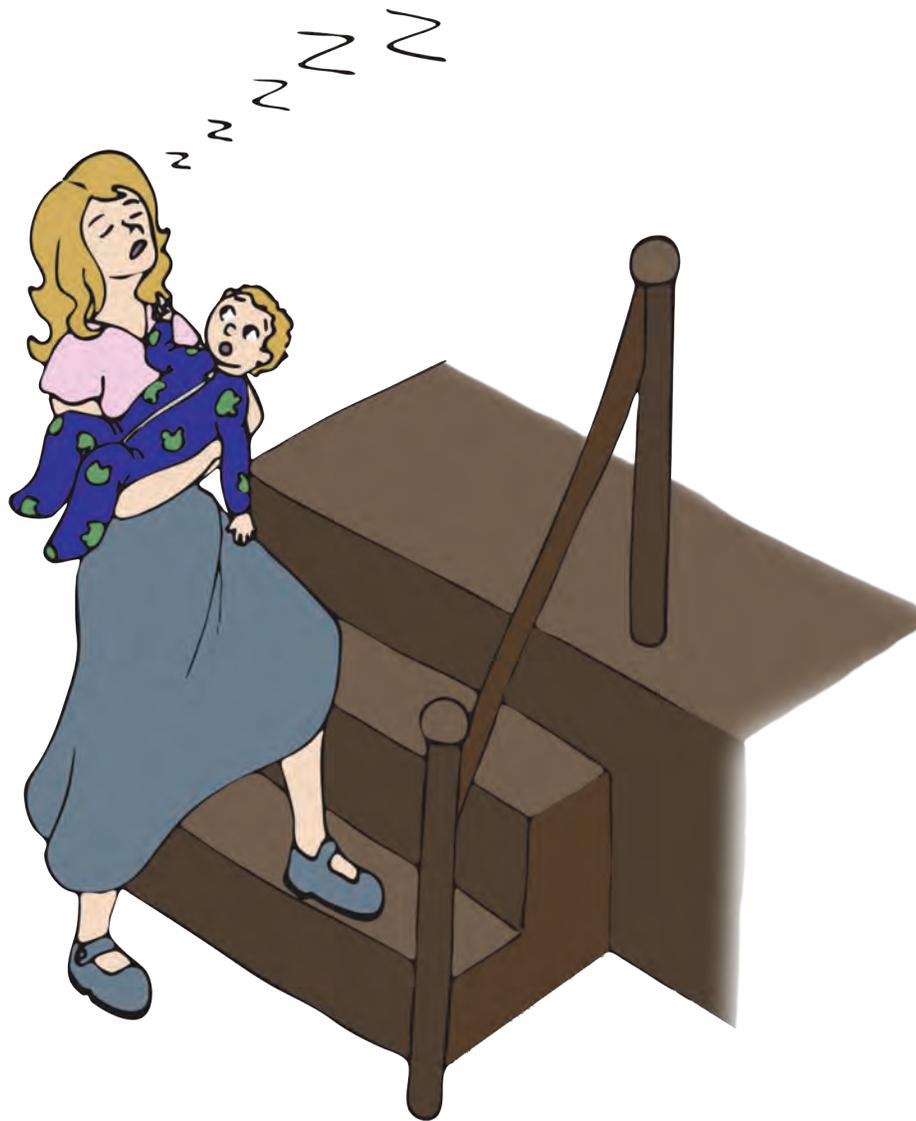
Sarah wore her favorite dress to the beach,
which unfortunately got splashed with juice.

Corrections



We saw a lighthouse shining from the boat deck.

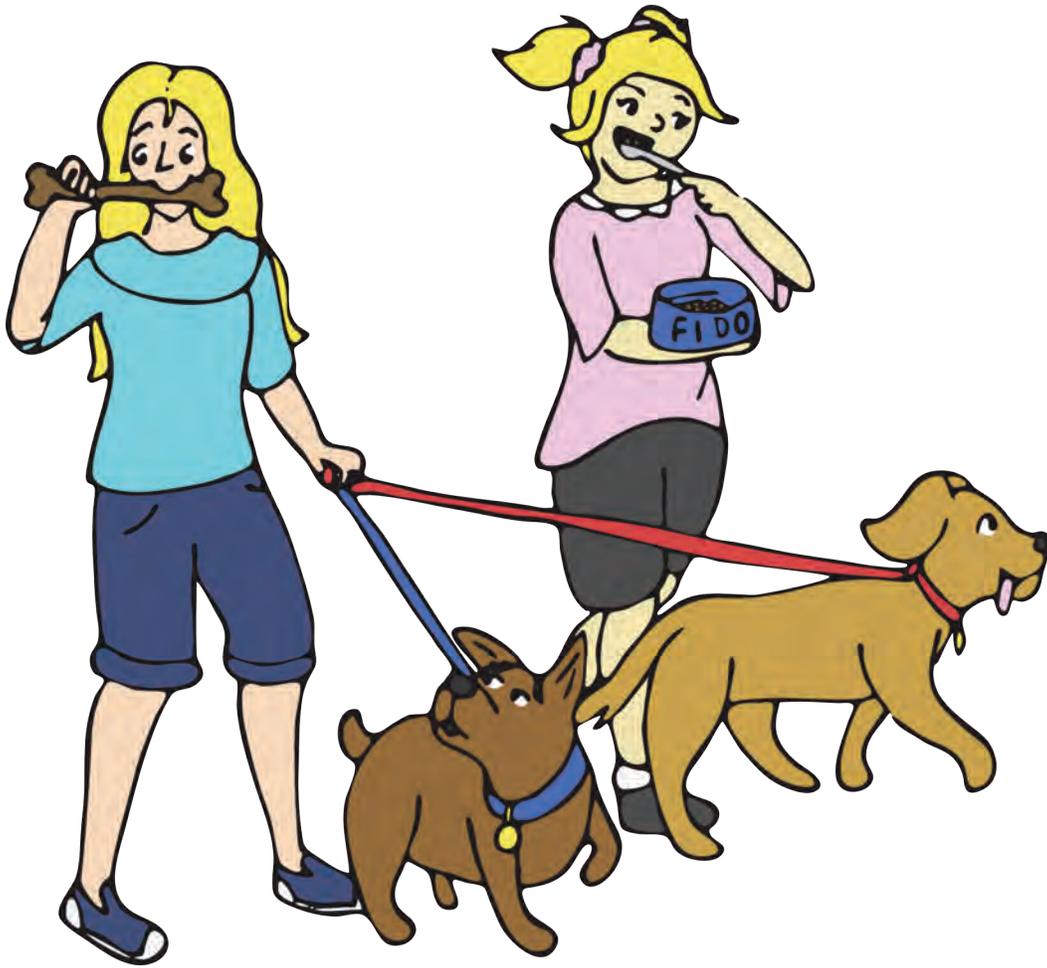
Corrections



Sleeping peacefully, the mother carried the boy up to his bed for the night.

Thanks, Trisha S., for sharing this sentence!

Corrections



After eating all their food, we took the dogs for a walk.

Corrections



On his way to school, a lizard passed Lee on the path.

Corrections



Being thoroughly labeled, Janice put the supplies away correctly.

Corrections



Sticking to the side of the aquarium,
Joey counted six suckerfish.

Thanks, Lanette D., for sharing this sentence!

Corrections



Colorfully sprinkled, the children devoured the freshly baked cupcakes.

Corrections



Winning third place in the Dog Show,
I gave my Chihuahua a special treat.

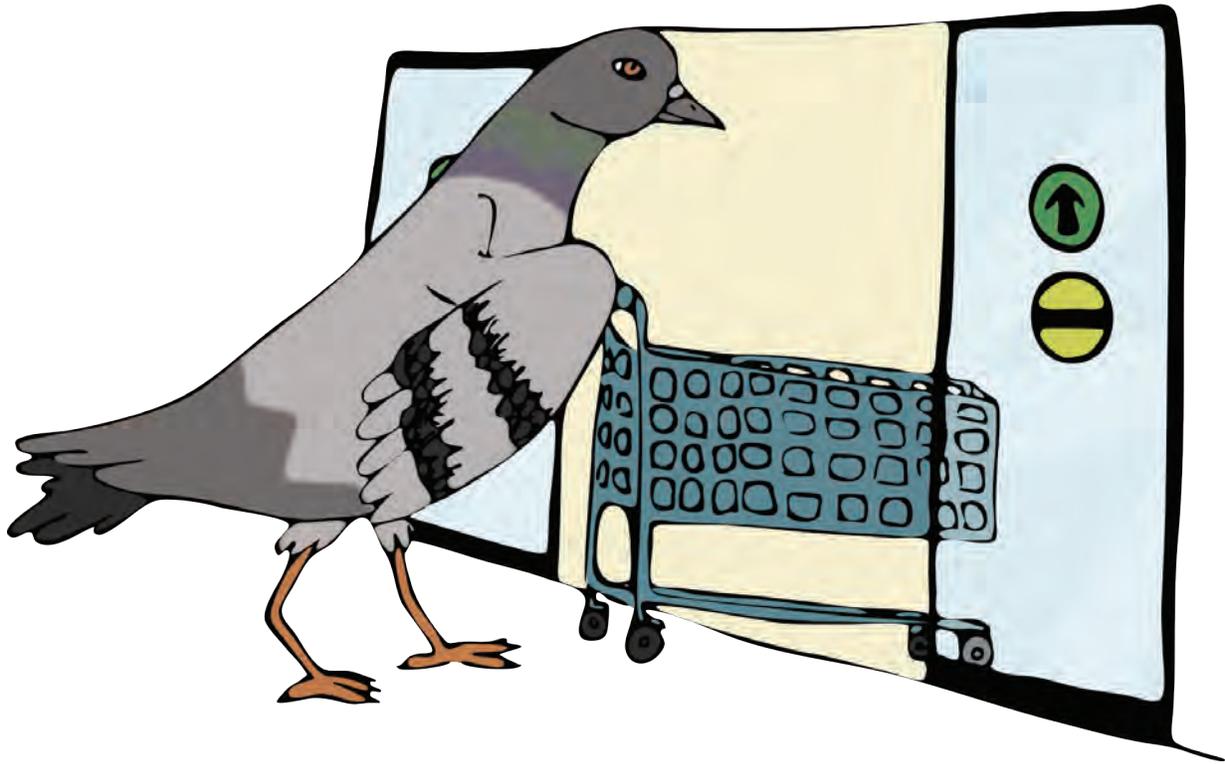
Corrections



We saw lions, giraffes, and zebras enjoying the safari.

Corrections

CRUMBS & STUFF



Jillian spied a giant bird walking into the store.

Corrections



Well buttered, I handed the piece of toast to my mother.

Corrections



The caring grandmother passed out sandwiches to all the kids in paper sacks.

Corrections



Joe fled from the snarling dog riding a bike.

Corrections



Setting nearby brushwood on fire, a park ranger confronted the clumsy camper.

Corrections



He served filet mignon to the dignitaries on white paper plates.

Corrections



Carmen spotted a kangaroo hiking in the woods.

Corrections



The sign was reported vandalized
by the local news last week.

Corrections



Rushing toward the goal, the photographer snapped a picture of our team's star striker.

Corrections

Sample Corrections



Incorrect

He wore a straw hat on his head, which was obviously too small.

Sample Correction

On his head he wore a straw hat, which was obviously too small.



Incorrect

Although exhausted and weary, the coach kept yelling, "Another lap!"

Sample Correction

Although exhausted and weary, the runners obeyed the coach, who kept yelling, "Another lap!"



Incorrect

Hanging in the art gallery, my friend was delighted by the painting.

Sample Correction

My friend was delighted by the painting, which was hanging in the art gallery.



Incorrect

Diego found a tiny tree taking a walk in the park.

Sample Correction

Taking a walk in the park, Diego found a tiny tree.



Incorrect

Sarah wore her favorite dress to the beach, which unfortunately got splashed with juice.

Sample Correction

Sarah wore her favorite dress, which unfortunately had been splashed with juice, to the beach.



Incorrect

We saw a lighthouse shining from the boat deck.

Sample Correction

From the boat deck we saw a lighthouse shining.



Incorrect

Sleeping peacefully, the mother carried the boy up to his bed for the night.

Sample Correction

His mother carried the peacefully sleeping boy up to bed.



Incorrect

After eating all their food, we took the dogs for a walk.

Sample Correction

We took the dogs for a walk after they ate all their food.



Incorrect

On his way to school, a lizard passed Lee on the path.

Sample Correction

On his way to school, Lee passed a lizard on the path.



Incorrect

Being thoroughly labeled, Janice put the supplies away correctly.

Sample Correction

Janice put the thoroughly labeled supplies away correctly.



Incorrect

Sticking to the side of the aquarium, Joey counted six suckerfish.

Sample Correction

Joey counted six suckerfish sticking to the side of the aquarium.



Incorrect

Colorfully sprinkled, the children devoured the freshly baked cupcakes.

Sample Correction

The children devoured the freshly baked cupcakes, which were colorfully sprinkled.



Incorrect

Winning third place in the Dog Show, I gave my Chihuahua a special treat.

Sample Correction

Because my Chihuahua won third place in the Dog Show, I gave her a special treat.



Incorrect

We saw lions, giraffes, and zebras enjoying the safari.

Sample Correction

Enjoying the safari, we saw lions, giraffes, and zebras.



Incorrect

Jillian spied a giant bird walking into the store.

Sample Correction

Walking into the store, Jillian spied a giant bird.



Incorrect

Well buttered, I handed the piece of toast to my mother.

Sample Correction

I handed the well-buttered piece of toast to my mother.



Incorrect

The caring grandmother passed out sandwiches to all the kids in paper sacks.

Sample Correction

The caring grandmother passed out sandwiches in paper sacks to all the kids.



Incorrect

Joe fled from the snarling dog riding a bike.

Sample Correction

Joe fled from the snarling dog by riding a bike.



Incorrect

Setting nearby brushwood on fire, a park ranger confronted the clumsy camper.

Sample Correction

A park ranger confronted the clumsy camper, who was setting nearby brushwood on fire.



Incorrect

He served filet mignon to the dignitaries on white paper plates.

Sample Correction

He served the dignitaries filet mignon on white paper plates.



Incorrect

Carmen spotted a kangaroo hiking in the woods.

Sample Correction

Hiking in the woods, Carmen spotted a kangaroo.



Incorrect

The sign was reported vandalized by the local news last week.

Sample Correction

Last week, the local news reported that the sign had been vandalized.



Incorrect

Rushing toward the goal, the photographer snapped a picture of our team's star striker.

Sample Correction

As our team's star striker rushed toward the goal, the photographer snapped a picture of him.



Thank you to IEW's graphic designer, Laura Holmes, for creating this book!



Laura Holmes was raised in Minnesota and is the youngest of three children. She developed a love for creative expression early on and began producing her own class newspaper at the age of six. Since then, Laura received her BA in Communications from the Moody Bible Institute and published her first children's book, which she both wrote and illustrated. With more books in the works, she intends to make writing a lifelong pursuit. In her free time Laura enjoys drinking tea, reading books, and playing board games.



Institute for
Excellence in
Writing

Listen. Speak. Read. Write. Think!

IEW.com
800.856.5815