EXERCISE B: Identifying and Correcting Run-on Sentences. Some of the following sentences are correct; others are run-ons. Write complete on your paper if the sentence is correct as written. If it is a run-on, correct it. Use each of the four methods for correcting run-ons at least twice.

1. I looked down the well was apparently dry.
2. We read the Preamble to the Constitution, our group felt anew the power of those words.
3. What a beautiful garden on the right the hedge has been shaped into mythical creatures.
4. During my free period I wanted to rest my busy schedule would not give me time later.
5. I mislaid my car keys, my house keys were also gone.
6. We admired the Wedgwood its delicate motifs on the blue background made it a beautiful ornament.
7. Talia threw away the check, but she eventually recovered it.
8. I generally liked the climate of the area where I lived I did not enjoy the subfreezing temperatures of winter.
9. Everyone should know simple courtesies, however the number of rude people proves that many do not.
10. I concocted my own spicy chili to eat it one needs an iron stomach.
11. The boy had trouble with the decimal point when multiplying a problem he always put it in the wrong place.
12. A furrier in New York was robbed; the alarm system had been professionally deactivated.
13. During natural disasters, the Red Cross provides aid, it gives food, blankets, and emergency care to the victims.
14. The thermometer broke, the mercury spilled onto the floor.
15. The fortress had stood impregnable for decades no marauding forces had broken through its walls.
16. It is expressly forbidden by law to litter freeways, nevertheless, they are covered by paper.
17. The peacock spread his feathers, and with pride he paraded in front of the hen.
18. Overalls have been popular recently many high school and college students wear them.
19. My cousin has bowled a perfect game once in his life; his teammate has also.
20. Riding a rickshaw in the Orient was more frightening than driving a car, we careened around corners and wound our way through the rush of traffic.

APPLICATION: Locating and Correcting Fragments and Run-ons. The following selection contains some fragments and run-ons. Write correct on your paper if the numbered sequence contains no errors. If it does contain an error, correct the sentence.

(1) Mosquitoes, those nasty little insects whose bites cause our skin to swell and itch. (2) They inhabit every state in the Union and most areas of the world. (3) Actually the bites should not be considered mere irritants they lead to many deaths every year. (4) These insects transmit many ailments. (5) Temporary insanity, filariasis, and many types of viral and bacterial infections. (6) Of course, mosquitoes must bite to survive, the females need the protein from the blood to produce their eggs. (7) The females weighing one ten-thousandth of an ounce when unfed and tripling that after a single bite. (8) One of nature’s greatest achievements, the two intricate pumps inside the female’s head. (9) They draw the blood to produce seventy-five eggs, only one bite is necessary. (10) Much has been done to halt the growth of mosquitoes, nothing, however, has been discovered that completely eradicates these insects.

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

To insure logical sentence construction and clear writing, careful writers put modifiers as close as possible to the words they modify. When modifiers are misplaced or left dangling, the result is often ludicrous or hopelessly confusing. This section will show you methods for correcting these errors.

Misplaced Modifiers

Misplaced modifiers occur when the modifier is placed too far from the word it should modify.

A misplaced modifier seems to modify the wrong word in the sentence.

Any phrase or clause that acts as an adjective or adverb can unintentionally be misplaced in a sentence.

MISPLACED MODIFIERS: A bicyclist ran into a fence riding in the race.

We heard the telephone ring while watching TV.
To correct the type of error shown in the preceding examples, move the phrase or clause so that it is closer to the word it actually modifies.

**CORRECTED SENTENCES:** A bicyclist **riding in the race** ran into a fence.

**While watching TV,** we heard the telephone ring.

One variation of the misplaced modifier is the **squinting modifier**—a phrase or clause that appears to modify two words at once.

**SQUINTING MODIFIER:** He heard **after he was married** that things would change.

The clause **after he was married** could modify either the verb **heard** or the verb phrase **would change.** To clarify the sentence, simply move the clause so that it clearly modifies one part of the sentence or the other.

**CORRECTED SENTENCES:** **After he was married,** he heard that things would change.

He heard that things would change **after he was married.**

**EXERCISE A:** Identifying and Correcting Misplaced Modifiers.
Each of the following sentences contains a misplaced modifier. Find it and rewrite the sentence correctly.

9. The apartment buildings on the ground from the airplane looked small.
10. Covered with mold, he threw out the cheese.

### Dangling Modifiers

With misplaced modifiers, the word that needs to be modified can be found within the sentence; with **dangling modifiers,** however, the word that should be modified is missing completely from the sentence.

A **dangling modifier** seems to modify the wrong word or no word at all because the word it should modify has been omitted from the sentence.

Dangling modifiers are corrected by either adding the missing word to the main clause or rephrasing the modifier to include the missing word. The following examples show the most common kinds of dangling modifiers and the methods for correcting them.

**DANGLING PARTICIPIAL PHRASE:** *Casting the play carefully,* a fine group of actors and actresses was chosen.

**CORRECTED SENTENCES:** *Casting the play,* the director carefully chose a fine group of actors and actresses.

A fine group of actors and actresses was chosen *because the casting of the play was done carefully.*

**DANGLING INFINITIVE PHRASE:** *To attend the big game,* tickets must be reserved.

**CORRECTED SENTENCES:** *To attend the game,* you must reserve your tickets.

*If you plan to attend the game,* tickets must be reserved.

**DANGLING ELLIPTICAL CLAUSE:** Some merchandise was shoplifted *while holding the sidewalk sale.*
CORRECTED SENTENCES: *While holding a sidewalk sale, the store had some merchandise shoplifted.*
Some merchandise was shoplifted *while the store was holding a sidewalk sale.*

**EXERCISE B: Identifying and Correcting Dangling Modifiers.** Read the following sentences. If the sentence is correct, write *correct* on your paper. If the sentence contains a dangling modifier, rewrite it using one of the techniques described in this section.

1. To eat before the game, dinner must be ready within fifteen minutes.
2. The chicken bone stuck in her throat while laughing.
3. Checking all the stations, the assembly line was running smoothly.
4. Having lost my hat in the wind, I unfortunately missed the trolley I wanted.
5. Falling on the asphalt, my knees were badly skinned.
6. To find our way to camp, the compass pointed out the direction.
7. To pursue the problem logically, a solution could easily be reached.
8. Dinner looked unappetizing after eating snacks all day.
9. You must rehearse a speech thoroughly before presenting it before a group.
10. Having decorated the cake with flowers, it looked like a work of art.

**APPLICATION: Avoiding Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers.** Complete each of the following sentences on your paper, filling in the blank with the kind of clause or phrase indicated. Make sure that you do not use any misplaced or dangling modifiers.

1. When carving the turkey, *(independent clause)*.
2. She devoured the meal *(elliptical clause)*.
3. *(participial phrase)*, the jockey rode the horse to victory.
4. To remark on such a trivial matter, *(independent clause)*.
5. *(participial phrase)*, the huge rock threatened the boats in the area.
6. Standing speechless before the group, *(independent clause)*.
7. Beautiful to look at, *(independent clause)*.
8. *(adverb clause)*, the companies were merged.
9. *(participial phrase)*, the family explained their destitute circumstances.
10. Before *(gerund phrase)*, he asked for a receipt.

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**Faulty Parallelism**

Two parallel lines will run smoothly side by side—never colliding. Writers try to achieve a similar effect by writing a series of ideas in similar grammatical structures so that they will read smoothly—never colliding. If one element in a series is not parallel with the others, the sentence may be jarring and its meaning may be altered. This section will show you how to correct this sentence error, called *faulty parallelism*.

### Correct Parallelism in Sentences

To express a comparison or a series of ideas of equal importance, careful writers use parallel grammatical structures.

**Parallelism** is the placement of equal ideas in words, phrases, or clauses of similar types.

A parallel grammatical structure can be two or more words of the same part of speech, two or more phrases of the same type, two or more clauses of the same type, and sometimes, for emphasis, two or more sentences of the same type.

**PARALLEL WORDS:** The boxer looked *strong, fit, and agile* as he entered the ring.

**PARALLEL PHRASES:** The greatest pleasure I know is *to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.*—Charles Lamb

**PARALLEL CLAUSES:** The professor *whom I have met* and whom you currently have in class will be on television next week.

**PARALLEL SENTENCES:** *It couldn’t be, of course. It could never, never be.*—Dorothy Parker

Now examine the following passage that begins *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, a novel about the French Revolution. Notice how the parallel structures set up vivid contrasts and end with the ironic sentence hinting at the political conflict to come.

**EXAMPLE:** It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the