

## Lesson 7

# Misplaced Modifiers

### CCSS

L.7.1.c: Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced... modifiers.



### Introduction

A **misplaced modifier** is a phrase or clause that is intended to modify a certain word in a sentence but is in the wrong place. As a result, it connects the wrong words or ideas to each other and confuses the reader. For example:

We sat and talked about camping **in the kitchen**.

- The phrase *in the kitchen* is meant to modify *sat*, but instead it suggests that the camping happened in the kitchen. Now, look at another example.

I served breakfast to my family, **which I made myself**.

- The clause *which I made myself* is misplaced. It suggests that the speaker made her family, not breakfast.
- To fix a misplaced modifier, move it as close as possible to what it should modify:

We sat **in the kitchen** and talked about camping.

I served my family breakfast, **which I made myself**.



### Guided Practice

Rewrite each sentence to correct the misplaced modifier.

#### Hint

If a dependent clause begins with the relative pronoun *who* or *which* and gives information that is not crucial to the meaning of the sentence, use commas to set off the clause from the rest of the sentence.

#### Example:

The muffins, *which smelled delicious*, were ill warm.

1 I baked blueberry muffins and scrambled some eggs in the oven.

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2 My cousin Rob told us while he ate where he and Josh had camped.

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Rob had taken my nine-year-old brother camping, who is in college.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Rob had photos of the lovely lake on his phone near their campsite.

\_\_\_\_\_

5 We put a drawing of the lake on the fridge that Josh had made.

\_\_\_\_\_



For numbers 1–4, choose the answer that best corrects the misplaced modifier in each sentence.

Answer Form

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number Correct

4

- 1** Rob told us about hearing a strange noise in the night after breakfast.
- A** After breakfast, Rob told us about hearing a strange noise in the night.
  - B** Rob told us about hearing a strange noise after breakfast in the night.
  - C** After breakfast, Rob told us in the night about hearing a strange noise.
  - D** In the night, Rob heard a strange noise that after breakfast he told us about.

- 2** Dad let Josh borrow his fishing rod to take on the trip, which was old but still worked.
- A** Josh borrowed for the trip, which was old but still worked, Dad's fishing rod.
  - B** For the trip, Dad let Josh borrow his fishing rod, which was old but still worked.
  - C** To take on the trip, Josh borrowed a fishing rod from Dad, which was old but still worked.
  - D** The fishing rod that Josh borrowed to take on the trip from Dad was old but still worked.

- 3** Rob told us how Josh had caught a fish as he was washing the dishes.
- A** Rob as he was washing the dishes told us how Josh had caught a fish.
  - B** Josh told us that, as Rob was washing the dishes, he had caught a fish.
  - C** Josh had caught a fish, and Rob was washing the dishes and told us about it.
  - D** As Rob was washing the dishes, he told us how Josh had caught a fish.

- 4** Next summer my cousin invited me to go camping by the lake with his family.
- A** My cousin invited me to go camping by the lake with his family next summer.
  - B** By the lake next summer, my cousin invited me to go camping with his family.
  - C** My cousin by the lake invited me next summer to go camping with his family.
  - D** My cousin with his family next summer invited me to go camping by the lake.