



English Language

Dangling modifier and parallelism

Dangling Modifier

Modifier:

A modifier is a word/phrase/clause which modifies others words in a sentence. Usually a modifier performs the function of an adjective/adverb. Modifier কোনো শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশ কে বিশেষায়িত করতে ব্যবহৃত হয়।

ব্যবহারের উপর ভিত্তি করে Modifier ০২ ধরনের হয়ে থাকে। যথাঃ

Pre-modifier: এক্ষেত্রে modifier টি যাকে modify করে তার আগে বসে।

She is the cutest girl in the school.

*Usually articles, determiners, demonstrative pronouns, possessive pronouns, quantifiers, proper adjectives, descriptive adjectives, compound adjectives, participles are used as pre-modifiers. Some adverbs such as conjunctive adverbs, sentence adverbs can also be used as Pre-modifiers.

Post-modifier: এক্ষেত্রে modifier টি যাকে modify করে তার পরে বসে।

I saw my brother crying.

*Usually appositives, adverbs of time, adverbs of manner, adverb of place, prepositional phrases, infinitives, and subordinate clauses are used as post-modifiers.

Dangling Modifier

যখন কোন modifier যেই শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশ কে বিশেষায়িত করার কথা ছিল তাকে না করে অন্য কোন শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশ কে কে বিশেষায়িত করে তখন তাকে dangling modifier বলে। এর ফলে বাক্যের অর্থের পরিবর্তন ঘটে।

A dangling modifier is a word/phrase that modifies a different word/phrase rather than the intended one and thus causes a change of the meaning of the sentence. Dangling modifier is also known as misplaced modifier/illogical modifier. Example:

Incorrect: Hearing the good news, happy I was.

Incorrect: Hearing the good news, happiness was mine.

Both of the above 2 sentences the modifier 'Hearing the good news' is supposed to modify I rather than happy/happiness. So,

Correct: Hearing the good news, I was happy.

Important Practices:

In case of complex sentences, when the subject is hidden in the subordinate clause, the subject in the principal clause should be according to the hidden subject.

Examples:

Incorrect: Hearing the good news, happiness was mine.

Correct: Hearing the good news, I was happy. (Here "I" is the implied hidden subject in the subordinate clause)

Incorrect: While going to the market, a dog bit me.

*Here the implied hidden subject in the subordinate clause is "I" but without changing the structure of the sentence to passive, we cannot put "I" as the subject of the main clause. Hence,

Correct: While going to the market, I was bitten by a dog.

Incorrect: While eating mango, a squirrel disturbed me.

Correct: While eating mango, I was disturbed by a squirrel.

Incorrect: Flying out the window, he grabbed the papers.

Correct: Flying out the window, the papers were grabbed by him.

Incorrect: While walking home, my phone rang.

*Here this sentence implies that the phone rang when it itself was walking home. Hence,

Correct: While I was walking home, my phone rang.

Incorrect: Similar to floppy disks, data is stored in the hard disk in sectors.

Correct: Similar to floppy disks, the hard disk stores data in sectors.

Incorrect: Smaller and flatter than an orange, it's easy to peel a tangerine and to separate its sections.

Correct: Smaller and flatter than an orange, a tangerine is easy to peel and its sections separate readily.

Incorrect: Young and inexperienced, the task seemed easy to me.

Correct: Young and inexperienced, I thought the task was easy.

Incorrect: Having arrived late for dinner, a plausible excuse was needed.

Correct: Having arrived late for dinner, we needed a plausible excuse.

Incorrect: Tired and exhausted, a nap was taken by my wife.

Correct: Tired and exhausted, my wife took a nap.

Incorrect: Not looking where he was going, a car hit him

Correct: Not looking where he was going, he was hit by a car.

Previous Years' BCS Questions

1. According to the conditions of my scholarship, after finishing my degree- 20th BCS
- a) my education will be employed by the university
 - b) employment will be given to me by the university
 - c) the university will employ me
 - d) I will be employed by the university.

Ans:d

Potential Questions

2. While going to class, _____.
- a) the dog bit me
 - b) dog bit me
 - c) a dog bit me
 - d) I was bitten by a dog.

Which one of the following sentence is correct?

- a) Hearing the good news, he was happy.
- b) Hearing the good news, happiness was his
- c) Hearing the good news, happy he was.
- d) Hearing the good news, his was happiness

Ans:a

3. Choose the correct sentence:

- a) Being in haste, the door was left
- b) Being in haste, she left the door open.
- c) Being in haste, the door was left open
- d) Being in haste, the door was opened.

Ans:b

4. _____, a deer leapt out in front of me.

- a) While driving down the road
- b) While I was driving down the road
- c) I was driving down the road
- d) Driving down the road

Ans:b

5. While biking home before the storm, _____.

- a) the bicycle of Jahan broke down
- b) Jahan had an accident
- c) it happened that jahan's bike broke down
- d) the storm caught jahan.

Ans:b

6. Plunging into water, _____.

- a) the drowning child was rescued
- b) drowning child had been rescued
- c) the child has been rescued
- d) he rescued the drowning child

Ans:d

7. Upon hatching, _____

- a) swimming is known by young ducks
- b) young ducks know how to swim
- c) how to swim is known in young ducks
- d) the knowledge of swimming is in youth ducks

Ans:b

8. Which one of the following sentences is correct:

- a) He was bitten by a snake when walking in the garden.
- b) Walking in the garden, a snake bit him.
- c) He was bitten by a snake while walking in the garden.
- d) While he was walking in the garden, a snake had bitten him.

Ans:c

9. Which one of the following sentences is correct:

- a) While making breakfast, the smoke alarm went off and woke the baby.
- b) While I was making breakfast, the smoke alarm went off and woke the baby.
- c) When making breakfast, the smoke alarm went off and woke the baby.
- d) While I was making breakfast, I turned off the smoke alarm and woke the baby.

Ans:b

10. Being the tallest in the class, _____.

- a) The teacher asked her to sit at the back.
- b) she asked teacher to sit at the back
- c) she was asked to sit at the back.
- d) the teacher had asked her to sit at the back.

Ans:c

Parallelism

Parallelism refers to the use of identical grammatical structures for related words, phrases or clauses in a sentence or a paragraph. যখন একটি বাক্যে বিভিন্ন শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশ একই ধরনের ভাব প্রকাশ করে, তখন সেই শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশের ব্যাকরণগত গঠন একই হতে হয়; একেই Parallelism বলে। So in a nutshell, Sentence elements that are alike in function should also be alike in construction. Example:

Incorrect	Correct	Correct
Thinking, to drink	Thinking/drinking	To think, to drink
Jog, bake, paint, watching	Jog, bake, paint, watch	Jogging, baking, painting, watching

Parallelism এর ব্যবহার

Co-ordinating conjunction (and,but,or) ,Correlative conjunctions (both, not only....but also, either...or, neither...nor) এবং list or series আকারে একাধিক components যুক্ত হলেঃ Noun হলে সবগুলোই Noun, adverb হলে সবগুলোই adverb, Gerund হলে সবগুলোই gerund, Participle হলে সবগুলোই participle, infinitive হলে সবগুলোই infinite, comparative হলে সবগুলোই comparative এবং verb এর ক্ষেত্রে সবগুলোই একই tense এর verb হবে।

11. Which one of the following sentences are correct:

- a) He chose well and prospered b) He choose well and prospered
c) He choiced well and prospered d) he choiced well and prospered **Ans:a**

12. Mr.Maruf is an eminent chemist _____

- a) and to a very efficient teacher b) but he teaches very good in addition
c) however he teaches very good also c) as well as an effective teacher **Ans:d**

13. _____ on this bench is much more pleasant than _____ in the office.

- a) Lying, sitting b) Lieing, sitting
c) To lie, to sit d) To lie, sittin **Ans:a**

14. In many ways, riding a bicycle is similar to _____

- a) driving a car b) the driving of a car
c) when you drive a car d) when driving a car **Ans:a**

15. The boys used to like _____ and _____ model airplanes.

- a) making, flying b) to making, to flying
c) make, fly d) to make, to flying **Ans:a**