

Name _____

Dangling Dilemmas Answer Key

1. Error: *"Running down the street" is dangling because it describes the person, not the backpack.*
2. Error: *"Nearly" is misplaced. It sounds like she almost served them, rather than that she served them nearly all the cookies.*
3. Error: *Dangling modifier - "To improve his grades" should describe the student, not the book.*
4. Error: *"That was still raw" seems to describe the customer instead of the steak.*
5. Error: *"Covered in chocolate syrup" incorrectly describes the child instead of the sundae.*
6. Error: *Dangling modifier - "While studying late at night" should refer to a person, not the TV.*
7. Error: *It sounds like the dealer has a dent, not the car.*
8. Error: *Dangling modifier - "After finishing the assignment" should refer to the person, not the laptop.*
9. Error: *"Nearly" is misplaced. It could sound like almost no one ate, instead of "Everyone ate nearly all the pizza."*
10. Error: *Dangling modifier - "Walking through the park" describes a person, not the flowers.*

Teacher Notes:

- Encourage students to ask: *Who or what is really being described here?*
- A **misplaced modifier** is simply in the wrong spot, making the meaning unclear or funny.
- A **dangling modifier** has no clear subject at all. It's left "dangling" without anything to describe.
- A quick fix is usually to move the modifier next to the word it actually describes or to add the missing subject.