

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Silly Sentence Slip-Ups Answer Key

1. **Walking home from school, the backpack dragged on the ground.**
  - Silly Meaning: It sounds like the *backpack* was walking home.
  - Intended Meaning: The *student* was walking home with the backpack dragging.
2. **She served sandwiches to the children on paper plates.**
  - Silly Meaning: The children themselves were sitting on paper plates.
  - Intended Meaning: The sandwiches were served *on paper plates*.
3. **Covered in sprinkles, the child ate the cupcake.**
  - Silly Meaning: The *child* was covered in sprinkles.
  - Intended Meaning: The *cupcake* was covered in sprinkles.
4. **While studying late at night, the TV kept me awake.**
  - Silly Meaning: The TV was the one studying.
  - Intended Meaning: *I was studying late at night* while the TV kept me awake.
5. **Nearly everyone ate the birthday cake.**
  - Silly Meaning: Almost no one ate.
  - Intended Meaning: Almost *all* the cake was eaten by everyone.
6. **Hanging on the wall, the teacher admired the painting.**
  - Silly Meaning: It sounds like the *teacher* was hanging on the wall.
  - Intended Meaning: The *painting* was hanging on the wall.

### Teacher Notes

- Misplaced and dangling modifiers can create **unintended humor** because the modifier attaches to the wrong subject.
- Encourage students to **act out the silly version** for fun; this makes the lesson memorable.
- Extension: Have students **write two silly modifier sentences of their own** and share with the class, then correct them together.