

Modifier Tune-Up Answer Key

Corrected Sentences

1. Running down the street, I felt my backpack bounce wildly.
2. The child enjoyed the cake covered in chocolate.
3. After finishing the test, I accidentally broke my pencil in half.
4. Driving to the store, I grew annoyed by the traffic jam.
5. **Everyone nearly ate all the cookies at the party.** (Correct placement of *nearly*.)
6. While reading the newspaper, I kept hearing the phone buzz.
7. The teacher noticed the clock hanging on the wall.
8. To earn a high score, she wrote her essay carefully.

Teacher Notes

- The **checklist method** trains students to self-edit rather than just spot errors.
- For sentence #5, highlight how a single misplaced adverb (*nearly*) changes the meaning from “almost no one ate” to “almost all the cookies were eaten.”
- Encourage students to use the checklist as a **peer-editing tool**: swap sentences and check each other’s work.
- Extension idea: Ask students to **write two new sentences with dangling modifiers**, then trade and use the checklist to correct.