

## Dangling Modifiers

### What is a dangling modifier?

Words or phrases that add detail to a sentence are known as modifiers, which include descriptive words, prepositional phrases, and subordinate clauses. These modifiers can be classified as “dangling” if they are used in a way such that readers are uncertain about what is being modified. The following sentence has a dangling modifier:

- Example: *Having shopped for groceries, preparations for dinner began.*

“Having shopped” states an action but does not name the doer of that action. We don't know what or who is being modified.

### How can I fix a dangling modifier?

You can fix the dangling modifier by naming the doer of that action. In the sentence below, the dangling modifier has been corrected. We now know who shopped for groceries and began preparing dinner: Michael.

- Example: *Having shopped for groceries, Michael began preparing dinner.*

Additional information regarding dangling modifiers and several examples can be found at these websites:

- <http://www.yourdictionary.com/grammar/examples/examples-of-dangling-modifiers.html>
- <http://www.unh.edu/writing/cwc/handouts/grammar/grammar-danglingmodifiers.pdf>

