

Name _____ Date _____

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers – Exercise 2

This handout accompanies Exercise 2 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Find and fix the misplaced and dangling modifiers in the passage below.

¹Dangling his legs over the water, Tommy sat on the pier and cried. ²Infused with his great sadness, the tears hit the waves and attracted Marina, a beautiful mermaid. ³Popping out of the ocean as sleek as a seal, Tommy gasped at the sight. ⁴While Marina's tail flopped against the wood, which was long, scaly, and metallic blue, she asked poor Tommy the reason for his pain. ⁵Tommy explained that he had lost the surfing championship, which included a scholarship to college. ⁶Assessing his set as clumsy and inelegant, not a single compliment was received from the judges. ⁷After Tommy bemoaned his ineptitude on a surfboard, Marina made a proposal: She would turn him into a merman with the grace and athleticism of a dolphin! ⁸Wielding ancient ocean secrets with a snap of her fingers, a metallic green tail replaced Tommy's legs! ⁹Diving into the waves, the tail propelled Tommy through the strong surf.

¹⁰Ecstatic about his new abilities, the training and advice Marina offered went unheeded. ¹¹Refusing to use conditioner, for example, the sun and salt water soon damaged Tommy's hair, which became dry and brittle. ¹²A dangerous and foolhardy activity, Tommy also insisted on head bumping the Great White sharks that he encountered. ¹³Putting straws up his nose and barking like a walrus did not make Tommy popular when he had dinner with Neptune, Marina's father. ¹⁴After thoughtlessly scrambling endangered sea turtle eggs for breakfast, an apology had to be made not only to Marina but also to the grieving mother reptile.

¹⁵One day out on a swim, Tommy drank a root beer and tossed the empty plastic bottle in the water. ¹⁶Polluting the ocean so carelessly was the last clam shell for Marina. ¹⁷With an angry snap of her fingers, she replaced Tommy's tail with two human legs. ¹⁸Sinking under the waves, Tommy's legs finally kicked him to the surface where he gulped a much needed breath of air.

¹⁹Saying a curt goodbye, Marina's tail slapped the surface dismissively as she dove into the ocean depths. ²⁰While swimming the mile back to shore as a regular human being, Tommy regretted the gift that he had squandered.



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