**Misplaced Modifiers**
*By: Nancy Armstrong*

Modification occurs when a writer wishes to enhance or develop a noun by adding some descriptive information about that noun. “Modifiers” can be misplaced if they are not used next to the noun they are intended to modify. As such, they become misplaced modifiers.

The following are 2 examples of Misplaced Modifiers.

**Incorrect:** The gazebo was painted by Sarah’s fiancé in the courtyard.

*This modifier is “misplaced” because it makes it seem as though “the fiancé” is specific to the courtyard. (As opposed to her fiancé in the front yard, in the house, in the garage, etc.)*

**Correct:** The gazebo was painted in the courtyard by Sarah’s fiancé.

**Incorrect:** While landscaping the front yard, the dog barked at Tim’s dad.

*This modifier is “misplaced” because it makes it seem as though “the dog” is landscaping the front yard.*

**Correct:** While landscaping the front yard, Tim’s dad could hear the dog barking at him.
**Misplaced Modifiers Exercises**  
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**Directions:** Rewrite each of the following sentences to correct the misplaced modifiers.

1. Caught up in her favorite soap opera, the special dinner burned.

2. The hostess offered let her guests use her best china with great trepidation.

3. Under his huge stack of papers, Dorian could not find his car keys.

4. The roses were planted by the gardener in the courtyard.

5. Outraged by his deception, the candidate was not reelected by the public.

6. Clara had some trouble hanging the refurbished painting on the step stool.

7. A student received the college scholarship from my old High School.

8. The teacher warned with students about their behavior with incredible sternness.

9. Covered with rust, Saul decided to trade in his old car.

10. The toy was bought for the injured little boy at his favorite toy store.