Parallelism, Misplaced Modifiers, Dangling Modifiers, Faulty Subordination, and Faulty Predication

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Part I: Parallelism
Parallelism

Parallelism is the use of consistent word patterns and endings to demonstrate a similar level of importance.
Parallelism

Individual words, phrases, or clauses can all be made parallel.

Changing word forms or switching between active and passive voice will break the parallelism.
Parallelism

Not Parallel:

- The Cat in the Hat was twirling *his* umbrella, swirling the fish, and on top of the ball.

- Thing One liked running *ing*, jumping *ing*, and to fly a kite.

- The Fish said to catch Thing One and Thing Two, to clean the tub, and that they should wash Mother’s white dress.
Parallelism

Parallel:

- The Cat in the Hat was twirling, swirling, and standing on the ball.
- Thing One liked running, jumping, and flying kites.
- The Fish said to catch Thing One and Thing Two, to clean the tub, and to wash Mother’s white dress.
Part II: Misplaced Modifiers
Misplaced Modifiers

Basic Definition: placing a modifier somewhere in a sentence where it messes up the intended meaning.
Anything can become a misplaced modifier. It can be a noun, verb, adverb, or prepositional phrase.
Misplaced Modifiers

Incorrect Examples:

- Sam I Am ate green eggs and ham in a box.
- Sam I Am sat with the fox eating green eggs and ham on top of the train.
- Sam I Am only eats green eggs and ham on the train.
Misplaced Modifiers

Corrected Examples:

- **While** Sam I Am *was sitting in a box*, he ate green eggs and ham.

- Sam I Am ate green eggs and ham **while sitting with** the fox on top of the train.

- Sam I am **eats only** green eggs and ham on the train.
Part III: Dangling Modifiers
Dangling Modifiers

A dangling modifier is defined as being a word or phrase that changes a word not clearly identified in the sentence.
Dangling Modifiers

Incorrect:

- Flying high in the sky, a snail could be seen crawling on the ground below.
- Looking at the fat fish, a yellow hat was noted
- Driving a car, the escape was made.
Dangling Modifiers

Correct:

- Flying high in the sky, Billy could see the snail crawling on the ground below.

- Looking at the fat fish, Billy and Sue noted that it was wearing a yellow hat.

- Driving a car, the fish made its escape.
Part IV: Faulty Subordination
Faulty Subordination

Use subordinate conjunctions to express relationships clearly and to place emphasis properly.
Faulty Subordination

Subordinators are used to show:

- **Time**: after, before, whenever
- **Cause**: because, since, as
- **Purpose**: that, so that, in order that
- **Condition**: if, even though, unless
Faulty Subordination

Incorrect subordination:

- Knox is green and his box is green.
- Slow Joe Crow comes and cooked breakfast.
- Bim grabs Ben’s broom and sweeps.
Faulty Subordination

Correct Subordination:

- Knox picked a green box because his favorite color is green.
- Slow Joe Crow came so that he could make breakfast.
- Bim grabs Ben’s broom in order to sweep.
Part V: Faulty Predication
Faulty Predication

Faulty predication occurs when the modifier or noun in the predicate does not agree with the noun in the subject.

- Illogical Sentences
- Compliment Disagreement
Faulty Predication

Illogical Sentences happen when a human agent is required for the predicate, but is missing from the subject.

- The **poll** made Yertle the king.
- The **votes said** Yertle was rude.
Faulty Predication

Logical sentences:

- Yertle made Yertle the king.
- The turtles said Yertle was rude.
Faulty Predication

Compliment disagreement occurs when the modifier or noun in the predicate can not modify or substitute for the noun in the subject.

- Yertle's stack of turtles was the bluest turtles ever.
- The kingdom of Yertle was a jerk.
Faulty Predication

Correct subject compliments:

- Yertle's turtles were the bluest turtles ever.
- Yertle was a jerk.
Style Guide

For our reference we used the Purdue Owl online grammar guide, which can be found at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
Thank you!