



Key ELA Grammar Topics – **Misplaced Modifiers** SHSAT Level Practice

1. Read this paragraph.

(1) By area, Russia is the largest country on Earth, covering over 57 million square miles of land. (2) Covering areas in both Europe and Asia, the language and customs in Russia are diverse. (3) Russia is over 10 times the area of either China or the United States, its area in Asia alone would make it the largest Asian country, and the size of Russia in Europe would also make it the largest European country. (4) Despite covering nearly 11% of the world's landmass, Russia has a population less than half that of the United States.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

2. Read this paragraph:

(1) The late hit, which was controversial and dangerous, resulted in a fight between two players. (2) Shouting at one another, the players began to throw punches. (3) Creating havoc on the field, we watched as both benches cleared to participate in the rumble. (4) The referees, who had kept control until that moment, were powerless to stop the melee.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4.

3. Read this paragraph:

(1) Tired of driving all day, Jean's delight was unbounded because she could finally relax. (2) A nap, which lasted for 3 hours, helped to rejuvenate Jean's energy. (3) Staring out the window, she finally decided to take the wheel again. (4) Jean was almost always happy driving.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

4. Read this paragraph:

(1) The dog lover, Naia, took care of several canines throughout the neighborhood. (2) Max, a German Shepherd, was Naia's favorite. (3) She served raw meat to Max in a bowl every day. (4) Content to eat, Max would eat all his food and rest for hours.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

5. Read this paragraph:

(1) The young girl saw a stray cat and lost puppy on the way to school. (2) The cat, which was scrawny and not well fed, was searching for food. (3) Growling, the puppy pretended to appear scarier than it could be. (4) The girl nearly missed school as a result of the distraction.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

6. Read this paragraph:

(1) Having remained subdued for over two decades, crime is picking up again in the city. (2) The exemplary record is thanks to the police who protect our streets. (3) Many people generally feel safer. (4) However, a rising number of people were reported robbed by the New York Police Department last year.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4



Answer Key

1.(B)

sentence 2

The participle phrase "Covering areas in both Europe and Asia," refers to Russia, yet it is not next to the word Russia. It appears to modify the adjacent nouns "language and customs". It is not the language or customs that cover both Europe and Asia, but the landmass of Russia.

2.(C)

sentence 3

"We" were not the ones "creating havoc" suggested by the close proximity of the words in the sentence. The modifying phrase should be next to the players; the ones who created the havoc.

3.(A)

sentence 1

Jean was tired of driving all day, not her delight. The modifying phrase "tired of driving all day" should be next to the noun it modifies.

4.(C)

sentence 3

Max was not in the bowl which is suggested by the proximity of words. A better way to restate the sentence, and keep the modifier near the correct noun follows:

She served Max food in a bowl every day.

In this revision, the food is in the bowl and Max is the one getting served.

5.(A)

sentence 1

The girl was on the way to school not the cat and puppy. Revise the misplaced modifier "on the way to school" to be near "young girl". On her way to school, the young girl saw a cat and puppy.

6.(D)

sentence 4

The New York Police Department did not do the robbing. Revise sentence 4 to state the following:

Last year, the New York Police Department reported that a rising number of people were robbed.