

# MISPLACED AND DANGLING MODIFIERS – EXERCISE 2

**Directions:** Read the passage that follows. Find and fix the [misplaced](#) and [dangling modifiers](#). Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

<sup>(1)</sup> Dangling his legs over the water, Tommy sat on the pier and cried. <sup>(2)</sup> Infused with his great sadness, the tears hit the waves and attracted Marina, a beautiful mermaid.

<sup>(3)</sup> Popping out of the ocean as sleek as a seal, Tommy gasped at the sight. <sup>(4)</sup> While Marina's tail flopped against the wood, which was long, scaly, and metallic blue, she asked poor Tommy the reason for his pain. <sup>(5)</sup> Tommy explained that he had lost the surfing championship, which included a scholarship to college. <sup>(6)</sup> Assessing his set as clumsy and inelegant, not a single compliment was received from the judges. <sup>(7)</sup> After 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! <sup>(8)</sup> Wielding ancient ocean secrets with a snap of her fingers, a metallic green tail replaced Tommy's legs! <sup>(9)</sup> Diving into the waves, the tail propelled Tommy through the strong surf.

<sup>(10)</sup> Ecstatic about his new abilities, the training and advice Marina offered went unheeded. <sup>(11)</sup> Refusing to use conditioner, for example, the sun and salt water soon damaged Tommy's hair, which became dry and brittle. <sup>(12)</sup> A dangerous and foolhardy activity, Tommy also insisted on head bumping the Great White sharks that he encountered. <sup>(13)</sup> Putting straws up his nose and barking like a walrus did not make Tommy popular when he had dinner with Neptune, Marina's father. <sup>(14)</sup> After 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.

<sup>(15)</sup> One day out on a swim, Tommy drank a root beer and tossed the empty plastic bottle in the water. <sup>(16)</sup> Polluting the ocean so carelessly was the last clam shell for Marina. <sup>(17)</sup> With an angry snap of her fingers, she replaced Tommy's tail with two human legs. <sup>(18)</sup> Sinking under the waves, Tommy's legs finally kicked him to the surface where he gulped a much needed breath of air. <sup>(19)</sup> Saying a curt goodbye, Marina's tail slapped the surface dismissively as she dove into the ocean depths. <sup>(20)</sup> While swimming the mile back to shore as a regular human being, Tommy regretted the gift that he had squandered.

