

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.

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

⁽³⁾ Popping out of the ocean as sleek as a seal, Tommy gasped at the sight. ⁽⁴⁾ While Marina's tail flopped against the wood, which was long, scaly, and metallic blue, she asked poor

Tommy the reason for his pain. ⁽⁵⁾ Tommy explained that he had lost the surfing

championship, which included a scholarship to college. ⁽⁶⁾ Assessing his set as clumsy and

inelegant, not a single compliment was received from the judges. ⁽⁷⁾ 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! ⁽⁸⁾ Wielding ancient ocean secrets

with a snap of her fingers, a metallic green tail replaced Tommy's legs! ⁽⁹⁾ Diving into the

waves, the tail propelled Tommy through the strong surf.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Ecstatic about his new abilities, the training and advice Marina offered went

unheeded. ⁽¹¹⁾ Refusing to use conditioner, for example, the sun and salt water soon

damaged Tommy's hair, which became dry and brittle. ⁽¹²⁾ A dangerous and foolhardy

activity, Tommy also insisted on head bumping the Great White sharks that he

encountered. ⁽¹³⁾ Putting straws up his nose and barking like a walrus did not make Tommy

popular when he had dinner with Neptune, Marina's father. ⁽¹⁴⁾ 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.

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

