

# MISPLACED MODIFIERS

Move the modifying phrase as close to the word it modifies as possible.

INCORRECT - They liked the piano made by the woman *with the mahogany veneer*.  
(The woman is not veneered with mahogany.)

CORRECT - They liked the *mahogany veneered* piano made by the woman.

INCORRECT - They *almost* came to twenty-seven games last year.  
(Unless you mean that they were preparing to go twenty-seven times, but they never went.)

CORRECT - They came to *almost* twenty-seven games last year.

Rewrite the following sentences so that the modifiers are correctly placed.

1. Julie admired her new ring on the train that Sam had just bought her.
2. Bruce explained the report he had finished while driving Mr. Drake to the station.
3. Wondering what had happened, the furnace was restarted by Jim.
4. He brought the car to the mechanic, an old rattle-trap that wouldn't last long.
5. At the ripe old age of seven, my doctor said I would be tall.
6. Cecilia quickly killed the fly, bothered by the buzzing.
7. Frustrated by the complexity, the software was avoided by the staff.
8. Cameron nearly won seven awards at this year's banquet.
9. Sarah practically dominated the entire conversation about the new robotics proposal.