

Name _____

Modifiers

Adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases are **modifiers**, words or groups of words that tell more about, or modify, other words in a sentence. Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Prepositional phrases can act as adjectives or adverbs.

As Adjective The sand at the beach felt hard and smooth.

As Adverb Waves crashed on the sand.

- To avoid confusion, place modifiers close to the words they modify. Adjective phrases usually come right after the word they modify. Adverb phrases may appear right after a verb or at the beginning of a sentence.
- The meaning of a sentence can be unclear if the modifier is misplaced.

No: Green umbrellas from the sun shaded people.

Yes: Green umbrellas shaded people from the sun.

- The position of *only* in a sentence can affect the sentence's entire meaning. Place *only* directly before the word or words it modifies.

Example: Only she ate eggs. (Nobody else ate them.)

She only ate eggs. (She didn't do anything except eat.)

She ate only eggs. (She ate nothing else.)

Directions Write *adverb*, *adjective*, or *prepositional phrase* to identify each underlined modifier. Write *adjective* or *adverb* to identify how a prepositional phrase is used.

- The Papadopolous family lives near the beach. _____
- Their large tribe of children loves beachcombing. _____
- They can be found outside on the beach each morning. _____

Directions Each sentence has a misplaced modifier. Rewrite the sentence and put the phrase where it belongs.

- We rented a boat from a man with an outboard motor.

- Bonnie picked up a pretty seashell with a cheerful grin.



Home Activity Your child learned about modifiers. With your child, read a newspaper article. Ask your child to identify several modifiers, including adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases.

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Directions Add adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases to these sentences. Use modifiers to create a more specific, interesting picture.

1. A dog barked and ran.

2. The sun set.

3. Families packed their gear and left.

4. Waves washed and crabs scurried.

Directions Imagine you are at a beach and you find something exciting or interesting. Write a description of what you find and how you find it. Use modifiers to create a vivid word picture.



Home Activity Your child learned how to use modifiers in writing. Give your child simple sentences like those in items 1–4 on this page and have him or her add modifiers to make interesting story starters.

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Directions Mark the letter of the item that correctly identifies the underlined word or words in each sentence.

- Taryanna collected pink seashells.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb
- Marcus built a sand castle with a moat.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb
- The sun shone brightly.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb
- Some wild horses galloped in the wet sand.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb
- Everyone chattered and pointed at the horses.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb
- A small herd has roamed the beach for years.
 - adjective
 - adverb
 - prepositional phrase/adjective
 - prepositional phrase/adverb

Directions Mark the letter of the sentence that has a misplaced modifier.

- The fresh popcorn smelled wonderful.
 - There was a long line at the concession stand.
 - Several hungry children waited impatiently.
 - Vendors sold ice cream treats in white hats.
- They decorated the sand castle with sea shells.
 - It had four towers and a red flag.
 - A boy tossed a ball in a red shirt.
 - Only Jill wanted to knock down the castle.



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on modifiers. Copy a paragraph from one of your child's favorite stories, leaving blanks where modifiers go. Ask your child to suggest possible modifiers for the blanks. Compare with the original.

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Directions Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Write *adverb* or *adjective* to identify how the prepositional phrase is used.

1. Do you like swimming in the ocean? _____
2. The water around my feet is inviting and cool. _____
3. Jorge rides the waves on his surfboard. _____
4. See the beach ball by the umbrella. _____
5. You float easily in sea water. _____
6. The huge sea turtle with the green shell blinked sleepily. _____

Directions Underline the adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases in each sentence. The number in () tells how many modifiers a sentence contains. (Do not underline the articles *a* and *the*.)

7. The two families shared a delicious picnic under the trees. (3)
8. Spicy Cuban food cooked slowly on the grill. (4)
9. Mom made crispy tortillas in a skillet. (2)
10. Thirsty children drank cold lemonade in the shade. (3)
11. A busy army of ants marched into the salad. (3)

Directions Underline the misplaced modifier in each sentence. Rewrite the sentence, and put the modifier where it belongs.

12. Ona only photographed the seagulls—nothing else.

13. Lee could see a pelican dive through his binoculars.

14. The man signaled to me with a moustache.



Home Activity Your child reviewed modifiers. Have your child use a magazine article or story to show you good examples of adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases that make the writing specific and interesting.