

Other Key Points



misplaced modifiers

If you put a modifying phrase in the wrong **place**, it will modify the wrong thing. In the sentence

Chewing his gum eagerly, a fly flew by.

the participial phrase *Chewing his gum eagerly* modifies the noun *fly*.

Because this modifier is misplaced, the sentence is ridiculous. It means that a fly is chewing gum. Better would be:

A fly flew by as Joe chewed his gum eagerly.

Right: The man with the long hair ran away.

Wrong: The man ran away with the long hair.

split infinitives

An infinitive like *to think* is regarded as one word.

A prepositional phrase like *to Boston* is two words.

We should never split the infinitive with another word, such as an adverb.

Wrong: You need *to carefully think* about that.

Right: You need *to think* about that *carefully*.