

### Exercise 3 Misplaced, Squinting and Dangling Modifiers

Rewrite the following sentences, avoiding misplaced, squinting or dangling modifiers. There is an answer key on the next page. The first question is done for you.

1. The students packed donations of food and delivered them to the elderly who lived locally in hampers.

The students packed donations of food in hampers and delivered them to the elderly who lived locally.

2. He had almost lost all the buttons off his coat.
3. Convicted of murdering his wife, the judge sentenced him to life imprisonment.
4. Most accidents take place when tired.
5. When at university, my high marks in mathematics attracted the attention of my professor.
6. Previously viewed as an exploration of the unconscious, critics now also see *Alice in Wonderland* as social and political satire.
7. Standing at the hotel window, the yachts with their colourful spinnakers raced across the bay.
8. Vacations abroad are very inexpensive when working for a hotel chain.
9. I saw descending a fire escape a policeman.
10. There was a discussion yesterday on the incidence of suicide among students in the Dean's office.

Exercise 3 Answer Key    Answers will vary. Brown designates the modifier, and violet the word being modified.

2. He had **almost** lost all the buttons off his coat. (original)  
He had lost **almost all** the buttons off his coat. (correction)
3. **Convicted of murdering his wife**, the judge sentenced him to life imprisonment.  
**Convicted of murdering his wife**, **he** was sentenced by the judge to life imprisonment.
4. Most accidents take place when **tired**.  
Most accidents take place when **people are tired**.
5. **When at university**, my high marks in mathematics attracted the attention of my professor.  
**When at university**, **I** earned high marks in mathematics, attracting the attention of my professor.
6. **Previously viewed as an exploration of the unconscious**, critics now also see *Alice in Wonderland* as social and political satire.  
**Previously viewed as an exploration of the unconscious**, *Alice in Wonderland* is now also seen by critics as social and political satire.
7. **Standing at the hotel window**, the yachts with their colourful spinnakers raced across the bay.  
**Standing at the hotel window**, **I** could see the yachts with their colourful spinnakers racing across the bay.
8. Vacations abroad are very inexpensive when **working for a hotel chain**  
Vacations abroad are very inexpensive when **one works for a hotel chain**.
9. I saw **descending a fire escape** a policeman.  
I saw **a policeman descending a fire escape**.  
  
Or  
  
As **I descended the fire escape**, I saw a policeman.
10. There was a discussion yesterday on the incidence of suicide among students **in the Dean's office**.  
There was a discussion **in the Dean's office yesterday** on the incidence of suicide among students.

