Modifier Match-Up

Sort modifiers, prove your choices, and write new ones.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR MODIFIER

A descriptive phrase or clause sits next to the word it describes. The sentence shows clearly who or what is doing the action.

The astronomer studying comets spoke at the museum.

MISPLACED MODIFIER

A descriptive phrase or clause is too far from the word it describes, or it seems to describe the wrong word. This can make the sentence confusing or illogical.

Studying comets, the museum was visited by the astronomer.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or MISPLACED for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain how you knew.

1.	Walking through the orchard, ripe apples filled our baskets.	CLEAR MISPLACED
2.	The students carrying posters entered the auditorium.	CLEAR MISPLACED
3.	To reach the top shelf, Devon used a stool.	CLEAR MISPLACED
4.	After practicing for weeks, the piano piece was performed by Nia.	CLEAR MISPLACED
5.	Using a magnifying glass, the tiny insects were studied by Mei.	CLEAR MISPLACED
6.	Before the bell rang, Carlos packed his notebook.	CLEAR MISPLACED
7.	Racing down the hill, the brakes were squeezed by Priya.	CLEAR MISPLACED
8.	While eating dinner, the television was turned off by my parents.	CLEAR MISPLACED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new CLEAR sentence and one new MISPLACED sentence.

CLEAR _____

MISPLACED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one MISPLACED sentence from Part 1, rewrite it so its modifier is clear, then explain your change in one sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Modifier Match-Up

GRADE 7 · L.7.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Walking through the orchard, ripe apples filled our baskets.	**MISPLACED**	The opening phrase seems to describe the apples, but apples cannot walk through an orchard.
2	The students carrying posters entered the auditorium.	**CLEAR**	The phrase carrying posters directly describes the students.
3	To reach the top shelf, Devon used a stool.	**CLEAR**	Devon is the person who wanted to reach the top shelf.
4	After practicing for weeks, the piano piece was performed by Nia.	**MISPLACED**	The piano piece seems to have practiced, but Nia practiced.
5	Using a magnifying glass, the tiny insects were studied by Mei.	**MISPLACED**	The insects seem to be using the magnifying glass, but Mei used it.
6	Before the bell rang, Carlos packed his notebook.	**CLEAR**	The opening clause clearly tells when Carlos packed his notebook.
7	Racing down the hill, the brakes were squeezed by Priya.	**MISPLACED**	The brakes seem to be racing, but Priya was racing down the hill.
8	While eating dinner, the television was turned off by my parents.	**MISPLACED**	The television seems to be eating dinner, but the parents were eating.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR**: The singer carrying a violin entered the theater.
- **MISPLACED**: Carrying a violin, the theater was entered by the singer.

Challenge: While eating dinner, my parents turned off the television. I moved the phrase next to my parents because they were eating dinner.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify the word that the opening phrase or clause seems to describe. Accept varied correct explanations that show why the modifier is clear or misplaced.