Modifier Matchup

Sort, prove, and create clear descriptions.

7.L.GC.2.d "Build and enrich ideas and information in texts, avoiding misplaced or dangling modifiers when incorporating details and descriptions to convey meaning and facilitate engagement. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR MODIFIER

A descriptive phrase sits next to the word it describes. The reader can tell exactly who or what the phrase describes.

Humming softly, Priya painted a mural.

UNCLEAR MODIFIER

A descriptive phrase has no clear word to describe, or it seems to describe the wrong word. This can make the sentence confusing or silly.

Using a flashlight, the cave appeared enormous.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or UNCLEAR for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain which word each descriptive phrase describes or why the phrase has no clear match.

1.	The librarian shelved the books that had torn covers.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
2.	After finishing the experiment, Maya washed the beakers.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
3.	Walking through the hallway, the posters caught Jordan's attention.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
4.	The cyclist wearing a blue helmet crossed the bridge.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
5.	The chef placed the steaming soup on the table.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
6.	The student who found the missing key called the office.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
7.	The waiter served the soup to the guests in bowls.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR
8.	To reach the campsite before dark, the trail had to be followed quickly.	CLEAR	UNCLEAR

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 with a descriptive phrase, then write one new UNCLEAR sentence with a misplaced or dangling descriptive phrase.

CLEAR _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Revise this sentence so its opening phrase is clear, then write the word the phrase describes: "After practicing all week, the trophy was lifted by Devon."

ANSWER KEY

Modifier Matchup

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The librarian shelved the books that had torn covers.	**CLEAR**	The phrase "that had torn covers" clearly describes the books.
2	After finishing the experiment, Maya washed the beakers.	**CLEAR**	Maya is the person who finished the experiment.
3	Walking through the hallway, the posters caught Jordan's attention.	**UNCLEAR**	The posters cannot walk through the hallway, so the opening phrase dangles.
4	The cyclist wearing a blue helmet crossed the bridge.	**CLEAR**	The phrase "wearing a blue helmet" clearly describes the cyclist.
5	The chef placed the steaming soup on the table.	**CLEAR**	The word "steaming" clearly describes the soup.
6	The student who found the missing key called the office.	**CLEAR**	The phrase "who found the missing key" clearly describes the student.
7	The waiter served the soup to the guests in bowls.	**UNCLEAR**	The phrase "in bowls" appears to describe the guests instead of the soup.
8	To reach the campsite before dark, the trail had to be followed quickly.	**UNCLEAR**	A trail cannot try to reach a campsite, so the opening phrase dangles.

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 actor carrying a lantern entered the theater.
- **UNCLEAR**: Racing to the bus stop, the backpack fell from Elena's shoulder.

Challenge: After practicing all week, Devon lifted the trophy. The opening phrase describes Devon.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify the word described in a CLEAR sentence or explain the misplaced or dangling phrase in an UNCLEAR sentence. Part 3 and challenge responses may vary if the modifier relationship is clear and correct.