Modifier Match-Up

Decide whether each modifier clearly describes the right word.

8.L.GC.2.d "Build and enrich ideas and information in texts, integrating modifying phrases and clauses and eliminating misplaced or dangling modifiers to convey meaning and facilitate engagement. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEARLY ATTACHED

The modifying phrase or clause clearly describes the word it belongs with. The reader can tell who or what is doing the action.

Near midnight, a baker removed warm loaves from the oven.

NOT CLEARLY ATTACHED

The modifying phrase or clause seems to describe the wrong word, or no word clearly does the action. This can create a misplaced or dangling modifier.

Searching for a signal, the radio was held above the tent.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or UNCLEAR for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which word the modifier describes or why the modifier is not clearly attached.

1. After packing the instruments, the musicians loaded the bus. CLEAR UNCLEAR

2. The coach handed water bottles to players waiting near the bench. CLEAR UNCLEAR

3. Walking through the archive, the ancient maps caught Lena's attention. CLEAR UNCLEAR

4. Students who finished early began the puzzle. CLEAR UNCLEAR

5. To finish before noon, the report was typed quickly. CLEAR UNCLEAR

6. After reading the directions, the experiment was easy. CLEAR UNCLEAR

7. While walking the dog, the leash broke. CLEAR UNCLEAR

8. Before sunset, we hiked down the trail. 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 sentence with a CLEAR modifier and one new sentence with an UNCLEAR modifier.

CLEAR _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNCLEAR sort item and rewrite it so the modifier clearly describes the person or thing doing the action.

ANSWER KEY

Modifier Match-Up

GRADE 8 · 8.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After packing the instruments, the musicians loaded the bus.	**CLEAR**	The musicians are the ones who packed the instruments.
2	The coach handed water bottles to players waiting near the bench.	**CLEAR**	The phrase "waiting near the bench" clearly describes the players.
3	Walking through the archive, the ancient maps caught Lena's attention.	**UNCLEAR**	The maps are not walking through the archive.
4	Students who finished early began the puzzle.	**CLEAR**	The clause "who finished early" clearly describes students.
5	To finish before noon, the report was typed quickly.	**UNCLEAR**	A report cannot intend to finish before noon.
6	After reading the directions, the experiment was easy.	**UNCLEAR**	The experiment cannot read directions.
7	While walking the dog, the leash broke.	**UNCLEAR**	The leash is not walking the dog.
8	Before sunset, we hiked down the trail.	**CLEAR**	The word "we" clearly names who hiked.

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**: After polishing the telescope, Noor studied the moon.
- **UNCLEAR**: Crossing the bridge, the backpack slipped from Eli's shoulder.

Challenge: To finish before noon, Maya typed the report quickly.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify the word described by the modifier or explain why no logical subject performs the modifier's action. Part 3 responses may vary if each sentence accurately matches its category.