Who Did It?

Find the subject that matches each opening phrase.

7.W.6.b "Phrases and Clauses – Recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR MODIFIER

The opening phrase describes the subject that comes after the comma.

Wearing muddy boots, Felix entered the bakery.

DANGLING MODIFIER

The opening phrase does not describe the subject after the comma. The sentence seems to give that subject an action it cannot do.

Wearing muddy boots, the bakery's floor got dirty.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or DANGLING for each sentence, then choose one of each and explain whether its opening phrase describes the subject after the comma.

1. Carrying a stack of books, Maya stepped into the library. CLEAR DANGLING
2. Racing toward the bus, the backpack bounced against Leo's side. CLEAR DANGLING
3. While sketching the castle, the pencil snapped in Aria's hand. CLEAR DANGLING
4. Listening to the thunder, Omar closed the window. CLEAR DANGLING
5. After folding the map, Priya put it in her pocket. CLEAR DANGLING
6. Digging in the garden, a shiny coin caught Mateo's eye. CLEAR DANGLING
7. Searching for clues, the detectives examined the hallway. CLEAR DANGLING
8. Climbing the rocky hill, the sunset amazed Tessa. CLEAR DANGLING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each and explain whether its opening phrase describes the subject after the comma.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a CLEAR opening phrase and one new sentence with a DANGLING opening phrase.

CLEAR _____

DANGLING _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 8 so the opening phrase describes the subject after the comma, and keep the sunset in the sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Who Did It?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Carrying a stack of books, Maya stepped into the library.	**CLEAR**	Maya is carrying the books.
2	Racing toward the bus, the backpack bounced against Leo's side.	**DANGLING**	Leo may be racing, but the subject, backpack, is not.
3	While sketching the castle, the pencil snapped in Aria's hand.	**DANGLING**	Aria is sketching, but the subject, pencil, is not.
4	Listening to the thunder, Omar closed the window.	**CLEAR**	Omar is listening to the thunder.
5	After folding the map, Priya put it in her pocket.	**CLEAR**	Priya folded the map.
6	Digging in the garden, a shiny coin caught Mateo's eye.	**DANGLING**	Mateo is digging, but the subject, coin, is not.
7	Searching for clues, the detectives examined the hallway.	**CLEAR**	The detectives are searching for clues.
8	Climbing the rocky hill, the sunset amazed Tessa.	**DANGLING**	Tessa is climbing, but the subject, sunset, is not.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one of each and explain whether its opening phrase describes the subject after the comma.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR**: Painting the fence, Lila splashed blue paint.
- **DANGLING**: Painting the fence, blue paint splashed onto Lila's shoes.

Challenge: Climbing the rocky hill, Tessa admired the sunset.

For Part 2, students should name the subject and explain whether it can do the action in the opening phrase. For example, Maya can carry books in item 1, but a backpack cannot race toward a bus in item 2.