Who Did It?

Sort opening modifiers by the subject they describe.

8.5.W.3 "Students will recognize and correct the following: misplaced and dangling modifiers, vague pronouns, and second person point of view in formal writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR MODIFIER

The subject after the comma can do the action in the opening phrase.

Having practiced the solo, the violinist bowed.

DANGLING MODIFIER

The subject after the comma cannot do the action in the opening phrase. The sentence does not name who did that action.

Having practiced the solo, the curtain rose.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or DANGLING for each sentence; in Part 2, pick one item from each category and explain whether its subject can do the opening action.

1.	Balancing a tray of seedlings, Mara entered the greenhouse.	CLEAR DANGLING
2.	Balancing a tray of seedlings, the greenhouse door creaked.	CLEAR DANGLING
3.	While drafting the speech, the microphone stopped working.	CLEAR DANGLING
4.	While examining the fossil, Luis spotted a crack.	CLEAR DANGLING
5.	Holding the map upside down, Ava missed the trail.	CLEAR DANGLING
6.	Trying to reach the top shelf, I stood on a stool.	CLEAR DANGLING
7.	Trying to reach the top shelf, the stool wobbled.	CLEAR DANGLING
8.	Having read the recipe, the oven seemed too hot.	CLEAR DANGLING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick one item from each category and explain whether its subject can do the opening action.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a clear opening modifier and one with a dangling opening modifier; underline the subject after each comma.

CLEAR _____

DANGLING _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your dangling sentence so the subject after the comma can do the opening action; underline the new subject.

ANSWER KEY # Who Did It?

GRADE 8 · 8.5.W.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Balancing a tray of seedlings, Mara entered the greenhouse.	**CLEAR**	Mara can balance the tray.
2	Balancing a tray of seedlings, the greenhouse door creaked.	**DANGLING**	A door cannot balance a tray.
3	While drafting the speech, the microphone stopped working.	**DANGLING**	A microphone cannot draft a speech.
4	While examining the fossil, Luis spotted a crack.	**CLEAR**	Luis can examine the fossil.
5	Holding the map upside down, Ava missed the trail.	**CLEAR**	Ava can hold the map.
6	Trying to reach the top shelf, I stood on a stool.	**CLEAR**	The speaker can try to reach the shelf.
7	Trying to reach the top shelf, the stool wobbled.	**DANGLING**	A stool cannot try to reach a shelf.
8	Having read the recipe, the oven seemed too hot.	**DANGLING**	An oven cannot read a recipe.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one item from each category and explain whether its subject can do the opening action. 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 planting the bulbs, Talia washed her hands.
- **DANGLING**: After folding the laundry, the doorbell rang.

Challenge: After folding the laundry, Talia answered the doorbell.

For Part 2, an acceptable pair is item 1: Mara can balance the tray; item 3: a microphone cannot draft a speech. In the challenge sample, Talia replaces the doorbell as the subject that can fold laundry.