Modifier Mission

Trace how phrases and clauses connect to the right words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1c "Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every introductory phrase or clause in the passage. Draw an arrow to the noun or action it describes so you can check that the modifier is placed clearly.

Preparing a Turtle Release

1. At a coastal rescue center, biologist Mara Ortiz prepares injured sea turtles for release. Before sunrise, she checks each turtle's shell, flippers, and breathing rate. Tucked into a quiet holding tank, the smallest turtle rests beneath a heat lamp. Ortiz records its weight on a chart, using a scale designed for small animals. When the tide reaches the proper level, the team will carry the turtles to the beach. Their careful notes help the center decide whether each animal is ready for the ocean.

2. Watching from a raised platform, volunteers scan the water for turtles near the shore. A green flag, placed beside the release path, shows visitors where to stand. Because the animals need a clear route, staff members ask the crowd to stay behind a rope. Carrying a bucket of seawater, Ortiz walks beside the smallest turtle. The bucket keeps its skin moist during the short trip. Near the waves, the team lowers the turtle onto wet sand and steps back quietly.

3. After the release, Ortiz photographs the turtle from a distance. To avoid disturbing it, she uses a camera with a long lens. The turtle, moving steadily through the foam, soon disappears beyond the first line of waves. While volunteers pack the equipment, a visitor reads the center's display. Written by the science team, the display explains how plastic litter can harm marine animals. At the end of the day, Ortiz sends the notes and photographs to the center's database for future research.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the sentence beginning "Tucked into a quiet holding tank," what noun does the introductory phrase describe?

2. In the sentence beginning "Carrying a bucket of seawater," who is carrying the bucket?

3. What action does the clause "Because the animals need a clear route" explain?

4. Correct this dangling-modifier sentence by naming who released the turtle: "After releasing the turtle, the photographs were sent to the center." Explain why your subject fits the introductory phrase.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a different conservation activity. Include an introductory participial phrase followed immediately by the noun it describes, an introductory phrase or clause that modifies an action, and a phrase set between commas beside the noun it describes.

ANSWER KEY

Modifier Mission

GRADE 7 · L.7.1c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every introductory phrase or clause in the passage. Draw an arrow to the noun or action it describes so you can check that the modifier is placed clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the sentence beginning "Tucked into a quiet holding tank," what noun does the introductory phrase describe?	**the smallest turtle**
2	In the sentence beginning "Carrying a bucket of seawater," who is carrying the bucket?	**Ortiz**
3	What action does the clause "Because the animals need a clear route" explain?	**It explains why staff members ask the crowd to stay behind a rope.**
4	Correct this dangling-modifier sentence by naming who released the turtle: "After releasing the turtle, the photographs were sent to the center." Explain why your subject fits the introductory phrase.	**After releasing the turtle, Ortiz sent the photographs to the center. Ortiz, not the photographs, performs the action in the introductory phrase.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Working quietly, volunteers plant young trees along a stream. Before the afternoon rain begins, they press each root into damp soil. The saplings, protected by wire guards, will be safe from hungry deer.

Accept arrows that connect each introductory modifier to the correct noun or action. For the writing task, accept varied topics and wording if all three required modifiers are clear, correctly placed, and not dangling.