

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 10
Lecture - 49
Grammar - Part 5
Modifiers & Active voice, Passive voice

Good morning. So, we will continue with our grammar and various aspects of grammar. So, one is modifiers and another is voice; active and passive. This is something all of you must have done in your school level, at your school level and modifiers especially are important to understand, especially in the correct the sentences, format of competitive exams. Voice is also important because the way you write and what voice you use in the way you write is also extremely important.

Now while doing all these presentations, I have consulted a couple of very good websites. Particularly grammarly dot com and other websites on the net; which are pertaining to grammar. I would suggest that you keep looking up these sites also further understanding. You also have Martin Hewings book, Advanced English Grammar and More Basics. Please go back always without any doubt, go back to Brandon Martin. So, coming back to what we are doing, a modifier changes or clarifies or adds particular phrase. For emphasis explanation like poor Geetha comma a single mom with three infants has to work at two jobs.

Now single mom with three infants becomes your modifier or qualifier. It adds, clarifies limits a particular word in a sentence in order to add an emphasize explain or give some details. Modifiers need or tend to be descriptive words. Sometimes even you know poor. So, they are it is like a modifier. So as single mom is a modifier, three and infant children. So, it is not like poor Geetha is working and taking care of three infants, it is not just that, you are talking about Sheela single mom, poor all these are qualifiers.

Remember modifiers phrases such as adjective clause and adverbial phrases exist and tend to describe adjectives and adverbs. So, they add value, add explanation details to all this. In a sentence like poor Geetha single mom with three infant children is working at two jobs. Here you have poor and adjective, single mom etcetera is a clause and three is

a quantifier. All these things and all these words expressions, clauses add meaning to the first sentence; that is Sheela or Geetha is working.

Only look at only Geetha is working at two jobs. How unadorned it is, but look at poor Geetha comma a single mother of three infants or three infant children is working at two jobs. Look at how everything is modified. Modifier can be anything, a noun, adjective, a clause or an adverbial phrase, remember that. Modifier placement, now this is the key. The way you place a modifier is, key to making a good elegant and eligible sentence. Now remember modifier placement can appear in a variety of ways, but most often it comes in sentence correction, as I already told you. Dangling modifier and misplaced modifier; these are the two categories you have to look at.

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Sentences that include dangling modifiers are typically, they typically begin with an introductory clause that describes the subject, but they do not name it immediately. They confuse a potential reader.

For example, let us say primary school teacher from Allahabad or even in from Baroda increase funding and support for public libraries were, what Nadiya Khan advocated for? Now, who is Nadiya Khan perhaps, she is a primary school teacher, but it is not coming through. The best way would be a primary school teacher from Allahabad, Nadiya Khan advocated for increased funding and support for public libraries.

Now this make sense, which is who is she? And where is she from? But it has to be placed properly. Another sentence like with its steep hills and stunning views of the surrounding ocean, visitors to Vancouver are unlikely to forget it. Forget what? Correct sentence would be, with its steep hills and stunning views of the surrounding oceans, Vancouver is unlikely to be forgotten by visitors. Vancouver is the subject here. So at a sentence, as a dangling modifier; if we make it passive, it reads better. If Vancouver is not place before visitors, it becomes difficult to attribute steep hills and views to anything. So, you need to have Vancouver there very clearly.

Placement of subject matters as it could alter the meaning. Again you know that primary school teacher sentences are different contexts. A primary school teacher now listen to this carefully; a primary school teacher from Allahabad, Nadiya Khans goal was to achieve increase funding and support for public libraries. Here, goal seems to be the primary school teacher. I will read out again; a primary school teacher from Allahabad, Nadiya Khans goal was to achieve increase funding and support for public libraries. Goal seems to be the primary school teacher while, this actually refers to Nadhiya Khan.

So, placement of the subject immediately beside the modifier is crucial to sentence formation. Correct sentence would be an elementary school teacher from Allahabad, Nadiya Khan had the goal of achieving increase funding and support for the public libraries. Remember unlike dangling modifiers, misplaced modifiers do not necessarily involve introductory clauses and can occur anywhere in a sentence. They do; however, also involve modifiers separated from the words of phrases they are intended to modify and often result in sentences, whose meanings are unintentionally ambiguous. So they add ambiguity, they cause ambiguity. Explanation can be funny unintentionally funny.

Now, a sentence like listen to me carefully. Alexander Fleming discovered the first antibiotic, accidentally introducing contamination into a laboratory experiment. Now what sort of a sentence is this? It is looks like or sounds like as this is the antibiotic introduce contamination, but that is not possible, antibiotic is suppose to kill that contamination. Correct would be Alexander Fleming discovered the first antibiotic when, he accidentally introduced contamination into a laboratory experiment. So, look at the placement.

So, accidentally introduced contamination into laboratory experiment that is the way it has to be and from here, I will take you to some exercises.

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Dangling Modifiers: Exercise

1. Characterized by scenes that are shot quickly and in real time, low budgets and simple props are both typical elements of guerilla filmmaking.
2. One of the greatest musicians of her time, Clara Wieck's piano studies began when she was five years old; by the age of twelve she was renowned as both a performer and a composer.
3. Born in St. Lucia in the West Indies, author Derek Walcott's work includes a number of plays and poems, most notably Omeros.
4. One of hundreds of islands that form the Indonesian archipelago, the width of Bali is less than 100 miles, yet it holds within its borders a rich and dramatic history.
5. Historically based on the carving of walrus ivory, which was once found in abundance, since the mid-twentieth century, Inuit art has also included prints and figures made from soft stone.

Please take a look at this particular slide. These are things I want you to correct; characterized first sentence, by scenes that are shot quickly and in real time, low budgets and simple props are both typical elements of guerilla filmmaking. Second sentence, please understand, what you are supposed to do? You are suppose to correct these sentences. One of the greatest musicians of her time, Clara Wiecks piano studies began when she was five years old; by the age of twelve she was renowned as both of performer and a composer. Sentence 3, born in Saint Lucia in the West Indies, author Derek Walkott's work includes a number of plays and poems, most notably Omeros. One of hundreds of islands that from the Indonesian archipelago, the width of Bali is less than 100 miles, yet it holds within its borders a rich and dramatic history.

Historically based on the carving of walrus ivory, which was once found in abundance, since the mid twentieth century, Inuit art has also included prints and figures made from soft stone.

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6. Located in the southern Andes and covered by glaciers, the most recent eruption of the volcano known as Tronador occurred many centuries ago.
7. An inspiration to European artists such as Gauguin, van Gogh, and Toulouse-Lautrec, the eighteenth century was when Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai lived.
8. Projecting an image of pain and brutality that has few parallels among advanced paintings of the twentieth century, *Guernica* was painted by Pablo Picasso in the aftermath of a World War II bombing.
9. Though educated and well mannered, the status of Jane Eyre remains low throughout the majority of the novel that bears her name.
10. Born at Dromland Castle in County Clare, Ireland in 1821, artist and engineer George O'Brien's aristocratic background seemed at odds with his life in the Australian outback.

Please look at this slide carefully before we move on to the next one. Number 6, located in the southern Andes and covered by glaciers, the most recently eruption of the volcano known as Tronador occurred many centuries ago. An inspiration to European artist such as Gauguin, van Gogh, and Toulouse Lautrec, the eighteenth century was when Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai lived. Number 8, projecting an image of pain and brutality that has few parallels among advanced paintings of the twentieth century; *Guernica* was painted by Pablo Picasso in the aftermath of a Second World War bombing. Number 9, though educated and well mannered, the status of Jane Eyre remains low throughout the majority of the novel that bears her name, and the last one. Born at Dromland Castle in County Clare, Ireland in 1821, artist and engineer George O Briens aristocratic background seemed at odds with his life in the Australian outback.

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11. A member of the ruralism movement, Czech writer Josef Holocek made life in Bohemia one of the principal subjects of his work.
12. Despite winning several architectural awards, the impractical layout of the university's new dormitory has been criticized by students.
13. One of the earliest authorities to take a stand against pollution, it was proclaimed by King Edward I in 1306 that sea coal could not be burned because the smoke it created was hazardous to people's health.
14. Predicting renewed interest in their country's natural resources, a plan has been established by political leaders to create mines in the most underdeveloped regions.
15. Having remained under Moorish rule until the twelfth century, Arabic was still spoken by many Spaniards when their cities first came under the control of European monarchs.

A member of the ruralism movement, Czech writer Josef Holocek made life in Bohemia one of the principal subjects of his work. Number 12, despite winning several architectural awards, the impractical layout of the university's new dormitory has been criticized by students. Number 13, one of the earliest authorities to take a stand against pollution, it was proclaimed by King Edward the first 1306 that sea coal could not be burned because the smoke it created was hazardous to people's health. Number 14, predicting renewed interest in their country's natural resources, a plan has been established by political leaders to create mines in the most underdeveloped regions. And number 15, having remained under Moorish rule until the twelfth century, Arabic was still spoken by many Spaniards when their cities first came under the control of European monarchs.

So, let us look at the answers and the first sentence, characterized by scenes that are shot quickly and in real time. Guerilla filmmaking is typically characterized by low budgets and simple props that is the answer. Next is one of the greatest musicians of a time Clara Wiecks, began piano studies when she was 5 years old, by the age of 12 she was renowned as both the performer and a composer. Next on is born in Saint Lucia in the West Indies, author Derek Walcott's work includes a number of plays and poems most notably Omeros. Number 4, one of hundreds of islands that form the Indonesian archipelago, Bali is less than 100 miles wide. Yet it holds within its borders, a rich and dramatic history. Number 5, historically based on the carving of walrus ivory which was

once found in abundance, Inuit art has since the mid twentieth century also included prints and figures made from soft stone.

Number 6, located in the southern Andes and covered by glaciers, Tronador is an extinct volcano whose last eruption occurred many centuries ago. Number 7, an inspiration to European artists such as Gauguin, van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec, Japanese painter Hokusai lived during the eighteenth century. Number 8, is correct there are no, they no correction required there. Number 9; though well educated, the educated and well-mannered Jane Eyre. This is if you know is a novel remains of low status throughout the majority of the novel that bears her name. Next one number 10, born in Drogheda Castle in County Louth, Ireland in 1821, artist and engineer George O'Brien had an aristocratic background that seemed to be at odds with his life in the Australian outback. Number 11, is correct no change required there. And number 12, despite winning several architectural awards, the university's new dormitory has been criticized by students for its impractical layout. Number 13, is one of the correct form is one of the earliest authorities to take a stand against pollution. King Edward, the first proclaimed in 1306, that sea coal could not be burned because the smoke it created was hazardous to people's health.

Number 14, is predicting renewed interest in their country's natural resources, political leaders have established a plan to create mines in the most underdeveloped regions. Number 15, is having remained under Moorish rule, under the twelfth century many Spaniards still spoke Arabic when their cities first came under the control of European monarchs.

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Misplaced Modifiers: Exercise

1. The Spanish city of Valencia is the birthplace of *horchata*, a drink said to date from the eighth century made from the juice of tiger nuts.
2. Claude McKay was one of the most important poets of the Harlem Renaissance that moved to New York after studying agronomy in Kansas.
3. The California Street Cable Railroad is an established public transit company in San Francisco, which was founded by Leland Stanford.
4. Many police officers have switched from patrolling city streets on horseback to patrolling them in cars, which have become the most popular form of urban transportation.
5. Cartoonist Paul Conrad was known for his acerbic depictions of contemporary politicians spending nearly three decades on staff at the *Los Angeles Times*.

And now look at the slide here. This is another set of exercises for you. First, the Spanish city of Valencia is the birth place of horchata, a drink said to date from the eighth century made from the juice of tiger nuts. 2, Claude Mckay was one of the most important poets of the Harlem Renaissance that moved to New York after studying agronomy in Kansas.

Next one, the California Street Cable Railroad is an established public transit company in San Francisco, which was founded by Leland Stanford. Number 4, many police officers have switched from patrolling city streets on horseback to patrolling them in cars, which have become the most popular form of urban transportation. Number 5, cartoonist Paul Conrad was known for his acerbic depictions of contemporary politicians spending nearly three decades on staff at the Los Angeles Times.

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6. Many ancient cities were protected from bands of invaders by fortresses roaming in search of settlements to plunder.
7. Some of the world's fastest trains run between the cities of Tokyo and Kyoto, which can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.
8. Originally constructed during the Roman Republic, the House of Livia contains brightly colored frescoes dating back to the first decades B.C. that depict bucolic landscapes and mythological scenes.
9. The Georgian port of Batumi fell into decline in the mid-twentieth century, which once housed some of the world's first oil pipelines.
10. The bass viol has experienced a resurgence in popularity over the past several decades resembling the cello.

Please look at the next slide. Many ancient cities were protected from bands of invaders by fortress roaming in search of settlements to plunder. Number 7, some of the world's fastest trains run between the cities of Tokyo and Kyoto, which can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. Number 8, originally constructed during the Roman Republic, the House of Livia contains brightly colored frescoes dating back to the first decades B.C that depict bucolic landscapes and mythological scenes. Number 9, the Georgian port of Batumi fell into decline in the mid twentieth century, which once housed some of the world's first oil pipelines. Number 10, the bass viol has experienced a resurgence in popularity over the past several decades resembling the cello.

The answers are; now, first the Spanish city of Valencia is the birth place of horchata, a drink made from the juice of tiger nuts and set to date from the eight century. City does not date, the drink dates from that eight century, remember that. There is the misplace modifier. The next one, one of the most important poets of the Harlem Renaissance, Claude Mckay removed, he moved to New York after studying agronomy in Kansas. City did not move, Claude Mckay moved. Number 3, founded by Leland Stanford for the California Street Cable Railroad is an established public transit company in San Francisco. Number 4, is correct and number 5, known for his acerbic depictions of contemporary politicians comma cartoonist Paul Conrad spent nearly three decades on staff at the Los Angeles Times.

Number 6, fortress is protected many ancient cities, this is an interesting one. Now who are the plunders, from bands of invaders roaming in search of settlements to plunder? So, fortresses were not roaming, invaders are roaming. So, that is the placement. Number 7, some of the world's fastest trains which can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour run between the cities of Tokyo and Kyoto.

Number 8, originally constructed during the Roman Republic, the House of Livia contains brightly colored frescoes that depict bucolic landscapes and mythological scenes and that date back to the first decades B.C. Number 9, the Georgian port of Batumi which once housed some of the world's first oil pipelines fell into decline in the mid twentieth century. Number 10, the last one the bass viol which resembling the cello. So, not at the end, but here has experienced, resurgence in popularity over the past several decades.

So, I hope you are conversant with dangling modifiers and you do not make this mistake anymore and you are able to identify this for your in your exams. Now we will move on to voices; active and passive voice and I will just give you a brief introduction because I do not feel that we need to do too much of discussion. In this segment now only thing is that, passive writing was beautifully in scientific reports; however, in most other forms of writing it is active voice that is preferable, but then it also depends on the context. In an active voice remember, the subject precedes the verb. So, Sheela drank the milk. We do not say milk was drunk by Sheela. It is we do say in some context here, milk was acted upon by this element, but milk was drunk by Elina, sentence is grammatically correct, but is very inelegant.

Subject is acted upon milk is drunk by Elina. Now active voice constructions are economical, that is the best thing about them and like passives sentences which are wordy and clunky, they are more complicated. Passive voice is usually preferred when active sentences may cause some ambiguity or ambivalence or confusion. Remember to use active voice over passive voice in your essays. Active voice is the preferred mode of writing and make for need short sentences. Even within questions with choices, choose active constructions unless the active voice construction has a dangling modifier.

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Re-write the following passive constructions to active.

1. In the later works of Nikola Stoyanov, also known by the pseudonym Emiliyan Stanev, nature is often described in great detail by the author.
2. Michael J. Rosen has written works ranging from picture books to poetry, and several anthologies varying almost as broadly in content have also been edited by him.
3. In the movie *The Killing Fields*, Cambodian photojournalist Dith Pran was portrayed by first-time actor Haing S. Ngor, a role for which Ngor won an Academy Award.
4. Although desserts typically characterized by their sweetness, bakers are now creating ones that feature intriguing blends of sweet and savory.
5. *The Nereus*, a remotely operated underwater hybrid vehicle, was designed by scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to function at depths of up to 36,000 feet

Now, I will give this set of sentences, please rewrite them from passive to active. Look at this, first in the later works of Nikola Stoyanov, also known by the pseudonym Emiliyan Stanev, nature is often described in great detail by the author. Michael number 2, Michael J. Rosen has written works ranging from pictures books to poetry, and several anthologies varying almost as broadly in content have also been edited by him. Now three, in the movie *The Killing Fields*, Cambodian photojournalist Dith Pran was portrayed by first time actor Haing S. Ngor, a role for which Ngor won an Academy Award.

Number 4: although desserts typically characterized by their sweetness, bakers are now creating ones that feature intriguing blends of sweet and savory. Number 5, the *Nereus*, a remotely operated underwater hybrid vehicle, was designed by scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic institute to function at depths of up to 36000 feet.

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6. Michael Balls, a British zoologist and biology professor, is known by many pharmaceutical company executives as an outspoken opponent of animal laboratory testing.
7. Between the late 1970's and 1980's, nine albums were recorded by Jamaican reggae musician Lone Ranger, born Anthony Alphonso Waldron.
8. Time Lapse Dance, a New York-based dance company whose mission is to provide modern reinterpretations of classic works, was founded by performance artist Jody Sperling in 2000.
9. Murtabak, a dish composed of mutton, garlic, egg, onion, and curry sauce, is frequently eaten by people throughout the Middle East, Singapore, and Indonesia.
10. Over the last thirty years, many forms of meditation have been examined by researchers, and a number of them have been deemed ineffective.

Number 6, Michael Balls, a British zoologist and biology professor, is known by many pharmaceutical company executives as an outspoken opponent of animal laboratory testing. Number 7, between the late 1970s and 1980s, nine albums were recorded by Jamaican reggae musician Lone Ranger, born Anthony Alphonso Waldron. Number 8, Time Lapse Dance, a New York based time lapse dance comma a New York based dance company whose mission is to provide modern reinterpretations of classic works, was founded by performance artist Jody Sperling in 2000.

Number 9, Murtabak, a dish composed of mutton, garlic, egg, onion, and curry sauce, is frequently eaten by people throughout the Middle East, Singapore, and Indonesia. Number 10, over the last thirty years, many forms of meditation have been examined by researchers, and a number of them have been deemed ineffective. The answers are; first one, in the later works of Nikola Stoyanov, who also known by the pseudonym Emilian Stanev the author often describes natures. So, not nature is described, the author often describes nature in great detail. Second, Michael J. Rosen has written works, not written by, works written by ranging from pictures books to poetry and he has also edited several anthologies varying almost as broadly in content.

Number 3, in the movie The Killing Fields first time actor Haing S. Ngor portrayed Cambodian. So, forth the role was not portrayed by Ngor, portrayed Cambodian photojournalist Dith Pran a role for which Ngor won an Academy Award. You do not

have to see the role of this was portrayed by. He portrayed this role. Number 4, although desserts are typically characterized by their sweetness, this is not a passive just because it is there is a buyer. Bakers are now creating ones, that feature intriguing blends of sweet and savory and number 5, is scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic institute designed the Nereus, a remotely operated underwater hybrid vehicle to function at depths of up to 36000.

Number 6, many pharmaceutical company executives know Michael Balls. So, it is not Michael Balls is known by, it is better to use many pharmaceutical company executives know Michael Balls, a British zoologist and biology professor, as an outspoken opponent of animal laboratory testing. Number 7, between the late 1970s and 1980s, Jamaican reggae musician lone ranger born Anthony Alphonso Waldron recorded nine albums. 8, in 2000 performance artist Jody Sperling founded Time Lapse Dance; a New York based Dance Company, whose mission is to provide modern reinterpretations of classic works. Number 9, people throughout the Middle East Singapore and Indonesia frequently eat Murtabak, a dish composed of mutton, garlic, egg, onion, and curry sauce.

Number 10, over the last thirty years researchers had examined many forms of meditation and deemed a number of them ineffective. So, I hope you got some practice in reading or understanding active and the passive voice and also some practice in understanding, what are misplays and dangling modifiers. The idea of today's class was to make you more conscious, more aware of the common mistakes that we find. We know that they are wrong, but we do not really know, what is the problem here? So, that was the purpose today's exercise. So thank you very much, we will do more grammar in our subsequent classes.