

Mangling & Dangling Modifiers

These sentences are confused by misplaced or dangling modifiers. Identify the modifier(s) and what is modified, then un-mangle the sentence.

From Richard Lederer's Anguished English.

- 1) Yoko Ono will talk about her husband, John Lennon, who was killed in an interview with Barbara Walters.
- 2) Some said shortly after his death Mao Tse-tung had expressed a wish that his body be cremated.
- 3) CALF BORN TO FARMER WITH TWO HEADS
- 4) One couldn't help but be aware of the stallion Royal Rick sitting in the stands the last couple of nights.
- 5) As a baboon who grew up wild in the jungle, I realized that Wiki had special nutrition needs.
- 6) In 1979, he bought majority control of the company's stock, along with his mother.
- 7) Last week Toronto policemen buried one of their own: a 22-year-old constable shot with his own revolver in a solemn display of police solidarity rarely seen in Canada.
- 8) The Mormon Church has no doctrinal position on when life begins, but takes a hard line against abortions performed for reasons other than to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape and incest after counselling with a bishop.
- 9) The police said Barth's 1981 Toyota traveled down the shoulder for almost 1,000 feet and then hit a utility pole going about 45 miles an hour.
- 10) The patient was referred to a psychiatrist with a severe emotional problem.
- 11) Do not sit in chair without being fully assembled.
- 12) A former scout leader will plead guilty to two counts of sexually assaulting two boys in a New Hampshire court.
- 13) The judge sentenced the killer to die in the electric chair for the second time.
- 14) No one was injured in the blast, which was attributed to a buildup of gas by one town official.

From my student papers:

- 1) "Many poor people have nothing to give to others, but it is really touching when you see a poor person give something up and sacrifice for another, for example children."
- 2) "He was father of twelve and a husband."
- 3) "A juvenile in her late teens was charged with abuse of a corpse in adult court."