**Chapter 8: Using Modifiers Correctly, pp. 189–217**

**Choices: Exploring Modifiers, p. 189**

Choices activities are designed to extend and enrich students’ understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics and to take learners beyond traditional classroom instruction. To use the Choices worksheet, have each student pick an activity that interests him or her. In some cases, you may wish to assign an activity to a particular student or group of students. You may also want to request that students get your approval for the activities they choose. Establish guidelines for what constitutes successful completion of an activity. Then, help students plan how they will share their work with the rest of the class.

Choices activities can be scored with a pass-fail grade or treated as bonus-point projects. Those activities that require students to research or create a certain number of items might be graded in a traditional manner.

**Modifiers, p. 190**

**EXERCISE A**

1. ADJ
2. ADV
3. ADV

**EXERCISE B**

The [6] glass parts [7] of Fresnel lenses produced a brighter light than that provided [8] by oil lamps with simple reflectors. [9] As the glass parts captured lamplight, they directed that light [10] onto the “bull’s-eyes” at the centers of the beehive-shaped lenses. Sailors [11] who were as far away as twenty miles out to sea were warned quite easily [12] about the coastline that they were approaching.

[13] Before long, the Fresnel lenses were made in seven sizes. The [14] three largest lens types were primarily for use in lighthouses along the seacoast. [15] For harbor or bay areas, the smaller lens sizes were more suitable.

**One-Word Modifiers, p. 191**

**EXERCISE A**

1. ADJ
2. ADV
3. ADV
4. ADJ
5. ADJ

**EXERCISE B**

6. The Diary of a Sparrow reminds us to recognize the most ordinary people.
7. Enji, a grandfather of Kazuko Watanabe, kept a diary for nearly seventy years.
8. In this outstanding book, Watanabe excerpts eight compelling events about Enji.
9. How did Enji first react to the surprising voices and music on the “sound-making” box?
10. He must surely have felt amazed when he saw the first Japanese airplane fly in 1911!
11. Enji clearly depicts the unprecedented development and prosperity of the early 1900s.
12. Many readers could readily understand the terrible pain of losing a son in World War II.
13. Ms. Watanabe has skillfully provided the English translation of the Japanese text in the diary.
15. Read the book in the traditional manner or, optionally, view it as three-dimensional art.

**Adjective or Adverb? p. 192**

**EXERCISE A**

1. loudly
2. angry
3. clumsily
4. humorous
5. excitedly
EXERCISE B

6. Tomorrow, Chen begins a different part-time job at the skating rink.

7. He will work nightly during the week and on some weekends.

8. Initially, Chen will skate behind the ice-resurfacing machine to check for problem areas.

9. Various repairs will again smooth the chipped, pockmarked surface of the skating rink.

10. If Chen does this tedious job well, he will eventually earn greater responsibilities.

11. He may even be allowed to operate the huge resurfacing machine.

12. Under a large cover, a blade precisely scrapes a thin layer of ice up onto spinning conveyors.

13. Meanwhile, water jets flush dirt and other debris toward a vacuum hose.

14. The dirty water will be filtered to be reused on the skating-rink surface.

15. Other jets send out hot water that is spread over the icy surface by a large towel.

Phrases Used as Modifiers, p. 193

EXERCISE A

Some students may correctly identify the long infinitive and prepositional phrase combinations in items 3 and 7 separately, indicating that the prepositional phrase modifies the infinitive.

1. She knows by heart all the lyrics from songs in Showboat.

2. Do you enjoy old movies in black and white?

3. The ones to see for humorous antics are the films with Charlie Chaplin.

4. Because of special effects, movies can include almost any setting or character.

5. See how the director used color highlights to emphasize the black-and-white setting.

6. The setting looks artistic enough to be a painting.

7. A number of films use clouds or fog to set the stage for a person’s dream.

8. Behind the actors, the scaled-down model of a town created a mood.

9. Computer graphics have added flexibility to the range of special effects.

10. For some roles, actors might require several hours to put on their costumes and make-up.

EXERCISE B

Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.

11. for the second time

12. to understand the first time

13. at keeping suspense

14. To their dismay

15. from the past decade

Clauses Used as Modifiers, p. 194

EXERCISE A

1. Ruby memorized the poem, which was forty lines long.

2. As soon as we can after the banquet, Al and I will fold up the chairs and tables.

3. Mr. Kendall described the chemical mixture that had caused the rotten-egg smell.

4. We’ll have room to grow pumpkins if we add two more loads of dirt to the garden.

5. Of the chores that were on Mom’s list, Tara has finished all except one.

6. She stayed at the library until she grew tired.
7. Because the directions were unclear, we couldn’t follow them.

8. The vegetarian dishes cooked more quickly than the meat dishes did.

9. After he finished his five-mile run, Jacob took a long nap.

10. When we arrived at the park, all of the picnic areas had been claimed.

Phrases and Clauses Used as Modifiers, p. 195

EXERCISE
1. The Panama Canal is an essential structure because the canal is necessary to allow ships easy passage between oceans.
2. Depending on traffic patterns, varying amounts of time are needed to pass through the canal.
3. Opened in 1914, the canal takes ships through a series of locks.
4. The entire lock system, which joins Colón and Panama City, includes two lakes.
5. Each lake, Gatun and Miraflores, has the same name as the lock next to it does.
6. Almost at the midpoint of the 50-mile-long canal is the Galliard Cut.
7. Any ship that is larger than 106 feet wide and 965 feet long cannot navigate the canal.
8. When the canal was run as a nonprofit utility, it was successful.
9. Operation of the canal is complicated enough to allow for numerous employment opportunities.
10. The canal is expensive to maintain, so profits from tariffs are essential to keep the canal in good condition.

Bad and Badly, Good and Well, p. 196

EXERCISE
1. well
2. badly
3. well
4. badly
5. good
6. bad
7. bad
8. well
9. badly
10. well
11. well
12. good
13. badly
14. well
15. well
16. badly
17. good
18. bad
19. well
20. well

Slow and Slowly, Real and Really, p. 197

EXERCISE
1. C
2. C
3. The marathon runner crossed the finish line really quickly.
4. Did you notice how slow the water was flowing from that pipe?
5. Is it really difficult to locate a gardening expert?
6. That is a really good remedy for someone who is airsick.
7. C
8. I had no idea that the traffic on this route to work was going to move this slow.
9. C
10. Would you please drive really slow as we pass the front of that shop?
11. Bess noticed that the birds flew really high above the canyon.
12. Fran painted the office while business was moving slowly at the hardware store.

13. C

14. Gerald always completes his assignments slowly but thoroughly.

15. The posse slowly moved through the blustery storm.

16. C

17. Because of the holidays, this package will be delivered more slowly than usual.

18. The diamond sparkled really nicely in the sunlight.

19. Eric sauntered slowly into the dark room.

20. C

Eight Troublesome Modifiers, p. 198

Exercise

1. Theo threw the ball badly, but it still went into the hoop.

2. C

3. Before adding the liquid ingredients, mix these together well.

4. How well did Arlo sing during the choir tryouts?

5. The computerized image of the lion looked really frightening.

6. Please explain why the milk tasted badly if it looked just fine.

7. Rain fell quite slowly, soaking everything thoroughly.

8. C

9. Watching cartoons interfered very badly with my homework.

10. C

11. C

12. Harry thought Denise’s suggestion was really excellent.

13. C

14. C

15. Does that pace seem too slowly for this kind of relay?

16. C

17. Did I speak slowly enough?

18. They did reasonably well on the exam.

19. C

20. I ate too much bread, and my stomach felt badly for a few minutes.

Regular Comparison, p. 199

Exercise

1. large; larger; largest

2. early; earlier; earliest

3. popular; more popular; most popular

4. few; fewer; fewest

5. famous; more famous; most famous

6. numerous; more numerous; most numerous

7. clear; clearer; clearest

8. mountainous; more mountainous; most mountainous

9. warm; warmer; warmest

10. frequently; more frequently; most frequently

11. pretty; prettier; prettiest

12. intense; more intense; most intense

13. beautiful; more beautiful; most beautiful

14. intelligent; more intelligent; most intelligent

15. patient; more patient; most patient

16. expensive; more expensive; most expensive
17. cheap; cheaper; cheapest
18. talented; more talented; most talented
19. funny; funnier; funniest
20. magnificent; more magnificent; most magnificent

Irregular Comparison, p. 200

EXERCISE
1. most
2. worse
3. best
4. more
5. less
6. best
7. better
8. worse
9. further
10. more
11. least
12. farthest
13. worse
14. better
15. better
16. farther
17. better
18. least
19. better
20. worst

Regular and Irregular Comparison A, p. 201

EXERCISE A
1. That plant has the greenest leaves of all the plants in the garden.
2. Walt arrived at the drama club meeting early, as he had planned.
3. The sooner you can get here, the more we will be able to get finished.
4. Give the name most commonly used to refer to this orange and black butterfly.
5. Bermuda grass is a tougher and better grass for the lawns in our climate.

EXERCISE B
6. C
7. This bicycle helmet offers more good protection than the old model did.
8. What was the most bad grade you have ever gotten on an essay?
9. C

Regular and Irregular Comparison B, p. 202

EXERCISE A
1. Please cross out the worst example on the list.
2. Of the two answers, which one seems worse?
3. The new sewing machine is quieter than the old one.
4. She wondered if the speaker were the least knowledgeable person in the room.
5. If he does well on the exam, he won’t have to retake it.

EXERCISE B
6. most generous
7. heavier
8. most unusual
9. longest
10. best
11. more favorable
12. tallest
13. better
14. more slowly
15. worst
Using Comparative and Superlative Forms A, p. 203

Exercise
1. I finished with a higher grade than any other student in our class.
2. Of the two pairs of sneakers, the red ones are better.
3. In ancient Rome, a mile was shorter than it is today.
4. The day I broke my arm has to be the worst day of my life.
5. The moon is closer to earth than any other object in our solar system.
6. That actor sounded more convincing than anyone else on the stage.
7. Of all the stories in the collection, I find this one the most interesting.
8. Which one of the pair is larger?
9. Of the two, Milo writes letters more frequently.
10. Of the four colors, this one is best.

Using Comparative and Superlative Forms B, p. 204

Exercise
Sentences may vary slightly.
1. The mushroom is smaller than the leaves around it.
2. We saw pictures of the hugest type of frog, called the Goliath frog.
3. My mother’s soup tastes better than the restaurant’s soup.
4. I think the flag of South Korea has one of the prettiest designs of any flag.
5. Thai food is spicier than German food.
6. The longest mountain chain in the world is the Andes.
7. My neighbor’s yard is better maintained than David’s yard.
8. An Alaskan summer night is longer than Florida’s nights.
9. Venus looks brighter than any other planet.
10. My grandmother’s paintings are more abstract than my aunt’s paintings.

Using Comparative and Superlative Forms C, p. 205

Exercise
Sentences may vary.
1. She likes spinach more than her sister likes spinach.
2. Janice’s skates are more expensive than Andrea’s.
3. This clock is the loudest one in the house.
4. Is Dr. Kean more knowledgeable than any other doctor?
5. Of Maria and her sister, Maria has always been the faster runner of the two.
6. My aunt writes me more than my cousin writes me, or My aunt writes me more than she writes my cousin.
7. The temperature is warmer than it was yesterday.
8. The table is sturdier than any other table in the room.
9. Franco is taller than any other boy on his team.
10. Bootsie was the smallest kitten in the litter.

Correcting Dangling Modifiers, p. 206

Exercise
Sentences may vary.
1. Looking up at the large umbrella, we noticed that it blocked the sun.
2. As the scientists are researching the rain forest, the huge variety of trees and animals becomes apparent.
3. The scientists are now making discoveries of things that have been unexplored for years.
4. The ecologist made an important discovery when she found many trees in one area.
5. C
6. Full of insects, the rain forest offers researchers the chance to study many life forms.
7. While watching the insects buzzing and humming, we learned how their nests are made.
8. C
9. Something becomes clear to people who have an understanding of just part of the rain forest.

10. To avoid destroying this sea of life, we must protect the rain forest.

Correcting Misplaced Modifiers, p. 207

Exercise Some answers may vary.

1. We looked for the map in the back of the car that we needed.

2. An elm fell across the house that had been uprooted in the storm.

3. We saw a raccoon coming home from the movies.

4. C

5. We saw the Taj Mahal looking down from an airplane.

6. I bought a book at that store that describes the history of the Alamo.

7. C

8. The keys that she found belonged to her brother under the hedge.

9. C

10. My aunt served fish to Melvin and me broiled over hot coals.

11. To avoid driving through heavy traffic, the subway can help you.

12. The azalea belongs to my neighbor, which blooms early in the spring.

13. The deer looked at me with white spots.

14. C

15. Alice picked up the puppy with a grin.

16. The socks were knitted by my grandmother in the crib.

17. On the windowsill, I watched my cat sleep.

18. The mother went to pick up her son wearing her nurse’s uniform.

19. C

20. The cat nibbled on the plant with long whiskers.

Correcting Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers A, p. 208

Exercise Sentences may vary.

1. After she removed the wrapping paper, the gift proved delightful.

2. Hans found the notebook hidden in the drawer.

3. Nancy, along with her sister, washed and polished the car.

4. Because he was alone in the house, the lightning frightened him.

5. Mark studied the color-coded map of the island.

6. Reading and reviewing notes while preparing for a test will help you study.

7. Bees that make honey are attracted to certain flowers.

8. Botany was interesting to him as a young boy.

9. Thorough understanding of a situation is essential to having your suggestion accepted.

10. Gina searched the cluttered shelf for a magazine.

Correcting Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers B, p. 209

Exercise Sentences may vary.

1. The village surrounded by mountains had become a favorite spot for tourists.

2. While we were hiking in the woods, we saw a squirrel scurrying up a tree.

3. We walked through the mostly melted snow.

4. I videotaped the kangaroos that were hopping about excitedly.

5. The silver cups in the cabinet were a gift from my nephew.

6. Without a care in the world, we climbed the tree.
7. Blouses made of silk should be taken to the dry cleaner.
8. Frightened, we opened the door slowly.
9. The art teacher who teaches senior art classes painted the kitten.
10. Having finished supper, we washed the dishes.

Review A: Comparative and Superlative Forms, p. 210

**EXERCISE A**

1. better; best
2. more closely; most closely
3. richer; richest
4. more useful; most useful
5. more; most
6. more disgusted; most disgusted
7. littler; littlest [or less; least]
8. more systematic; most systematic
9. more tightly; most tightly
10. stronger; strongest

**EXERCISE B**

11. Some people thought the photograph of the dancer was more beautiful than the painting of the landscape.
12. Our new mayor works hard, doesn’t he?
13. It rains in Hawaii more often than anywhere else in the country.
14. Connie can still run faster than Stephan.
15. That was the loveliest music I had ever heard.
16. These were the highest grades she made all year.
17. She was the strongest rower on the team.
18. The dress is darker than I had expected.
19. The violinist was talented, according to her colleagues.
20. Are these curtains prettier than the old ones?

Review B: Correcting Errors in Comparison, p. 211

**EXERCISE**

*Answers may vary.*

1. Who is tallest, you or Arlon?
2. Our city park is much cleaner than most of the parks in neighboring towns.
3. Which of the two high schools in your town is the largest?
4. My sister Marita is taller than anybody in my family.
5. I think I did worse on the first half of the test than on the second half.
6. Alaska is bigger than any U.S. state.
7. Which do you like better, a warm climate or a cold climate?
8. My hometown is prettier than any town its size in the entire state.
9. Which is the highest waterfall, Niagara or Yosemite?
10. The Grand Canyon is larger than any gorge in the United States.
11. To make our trip more easier, we got suitcases with wheels on them.
12. Her dog was much more calmer than mine.
13. Ana loves movies more than Marco.
14. The ice dancer was almost a foot taller than anyone in the show.
15. Of the two colleges, I will choose the most reputable.
16. My brother offered me more advice than Frank.
17. Some people thought that the princess was older than the prince.
18. Which of the twins is the most talented in dramatic arts?
19. The soprano's solo was more beautiful than all the solos presented.

20. Paula likes the dog more than her brother.

21. He tells me stories more often than Todd.

22. The people of this town are more friendly than I had expected.

23. Who is the tallest of all the boys on the team?

24. The village is the most smallest in the vicinity.

25. Katya sends me gifts more frequently than Marta.

Review C: Correcting Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers, p. 212

EXERCISE

Sentences may vary.

1. While peacefully eating their breakfast, the campers watched the sunrise.

2. The problems of the world leaders may look simple to some people seated in armchairs in front of their television sets.

3. A gift basket that was filled to the top with fancy cheeses and crackers was carried into the living room.

4. The needle broke while I was sewing a hem in the dress.

5. The police chief issued a warning about burglars to homeowners who carelessly leave their doors unlocked.

6. After climbing the mountain, we saw a shooting star streaking across the sky.

7. The women in the control tower watched the plane circling the field.

8. Always check your work for accuracy after you have finished.

9. The camera zoomed in on the woman skating gracefully over the ice.

10. Some books in the school library that were written many years ago seem surprisingly up-to-date.

Review D: Modifiers, p. 213

EXERCISE A

Sentences may vary.

1. At the awards ceremony, the coach congratulated the soccer team for playing a really good season.

2. Franklin hoped the weather would not get worse.

3. My mother assigned me more chores than she assigned my father. or My mother assigned me more chores than my father assigned me.

4. Emily had read more books than anyone else in her class.

5. Bandit seemed to be the fastest of the three dogs.

EXERCISE B

Sentences may vary.

6. The helicopter that Georgina’s uncle owned was used in the emergency rescue of three injured people.

7. While we were roaming around the department store, we saw a vase fall off a high shelf.

8. The bird-watcher identified a rare species noted for its plumage.

9. She handed him the anchor that was tied securely to the boat.

10. A lecturer described the development of written language in the ancient Near East to a fascinated audience.

Proofreading Application: Evaluation, p. 214

Answers may vary.

[1] Overall, this opinion paper makes its point well. [2] Writing clearly and concisely, the thesis statement expresses the paper’s content. [3] Another strong point is the description of works that were painted by Picasso in the opening paragraph. [4] The body of the paper is arranged logically, though a chronological order may have been more better.
[5] Unfortunately, the emotional appeal in the conclusion was not as effective as in the introduction.

[6] Thinking back over the paper, the thing that impressed me most was my classmate’s vocabulary. [7] This author seems to have a larger vocabulary than anyone in the class. [8] However, I had to read slow whenever I came across an unfamiliar word. [9] Some of the technical terms would have been less confusing if they had been defined. [10] Nevertheless, in only five pages, the author does give an effective answer to the question, “Which twentieth-century artist expresses life in the twentieth century better?”

Literary Model: Poetry, pp. 215–16

Exercise A
more sweetly—comparative
sweet—positive
sweeter—comparative
blackest—superlative
lovelier—comparative
most grievous—superlative
worst—superlative
best—superlative

Exercise B
more sweetly—express
sweet—melodies
sweeter—those
blackest—moss
lovelier—flower
most grievous—loss
worst—pang
best—treasure

Exercise C
Answers will vary. An example follows.
That day was the loveliest of days.
I played under the trees until dark.
But the ants were worse than our last picnic day.
They were so bad they took over the park!

Exercise D
Answers will vary. An example follows.
Using the comparative or superlative form of a modifier shows the intensity of the quality being described. For example, being smart is one thing, but being the smartest person in the class is another.

Writing Application: Letter, p. 217

Writing Applications are designed to provide students immediate composition practice in using key concepts taught in each chapter of the Language and Sentence Skills Practice booklet. You may wish to evaluate student responses to these assignments as you do any other writing that students produce. To save grading time, however, you may want to use the following scoring rubric.

Scoring Rubric
At least five comparative and five superlative forms of modifiers are used.

1 2 3 4 5
Each comparative and superlative modifier is formed correctly.

1 2 3 4 5
Each comparison is clear and complete.

1 2 3 4 5
The assignment is relatively free of errors in usage and mechanics.

Total Score ____________
5 = highest; 1 = lowest