Name _____ **Date** _____

Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers – Exercise 2

This handout accompanies Exercise 2 of ***Grammar Bytes!*** Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: **http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm**

Directions: Find and fix the misplaced and dangling modifiers in the passage below.

[1]Dangling his legs over the water, Tommy sat on the pier and cried. [2]Infused with his great sadness, the tears hit the waves and attracted Marina, a beautiful mermaid. [3]Popping out of the ocean as sleek as a seal, Tommy gasped at the sight. [4]While Marina's tail flopped against the wood, which was long, scaly, and metallic blue, she asked poor Tommy the reason for his pain. [5]Tommy explained that he had lost the surfing championship, which included a scholarship to college. [6]Assessing his set as clumsy and inelegant, not a single compliment was received from the judges. [7]After Tommy bemoaned his ineptitude on a surfboard, Marina made a proposal: She would turn him into a merman with the grace and athleticism of a dolphin! [8]Wielding ancient ocean secrets with a snap of her fingers, a metallic green tail replaced Tommy's legs! [9]Diving into the waves, the tail propelled Tommy through the strong surf.

[10]Ecstatic about his new abilities, the training and advice Marina offered went unheeded. [11]Refusing to use conditioner, for example, the sun and salt water soon damaged Tommy's hair, which became dry and brittle. [12]A dangerous and foolhardy activity, Tommy also insisted on head bumping the Great White sharks that he encountered. [13]Putting straws up his nose and barking like a walrus did not make Tommy popular when he had dinner with Neptune, Marina's father. [14]After thoughtlessly scrambling endangered sea turtle eggs for breakfast, an apology had to be made not only to Marina but also to the grieving mother reptile.

[15]One day out on a swim, Tommy drank a root beer and tossed the empty plastic bottle in the water. [16]Polluting the ocean so carelessly was the last clam shell for Marina. [17]With an angry snap of her fingers, she replaced Tommy's tail with two human legs. [18]Sinking under the waves, Tommy's legs finally kicked him to the surface where he gulped a much needed breath of air.

[19]Saying a curt goodbye, Marina's tail slapped the surface dismissively as she dove into the ocean depths. [20]While swimming the mile back to shore as a regular human being, Tommy regretted the gift that he had squandered.

chompchomp.com
©1997 - 2013 by Robin L. Simmons
All Rights Reserved.