

English Grammar: Modifiers Study Guide

by
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Roslyn Heights, New York

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English Grammar: Modifiers

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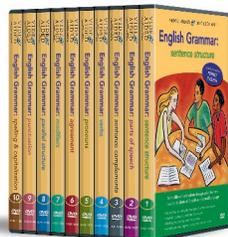
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Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's English Grammar Series makes the tricky rules of English grammar easier to learn than ever before – whether you're new to English or you've been speaking it for years!

Adjectives and adverbs let us add descriptive information to nouns, pronouns, and verbs to make our sentences more colorful and interesting. But many of us make mistakes when using modifiers. With this informative program, you'll learn how to use modifiers correctly and effectively – even when making comparisons with superlatives!

Before you begin studying, let us make a few recommendations. First, have a notebook and pen ready so you're prepared to take notes. You'll probably want to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself – when you're done, you'll have a notebook on English grammar that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

Now you can eliminate embarrassing mistakes from your speaking and writing forever. Let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Karl Weber, M.A., is a professional writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of two popular series of test prep guidebooks, and has worked on books with such noted personalities as former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Richard Butler, and U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt.

Lesson 1 – Adjectives and Adverbs

Exercise 1

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a modifier is underlined. Based on how the modifier is used in the sentence, decide whether the modifier is correct or incorrect. If it is incorrect, decide what modifier would be correct.

1. Glancing at himself in the mirror just moments before the job interview, Enrico felt well about his appearance.
2. The chef's hands moved quick as she demonstrated the proper technique for dicing onions.
3. Although Jason seems happy about moving to California, he admits that he will miss his friends in Minnesota.
4. Because of her extreme nervousness, Soon Lee performed the sonata bad during her audition for the college orchestra.
5. The team doctor decided that Mona was well enough to play in Saturday's championship game.

Lesson 2 – Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

Exercise 2

Directions: In each of the following sentences, there is a modifying phrase or clause. Underline the modifying phrase or clause in each sentence, and decide whether it is misplaced or dangling. If it is, rewrite the sentence to correct the modifier.

1. Having lost one of the most controversial elections in history, many expected Al Gore to run for president again in 2004.
2. Distracted by the demands of my two children, the chicken in the oven was burned.
3. When birds fly in the path of an airplane, they can produce dangerous and costly accidents.
4. Hoping to make the space more sunny, Nancy's bedroom was expanded and fitted with a large skylight.
5. Swollen by a week of heavy rain, the grasslands on either side of the Missouri River were eventually flooded.

Lesson 3 – Comparisons Using Modifiers

Exercise 3

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a modifier is required. Fill in the blank with the correct comparative or superlative degree of the modifier whose positive degree appears at the end of the sentence.

1. Pablo Picasso and Juan Gris began painting around the same time, but Picasso continued painting _____ than Gris. (*long*)
2. Of all the sopranos in the choir, Lizette sings _____. (*well*)
3. Although Nadja and Katya are both expert programmers, Katya is considered _____ than her colleague. (*talented*)

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4. The island of St. Martin boasts thirty-six beaches, and many visitors say that Orient Beach is the _____ of them all. (*alluring*)
5. No one feels _____ about the mistake Carlos made than Carlos himself. (*bad*).

Lesson 4 – Special Problems with Comparisons

Exercise 4

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a comparison is made. For each sentence, decide whether or not the comparison is stated correctly. If it is incorrect, decide how the sentence should be changed to make the comparison correct, and correct it.

1. The story of the development of anesthesia is stranger than any other scientific discovery.
2. The Hermitage in St. Petersburg has the world's most impressive collection of paintings by Rembrandt.
3. The government of Switzerland is older than any government in Europe.
4. Both Sheryl Crow and Björk are gifted songwriters, but the music of Björk is more unique than that of Sheryl Crow.
5. Generations of travelers have described the waters of the Dead Sea as the most saltiest on Earth.