

Lesson Plan: Understanding and correcting dangling modifiers

Level: Intermediate to Advanced (B1-C2)

Time: 45–60 minutes

Objective: Students will identify and correct dangling modifiers in sentences.

Materials: Whiteboard, markers, handouts, projector (optional), worksheet

1. Warm-up / Introduction (10 minutes)

Objective: Activate prior knowledge and introduce the concept.

- Ask: "Have you ever heard a sentence that sounded funny or confusing?"

- Example for discussion:

"Running down the street, the backpack fell off."

Ask: Who was running? The backpack?

- Introduce the term dangling modifier: A descriptive phrase at the beginning or end of a sentence that doesn't clearly refer to the correct subject.

2. Explanation & Examples (10 minutes)

Definition:

A dangling modifier is a phrase that describes something not clearly stated in the sentence.

Example of error:

While walking to school, the rain started falling.

(It sounds like "the rain" was walking.)

Corrected:

While I was walking to school, the rain started falling.

Structure Tip: The subject performing the action in the modifier must follow it immediately.

3. Group Practice (15 minutes)

Activity: Sentence Correction

Give students 6–8 sentences with dangling modifiers. In pairs, they:

1. Identify the error
2. Rewrite the sentence correctly

Examples:

1. Driving through the mountains, the scenery was beautiful.
→ Driving through the mountains, we saw beautiful scenery.
2. After finishing the book, the TV was turned on.
→ After finishing the book, she turned on the TV.

4. Individual Practice (10 minutes)

Worksheet:

- Fill-in-the-blanks: Complete sentences using modifiers correctly
- Correction: Fix 3–5 sentences with dangling modifiers

5. Wrap-up & Homework (5 minutes)

- Recap: What is a dangling modifier? How can we fix it?
- Homework: Write 5 original sentences with modifiers (correctly placed)

OR

Write a short paragraph describing a morning routine, using at least two correctly placed modifying phrases.