

## MODIFIERS

### GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE SENTENCES

1. Print this file and place the answer pages to the side.
2. Cover the answer pages with a sheet of paper, and slide the paper down as you complete each practice sentence.
3. Use colored markers and a highlighter to work on each practice sentence.

Feel free to write to me (dr\_ron@grammar-once-and-for-all.com) if you have any questions or problems.

### Directions

1. Mark the structural backbones:

Color just the main words of subjects **blue**.

Color finite verbs **red** (the main verbs plus any auxiliary verbs).

Color just the main words of completers **green**.

2. Then, in the space below each sentence, list each modifier and, next to it, the word or words it modifies:

A. Your **cooking would** definitely **sicken** even a starving **vulture**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
your	cooking
definitely	would sicken
even	a starving vulture
a	starving vulture
starving	vulture

B. The United **Frogs** **have** finally **cancelled** their annual Autumn **Hop**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
The	United Frogs
United	Frogs
finally	have cancelled
their	annual Autumn Hop
annual	Autumn Hop
Autumn	Hop

C. **Hasn't** that besotted **buzzard** already **collected** enough cold caribou **carrion**?

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
that	besotted buzzard
besotted	buzzard
already	has collected
enough	cold caribou carrion
cold	caribou carrion
caribou	carrion

Note: When the negative modifier *n't* is attached to a verb, as, for instance, in *hasn't* or *isn't* or *don't*, it's convenient just to mark it as part of the verb.



**Modifiers: Sentences 5 - 8**

5. How can you clean your cobra's fangs much more thoroughly?

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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6. A fool and his money are soon parted.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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7. He may not be completely relaxed, but he certainly is relaxed enough.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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8. You shouldn't ask Prof. Possum such hard questions so early.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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**Modifiers: Sentences 9 - 11**

9. My singing hasn't caused a panic or won me a Hollywood contract either.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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10. That smug sesquipedalian snake was always looking up long words and reading their definitions aloud.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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11. The profoundly and eternally regretful President Monty will never again joyously sing our traditional writhing songs.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
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**Modifiers: Answers to sentences 1 -4**

1. I really **like** my new inter-stellar cell **phone**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
really	like
my	new inter-stellar cell phone.
new	inter-stellar cell phone.
inter-stellar	cell phone
cell	phone

2. The nearsighted **princess** **had** already **kissed** two or three tacky **toads**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
The	nearsighted princess
nearsighted	princess
already	had kissed
two	tacky toads
three	tacky toads
tacky	toads

[*Two* and *three* are coordinate modifiers of *tacky toads*. *Or* is a coordinating connective.]

3. My **Uncle John** **shampooed** both his **wigs** yesterday.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
My	Uncle John
both	his wigs
his	wigs
yesterday	shampooed

4. The **boogep** poogly **zilled** a fairly yoxy **huz**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
The	boogep
poogly	zilled
a	fairly yoxy huz
fairly	yoxy huz
yoxy	huz

[*Fairly yoxy* modifies *huz*; but *fairly* modifies only *yoxy*. It tells how yoxy the huz was.]

**Modifiers: Answers to Sentences 5 - 8**

5. How **can you clean** your cobra's **fangs** much more thoroughly?

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
How	can clean
your	cobra's fangs
cobra's	fangs
much	more
more	thoroughly
much more thoroughly	can clean

[*How* is a question word about the method of cleaning.]

6. A **fool** and his **money are** soon **parted**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
A	fool
his	money
soon	are parted

7. **He may** not **be** completely **relaxed**, but **he** certainly **is relaxed** enough

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
not	may be
completely	relaxed
certainly	is
enough	relaxed

8. **You shouldn't ask Prof. Possum** such hard **questions** so early.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
such	hard questions
hard	questions
so	early
so early	shouldn't ask

[*Shouldn't ask* takes a double completer: shouldn't ask **who(m)**? Answer: Prof. Possum; shouldn't ask Prof. Possum **what**? Answer: such hard questions.]

**Modifiers: Answers to Sentences 9 - 11**

9. My **singing hasn't caused** a **panic** or **won me** a Hollywood **contract** either.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
My	singing
a	panic
a	Hollywood Contract
Hollywood	Contract
either	won

[The auxiliary verb *hasn't* goes with both main verbs, *caused* and *won*. *Either* is a modifier used for emphasis after a verb (in this case *won*), especially when the emphasized verb comes after a negation, in this case *hasn't*.]

10. That smug sesquipedalian **snake was** always **looking up** long **words** and **reading** their **definitions** aloud.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
That	smug sesquipedalian snake
smug	sesquipedalian snake
sesquipedalian	snake
always	was looking up
long	words
their	definitions
aloud	[was] reading

[*Was looking up* and [*was*] *reading* are coordinate main verbs. *Always* modifies both verbs. To see what *aloud* modifies, you ask **what** aloud? Answer: *was reading*.]

11. The profoundly and eternally regretful **President Monty will** never again joyously **sing** our traditional writhing **songs**.

<b>Modifier</b>	<b>Word or Words Modified</b>
The	profoundly and eternally regretful President Fang
profoundly	regretful
eternally	regretful
regretful	President Fang
never	again
again	will sing
joyously	will sing
our	traditional writhing songs
traditional	writhing songs
writhing	songs