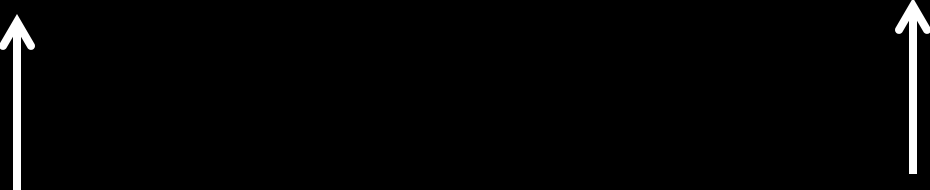


# Grammar Hammer

## Dangling Modifiers

# Let's Look at the Following Sentence

Having finished the assignment, the TV was turned on.



Dependent/modifying clause

Independent/main clause

“Having finished” is a participle expression that states an action but does not name the doer of that action. In English sentences, the doer must be the subject of the main clause that follows. In this sentence, it is “TV.”

Can TV finish the assignment?

No, it just slows you down. So, stop multi-tasking, will ya!?

# A Definition...

A dangling modifier is a word or phrase that modifies a word not clearly stated in the sentence. A modifier describes, clarifies, or gives more detail about a concept.

Having finished the assignment, the TV was turned on.

# Some Exercises

After reading the original study, the article remains unconvincing.

After reading the original study, I found the article unconvincing.

Relieved of your responsibilities at your job, your home should be a place to relax.

Relieved of your responsibilities at your job, you should be able to relax at home.

The experiment was a failure, not having studied the lab manual carefully.

They failed the experiment, not having studied the lab manual carefully.

To improve his results, the experiment was done again.

He improved his results by doing the experiment again.