A modifier explains some word or phrase in a sentence, and it should be as close to that word or phrase as possible. In the following sentence, the modifier is too far away from the word it modifies to make sense.

*Leaping across the road, we saw two deer.*

From the structure of this sentence, it appears that the subject *we* is doing the leaping. That is because the modifier *leaping across the road*, is next to *we*. To correct the dangling modifier in this sentence, rearrange the words so the modifier is next to what it modifies, *deer*.

*We saw two deer leaping across the road.*

The next example has no word at all for the modifier to modify.

*At the age of six, my family moved to North Dakota.*

Obviously the family was not six when they moved. The modifier *at the age of six* is dangling because it has no clear referent. To correct the dangling modifier, change the sentence so that it includes such a word:

*At the age of six, I moved to North Dakota with my family.*

The subject *I* is clearly the referent of the modifying phrase *at the age of six*. The example below is another way to change the sentence in order to eliminate the dangling modifier:

*When I was six, my family moved to North Dakota.*

The following sentences contain similar dangling modifiers.

*Looking down over the valley, a wisp of smoke appeared.*

Was the wisp of smoke looking down over the valley? Who was? The following sentence states it more clearly:

*Looking down over the valley, I saw a wisp of smoke appear.*  (or)

As I looked down over the valley, a wisp of smoke appeared.*

Notice the dangling modifier in the sentence below.
After running six blocks, the bus pulled away as I reached it.

Had the bus run six blocks? Who had? The following sentence states it more clearly:

After I had run six blocks, the bus pulled away as I reached it.

Correct the dangling modifiers in the following sentences.

1. Taking our seats, the game started.

2. To write well good books must be read.

3. When only a young girl, my mother took me with her to France.

4. On entering the theatre, the size of the crowd surprised Anne.

5. After sitting there awhile, it began to rain.