

Verb Forms as Adjectives

In the previous exercise, each modifier you added was a single adjective that you placed in front of the noun it modified. But verb forms can also act like adjectives and modify nouns:

The movie is frightening the child.
→ the *frightening* movie

The child is frightened (by the movie).
→ the *frightened* child

The *ing* forms (present participles) and then *ed* forms of verbs (past participles) can often modify nouns. Notice that when *frightening* and *frightened* are parts of verbs in sentences, they follow forms of the verb *be*, *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *has been*, *have been*, *had been*. But when these *ing* and *ed* ending verb forms modify nouns, they are not parts of verbs any longer; that is, they do not show the time, or tense, of sentences. The following are common verb form modifiers:

ing Form

the *interesting* novel
the *terrifying* train ride
the *annoying* salesclerk

ed Form

the *interested* reader
the *terrified* passengers
the *annoyed* shoppers

If the verb form modifier is a single word, you can place it before the noun it modifies:

Example: The farmer ran from the bull.
 The farmer was *frightened*.
 The bull was *charging*.

Solution: The *frightened* farmer ran from the *charging* bull.

Often though, we modify nouns with modifiers that have more than one word:

ing form

The man *buying the book*
the woman *building the bridge*

ed form

the book *bought at Green Apple*
the bridge *built by the woman*

When the modifier is more than word, it comes after the word it modifies.

Exercise 2: A Day in the Country

In this exercise, the nouns to be modified are underlined. Add the common adjectives and the verb form modifiers before or after the nouns they modify. One-word modifiers should come before the nouns they modify, and modifiers of more than one word should come after the nouns they modify.

Example: Kim drove to the farm.

~~The farm was~~ old.

~~The farm was~~ located in the middle of nowhere.

Solution: Kim drove to the old farm located in the middle of nowhere.

1. Californians don't spend time on farms.
The Californians are living in the city.
The farms are working.
2. But on the farm, you can eat an egg.
The egg is fresh.
The egg is laid by a family chicken.
3. Chickens are a source of amusement for farmers.
The chickens are unusual.
The source is gratifying.
The farmers are bored.
4. For instance, some farmers keep hens.
The farmers are desperate.
The hens are ugly.
The hens are running around the barn.
5. Some even keep illegal chickens,
The chickens are fighting.
The chickens are used for gambling.
6. Most roads offer sights for drivers.
The roads are winding.
The roads are country.
The sights are peaceful.
The drivers are tired of concrete.
7. One of the roads is Highway 49.
The roads are the most beautiful.
Highway 49 is scenic.
Highway 49 is winding through the Sierra foothills.
8. Highway 49 goes through towns.
The towns are many.
The towns are old.
The towns were built during the California Gold Rush.
9. Drivers should be alert for animals.

The drivers are careful.
The animals are stray.
The animals are wandering onto the road.

10. An armadillo is not a sight.
The armadillo is visiting.
The armadillo is smashed on the highway.
The sight is not pleasing.

Exercise 3: Hairdos- The Assyrians and Us

In the following exercise, you will continue adding adjectives and verb form modifiers to the base sentences, but this time the nouns to be modified aren't underlined for you. In the sentences containing modifiers, cross out repeated words and forms of the verb *be- am, is, are, and were*.

Example: In the ancient world, the Assyrians were the hair stylists.
~~The Assyrians were~~ inhabiting Iraq.
~~The hair stylists were~~ the first.
~~The hair stylists were~~ real.

Solution: In the ancient world, the Assyrians inhabiting Iraq were the first real hair stylists.

1. The Assyrians cut hair in layers, so a man's head was like a pyramid.
The layers were graduated.
The man was fashionable.
The pyramid was Egyptian.
2. Hair was arranged in curls and ringlets.
The curls were cascading.
The ringlets were tumbling over the shoulders.
3. Men grew beards.
The beards were nearly clipped.
The beards were beginning at the jaw.
The beards were layered in ruffles over the chest.
4. Women also wore beards.
Women were high-ranking.
The beards were stylized.
The beards were fake.
The beards were designed to make the women appear like powerful men.
5. Kings, warriors, and noblewomen had their hair curled with a bar.

Their hair was abundant.
Their hair was flowing.
The bar was fire-heated.
The bar was iron.

6. Now people have hair styles or heads.
The people are young.
The hair styles are sculpted.
The heads are partially shaven.
The heads are decorated with letters or designs.
7. But women don't wear beards.
The women are modern.
The beards are designed to give them equal status to men.