

SAT Subject Modifier Placement - Modifiers

What is a Modifier?

A modifier is a word or group of words that add to, or change, another part of the sentences such as the subject.

Modifier Examples

1. She is a **beautiful** woman
2. The car is **fast**
3. He arrived **early**
4. The pizza was **very** tasty

1. Subject (noun): woman, Modifier (adjective): beautiful
2. Subject (noun): car, Modifier (adjective): fast
3. Action (verb): to arrive, Modifier (adverb): early
4. Phrase (adjective): to be tasty, Modifier (adverb): very

Types of Modifiers

There are different types of modifiers, not just adjectives and adverbs. There can be whole phrases or clauses.

- The dog **with the floppy ears** is lovely.
- She bought the eggs and flour **to bake a cake**
- Chiang Mai, **the largest city in northern Thailand**, is popular with tourists.
- **The musician who performed last night** left her guitar on the stage.
- **When the rain finally stopped**, we went for a long walk.

Opening Modifier

- **After staying up late last night**, I slept through my alarm this morning
- **Because of his hard work**, the student passed his exams.

Inner Modifier

- The book **on the shelf** belongs to me
- The girl, **who plays the piano**, was applauded by the audience.

Subject to Modifier Position

Incorrect: Walking to school, the bus arrived.

Correct: Walking to school, Sam saw the bus.

Incorrect: After eating dinner, the TV was turned on.

Correct: After eating dinner, Mia turned on the TV.

Incorrect: Running across the field, the goal appeared.

Correct: Running across the field, Ben saw the goal.

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