Chapter 11: Using Modifiers Correctly, pp. 176–193

What Is a Modifier? p. 176

Exercise
1. bright
2. gracefully
3. much
4. exciting
5. almost
6. small
7. extremely
8. rather
9. carefully
10. another

Adjective or Adverb? p. 177

Exercise
1. ADV
2. ADV
3. ADJ
4. ADV
5. ADJ
6. ADV
7. ADJ

Good and Well, p. 178

Exercise A
1. good
2. well
3. well
4. good

Exercise B
[11] How good, or healthy, I feel depends on how good I take care of myself. [12] A good breakfast gives me a well start on my day. [13] Foods low in sugar are well choices. [14] My family and I work good together to make healthy foods that taste well. [15] Exercise is important, too. [16] I can’t run very good, but a long walk gives me energy. [17] I also play basketball very good, so I get plenty of exercise.

[18] How good I sleep at night also affects the way I feel. [19] I need at least eight hours to perform good at school the next day. [20] Diet, exercise, and rest will help me live a well, long life.

Regular Comparison, p. 179

Exercise For some items below, increasing or decreasing comparisons are acceptable answers.

1. small ___________ smaller _______ most ___________ smallest
2. cheerfully ___________ cheerfully _______ most cheerfully
3. pretty ___________ prettier _______ most prettiest
4. often ___________ more often _______ most often
5. improbable ___________ more improbable _______ most improbable
6. smoothly _______ most smoothly
7. dirty ___________ dirtier _______ dirtiest
8. desirable ___________ less desirable _______ least desirable
9. cranky ___________ cracker _______ crakiest
10. boastful ___________ more boastful _______ most boastful
11. sweet ___________ sweeter _______ sweetest
12. grateful ___________ more grateful _______ most grateful
13. chilly ___________ chillier _______ chilliest
14. hot ___________ hotter _______ hottest
15. silly ___________ sillier _______ silliest
16. wonderful ___________ more wonderful _______ most wonderful
17. blue ___________ bluer _______ bluest
18. famous ___________ more famous _______ most famous
19. fickle ___________ more fickle _______ most fickle
20. salty ___________ less salty _______ least salty

Irregular Comparison, p. 180

Exercise
1. most _______ more
2. better _______ best
3. less _______ more
4. best _______ most
5. worst _______ least

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Language Skills Practice Answer Key 77
Regular and Irregular Comparison A, p. 181

**EXERCISE**

1. **believable** more believable most believable
2. angrily more angrily most angrily
3. dim dimmer dimmest
4. good better best
5. dry drier driest
6. bitter less bitter least bitter most observant
7. observant more observant most observant
8. bad worse worst
9. warm warmer warmest
10. many more most
11. far farther farthest
12. perky perkier perkiest
13. well better best
14. little money less money least money
15. ridiculous more ridiculous most ridiculous
16. much more most
17. sad sadder saddest
18. sly slayer sliest
19. happily more happily most happily
20. grumpy grumpier grumpiest

Regular and Irregular Comparison B, p. 182

**EXERCISE**

1. largest 6. deepest
2. more 7. most interested
3. best 8. more gracefully
4. oddest 9. cutest
5. more 10. farther [or further]

Use of Comparative and Superlative Forms A, p. 183

**EXERCISE**

1. The tomb of Qin Shihuangdi has been called “the greatest archaeological find of our time.”

2. Of the more than 7,000 life-size warriors, horses, and chariots, which looked most realistic?

3. It was the most amazing thing I had ever seen!

4. Since 1974, archaeologists in China have been putting forth their best efforts to rebuild the lifelike terra-cotta army.

5. Rebuilding the statues was probably harder than unearthing them.

6. Some of the smallest pieces provide the best clues about sculpting techniques during the emperor’s time.

7. Amy knows more information about China’s first emperor than I do.

8. Were the chariots or the horses buried deepest?

9. Of all the farmers who found the first clay head, he was most terrified.

10. Do you have a more current account than this one?

Use of Comparative and Superlative Forms B, p. 184

**EXERCISE**

1. Can anyone else on the team run faster than he can?

2. These scissors are sharper than any pair I could find.

3. Berta has won more trophies for track and field than any athlete.

4. She is more skillful than anyone else in her art class.

5. I write to my cousin more than I write to anyone in my family.
6. Is jogging more effective for weight loss than any form of exercise?

7. During free reading, short stories are more popular than any form of literature.

8. Juan has done more volunteer work than anyone in his troop.

9. This kitten is not as curious as all the kittens in its litter.

10. Gina was more observant than anyone on the hike.

11. This first song is better than any song on the CD.

12. The cheetah can run faster than any land animal.

13. The month of February has fewer days than any month.

14. Houda speaks Arabic better than anyone in her family.

15. This book has fewer pages than any book.

16. Rachel scored more goals than anyone on her soccer team.

17. Has Paul run more miles than anyone in his track club?

18. A saltwater crocodile is larger than any other reptile.

19. Our neighbor Mrs. Gold grows more flowers than anyone on our street.

20. These pants are baggier than any other pants in my closet.

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Double Comparisons and Double Negatives, p. 185

**EXERCISE**

Some answers may vary.

1. I don't hardly know anything about the country of Zambia.

2. We have never had any problems with our car.

3. These enchiladas are more tastier than the tacos.

4. The most strangest noise is coming from behind that door.

5. I haven’t ever watched the sun rise.

6. Your explanation doesn’t make any sense to me.

7. If the water were more deeper, we could dive safely.

8. I can’t barely reach the top shelf.

9. Is the most longest bridge in the world the Humber Bridge in England?

10. Grandpa seems more wiser than anyone else I know.

11. The black rock for these statues can’t be found in any other place.

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Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Language Skills Practice Answer Key
12. That’s the most funniest story I have ever heard!

13. We didn’t see any weeds in the garden.

14. Could I try on this dress in a larger size?

15. This discount store has the most cheapest prices on school supplies.

16. I don’t remember ever eating a plantain.

17. The most oldest covered bridge in use is in New Hampshire.

18. I never heard anyone play the piano as well as Angela Cheng.

19. Joe needs a more shorter board for the birdhouse floor.

20. She never goes anywhere without her glasses.

EXERCISE A

1. The ad said that the camera came with two extra lenses.

2. I called the phone number that was listed in the advertisement.

3. I wanted further information about the camera.

4. The camera dealer had satisfactory answers to my questions.

5. A camera of my own is a dream come true!

EXERCISE B

Some answers may vary.

6. I took a nap and dreamed about a faraway castle on my blue couch.

7. Virgil found a book about prehistoric animals in the library.

8. The woman wrote a play about two elephants in the red dress.

9. Three men had to stop quickly while a goose crossed the road in a small car.

10. The water refreshed us from a fountain.

11. Did you see the medals that Aunt Elsa won in the attic?

12. This daruma doll is said to help wishes come true from Japan.

13. That boy will feed our dogs in the yellow shirt.

14. The rocks are from the playground in my shoes.

15. The book Scorpions describes two friends living in Harlem by Walter Dean Myers.

Misplaced Prepositional Phrases, p. 186

EXERCISE A

Answers may vary.

1. Because I was hoping to win the race, the fall was disappointing.

2. I urged the horse onward with the reins grasped tightly in my hands.

3. Vo couldn’t find his sleeping bag hidden in the closet.

4. The log, broken in half, fit into the stove.

5. Because the car was running on empty, I needed to stop for gas.

6. Archaeologists have learned much from Anasazi dwellings built into the cliffs.

7. Aunt Rosa offered grilled chicken wrapped in a flour tortilla to us.

8. Rested from a long nap, I thought the afternoon hike seemed easy.
9. Traveling along the Congo River, people can see exotic birds and brightly colored insects.

10. Leaping across the stage, the dancer amazed us with her performance.

**Misplaced Clauses, p. 188**

**EXERCISE A**

1. I really enjoyed the movie that we saw last night.

2. My sister, who lives in Oklahoma, is coming home for Thanksgiving.

3. I couldn’t have finished without your help, which I really appreciate.

4. The man whose car had been dented filed an accident report.

5. The boy whom I invited to the dance will be unable to go.

**EXERCISE B**

6. Jolene gave a bird that has white feathers to her brother.

7. The pictures that we took were of monkeys.

8. The trees that lost their leaves in the hurricane held many birds’ nests.

9. The burglar who had stolen my bracelet turned himself in to the police.

10. The store that offers secondhand clothing is on Elm Avenue.

**Misplaced Phrases and Clauses, p. 189**

**EXERCISE**

Some answers may vary.

1. Beth showed me a magazine article about Charles Schulz in the library.

2. Schulz created his comic strip for almost fifty years called Peanuts.

3. The comic strip was published in twenty-one different languages about a funny group of neighborhood children.

4. The comic strips are my favorites about sandlot baseball and the Great Pumpkin.

5. The one is about Charlie Brown, that I like the most, finally hitting a home run.

6. Charlie Brown worries about his batting ability, who loves baseball.

7. Charlie Brown’s beagle has an adventurous personality whose name is Snoopy.

8. Snoopy flies an imaginary airplane in World War I called the Sopwith Camel.

9. The evil Red Baron often threatens Snoopy’s safety, who also flies a World War I airplane.

10. The beagle is confident and comical, nicknamed “Joe Cool.”

11. Snoopy writes novels sitting on his doghouse.

12. The bird Woodstock takes shorthand for Snoopy’s great novels, who rarely speaks.

13. Linus sucks his thumb, carrying a security blanket.

14. He anxiously awaits Halloween hoping to see the Great Pumpkin.

15. Peppermint Patty and Marcie share a secret crush on Charlie Brown, who are pals.

16. Schulz’s children talk of hope, faith, and love, whose problems are not always childhood ones.

17. Peanuts has given its millions of readers many laughs, originally called L’il Folks.

18. Did you see the box of Peanuts comic strips in the attic that Bill collected?

19. Bill was given the collection, whose father is a Peanuts fan, for his birthday.

20. Dating as far back as 1951, Bill has comic strips.
Review A: Modifiers, p. 190

**Exercise A**

1. colorful
2. unusually
3. Few
4. anxiously
5. rather

**Exercise B**

6. well
7. loudly
8. delicious
9. frantically
10. well
11. well
12. peaceful
13. well
14. good
15. brightly
16. respectfully
17. good
18. well
19. bad
20. well

Review B: Comparisons and Double Negatives, p. 191

**Exercise A**

1. During practice today, the trombone sounded louder than any other instrument.
2. This is one of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft’s finest books about American Indian history and culture.
3. Both of the Assad brothers, who are classical guitarists, performed well, but I thought Odair’s solos were best.
4. Carlos can run farther than anyone else in his class.
5. This little gray kitten is the cutest of the litter.
6. Which of these two books by Lensey Namioka is less expensive?
7. Cold water tastes better than warm water.
8. Of everyone in our class, Sela collected the most cans.
9. Which of the following Tibetan cities is largest: Lhasa, Xungba, or Nagqu?
10. Olivia seems more daring than anyone else on the playground.

**Exercise B**

Some answers may vary.

11. Nobody in our neighborhood knows nothing about gardening.
12. I won’t ever be able to play the guitar as well as B. B. King.
13. The directions that José gave us don’t make no sense.
14. Although Carol has only one arm, she hasn’t ever lost the city tennis championship.
15. Our family hardly never gets e-mail on Sunday.

Review C: Misplaced Modifiers, p. 192

**Exercise A**

1. Chirping excitedly, I listened to the bird.
2. Lucas designed a costume for the play with red sequins.
3. Our family saw giraffes driving through the game preserve.
4. Jazz musician Stefon Harris plays the vibraphone, whose first album is called A Cloud of Red Dust.
5. I brought a scarf for Mother that is made of silk.
6. The giant land tortoise inhabits the Galápagos Islands which can live 200 years.
7. The man saw a movie about George Washington in the brown hat.
8. The bowl fell on the floor that was filled with fruit salad.
9. Ricardo discovered a book about rock climbing in the library. [or Ricardo discovered a book about rock climbing in the library.]

10. I saw a petrified tree taking a shortcut through the woods.

EXERCISE B

Answers will vary.

11. Because he was prepared for the test, it seemed easy.

12. Excited about the party, they blew up the balloons.

13. Sewing all day, I finally finished my costume.

14. Soothed by the soft music, the baby stopped crying.

15. Traveling through the city of Ayuthaya in Thailand, she saw the beautiful temple called Wat Tanot.

Review D: Modifiers, p. 193

EXERCISE A

1. Karl has never heard of the Paralympics. [or Karl hasn’t ever heard of the Paralympics.]

2. Is the Sears Tower in Chicago the tallest building in the United States?

3. Grandmother never hears anyone who speaks softly. [or never hears no one]

4. Pluto is farther from the sun than any planet in our solar system.

5. Of the two jackets, this one will keep you warmer.

6. Many of the doors in Zanzibar are carved beautifully.

7. The comedian’s jokes were more funnier than usual.

8. C

9. Which of these three salsas is spicier?

10. Yo-Yo Ma plays the cello really well.

EXERCISE B

Answers may vary.

11. One player on the team has a dog named Woofer.

12. As I was rushing to answer the telephone, the ringing stopped.

13. Chirping loudly, birds swooped to the bird feeder.

14. Tumbling across the mat, the gymnast showed amazing strength and grace.

15. Admitting defeat, the tired runner congratulated the winner.
Chapter 11: Using Modifiers Correctly, pp. 44–48

Choices: Exploring Modifiers, p. 44
Choices activities are designed to extend and enrich students’ understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics and to take learners beyond traditional classroom instruction. To use the Choices worksheet, have each student pick an activity that interests him or her. In some cases, you may wish to assign an activity to a particular student or group of students. You may also want to request that students get your approval for the activities they choose. Establish guidelines for what constitutes successful completion of an activity. Then, help students plan how they will share their work with the rest of the class.

Choices activities can be scored with a pass-fail grade or treated as bonus-point projects. Those activities that require students to research or create a certain number of items might be graded in a traditional manner.

Proofreading Application: Review, p. 45
The most best movie I have seen this year is Genghis Blues. No documentary has never been so heartwarming. The film centers on Paul Peña, a blind musician from San Francisco. Listening to his radio one night, he hears some strangely music called throatsinging. Because he hasn’t never heard anything so unusual, he investigates. He discovers that the music is extremely popular in a region of Mongolia called Tuva. With practice, he learns the art form good and sings for a group of visiting Tuvan throatsingers. He sings so good that they ask him to travel to Tuva to compete in a contest. No one had never been invited to do that before. Because of his blindness and health problems, Peña has a more harder time traveling than he imagined. In addition, Tuva is one of the most remote regions on earth.

Literary Model: Description, pp. 46–47

EXERCISE A
crooked—positive
deeper—comparative
handsomest—superlative
better—comparative
good—positive
best—superlative

EXERCISE B
teeth looking
ripples nothing
kid food

EXERCISE C
Answers will vary.
I thought I would spend a few minutes in the newest book and music store on the south side of the city. At store openings you can usually find better deals than normal. But I was really surprised at the specials being offered at this one. I bought two books by a woman who is the most interesting author I’ve read in years. By coincidence, a well-known comic book writer was giving a talk to promote his most recent work. So of course I stayed to listen to him. Most unexpectedly, at the opening I changed my mind about who is the greatest guitarist in the country. This happened after I heard a particular CD being played on the store’s sound system.

EXERCISE D
Answers may vary.

Using comparative and superlative forms shows the intensity of the quality I am describing. For example, “the most interesting” indicates more intensity than “an interesting.” Using a phrase like “the newest book and music store” helps the reader understand that other stores of this type have opened in that part of the city without my actually saying that.

Writing Application: Directions, p. 48
Writing Applications are designed to provide students immediate composition practice in using key concepts taught in each chapter of the Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Language Skills Practice booklet. You may wish to evaluate
student responses to these assignments as you do any other writing that students produce. To save grading time, however, you may want to use the following scoring rubric.

**Scoring Rubric**
The directions explain the steps of the process in chronological order.

1 2 3 4 5

Modifying phrases and clauses are placed as near as possible to the words they modify.

1 2 3 4 5

The directions use transitional words.

1 2 3 4 5

The assignment is relatively free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

1 2 3 4 5

**Total Score**

5 = highest; 1 = lowest