**COHERENCE: MISPLACED PARTS:**

**DANGLING MODIFIERS**

Avoid needless separation of related parts of the sentence. Avoid dangling modifiers.

**I/ MISPLACED PARTS**

Avoid needless separation of related parts of the sentence.

1. In standard written English, adverbs such as *almost, only, just, even, hardly, nearly,* or *merely* are regularly placed immediately before the words they modify.
2. The position of a modifying prepositional phrase should clearly indicate what the phrase modifies. A prepositional phrase used as an adjective nearly always immediately follows the word modified.

(3) Adjective clauses should be placed near the words they modify.

(4) Avoid squinting constructions – modifiers that may refer either to a preceding or to a following word.

**II/ DANGLING MODIFIERS**

**Avoid dangling modifiers.**

Although any misplaced word, phrase, or clause dangles whenever it hangs loosely within a sentence, the term dangling is applied especially to incoherent verbal phrases and elliptical clauses. A dangling modifier is one that does not refer clearly and logically to some word in the sentence.

When verbal phrases or elliptical clauses come at the beginning of a sentence, the normal English word order requires that they immediately precede and clearly refer to the subject of the sentence.

1. *Avoid dangling participial phrases.*
2. *Avoid dangling infinitive phrases*
3. *Avoid dangling infinitive phrases.*
4. *Avoid dangling elliptical clauses*