MISRELATED CONSTRUCTIONS OR DANGLING MODIFIERS
• Grammar requires that opening phrases, with certain exceptions, relate to the first noun, pronoun or other noun equivalents that follow. This is referred to as the principle of proximity.

• Notice the peculiar wording of the following sentences:
a. Having been written, Leslie posted the letter.
b. Lost in thought, the bus passed me by without stopping.
c. When sufficiently cooked, the next step is to add pepper and salt.
d. While walking, his feet hit a stone
• Each of the examples displays a conflict between the grammatical requirement and the intended meaning. Clearly, it is not Leslie that was written. Note that having been written is grammatically related to letter rather than to Leslie. Again, it was not the bus that got lost in thought, neither is it when sufficiently cooked that is the next step. His feet did not take a decision to walk.
• CAUSES OF MISRETALEED OR DANGLING MODIFICATIONS.
a. The Omission of Heads or Subjects.
b. Misplacement of the Head
c. Modifiers modifying others
CORRECTING MISRELATED CONSTRUCTIONS

1. Whenever there is a misplacement of the head or the subject, it can be moved forwards or to the right position.
a. Having been written, the letter was posted by Leslie.
b. Lost in thought, I was passed by by the bus.
2. In case of the dangling modifier or participle, the missing subject must be introduced by expanding the dangling phrase into a full clause
a. When the meat is sufficiently cooked, the next step is to add pepper and salt.

b. While Kofi was walking, he hit his foot against a stone.
EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE

a. Absolute constructions which have subjects of their own:
EXAMPLES

a. That said / That being the case, we can leave now.

b. All things considered, he is very honest.
Constructions that function as “sentence adverbials” – they comment on the main sentence or link it with other sentences:
EXAMPLES

1. *Speaking frankly,* he is honest
2. *To be frank,* he is very honest
3. *Simply stated,* he is honest
4. *To sum up,* he is honest