

Misplaced Modifiers

The principle: Put the adverbial phrase as close as possible to the verb that it modifies. If you put the adverbial phrase closer to another verb, the reader may think that it is intended to modify that other verb.

In these sentence, re-position the underlined misplaced modifier.

1. WNYN made a decision to promote David confidentially.
2. Before we go on, I will tell you the decisions that we made first.
3. He should have told Bob about it, but he did not mention it deliberately.
4. David showed Bob what he could do at Marsha's expense.
5. Margaret realized that David had sabotaged Marsha in spite of David's explanation.
6. David, you should have told Bob that you were supposed to pick Marsha up before you got on the flight.
7. I will tell you the decisions that we made first.
8. Grandmothers don't appreciate their grown daughters as much as the daughters with children appreciate their mothers these days.
9. Instead of applying pressure, Kim said that it is necessary to promote programs for exchange and cooperation with North Korea.
10. Putting lawbreakers into prison is an unsatisfactory way of dealing with those who break the law for two reasons.

Answers

1. WNYN confidentially made a decision to promote David.
2. Before we go on, I will first tell you the decisions that we made.
3. He should have told Bob about it, but he deliberately did not mention it.
4. At Marsha's expense, David showed Bob what he could do.
5. Margaret realized, in spite of David's explanation, that David had sabotaged Marsha.
6. David, you should have told Bob before you got on the flight that you were supposed to pick Marsha up.
7. First I will tell you the decisions that we made.
8. These days, grandmothers don't appreciate their grown daughters as much as the daughters with children appreciate their mothers.
9. Kim said that, Instead of applying pressure, it is necessary to promote programs for exchange and cooperation with North Korea.
10. Putting lawbreakers into prison is, for two reasons, an unsatisfactory way of dealing with those who break the law.