a little down time. I suppose that if I had TiVo, I would watch more often since I could watch my favorites whenever I wanted to. As it is now, I flick through the program guide quickly losing interest. Besides, I tell myself, watching TV too often is a complete waste of time. (2)

Another problem is that many TV programs seem actually to have become serials. That is, they have a storyline that continues from week to week. Each new episode builds on what has happened before. I suppose this soap opera-like construction is attractive to the producers since they can build in layers of complicated relations that bring the audience back week after week. The trouble with this approach for casual viewers like me is that tuning into an ongoing program is like starting to read a long book by starting in the middle — I have no idea what is going on. This kind of program almost accounts for half the shows on TV today. (2)

Correct all errors in the following paragraph using the first correction as model. The number in parentheses at the end of the paragraph indicates how many errors you should find.

\[ \text{recently} \]
\[ \text{I went to a mall recently voted one of the best in the state. The vote} \]
\[ \text{was conducted by a national marketing firm and almost involved} \]
\[ \text{eight thousand shoppers. I learned there are twenty-four major malls in this} \]
\[ \text{state yesterday. The mall I went to was proud of being ranked} \]
\[ \text{so its management posted the results on signs in the mall. To be honest,} \]
\[ \text{I am not sure what makes this mall special. The same stores you find at} \]
\[ \text{other malls usually are at the one I went to yesterday. I saw a few special} \]
\[ \text{shops that I had not seen before, but most of the shops were standard.} \]
The people who worked there happily greeted me and were more helpful than I expected. Also, the mall was particularly clean, and it had plenty of space for walking. On the whole, however, it seemed like every other mall I have been to. (5)

Misplaced modifiers can lead to confusion for readers, and even experienced writers make mistakes. Find a short article written by a professional writer or journalist. Circle every word that could be replaced by *often*. Put a question mark next to any modifier that might be misplaced, and discuss with either a classmate or your teacher whether these modifiers are correct or misplaced.

| The Bottom Line | Modifiers are *normally* placed close to the words they *best* describe. |