

Another sentence based on official question (#60, OG-13: *The Olympic Games helped to keep peace...*), where present participial is *incorrectly* used:

In 1921, the discussions between the representatives of Crown and Republican forces helped cessation of hostilities, proclaiming truce between the two warring parties.

Analysis: The sentence has a *present participial phrase* (*proclaiming truce between the two warring parties*) at the *end* of the sentence, and is preceded by a comma. As discussed in section 5.4, *grammatically* a present participial phrase that appears at the *end* of the clause/sentence and is preceded by a comma, modifies the *subject* of the preceding clause (scenario-2c in Figure 23); in this case, the preceding clause is: *In 1921, the discussions between the representatives of Crown and Republican forces helped cessation of hostilities.* The subject of this clause is: *the discussions.* Hence, we have a *dangling modifier* issue, since *grammatically*, the participial phrase modifies *the discussions.* So, the sentence seems to absurdly suggest that *discussions* proclaimed (announced) *truce between the two warring parties!* This is clearly illogical, since *discussions* cannot *proclaim* (announce) anything (at the *end* of discussions, something may be announced, but *discussions* themselves cannot *announce* anything). Hence, this is an incorrect sentence. We fix the sentence by articulating it as follows:

In 1921, the discussions between the representatives of Crown and Republican forces helped cessation of hostilities, for a truce was proclaimed between the two warring parties.