

Parallel structure: means using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance. This can happen at the **word, phrase, or clause level**. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating **conjunctions** such as "and" or "or," "but," "yet," "so"

Example of good parallelism:

Mary likes to hike, to swim, and to ride a bicycle.

Example of bad:

Mary likes hiking, swimming, and to ride a bicycle.

<p>Words and Phrases: Infinitives: to + Verb Gerunds: using "ing" Prepositions: on, off, over, through, between, under, beneath, below, to, away From, with, during, of, above, etc...</p>	<p>I love to sing, to skip, and to dive. Mary likes hik<u>ing</u>, swim<u>ing</u>, and bicycl<u>ing</u>. He asked me about my courses and about where I was planning to be next year.</p>
<p>Tense: Keep the same tense throughout the sentence:</p>	<p>WRONG: During the day, we went on long hikes, rowed around the lake, or just leisure time. RIGHT: During the day, we went on long hikes, rowed around the lake, or just enjoyed leisure time. KEPT IN PAST TENSE</p>
<p>Clauses: (have a subject and verb) A parallel structure that begins with clauses must keep on with clauses. Changing to another pattern or changing the voice of the verb (from active to passive or vice versa) will break the parallelism.</p>	<p>Not Parallel: The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and to do some warm-up exercises before the game. Parallel: The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game. Not Parallel: The salesman expected that he would present his product at the meeting, that there would be time for him to show his slide presentation, and that questions would be asked by prospective buyers. (passive) Parallel: The salesman expected that he would present his product at the meeting, that there would be time for him to show his slide presentation, and that prospective buyers would ask him questions. (voice)</p>

Parallel Structure

Each of the following sentences contains a blank for which three different completions are offered. You are to choose the completion that will make the structure parallel and the meaning clear. Circle the letter.

1. Being timid in public and _____ very little self-confidence, he is not a good salesman.
A. because he has
B. having
C. since he had

2. Following the complicated musical score was difficult not only for the soloist but also _____.
A. the conductor
B. the conduction
C. for the conductor

3. _____ to San Francisco would be easier than driving there.
A. Taking the train
B. To take the train
C. The train

4. He had neither the general background _____ the specific skills required for this job.
A. nor
B. nor has
C. and does not have

5. In his first summer at camp, he learned to swim, to sail, and _____.
A. riding
B. to ride
C. how to ride

6. Several critics said that the play was well written, but poorly directed and _____.
A. also it was acted badly
B. it was badly acted
C. badly acted

7. Many architects prefer designing houses to _____.
A. office buildings
B. designing office buildings
C. the design of office buildings

8. The planning commission suggested _____ and the at a traffic light should be installed at the corner of Vine street.
- A. widening Bay Avenue
 - B. Bay Avenue being widened
 - C. that Bay Avenue should be widened
9. She answered quickly, firmly, and _____.
- A. decisively
 - B. was decisive
 - C. her answer was decisive
10. The laboratory equipment of this high school is better than _____.
- A. many colleges
 - B. many colleges are
 - C. that of many colleges

Read through the parallel series below and circle the element in each that is not parallel.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. camping
boat rides
hiking
skiing | 6. wrapped in furs
adorned with jewels
into the rolls Royce
bathed in perfume |
| 2. They raise corn and wheat.
They make their own wine.
They are digging for clams. | 7. power
courage
honesty
strong |
| 3. in the pit of his stomach
across his forehead
his eyes
through his veins | 8. fly
fluttered
faded
fell |
| 4. painting pictures
two boxes of watercolors
a large sketch pad
crayons | 9. rib restaurants
chicken shacks
eating meat pies
soul food shops |
| 5. loneliness
despair
sadly | 10. carefree in the summer
in the fall
depressed in the winter
renewed in the spring |

Give your sentences balance

Identifying unbalanced parts of sentences

Directions: If all parts in any of the following sentence are balanced, write C. If they are not, underline the unbalanced part and then write its letter.

1. To get to Washington a person may travel (A) by bus, (B) by airplane, or (C) ride in his own car.
2. On our trips my father often showed us (A) historic public buildings, (B) where the scenery was beautiful, and (C) modern museums.
3. (A) The placing of utility lines underground, (B) not allowing trucks, and (C) the expanding of bicycle routes would make an already good neighborhood even better.
4. When the children notice that they were lost, (A) they stopped laughing, (B) their vitality declined, and (C) their speed slowed.
5. Joe showed me (A) how to plow the ground, (B) how to plant the seeds, and (C) how to fertilize my garden.
6. Sex-role stereotyping has frequently made women appear (A) passive, (B) dependent, (C) not strong, and (D) Stupid.
7. Although my neighborhood contains (A) spacious tree-lined boulevards, (B) beautifully landscaped yards, and (C) various recreational facilities, a few improvements are desirable.
8. Few young men have had the opportunity to study such vocations as (A) how to cook, (B) nursing or, (C) hairdressing.
9. The volcanic eruption required the people (A) to evacuate the small island, (B) that they return to the mainland, (C) and to seek aid.
10. (A) Medicine, (B) law, (C) engineering and (D) being interested in science have been considered men's fields for many years.

Directions: Most of the sentences below contain misplaced parts and are not Parallel. Rewrite the sentences, correcting the misplaced parts. If the sentence is correct, write C.

1. She answered the ad which appeared in Sunday's paper for a clerk.
2. She bought a dress from a little shop made of denim.
3. John ran to the room where the teacher was giving the test with his heart pounding.
4. The cupcakes were given to the children that had vanilla icing on them.
5. I said when the class was over I would tell her about it.
6. The hikers had to walk all day without sitting down to rest in the slushy snow.
7. The money was in the safe that the robbers stole.
8. The dog which belongs to my neighbor buried a bone in my yard.
9. I promised when the program was over that I would bake a cake.
10. She wore a long, silk skirt with a peach blouse that was ankle-length.

Correcting hanging parts of sentences

Directions: Most of the following sentences contain hanging parts. Correct the incorrect sentences. If a sentence is already correct, write C.

1. Upon receiving the reward, the money was deposited in Joe's account in the bank.
2. Sewing the dress, Joan broke two needles.
3. After cooking all day, the children surprised their mother with dinner out.
4. Debating about grading policies, the issue was finally resolved.
5. Arriving early, many seats were available.
6. Flying through the clouds; the plane signaled to the tower.
7. Working all morning, the job was finally done.
8. While driving to school, the right front tire went flat.

9. As a lover of French food, that restaurant is my favorite.
10. By reading the poem carefully, the meaning becomes clear.

Study Unit 5: Parallel Sentences

In the provided spaces, write C for each sentence that is parallel and W for each sentence that is not parallel.

- _____ 1. The audience cheered, laughed, and cried.
- _____ 2. Mrs. Pompeo was so shocked that she had to sit down.
- _____ 3. She told me that she had seen a peeping Tom and he waved a knife at her.
- _____ 4. Mr. Eagleton reads mysteries, listens to classical music, and he watches television.
- _____ 5. Niki's favorite subjects are Spanish, journalism, and she likes math.
- _____ 6. The fraternities complete in baseball, basketball, and football.
- _____ 7. Mrs. Wreniski not only works on weekdays, but she also works on weekends.
- _____ 8. Ethel Stein brought ham, salad, and bread.
- _____ 9. The wind blew; the rain fell; the dog barked.
- _____ 10. Because you are my friend and because I do not want to hurt you, I will leave now.
- _____ 11. The entertainer looked into the audience, and his eyes met those of a beautiful lady.
- _____ 12. The telephone rang, but Teri did not answer it.
- _____ 13. Rosita drove, Carlos read the map, and Joe held the baby.
- _____ 14. The sofa was black, brown, and white.
- _____ 15. The Rainwater family golfs, swims, and fishing.

Parallel Structure

The following sentences contain errors in parallelism. You are to correct the faulty parallelism in each sentence by writing any needed changes above the line and crossing out any unnecessary words. If you can correct the sentence by moving a word, you are to circle the word and indicate with an arrow where it should go.

1. My brother and I thought our souvenirs were better than our friends.
2. On the tennis court, Pancho Gonzales showed skill, tenacity, and that he had imagination.
3. Deep-sea diving requires more training than a skin diver does.
4. Catherine the Great was thought both to be shrewd and ruthless.
5. Not only was Gerald a good student but also a fine athlete.
6. Learning to swim is easier in a pool than the ocean.
7. It took me less time doing the research than to write the report.
8. She meant well, but she neither understood the boy's needs nor his wants.
9. The prose style of *Moby Dick* is more difficult than *The Scarlet Letter*.
10. The rancher and his wife drive into town frequently to do their shopping, to see a movie, or if they want to visit friends.

A. Fixing Sentences with Faulty Parallelism.

Revise the following sentences so that they are written with parallelism. If a sentence is already parallel, write parallel on the line.

1. As a young girl, Audre Lorde enjoyed reading poetry and to write her own verse
2. Lorde worked as a librarian and was teaching early in her career.
3. To preserve African-American culture and in celebrating women of color, Lorde founded the Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press.
4. Lorde believed in living honestly and to have compassion for the oppressed.
5. Before her death, Lorde had documented her fourteen-year battle against cancer in "The Cancer Journals" and wrote a series of essays compiled in "A Burst of Light."

Writing Parallels

Now, rewrite each of the following and use parallelism to accentuate the parallel ideas.

Example: We would break some windows, hopped a few trains. We had a few fights.

1. Tom enjoys swimming, and he likes to skate too.
2. He wore a green suede jacket, and his shirt was flowered. He was wearing platform shoes, multicolored.
3. At 16, I was full of wildness, outspoken, and I was an uncaring person.
4. The work was difficult and there was danger in it.
5. Like many women, she had several roles: wife, mother, going to school, job.
6. When the teacher left the room, I talked loudly, was fighting with my classmates and would throw paper airplanes and even climbed on the desks.
7. When I disobeyed, my parents punished me: no going out, I couldn't talk on the telephone, and was not allowed to have company.
8. Slowly, with ease, and soundless, the dancers moved offstage.
9. The drums pounded, did throb, were rising and falling.
10. Good writing must be honest, have freshness, and precise words.
11. My son wants to be either a fireman or fly planes.
12. The students were more interested in dates with girls than in studying math.

Below are the skeletons of sentences; fill in the blanks in each sentence with parallel words or phrases of your own. Be creative. Take care that your sentences make sense and that your parallels are truly parallel.

Example: I feel rested and happy.

1. Subways are _____, _____, and _____.
2. At those parties, we had lots of fun. We _____, _____, and _____.
3. In high school _____, but in college _____.
4. _____ and _____ make me nervous.
5. It is much harder to _____ than to _____.
6. If you _____ and _____, you will feel healthy.
7. The way we dress reveals our _____, our _____ and our _____.
8. Many city apartments are plagued by _____, and _____, and _____.
9. When you _____ or _____, it is hard to find a good job.
10. It was a clear April day. In the park, _____, _____, and _____.
11. If you are a man in America, _____; if you are a woman in America _____.
12. Many college students _____, _____, and _____.
13. Bargain hunters either _____ or _____.
14. O. J. Simpson is a man who _____, _____, and who _____.
15. When I write in class _____; when I write at home _____.

Parallel Structures

Top of Form

1. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

Phuong Tran has wit, charm, and she has an extremely pleasant personality.

Phuong Tran has wit, charm, and a pleasing personality.

2. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

In English class, Tashonda learned to read poems critically and to appreciate good prose.

In English class, Tashonda learned to read poems critically and she appreciated good prose.

3. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

Raoul's QPA is higher than Ralph.

Raoul's QPA is higher than Ralph's.

4. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

He wanted three things out of college: to learn a skill, to make good friends, and to learn about life.

He wanted three things out of college: to learn a skill, to make good friends, and learning about life.

5. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

Coach Espinoza was a brilliant strategist, a caring mentor, and a wise friend.

Coach Espinoza was a brilliant strategist, a caring mentor, and friend.

6. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

We found the film repulsive, offensive, and we thought it was embarrassing.

We found the film repulsive, offensive, and embarrassing.

7. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

Mr. Nguyen kept his store clean, neat, and he made it conveniently arranged.

Mr. Nguyen kept his store clean, neat, and conveniently arranged.

8. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

Professor Ali rewarded his students for working hard on the final project and going beyond the call of duty.

Professor Ali rewarded his students for their hard work on the final project and going beyond the call of duty.

9. Select the sentence that illustrates the use of proper parallel construction.

There's nothing I like better than finding a good trout stream, setting up camp, and spending a couple of days fishing.

There's nothing I like better than finding a good trout stream, setting up camp, and to spend a couple of days fishing.

Directions: Choose the group of words that best replace the underlined portion to make the sentence parallel.

1. For those without the time or who don't feel inclined to bake cookies, stores carry a large variety of ready-made cookies.
 - A. the inclination
 - B. without feeling that they want
 - C. without wanting

2. Oreos, Chips Ahoy, and there are also Vanilla Wafers are just a few of the different kinds of cookies you can find in grocery stores.
 - A. Vanilla Wafers
 - B. Including Vanilla Wafers
 - C. You also have Vanilla Wafers

3. Sandwich cookies, frosted cookies, and even cookies that are really small are available prepackaged in stores.
 - A. Miniature cookies
 - B. The kind of cookies that are tiny
 - C. They make really tiny cookies

4. Some people think that store-bought cookies aren't as good as making the cookies at home.
 - A. To make the cookies at home
 - B. Home-made cookies
 - C. When you make the cookies at home.

5. I love not only store-bought cookies but also I don't mind home-made cookies.
 - A. Home-made cookies
 - B. Like home-made cookies
 - C. To eat home-made cookies is not a hardship

6. I enjoy making cookies, but the process can be time consuming, nerve wracking, and I get frustrated too.
 - A. It makes me frustrated
 - B. Frustrating
 - C. It creates frustration

7. On the other hand, making cookies can also make me feel happy, proud, and there's also a sense of satisfaction.
 - A. Satisfied
 - B. Satisfaction
 - C. I feel satisfied

8. Rolled cookies take the most time to make, molded cookies take a little less time, and the fastest drop cookies.

- A. Drop cookies take the least time
- B. Speedy drop cookies
- C. The least time drop cookies

9. Besides coming in different shapes and sizes, cookies can also be sugar free, low fat, and not have any fat at all.

- A. Fat free
- B. Without fat
- C. Contain no fat

10. Whether you buy them, bake them, or are eating them, cookies will provide you with much enjoyment.

- A. Eat
- B. Ate
- C. You eat

Revising for Parallel Structure

Each of the following sentences starts well but then goes off the track. Rewrite the italicized part to make it parallel with the rest of the sentence. Change or add things as necessary.

1. We were dirty, hungry, and *without a penny*.
2. My roommate liked to repair things around the house and *his own cooking*.
3. During the day, we went on long hikes, rowed around the lake, or *just leisure time*.
4. She returned to pay the rent and *because she had left some of her things*.
5. Two things that I found hard to learn as a freshman were to get enough sleep and *trimming expenses*.
6. He asked me about my courses and *where I was planning to be next year*.
7. The doctor said that I should rest and *not get excited or upset*.

8. Hitler's followers considered other nations to be radically inferior and *were fit only for slave labor.*

9. The best way to combat juvenile delinquency is not to set up more social agencies but *by restoring old-fashioned discipline in the home.*

10. The book told how to build a gun cabinet, how to build a bookcase, and **all types of furniture that you can make.**

11. When I was a member of the basketball team, everyone met me with a happy smile, made lively conversation, and *I was invited to many parties.*

12. Fires, caused by unheeding persons, have destroyed valuable forests and *thereby decreasing our lumber resources.*

13. In basketball, there is never a dull moment, any team can win, *and a fine display of teamwork.*

14. My parents like peace and quiet and *to relax in the evening at home.*

15. Esther is a helpful person and *who makes friends easily.*

16. Yosemite is a park with spectacular scenery and *which has half-tame bears.*

17. My friends were always going off to jog in the park or *a game of tennis.*

18. The manager asked me to file an application and *would I leave my number.*

19. We went to rallies to protest against pesticides, oppose nuclear power, or *other current causes.*

20. My roommate was a smart dresser, a good student, and *really know how to talk.*