

ENGLISH 10 – HONORS & GENERAL – Ms. Stamper

BLIZZARD BAG DAY #1

Directions: Read the following information on parallel structure in writing. On a separate sheet of paper, follow directions for Exercises 1, 2, & 3. Turn in your work on the first day you return to school.

Learning Targets: Language.10.1 – I can use parallel structure.

Parallel Structure

Parallel structure exists in a sentence when the parts of a sentence performing similar functions have a similar form. A sentence is easier to read and understand if words in a pair or in a series have the same structure. Parallel structure, also referred to as parallelism, gives a sentence balance and rhythm.

Not parallel: Jean likes sewing, baking, and to work in the garden.

This sentence lacks parallel structure because the series consists of two items that are –ing words (gerunds – sewing, baking) but the third item in the series is expressed in as an infinitive phrase (to work in the garden).

To give this sentence parallel structure, write all three items as gerunds or as infinitive phrases.

Parallel: Jean likes sewing, baking and gardening.

Parallel: Jean likes to sew, to bake, and to garden.

How to Avoid Faulty Parallelism

1. When elements are parallel in thought, use parallel forms to express them. Balance a noun with a noun, a verb with a verb, a modifier with a modifier, and so on.

Not Parallel: My cousin is tall, beautiful, and she is also very smart.

Parallel: My cousin is tall, beautiful, and intelligent. (all follow the same form).

2. Use parallel structure with groups of words in a sentence.

- Not parallel: By changing the oil myself, and because I know how to do tune-ups, I save money on the care of my car.
- Parallel: By changing the oil myself and by doing my own tune-ups, I save money on the care of my car.
- Not Parallel: With his new job, he had a higher salary, increased benefits and he worked fewer hours than before.
- Parallel: With his new job, he had a higher salary, increased benefits, and shorter working hours.

3. Use parallel structure for words joined by coordinate conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet.

- Not Parallel: She is intelligent yet is always in a sour mood.
- Parallel: She is intelligent yet sullen.
- Not Parallel: I do not like polishing the silverware, having to cut the grass, nor scrubbing the floors.
- Parallel: I do not like polishing the silverware, cutting the grass, nor scrubbing the floors.

4. Use parallel structure for words joined by correlative conjunctions: (either ... or, neither...nor, not only ... but also)

- Not Parallel: You can either take the high road or the low road.
- Parallel: You can take either the high road or the low road.
- Not Parallel: She not only is quite wealthy but also quite stingy.
- Parallel: She is not only quite wealthy but also quiet stingy.

5. Use parallel structure for comparisons linked with the words than or as.

- Not Parallel: It is easier to speak in abstractions than grounding one's thoughts in reality.
- Parallel: It is easier to speak in abstractions than to ground one's thoughts in reality.

APPLICATION EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Directions: Rewrite these sentences using parallelism.

1. His chief aim in life is having a good time and to do as little work as possible.
2. My counselor advised me to study harder and that I should give up my Saturday job.
3. The police arrested him for speeding on the highway, failing to stop at a red light, and because he was weaving in and out of traffic.
4. Mary is not sure whether she will be a chemist, a nurse, a laboratory technician or perhaps, teaching.
5. I have never seen Eddie without his shoes shined, his face cleanly shaved, and his clothes are always pressed.
6. I want a boyfriend who is a good tennis player, an excellent dancer, and who can swim well.
7. David is responsible for stocking merchandise, all in-store repairs, writing orders for delivery, and sales of computers.
8. Sally was either angry or she was just cranky.
9. To have more knowledge is more important than having money.
10. The curtains were not only too long but also were too wide.

Check your answers for this exercise at the end of the lesson.

Exercise 2

Change the faulty sentences so that each is parallel in form. Retain all the facts, but in each case use the method of revision that seems best. If the form is already parallel, write "parallel" on your paper.

Example:

Not Parallel: In my free time I listen to records, go to movies and long walks.

Parallel: In my free time I listen to records, go to movies and take long walks.

1. My brother prefers luxuries like eating good food and fancy cars.
2. The role of women in supporting the family is as important as men.
3. The television habit is as hard to break as taking drugs.
4. His lecture was interesting, practical and inspired the audience.
5. As a young child I was very spoiled: I was the only daughter, the only niece and the only granddaughter.
6. The rest of newer buildings is much higher than older buildings.
7. Today, the three types of parents are permissible, strict and wealthy.
8. She asked me whether I could take shorthand and about my experience.
9. By hard work and because I invested my savings in the company, I received a promotion.
10. The bacon was fatty, grease was on the potatoes and the eggs were cold.
11. The single life offers more freedom of choice, more security is offered by marriage.
12. They did not want a black and white television, but a color one could not be afforded.
13. Having a headache, an upset stomach, and a bad sunburn did not put me in a good mood for the evening.
14. The coach not only has practices on Saturday but also on Sunday.
15. Pesky mosquitos, humid that is high, and sweltering heat makes summer an unpleasant time for him.

Exercise 3 Directions: For each sentence that has an error in parallelism, write a correct version of the sentence. If the sentence is correct, mark it correct and do not make any changes.

1. Chia, my dog, is overweight and moves clumsily.
2. Your job consists of arranging the books, cataloguing any new arrivals, and the pamphlets have to be alphabetized.
3. There was a thin film of frost on the trees. The hedges and shrubs had it also.
4. He is an affectionate husband, a dutiful son, and kind to his kids.
5. Marvin was happy to win the bowling tournament and he also felt surprised.
6. He is a poet of great talent and who is insightful.
7. Joe would rather work on a farm than spending time in an office.
8. Every afternoon in the mountains, it either rains or there is hail.
9. Sesame Street teaches children nursery rhymes, songs, how to be courteous, and being kind.
10. His writing reveals not only intelligence but also it is humorous.

ANSWERS

Exercise 1. Rewrite these sentences using parallelism.

1. His chief aim in life is having a good time and to do doing as little work as possible.
2. My counselor advised me to study harder and that I should to give up my Saturday job.
3. The police arrested him for speeding on the highway, failing to stop at a red light, and because he was weaving in and out of traffic.
4. Mary is not sure whether she will be a chemist, a nurse, a laboratory technician or perhaps, teaching a teacher.
5. I have never seen Eddie without his shoes shined, his face cleanly shaved, and his clothes are always pressed.
6. I want a boyfriend who is a good tennis player, an excellent dancer, and who can swim well. a good swimmer.
7. David is responsible for stocking merchandise, all in-store repairs, writing orders for delivery, and sales of computers. selling computers.
8. Sally was either angry or she was just cranky.
9. To have more knowledge is more important than to have having money.
10. The curtains were not only too long but also were too wide.