**PARALLELISM**

**WHAT IS PARALLELISM?**

**Parallelism** in sentences refers to matching grammatical structures. Elements in a sentence that have the same function or express similar ideas should be grammatically parallel, or grammatically matched.

**Parallelism**is the balance between two or more WORDS, PHRASES, or CLAUSES within a sentence**.**

**1. BALANCE PARALLEL IDEAS IN A SERIES**

When listing a series of things, actions, or ideas, the items in the list should be expressed in a similar manner. Be sure to keep all the elements in a list in the same form. The items in the list must be all nouns, all infinitives, all prepositional phrases, all gerunds, or all clauses.

**2. BALANCE PARALLEL IDEAS PRESENTED IN PAIRS**

Balance parallel ideas presented in pairs. Expressing pairs in similar grammatical form underscores their connection. Paired ideas are connected in one of three ways:**(A)** With coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) , **(B)**with correlative conjunctions (*either*…*or*, *neither*…*nor*, *not only*…*but also*, *both*…*and*, *whether*…*or*), and **(C)** with comparisons linked with *than* or *as.*

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions**

For parallel structure, **single words** should be balanced with **single words**, **phrases** with **phrases** with **phrases**, and **clauses** with **clauses**.

**B. Correlative Conjunctions**

Correlative (either… or, neither… nor, both… and, not only… but also, whether… or) should be followed by elements that are parallel in form.

Paired conjunctions are placed directly *before the elements they join in the sentence.*

1. **Comparisons linked with '*than'*or 'a*s'***

When making comparisons using the words *than* or *as*, be sure that the things you compare are similar logically as well as grammatically.

**3. REPEAT FUNCTION WORDS TO CLARIFY PARALLELS**

Whenever necessary to make the parallel clear, repeat function words such as ***a preposition, an article, an auxiliary verb, the sign of the infinitive***.

If the preposition or article (a, an, the) is the same for all items in the list, the writer can decide to include them in all of the items or write it just in the first.