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| Parallel Structure  Sentence elements that are alike in function should also be alike in construction.  These elements should be in the same grammatical form so that they are **parallel**.  Using parallel structure in your writing will help with                  1) economy 2) clarity 3) equality 4) delight.    Here are some examples of parallel elements  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL1.jpg    These elements, on the other hand, are not parallel  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL2.jpg  Used in a sentence, they create a jarring effect and produce writing with unclear emphasis and meaning.  We call such an error "faulty parallelism."    Writers generally use parallelism as a technique in the following five ways.    1.  With elements joined by  [coordinating conjunctions](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/conjunctions.aspx" \l "COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS), especially ***and, but,***and ***or***.         Examples of parallel **words**  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL3.jpg          Examples of parallel [**phrases**](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/sentelmt.aspx#Phrases)  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL4.jpg            Examples of parallel [**clauses**](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/sentelmt.aspx#Clauses)  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL5.jpg        The examples below show how to repair faulty parallelism.     Example #1  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL6.jpg       Example #2  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL7.jpg         Click on the link below to complete an exercise on parallelism with coordinate conjunctions.  [Link to Exercise 1](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/SelfTeachingUnits/Sentence%20Parallel%20Structure%20-%20Exercise01.aspx)    2.   Use parallel structure with elements in lists or in a [series](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/comma.aspx#In a Series).          A series is a group of **three or more** elements in a row.  The last element in the series is connected to the others with one of these coordinating conjunctions:  *and, or, but (not),* or *yet (not)*.  [Commas](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/comma.aspx#In a Series) should be placed between each element in the series and before the coordinating conjunction.          Examples of series         https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL8.jpg      As the examples below show, a series whose components are not in parallel format sounds awkward and may cause misunderstanding.      Example #1  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL9.jpg  Example #2  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL10.jpg  Note that in the corrected versions of example #2, you may choose to repeat the "to" or to omit it.  Click on the link below to complete an exercise on parallelism with elements in a series..  [Link to Exercise 2](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/SelfTeachingUnits/Sentence%20Parallel%20Structure%20-%20Exercise02.aspx)      3. Use parallel structure with elements being compared.  (**X** is *more than / better than* **Y**)       When we compare things, we often use words such as *more, less, better,* and *worse,*  We connect the items being compared with words like *as* and *than.*       Note the comparison methods in the examples below.  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL11.jpg      The elements being compared are parallel to one another:  ***driving*** is parallel to ***flying***  ***Miriam's ability to*** is parallel to ***her resolve to***  ***How you live*** is parallel to ***how much money you make***       Comparing items without using parallel structure may cause confusion about what is being compared to what.       Repair faulty parallelism in comparisons by making one element of the comparison parallel to the  other.  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL12.jpg      Note that you may choose to change either element to match the other.         Click on the link below to complete an exercise on parallel structure with elements in a comparison.  [Link to exercise 3](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/SelfTeachingUnits/Sentence%20Parallel%20Structure%20-%20Exercise03.aspx).    4. Use parallel structure with elements joined by a [linking verb](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/verbs.aspx#Linking verbs) or a [verb of being](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/verbs.aspx#Verbs of being).  Joining elements with linking verbs or verbs of being suggests a completing of the first item by the second one. Often, in fact, an equality between the two is being set up, as the examples below illustrate.  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/ModulePARALLEL13.jpg      Repair faulty parallelism with linking verbs or verbs of being by making one element of the equation parallel to the other.  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL14.jpg       Click on the link below to complete an exercise on parallel structure with linking verbs or verbs of being.  [Link to exercise 4.](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/SelfTeachingUnits/Sentence%20Parallel%20Structure%20-%20Exercise04.aspx)    5.  Use parallel structure with elements joined by a [correlative conjunction](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/conjunctions.aspx#CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS).      These are the major correlative conjunctions:  **either / or           neither / nor           both / and        not only / but also**       Correlative conjunctions work in pairs.  Whatever grammatical structure follows one **must be parallel to** the grammatical structure that follows the other.      Examples with ***either / or*** and ***neither / nor***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL15.jpg      Examples with ***both / and***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL16.jpg      Examples with ***not only / but also***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL17.jpg         Repair faulty parallelism with correlative conjunctions by making one structure parallel to the other as shown below.  With ***either / or***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL18.jpg     With ***neither / nor***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL19.jpg     With ***both / and***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL20.jpg    With ***not only / but also***  https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLEL21.jpg  [Link to Exercise 5](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/SelfTeachingUnits/Sentence%20Parallel%20Structure%20-%20Exercise05.aspx)  Remember:  Parallelism in sentence construction helps to create economy, rhythm, emphasis, and clarity in your writing.  Use  this writing technique to your advantage!  You have now reached the end of this self-teaching unit. To see how well you have learned the methods for recognizing and repairing parallelism errors, complete the POST TEST.  [Link to post test.](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/modulePARALLELposttest.aspx) |  |  |

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