**Parallel Structure**

#### Parallelism in sentences refers to matching grammatical structures of two or more elements (words, phrases or clauses) that have the same function.

#### Parallel sentence elements regularly appear in:

1. ideas in a series.
2. ideas presented in pairs.
   1. Coordinating conjunctions
   2. Correlative conjunctions
   3. Comparisons linked with *than* or *as*

3.function words (as prepositions, articles, and subordinating conjunctions)

**Parallelism: Exercises**

**In each of the following lists, one element does not fit with the others. Circle the non-parallel element.**

**Example:** a) A tall building  b) a huge park  c) a friend of mine

1.  a) on the sidewalk  b) under the tree  c) my house

2.  a) a hamburger  b) French fries  c) lots of fun

3. a) to wash the dishes  b) cleaning the bathroom  c) to vacuum the carpet

4. a) he called his sister  b) he went home  c) determination to do the right thing

5. a) easily  b) noiselessly  c) without looking

6. a) angry  b) social c) emotional

**Underline the parallel elements in the following sentences. Mark the beginning of the parallelism with //. Circle elements in lists that are not parallel. Write “P” beside sentences with good parallelism and “F” beside sentences with faulty parallelism.**

Example: *F Urban wildlife includes animals like // raccoons, skunks, and bigger animals.*

1. \_\_\_ Raccoons like to forage for garbage at night, play on city streets at dusk, and during the day they sleep.

2. \_\_\_ Many people think urban wildlife is a problem, but others believe we should protect these animals.

3. \_\_\_ A raccoon can be recognized by its black facial mask, ringed tail and its thick black coat.

4. \_\_\_ Raccoons are insatiably curious, extremely intelligent, and love shiny

5. \_\_\_ These animals are so clever that they wash or wipe their food before eating it.

6. \_\_\_ They eat insects, fruit, and garbage in the city.

7. \_\_\_ In the wild, they prefer to eat frogs, fish, and shellfish.

8. \_\_\_ From November to January, a raccoon will find an abandoned building building, hollow tree, or a bush to shelter from the cold.

**For each sentence below specify the type of FAULTY parallelism: (a) coordinate conjunctions, (b) correlative conjunctions, (c)elements in a series, or (d) elements in a comparison. Revise each sentence so that the joined elements are parallel to one another.**

1. Our baseball coach taught us how to hit, tag out runners, and base stealing.
2. The instructor advised me to use the rear-view mirror often, and I should observe the speed limit.
3. Bruce not only enjoys singing; he enjoys playing the guitar as well.
4. Vampires are advised to avoid garlic, drink blood regularly, and stay out of the sun.
5. Football is more popular in Europe than North America
6. Pedro explained to the immigration officer that his visa had expired and of his applying to have it renewed.
7. More students fail from improper study habits than any other cause.

**Cross out the unbalanced part of each sentence. Then rewrite the unbalanced part so that it matches the other item or items in the sentence.**

1. Zach listened to his iPod, was text messaging his friends, and surfed online all at the same time.

2. My homemade pesto recipe calls for extra-virgin olive oil, several sprigs of fresh basil, and pine nuts that were roasted.

3. When I want to relax, I grab a cold soda, open a bag of chips, turn on the TV, and I like to watch whatever sports game is on.

4. The mail brought utility bills, monthly statements from the bank, and credit card applications.

**Complete the following statements. The first two parts of each statement are parallel in form; the part that you add should be parallel in form as well.**

**EXAMPLE:** Three things I could not live without are my cell phone, my laptop, and *my morning coffee*.

1. The new reality TV show is disappointing: The premise is absurd, the cast members are uninteresting, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. As a parent, I promise to love my child unconditionally, to provide for my child’s needs, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. As the students waited for the professor to arrive for class, they rummaged through their backpacks, silenced their phones, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. During my first year in my own apartment, I learned how to fix leaky toilets and torn screens, how to survive on instant ramen and frozen pizzas, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Language learning courses involve the memorization of new vocabulary and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

6. Another student reported that at college she learned how to study, how to think, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**7.** Some students like to study with others in study groups, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Read carefully the short paragraph below , underline, and then correct the five instances of faulty parallelism.**

|  |
| --- |
| Running is an exercise that can be good for you mentally, physically, and also be helpful for your emotions. A beginning runner should keep three things in mind: the warm-up session, the actual time that you are running, and the cool-down period. Never start a run without first having warmed up through stretching exercises. Stretching reduces muscle stiffness, decreases the possibility of injury, and it’s a good method to gradually increase the heart rate. During the run itself, move at a comfortable pace. Your breathing should be steady and with depth. Finally, remember to cool down after a run. An adequate cool-down period allows time for the body to relax and the normalizing of the heart rate. |

**Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with parallel words, phrases, or clauses of your own that make sense in context.**

1. When I get too little sleep, I am ,…………………… , …………………… and …………………….

2. I am good at …………………… but not at …………………… .

3. My ideal mate is…………………… and …………………… .

4. I define success not only as …………………… but also as…………………….

5. I use my computer for both …………………… and …………………….

6. I like…………………… and …………………….

7. You need three qualities to succeed at college: ……………………, ……………………, and …………………….

8. I would rather …………………… than …………………… .

**Collaborative Activity**

**1. Working in a group, list three or four qualities that you associate with each word in the following pairs.**

Brothers/sisters

Teachers/students

Parents/children

City/country

Fast food/organic food

Movies/TV shows

**2. Write a compound sentence comparing each of the above pairs of words. Use a coordinating conjunction to join the clauses, and make sure each sentence uses clear parallel structure, mentions both words, and includes the qualities you listed for the words in Collaborative Activity 1.**

**EMPHASIS**

**Some Strategies for Achieving Emphasis in Sentences**

**1. Emphasizing by position**

* **Sentence Beginnings** and **endings** carry more emphasis

**2. Emphasizing by Order of Climax**

**3. Emphasizing by repetition of important words**

Repetition as a rule should be avoided, but **occasionally** key words can be repeated for the sake of emphasis.

**4. Emphasizing by Sentence length and structure:**

**(i) Length**: **Short sentences** are often emphatic, especially after longer ones.

**(ii) Structure:** *Periodic sentences, balanced sentences, the active voice, and subordination*.

**5. Emphasizing by Word/phrase choice and EMPHATIC expressions**

Using such words and phrases as ‘***especially*, particularly, *crucially*, *most importantly*, extremely, by far, a*bove all***.

**6. Emphasizing by Punctuation and Typography**

**SENTENCE EMPHASIS PRACTICE**

**1. Copy the following sentences and do the following:**

* Bracket the independent clause(s) in each sentence and underline each modifying phrase or dependent clause. Label each sentence cumulative or periodic.
* Relocate the supporting details to make cumulative sentences periodic and periodic sentences cumulative, adding words or rephrasing to make your meaning clear.

***Example****: Feeling isolated, sad, and frightened, [the small child sat alone in the train depot.] (periodic)*

***Revised:*** *The small child sat alone in the train depot, feeling isolated, sad, and frightened. (cumulative)*

1. However different in their educational op
2. portunities, both Jefferson and Lincoln as young men became known to their contemporaries as "hard students."
3. The road came into being slowly, league by league, river crossing by river crossing.
4. Without willing it, I had gone from being ignorant of being ignorant to being aware of being aware.
5. To those of us who remain committed mainly to the exploration of moral distinctions and ambiguities, the feminist analysis may have seemed a particularly narrow and cracked determinism.

**2. Rewrite the following sentences, rearranging the elements in the lists into climactic order.**

*Random order*: When the bucket fell off the ladder, the paint splashed onto the small rug, the drop cloth, the

Rembrandt painting, and the sofa.

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Franklin used the ant as a symbol of industry, wisdom and efficiency

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Before buying the house, inspect the carpet for wear, the foundation for cracks, the roof for

leaks, the plumbing for rusty water, and the paint for chipping.

*Climatic order*: ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Today we enjoy the benefits of modern technology, including life-saving antibiotics,

ballpoint pens, and refrigerators.

*Climactic order:* ...........................................................................................................................................

*Random order*: Natural water storage includes the oceans, ponds, lakes, and puddles.

*Climatic order*: ...........................................................................................................................................

**3. Combine each of the following sentence groups into one cumulative sentence, subordinating supporting details to main ideas. Then combine each group into one periodic sentence. Each group can be combined in a variety of ways, and you may have to add, delete, change, or reorder words.**

***Example****: More women than ever before are running for office. They are encouraged by the success of*

*other female candidates.*

***Cumulative:*** *More women than ever before are running for office, encouraged by the success of other*

*female candidates.*

***Periodic****: Encouraged by the success of other female candidates, more women than ever before are*

*running for office.*

1. Many politicians opposed the MX missile. They believed it was too expensive. They felt that a smaller, single-warhead missile was preferable.
2. Smoking poses a real danger. It is associated with various cancers. It is linked to heart disease and stroke. It threatens even nonsmokers.
3. Black-footed ferrets are rare North American mammals. They prey on prairie dogs. They are primarily nocturnal. They have black feet and black-tipped tails. Their faces have raccoon-like masks.
4. Today’s college students are under a good deal of stress. Job prospects in some fields are not very good. Financial aid is not as easy to come by as it was in the past.
5. Education has grown very expensive. The job market has become tighter. Pressure to get into graduate and professional schools has increased.

***4. Revise the following sentences to make them more emphatic. For each, decide which ideas should be highlighted, and place these key ideas at sentence beginnings or endings. Use climactic order or depart from conventional word order where appropriate.***

1. Police want to upgrade their firepower because criminals are better armed than ever before.
2. A few years ago, felons used so-called Saturday night specials, small-caliber six-shot revolvers.
3. Now, semiautomatic pistols capable of firing fifteen to twenty rounds, along with paramilitary weapons like the AK-47, have replaced these weapons.
4. Police are adopting such weapons as new fast-firing shotguns and 9mm automatic pistols in order to gain an equal footing with their adversaries.
5. Faster reloading and a hair trigger are two of the numerous advantages that automatic pistols, the weapons of choice among law enforcement officers, have over the traditional .38-caliber police revolver.

**AVOIDING UNNECESSARY SHIFTS**

* Avoiding Illogical Shifts in Person
* Avoiding Illogical Shifts in Number
* Avoiding Illogical Shifts in Tense
* Avoiding Illogical Shifts in Voice
* Avoiding Illogical Shifts in Mood
* Avoiding Sudden Shifts from Indirect to Direct speech (shift in discourse)

**Unnecessary Shift: Practice Activities**

**Eliminate shifts in *person* and *number* between, as well as within, sentences. Some sentences may not need revision.**

1. In Agra, India, millions of visitors to the Taj Mahal see a glorious white-marble building that serves as a tribute to undying love, but you also see pollution and serious deterioration of the property.
2. Huge crowds arrive daily to see the gorgeous Taj Mahal, which is perfect in its architectural proportions and is topped with beautiful minarets.
3. But he or she also sees terrible neglect, such as huge beehives hanging from archways, litter on the lawns and in the gardens, and canals choked with trash.
4. The whole place smells of pigeon droppings. Decorative panels are faded and destroyed, and many sections are off limits to sightseers.
5. Soon visitors will enter through a new, clean tourist center, complete with a café and computerized ticketing, and you will find a tour of the cleansed, restored monument to eternal love a very pleasant experience.

**Read the following sentences, and eliminate any unnecessary shifts. *Some sentences are correct*, and some can be revised in more than one way.**

1. Some historians see World War II and women’s work in the factories as the beginning of the push toward equal rights for women.
2. Women went to work in the textile mills in the late 1800s, and her efforts at reforming the workplace are seen by many as the beginning of the equal rights movement.
3. Farm girls from wanted to make money, and they wanted to experience life in the city.
4. The factories promised the girls decent wages, and parents were promised by them that their daughters would live in a safe, wholesome environment.
5. Dormitories were built by the factory owners; they are supposed to ensure a safe environment for the girls.
6. When one visits the working loom room at the factory, you are overcome with a sense of the risks and dangers the girls faced in the mills.
7. For a mill girl, moving to the city meant freedom and an escape from the drudgery of farm life; it also meant they had to face many new social situations for which they were not always prepared.
8. Harriet Robinson wrote *Loom and Spindle*, the story of her life as a mill girl, and then a book of poems was published.
9. When you look at the lives of the loom girls, one can see that their work laid part of the foundation for women’s later demands for equal rights.

**Revise the following sentences to eliminate unnecessary shifts in *tense, mood, voice,* or *person* and *number* and between *direct and indirect discourse*. Most of the items can be revised in more than one way.**

1. Firemen rushed to the scene, but only a pile of ashes was found.
2. If the whole committee votes, George will be elected.
3. Young people not only enjoy a few weeks away from home at the summer camp, but many valuable things are learned from the experience.
4. Since every city has its own zoo, supplying wild animals to zoos has become a profitable business.
5. The flour and the butter should be mixed into the paste, and add a small amount of milk.
6. When his father spoke to him about going to college, Walter says that he doesn't want to take so much money from the family at a time when living expenses were high.
7. The experienced yachtsman is aware of danger of fire, and, when filling the gas tank, great precautions are taken to spill gasoline in the bottom of the boat.
8. Many doctors recognize the value of health insurance, but the particular kind we should have is something they could not agree on.
9. All students must assemble on the main quadrangle at ten o'clock, and don't be late.
10. A person who is a nonsmoker can develop lung troubles when he or she lives with smokers.
11. The greed of the 1980s gave way to the occupational insecurity of the 1990s, which in turn gives way to reinforced family ties in the early 2000s.
12. The building inspector suggested that we apply for a construction permit and that weshould check with his office again when the plans are complete.
13. She studied the package, wondered what could it be, and tore off the wrapping.
14. Suddenly, we heard an explosion of wings off to our right, and you could see a hundred or more ducks lifting off from the water.
15. In my previous job, I sold the most advertising sports and was given a sales excellence award.
16. A cloud of snow powder rose as skis and poles fly in every direction.
17. The flight attendant said, “Please turn off all electronic devices,” but that we could use them again after takeoff.
18. The freezing weather is threatening the citrus fruits, which are sensitive to the cold.

**Proofread the following paragraph for consistency, and correct any unnecessary shifts. You may want to omit some words or phrases***.*

Many people think that recycling material is a modern trend. However, duringWorld War II, more than 43 percent of America’s newsprint was recycled, and theaverage person saved bacon grease and other meat fat, which they returned tolocal collection centers. What you would do is pour leftover fat and other greasygunk from frying pans and pots into tin cans. Today, despite the fact that manypeople are recycling, a little more than half of Americans’ waste is actually recycled.The problem is not to get us to save bottles and cans but to convince industry touse more recycled materials. There is a concern expressed by manufacturers thatthey would be using materials of uneven quality and will face undependabledelivery. If manufacturers would wake up and smell the coffee, they would see theadvantages for the country and bigger profits could be made by them.

**If time permits, the last lesson will be on fragments, run-ons and comma splices.**