**PARALLEL STRUCTURE**

**WHAT IS PARALLELISM?**

**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, correlative conjunction and comparisons using than or as.

* ***Balance Parallel Ideas in A Series*.**
* ***Use Parallelism with Lists, Headings, and Outlines***
* ***Balance Parallel Ideas Presented in Pairs* (using conjunctions of coordination and correlative conjunctions)**: For parallel structure, single words should be balanced with single words, phrases with phrases with phrases, and clauses with clauses.
* ***Comparisons Linked with Than or As:*** When making comparisons using the words *than* or *as*, be sure that the elemnts you compare are similar logically as well as grammatically.
* ***Repeat Function Words to Clarify Parallels***

**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, 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 paragraphs below, underline, and then correct any instances of faulty parallelism.**

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| 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. |

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| Owning a pet has proven to be extremely beneficial to people’s health. Pets help lower blood pressure, boost immunity, and are lessening anxiety. Studies indicate that children who grow up in a household with cats or dogs are at a lower risk of developing allergies or suffer from asthma. Owning a dog offers an additional bonus; it makes people more sociable. Dogs are natural conversation starters and this not only helps to draw people out of social isolation but also they are more likely to find a more romantic partner.  Benefits of pet ownership for elderly people include less anxiety, lower insurance costs, and they also gain peace of mind. A study of Alzheimer’s patients showed that patients have fewer anxious outbursts if there is an animal in the home. Some doctors even keep dogs in the office to act as on-site therapists. In short, owning a pet keeps you healthy, happy, and is a great way to help you relax. |

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