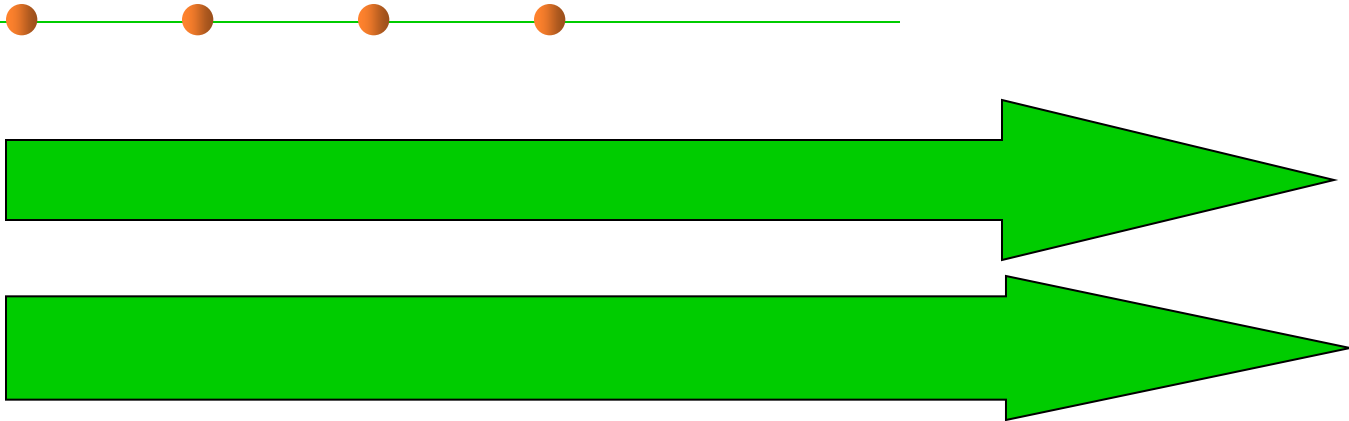


Parallelism




“Lost time is never found again; and what we call time enough, always proves little enough.” Ben Franklin

Parallelism:

- Parallel structure means that two or more ideas in a sentence are expressed in similar form. *And, but* and *or* usually join similar terms—two or more nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, phases or clauses.
- Parallel
- My ambition is **to be a doctor** and **to specialize in surgery**.

Parallelism in Writing



Parallelism utilizes the same or similar grammatical form or structure to relate ideas of equal importance.

Parallelism increases coherence by breaking ideas into elements of similar grammatical form.

Parallelism in Writing

Is this sentence in parallel form?

She enjoys reading, to play piano, and hard work.

Before determining if it is parallel, the grammatical structure of each clause must be identified.




“reading” is a present participle.

“to play piano” is an infinitive + a noun

“hard work” is an adjective + a noun

Parallelism in Writing



Since parallelism has been defined as “the same or similar grammatical form or structure to relate ideas of equal importance,” it is clear that the sentence is not in parallel form.

In order to put the sentence in parallel form, each of the clauses must utilize the same grammatical elements.

Parallelism in Writing

So the sentence

She enjoys reading, to play piano, and hard work.

becomes

She enjoys reading, playing piano, and working hard.
(participles)

or

She enjoys to read, to play piano, and to work hard.
(infinitives)

Words and Phrases

- With the -ing form (gerund) of words:
- **Parallel:** Mary likes hiking, swimming, and bicycling.
- **With infinitive phrases:**
- **Parallel:** Mary likes to hike, to swim, and to ride a bicycle.
OR
Mary likes to hike, swim, and ride a bicycle.
- (Note: You can use "to" before all the verbs in a sentence or only before the first one.)

Do not mix forms.

- **Example 1**

- Not Parallel:**

- Mary likes hiking, swimming, and to ride a bicycle.

- **Parallel:**

- Mary likes hiking, swimming, and riding a bicycle.

- **Example 2**

- **Not Parallel:**

- The production manager was asked to write his report quickly, accurately, and in a detailed manner.

- **Parallel:**

- The production manager was asked to write his report quickly, accurately, and thoroughly.

Clauses

- A parallel structure that begins with clauses must keep on with clauses. Changing to another pattern or changing the voice of the verb (from active to passive or vice versa) will break the parallelism.
- **Example 1**
- **Not Parallel:**
The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and to do some warm-up exercises before the game.
- **Parallel:**
The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game.
- — or — **Parallel:**
The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, not eat too much, and do some warm-up exercises before the game.

Lists After a Colon

- **Be sure to keep all the elements in a list in the same form.**
- **Example 1**
- **Not Parallel:**

The dictionary can be used for these purposes: to find word meanings, pronunciations, correct spellings, and looking up irregular verbs.
- **Parallel:**

The dictionary can be used for these purposes: to find word meanings, pronunciations, correct spellings, and irregular verbs.

Let's practice:

- Mr. Garcia has promised me a good job and to pay me a fair salary.
- The manager asked both groups to meet and share their differences and finally arriving at an agreement.
- The magazine contains news, pictures, ads, tell you where to shop, and feature columns.
- Tennis, modeling and to read suspense novels took up most of her time.
- This is the life –to live, working and cooking outdoors.
- Running towards the end zone, he slipped, got up, and was keeping on going as fast as he could.
- Let's go down to the store for a hamburger, donuts and drinking some coffee or tea.
- After a hard fought war in a foreign land and he travels a long way home, Dad deserves a little rest.
- We tried to snap pictures and catch fish, but we got mosquito bites and sunburned.

- Mr. Garcia has promised me a good job and a fair salary.
- The manager asked both groups to meet and share their differences and to arrive at an agreement.
- The magazine contains news, pictures, ads, shopping ads, and feature columns.
- Tennis, modeling and reading suspense novels took up most of her time.
- This is the life –living, working and cooking outdoors.
- Running towards the end zone, he slipped, got up, and kept on going as fast as he could.
- Let's go down to the store for a hamburger, donuts and some coffee or tea.
- After a hard fought war in a foreign land and traveling a long way home, Dad deserves a hot shower and a warm bed.
- We tried to take pictures and catch fish, but we got wasp bites and sunburned.

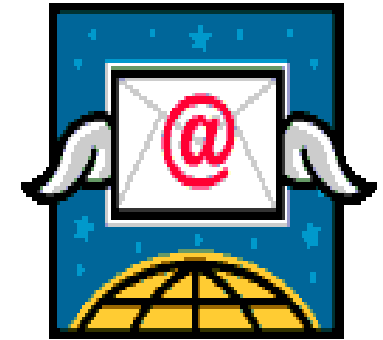
Parallelism plays an important role when you write a thesis sentence.

- Because when you write a thesis sentence you have to summarize three reasons in parallel form.
- For example:
- I strongly believe that abortion should be banned because abortion is equal to murder, cheapens life, and used as a form of contraception.

Another example:

- However, I believe that tobacco should be outlawed because tobacco endangers everyone's health, pollutes the environment, and drains us of valuable energy.

Assignment:



- Write a thesis sentence for the following topic. Remember parallel construction when you state the reasons.
- Topic: Do you think that violence on television should be banned?