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.

**Pre-test**

**Instruction:** Check (/) the CORRECT sentence with parallel structure in the following pairs of sentences.

1. ______A. Jennifer is smart, beautiful, and loves everyone.
   ______B. Jennifer is smart, beautiful, and caring.

2. ______A. Andy's day is so long that he gets up at 6:00 a.m., leaves for work at 6:30 a.m., is eating dinner at 11:00 p.m., and goes to bed at 2:00 a.m.
   ______B. Andy's day is so long that he gets up at 6:00 a.m., leaves for work at 6:30 a.m., eats dinner at 11:00 p.m., and goes to bed at 2:00 a.m.

3. ______A. Bob was not only Sam’s roommate, but also he was his best friend.
   ______B. Bob was not only Sam’s roommate but also his best friend.

4. ______A. If you go to the store, please remember to pick up your prescription, buy some shampoo, and to look for a notebook.
   ______B. If you go to the store, please remember to pick up your prescription, to buy some shampoo, and to look for a notebook.

5. ______A. I spent two hours with Ms. Smith, reviewing my job performance, evaluating my goals, and discussing my future with the company.
   ______B. I spent two hours with Ms. Smith, reviewing my job performance, evaluating my goals, and my future with the company was also discussed.
Pre-Activity 1

**Instruction:** Select two questions from the box below. Answer it in three sentences then transform your answers into one sentence.

**Example:** What are the things you did this morning before you went to school?

**Answer:** I fixed my bed before I went to school.

I took a bath before I went to school.

I ate my breakfast before I went to school.

- I fixed my bed, took a bath and ate my breakfast before I went to school.

1. What are the things you usually do during summer?
2. What are the things your family does during weekends?
3. What are the characteristics of your mother?
4. What can you say about your best friend?
5. What are the characteristics you like about your pet?

Pre-Activity 2

**Instruction:** Go over the pool of words and phrases below, then group or cluster the words that are related and write them inside the correct column. Follow the given examples. This activity will help you on the discussion of parallelism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>water</th>
<th>to sleep</th>
<th>walking</th>
<th>food</th>
<th>to throw</th>
<th>sweet</th>
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Discussion of the Lesson

Parallelism

The balance between two or more similar words, phrases or clauses is called parallelism in grammar. Parallelism is also called parallel structure or parallel construction. Parallel construction prevents awkwardness, promotes clarity and improves writing style and readability.

Five Rules of Parallelism

1. Use parallel structure with elements joined by coordinating conjunctions, especially and, but, and or.

Examples of parallel words

• Thinking and running often accompany one another as I exercise.
• I do not enjoy thinking or running.

Thinking and running are parallel elements joined by coordinating conjunctions: and, or

Examples of parallel phrases

• She likes to look but not to listen.
To look and to listen are parallel infinitive phrases joined by coordinating conjunction: but

• You will find the light bulbs in the closet or under the kitchen counter.
In the closet and under the kitchen counter are parallel prepositional phrases joined by coordinating conjunction: or

Examples of parallel clauses

• Please bring the bill after we have had some coffee or when your shift is over.
After we have had some coffee and when your shift is over are parallel clauses joined by coordinating conjunction: or

2. Use parallel structure with elements in lists or 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 should be placed between each element in the series and before the coordinating conjunction.
Example of series of words
- She wanted three things: money, power, and security.

Example of series of infinitives
- There was no opportunity to do my taxes, to request an extension, or to explain my situation.

Example of series of prepositional phrases
- He found cleaning supplies in the closet, under the sink, but not in the garage.

Example of series of clauses
- The company doesn’t care about who you are, how you got here, or why you have come.

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.

- Flying to Cebu can actually take less time than driving there.
- Miriam’s ability to come up with projects far exceeded her resolve to work on them.
- How you live your life is just as important as how much money you make.

The elements being compared are parallel to one another:
- flying is parallel to driving
- 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.

Note that you may choose to change either element to match the other.

4. Use parallel structure with elements joined by a linking verb or a verb 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, equality between the two is being set up, as the examples below illustrate.

- What you see is what you get.
- Being Jim’s friend means being constantly alert.
- To know her is to love her.
5. Use parallel structure with elements joined by a correlative conjunction.

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
- We were told to either reduce the staff or find new customers.
- Agnes was neither going to class nor doing her assignments.

Examples with both / and
- I would like both to buy a new house and to purchase a new car.
- I would like to buy both a new house and a new car.

Examples with not only / but also
- As young recruits, we were told not only what to do but also what to think.
- Sam hoped not only to go to France for the summer but also to live there later on.

Exercise 1

Instruction: Read the sentences below. Decide whether or not it contains an error in parallel structure. Write A or B.

A. Yes! This sentence has an error!  B. No! This sentence is error free!

1. Monica brewed espresso, steamed milk, and told jokes as she prepared Mike’s latte.
2. Natasha tried holding her breath, chewing a piece of gum, and poking her belly.
3. In the restroom, Samantha was brushing her hair, freshened her lip-gloss, and took deep breaths, trying to work up the courage to walk to her first speech class.
4. Celine looked behind the door, in the laundry basket, and checked under the bed, but she could not find her shoes.
5. For his first date with Malinda, Dennis bought not only a dozen roses but he also purchased a box of chocolates.
Exercise 2

Instruction: Supply the correct word or phrases in the blank in each sentence to make it parallel. Choose from the words and phrases in the box.

visiting to speak how much money and but also

1. You may respond by calling, _______ or e-mailing.
2. The frustrated customer wanted to exchange the article, to obtain a refund and _______ to the manager.
3. How you live is parallel to _______ you make.
4. The show is both enjoyable _______ educational.
5. He wants not only money _______ fame.

Enhancement 1

Instruction: Using parallel words or phrases, complete each of the following sentences.

1. The children spent the afternoon playing video games, watching TV, and _______ donuts.
2. It is better to give than _______.
3. People can hurt others not only by their actions but also by their _______.
4. Examples of weight-bearing exercises include walking, jogging, hiking, and _______.
5. Merdine danced a jig and then _______ a song that took my heart away.

Enhancement 2

Instruction: Read the following example sentences and revise any that does not use parallel structure.

1. I would rather eat potatoes than to eat rice.
2. Global warming affects humans, the environment, and is scary.
3. It’s harder to do long division than dividing with a calculator.
4. Pirates ransacked the mansion, but they didn’t steal all the silver.
5. Merchants receive either money or trade goods with their clients.
Reinforcement 1

Instruction: Construct sentences using the five rules of parallelism. Make three (3) sentences for each rules.

Reinforcement 2

Instruction: Read the paragraph below for parallel grammatical structure. Revise any underlined sections that do not contain proper parallel structure.

Many college courses require students to write essays as part of the class curriculum. An academic essay for a college course should contain a thesis, body, and (1) to conclude. It is important for students to perform some type of pre-writing or (2) clustering before they start typing on the computer. Pre-writing will usually help students (3) to find and expand new ideas for the paper. After pre-writing, students should type a rough draft using their previous cluster. Students are always nervous in writing the rough draft and in (4) started the paper. It is better for students to write to the end of the rough draft (5) than stopping every few sentences to check the grammar. If students do not expand their rough draft, the essay will not only be short but (6) will be also disorganized. Revising the essay for a strong thesis, organization, and (7) proper supporting is the most important part of the writing process. This is what separates the strong writers from the weak writers. The final step in writing a college paper is editing. This is where students will check the paper for grammatical errors, proper (8) punctuating, and spelling errors. A strong writing process will allow students to write a proper college essay.

Meaningful Activity

Instruction: Cut an article from a current magazine or newspaper. Look for sentences with parallel structure. Underline the sentences and present it in a report to the class.
Post Test

**Instruction:** The sentences below contain parallelism errors. Repair all parallelism errors. To make your corrections, you may add words, delete words, or revise grammatical construction. Retain the original format of parallelism with coordinate elements, series, comparisons, linking elements, or correlative conjunctions.

1. The understudy had bright black eyes, a great mass of black hair, and her face was white.

2. When December comes the Santos will have to find either a warmer house or they will have to find a wood stove.

3. When Moe was in high school, his parents spent a good deal of time not only helping him with his homework assignments but also they participated with him in school activities.

4. It is better to be happy than being sad.

5. The word for left means "deceitful" in Italian, "awkward " in German, "malicious" in Spanish, and Russians define its meaning as "sneaky."

6. The contract was illegible, lengthy, and it is awkward.

7. To think that you can do anything is deceiving yourself.

8. Aspiring actors go to Hollywood to become stars and because they want to make money.

9. The tourists amused themselves by playing shuffleboard, watching plays, and they went to trendy restaurants in the center of the city.

10. Before you order anything, you should not only check with the purchasing agent but also the comptroller.

11. The radiologist examined the MRI both carefully and with competence.

12. Please return the medical records either to Dr. Santos or Dr. Soriano.

13. This sofa is better for beauty, for appearance, and it is comfortable.

14. Succeeding at something is not necessarily the same as to get what you need.

15. The process seemed to Beth both a bore and annoying.
Answer Key

Pre-test
1. _____ A. 3. _____ A.
   ____/____ B. ____/____ B.
2. _____ A. 4. _____ A.
   ____/____ B. ____/____ B.

Pre-Activity 1 - *Answers may vary.

Pre-Activity 2

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Exercise 1
1. B.
2. B.
3. A.
4. B.
5. A.

Exercise 2
1. visiting 4. and
2. to speak 5. but also
3. how much money

Enhancement 1
1. The children spent the afternoon playing video games, watching TV, and eating donuts.
2. It is better to give than to receive.
3. People can hurt others not only by their actions but also by their words.
4. Examples of weight-bearing exercises include walking, jogging, hiking, and running.
5. Merdine danced a jig and then sung a song that took my heart away.

Enhancement 2
1. I would rather eat potatoes than to eat rice. (no revision)
2. Global warming affects humans, the environment, and is scary. (animals)
3. It's harder to do long division than dividing with a calculator. (to divide)
4. Pirates ransacked the mansion, but they didn’t steal all the silver. (no revision)
5. Merchants receive either money or trade goods with their clients. (no revision)

Reinforcement 1 - *Answers may vary.

Reinforcement 2
1. conclusion 4. starting 7. support
2. to cluster 5. to stop 8. punctuation
3. to expand 6. will also be
Meaningful Activity - *Answers may vary.

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