

GET READY FOR IELTS
IELTS WORKSHEET 4 – WRITING
PARALLELISM & MODIFIERS

A. Parallelism

- Words in a pair or series should have parallel structure, which means following the same grammatical pattern.
- Using parallel structure makes the sentence clearer and easier to read.

Examples:

Nonparallel (Not Balanced)	Parallel (Balanced)
Anne spends her free time reading, listening to music, and she works in the garden.	Anne spends her free time reading, listening to music, and working in the garden. (A balanced series of <i>-ing</i> words: <i>reading, listening, working.</i>)
After the camping trip, I was tired, sleepy, and wanted to eat.	After the camping trip, I was tired, sleepy, and hungry. (A balanced series of adjectives: <i>tired, sleepy, hungry.</i>)
Nightly, Fred puts out the trash, checks the locks on the doors, and the burglar alarm is turned on.	Nightly, Fred puts out the trash, checks the locks on the doors, and turn on the burglar alarm. (Balanced verbs and word order: <i>puts out the trash, checks the locks, turns on the burglar alarm.</i>)
My hope for retirement is to be healthy, to live in a comfortable house, and having plenty of money.	My hope for retirement is to be healthy, to live in a comfortable house, and to have plenty of money. (A balanced series of <i>to</i> verbs: <i>to be, to live, to have.</i>)

PRACTICE

Practice 1: Cross out the one item in each list that is not parallel in form to the other items. In the space provided, rewrite that item in parallel form.

1. fresh food
 low price
 service that is fast
2. to run
 swimming
 cycling
3. crying children
 shouting parents
 dogs that bark
4. noisy neighbors
 bedrooms that are small
 high rent
5. slow
 speaks rudely
 careless
6. cleaning of the apartment
 cooked dinner
 washed the dishes

- 7. looking good
to have fun
feeling fine
- 8. tasty sandwiches
healthy soup
vegetables that are fresh
- 9. behind the bedroom curtains
on the table
the floor of the closet
- 10. works at the supermarket
singer in a band
teaches English in the evening

Practice 2: Cross out the unbalanced part of each sentence. Then rewrite the unbalanced part so that it matches the other item or items in each sentence.

- 1. Eggs contain not only protein but are also full of vitamins.
→
- 2. The students who do well attend class, they do their homework, and practice speaking in English.
→
- 3. At the party, my sister helped us make the cake, clean up, and driving some kids home.
→
- 4. I enjoy running, to swim, and riding my bicycle in the park.
→
- 5. The crowd outside the stadium was loud and they were angry.
→
- 6. I advise you to sleep early, eat healthy food, and to exercise regularly.
→
- 7. When I walk the dog, I like listening to music and to talk to friends on the phone.
→
- 8. Tony hates to get up in the morning, brush his teeth, and combing his hair.
→
- 9. She became famous by working hard and she was lucky.
→
- 10. She got a new job with a higher salary, more benefits and she worked fewer hours.
→

B. Modifiers

I. Misplaced modifiers

- Misplaced modifiers are words that, because of awkward placement, do not describe the words the writer intended them to describe.
- Misplaced modifiers often confuse the meaning of a sentence.
- To avoid them, place words as close as possible to what they describe.

Examples:

Misplaced Words	Correctly Placed Words
Our phone <i>almost rang</i> fifteen times last night.	Our phone rang almost fifteen times last night.
Declan couldn't drive to work in his small sports car <i>with a broken leg</i> .	With a broken leg, Declan couldn't drive to work in his small sports car.

Practice 3: Write M for misplaced or C for correct in front of each sentence.

- _____ 1. I keep a twenty-dollar bill under the car seat for emergencies.
- _____ 2. I keep a twenty-dollar bill for emergencies under the car seat.
- _____ 3. In the shower this morning, I planned my day.
- _____ 4. This morning, I planned my day in the shower.
- _____ 5. I could hear my neighbors screaming at each other through the apartment wall.
- _____ 6. Through the apartment wall, I could hear my neighbors screaming at each other.
- _____ 7. My teenage son grew nearly three inches last year.
- _____ 7. My teenage son nearly grew three inches last year.

Practice 4: Underline the misplaced word or words in each sentence. Then rewrite the sentence, placing related words together to make the meaning clear.

- 1. Anita returned the hamburger to the supermarket that was spoiled.
→
- 2. The chicken soup was prepared by my mother on the stove.
→
- 3. The man asked the pharmacist for cough syrup with a sore throat.
→
- 4. The customer spoke to the manager with a service complaint.
→
- 5. I nearly sent 20 letters to Jane this week alone.
→
- 6. Jason almost has two hundred friends on Facebook.
→
- 7. We all looked at the man in the front row of the theater with curly purple hair.
→
- 8. When we opened the leather woman's purse, we found the missing keys.
→