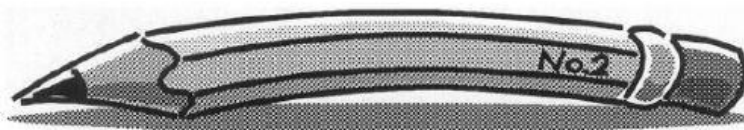


Your Name: _____



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Parallel Structure

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To improve the *clarity* of your writing, it is important to remember the *equality* of your sentence structure. This worksheet was designed to help you better understand the importance of Parallel Structure.

Parallel Structure means using the same construction for sentence elements that are the same in function.

Below are THREE rules to consider when checking for Parallel Structure in your writing:

1. Parallel Structure should be used when elements are joined by coordinating conjunctions:

Incorrect: I am allergic to the dog's hair *and* how it smells.

Correct: I am allergic to the dog's hair *and* its smell.

2. Parallel Structure should be used when writing elements in the form of a list or a series:

Incorrect: The class valued respect, honesty, and being on time in a teacher.

Correct: The class valued respect, honesty, and promptness in a teacher.

3. Parallel Structure should be used when comparing or contrasting elements (A is *better than* B – X is *less than* Y):

Incorrect: James enjoys reading *more than* to write.

Correct: James enjoys reading *more than* writing.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Complete the exercises on the backside of this worksheet for more practice on using Parallel Structure.

A. In the four sentences below, circle the correct word or phrase that gives the sentence correct parallel structure.

1. Justin was excited about inviting friends over, eating a good meal, and ____ .
 - a. ...a game of cards.
 - b. ...to play cards.
 - c. ...playing a game of cards.
2. I have always enjoyed reading the book more than _____.
 - a. ...I watched the movie version.
 - b. ...watching the movie.
 - c. ...to watch the movie.
3. When the weather outside is cold and _____, I like to be indoors.
 - a. ...starting to get windy...
 - b. ...windy...
 - c. ...getting windy...
4. Running, lifting, and _____ are three of Ashley's favorite exercises.
 - a. ...racquetball...
 - b. ...a spinning class...
 - c. ...bicycling...

B. In the sentences below, write a word or phrase in the blank that gives the sentence Parallel Structure.

1. The little girl liked eating cookies better than _____ at her grandmother's house.
2. Students like to sleep, relax and _____ during the summer.
3. He went to the store to pick up a carton of milk and two _____.
4. Food, shelter, and _____ are all I need to survive on a deserted island.
5. _____ is much better than a visit to the dentist.

Answers: **A.** 1.c, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c <> **B.** 1: -ing verbal, e.g. "drinking milk" 2. Infinitive Verb, e.g. "travel" 3. Plural Noun, e.g. "dozen eggs" 4. Noun or Noun Phrase, e.g. "water" 5. Noun or Noun Phrase, e.g. "a trip to the zoo"

Lesson created by Luke Little