

MEETING 7

PROBLEM WITH PARALLEL STRUCTURES

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain parallel structure in sentences.
2. To explain how to recognize grammatical errors or non-parallel structure sentences.

B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are expected to understand parallelism and parallel structure.
2. Students are able to find grammatical errors in sentences.

C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

I. PARALLEL STRUCTURE AND GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN SENTENCES

Written Expression items involving errors with parallel structures are similar to those in the Structure part of the test. These sentences most often contain a series of three expressions: X, Y, and Z. One of these expressions is *not* grammatically parallel to the other two items in the series.

Structures that are often involved in parallelism are nouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositional phrases, gerunds, and infinitives.

Sample Item

As a young man, George Washington liked boating, to hunt, and fishing.

A

B

C

D

Option (C) is not parallel with the other items in the series: *to hunt* is an infinitive, while the other items are gerunds. You may have considered the other options that are part of the series, (B) and (D), but if you rewrote only one of these, the three expressions would still not be parallel. In general, errors involving parallelism are easy to identify.

II. EXERCISES

Exercise 7.1:

Focus: Identifying and correcting errors involving parallelism.

Directions: If the underlined form is parallel to other forms in the sentence, mark the sentence C. If the underlined form is not parallel, mark the sentence X and write a correction for the underlined form in the blank at the end of the sentence. The first one is done as an example.

- _____ 1. Because of their hardness, industrial diamonds can be used for cutting, grind, and drilling.
- _____ 2. Sacramento is the commercial, industry, and financial center of California's Central Valley, as well as being the state capital.
- _____ 3. Philosophers are concerned with questions about nature, human behavior, society, and reality.
- _____ 4. When taking part in winter sports, one should wear clothing that is lightweight, warmth, and suitable for the activity.
- _____ 5. Folklore consists of the beliefs, customs, traditions, and telling stories that people pass from generation to generation.
- _____ 6. Major sources of noise pollution include automobiles and other vehicles, industrial plants, and heavy construction equipment.
- _____ 7. Steel is alloyed with manganese to increase its strength, hardness, and resistance to wear.
- _____ 8. Scholar John Fiske wrote on history, religious, and social issues.
- _____ 9. Electricity is used to light, hot, and cool buildings.
- _____ 10. T. S. Eliott was equally distinguished as a poet, he wrote criticism, and a dramatist.

EXERCISE 7.2

Focus: Identifying and correcting errors with parallel structures. (Note: One or two items in this exercise do not focus on errors involving parallel structures. These are marked in the answer key with an asterisk.)

Directions: Decide which of the four underlined words or phrases-(A), (B), (C), or (D)-would not be considered correct, and write the letter of that expression in the blank. Then, in the line at the end of the sentence, write a correction for the underlined phrase. The first one is done as an example.

____ 1. Computers are often used to control, adjustment, and correct complex

A

B

C

industrial operations. _____

D

____ 2. The bellflower is a wildflower that grows in shady fields, in marshes, and

A

B

C

mountain slopes. _____

D

____ 3. Eggs may be boiled in the shell, scrambled, fried, and cooked in countless

A

B

C

another ways. _____

D

____ 4. Many places of history, scientific, cultural, or scenic importance have been

A

B

C

designated national monuments. _____

D

____ 5. R. Buckminster Fuller was a design, an architect, an inventor, and an engineer.

____ 6. Modern motorcycles are lighter, faster, and specialized than motorcycles of

A

B

C

D

25 years ago. _____

____ 7. Many people who live near the ocean depend on it as a source of food,

A

B

recreation, and to have economic opportunities. _____

C

D

____ 8. Large commercial fishing vessels are equipped to clean, packaging, and freeze

A

B

C

the fish that they catch at sea. _____

D

____ 9. As a breed, golden retrievers are intelligent, loyalty, and friendly dogs. _____

A

B

C

D

____ 10. Mathematics can be considered a language, an art, a science, a tool, or

A

B

C

playing a game.

D