MEETING 9

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

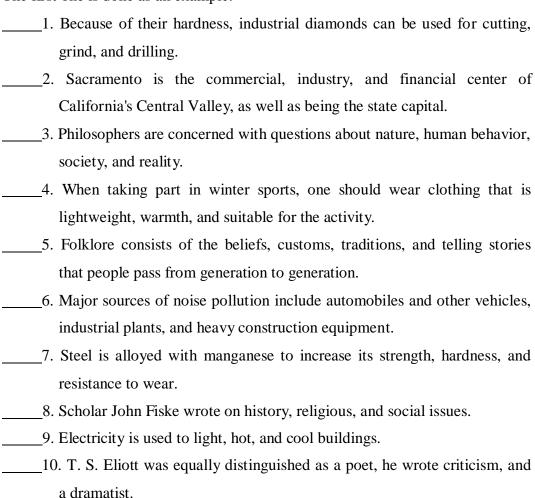
Option (C) is not parallel with the other items in the series: *to hunt* is an infinitive, while the other items are gerunds. You may have considered the other options that are part of the series, (B) and (D), but if you rewrote only one of these, the three expressions would still not be parallel. In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

II. EXERCISES

Exercise 9.1:

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.



EXERCISE 9.2

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.