

Parallelism

Words in a pair or a series should have a parallel structure. By balancing the items in a pair or a series so that they have the same kind of structure, you will make a sentence clearer and easier to read. Such parallelism will improve your writing style.

For example:

Wrong: I love reading mysteries, snuggling my blanket, and to drink a cup of tea.

Right: I love reading mysteries, snuggling my blanket, and drinking a cup of tea.

Underline the word or phrase that maintains the parallel structure in each sentence.

1. I enjoy working hard, getting paid well, and (to get a sense of satisfaction, achieving a sense of satisfaction).
2. Terry hates to get up in the morning, to brush his teeth, and (combing his hair, to comb his hair).
3. I admire her talent, her ambition, and (her ability to keep cool, she was able to keep cool).
4. The drummer kept the beat, the guitarist played the melody and (the singing was done by the piano player, the piano player sang).
5. My aunt was charming, helpful, and (kind, always doing kind things).

Cross out the element in each series that is not parallel to the other two.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. standing in line to
cash a check speaking
to my friend | 2. in the forest
on a trail
pitching a tent |
| 3. tall handsome
with brown
hair | 4. looking outside
was in the room
wanted to open the window |
| 5. by raking the leaves
mowing the lawn
by trimming the shrubs | 6. sturdy
made of wood
has compartments for pencils |

All of the following sentences have an error in parallelism. Write a corrected version of each sentence.

1. Come to the meeting prepared to take notes and with some questions to ask.
2. We were surprised by the gift but appreciating it.
3. Dribbling, shooting, and to pass are important skills in basketball.

4. I respected his intellect, his strength, and he was also very funny.
5. It would make my day complete to see you, going to a movie, and to have dinner with you.
6. Lisa spends her day studying, attends classes, and to listen to music.
7. My lunch included a tuna sandwich, soup, carrot sticks, and there was also some dessert.
8. We were not sure that our request for a refund was fair or it would be granted.
9. She spoke about her experience in Australia and several predictions about the country's future.
10. One of the accident victims suffered a broken arm, several broken ribs, and one of his lungs was punctured.

Rewrite the following passage, eliminating any cases of faulty parallelism.

A public library is a good place to spend an afternoon and relaxing. You can read the newspaper from any major city, spend time looking for a good novel, surf the Web, or listening to a CD. Librarians can tell you where to find a particular book and a quiet place to read it. Many libraries have display halls where you can observe artwork or just strolling around.

People find many different things to do in the library. There is usually someone studying or to write a research paper, there are those who read periodicals and those just chatting with a friend. All things considered, the library is an excellent place for meeting people, to read, or to relax.

Rewrite: