

# VERBAL ABILITY

THAPAR UNIVERSITY, Patiala



# **OVERVIEW**

- Grammar and Usage
- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Correction

## **Types of Error**

Error of Non-Parallel Structure

# Sentence Structure

1. John<sub>s</sub> bought<sub>v</sub> a dress<sub>o</sub>. { S+ V+O }
2. John bought a new<sub>m</sub> dress. { S+ V+M+O }
3. A prudent<sub>m</sub> John bought a new dress.
4. John carefully<sub>m</sub> bought the new dress.
5. John bought a new dress from the shop<sub>m</sub>.

1. S-Subject
2. V- Verb
3. O-Object
4. M-Modifier

# Identify the error

- The writing centre needs tutors who are ambitious, motivate themselves and exhibit dedication.(incorrect)
- Ambitious, self-motivated and dedicated(correct)
- Have ambition, motivate themselves, exhibit dedication(correct)

# Parallel Structure

Parallel structure (also called parallelism) is the repetition of a chosen grammatical form within a sentence. By making each compared item or idea in your sentence follow the same grammatical pattern, you create a parallel construction.

Example Not Parallel: Ellen likes hiking, the rodeo, and to take afternoon naps.

Parallel: Ellen likes hiking, attending the rodeo, and taking afternoon naps.

OR

Ellen likes to hike, attend the rodeo, and take afternoon naps.

# Using Parallel Structure

- **With Coordinating Conjunctions**

When you connect two or more clauses or phrases with a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so), use parallel structure.

Not Parallel: My best friend took me dancing and to a show.

Parallel: My best friend took me to a dance and a show.

- **With Correlative Conjunctions**

When you connect two clauses or phrases with a correlative conjunction (not only...but also, either...or, neither...nor, if...then, etc.), use parallel structure.

Not Parallel: My dog not only likes to play fetch, but also chase cars.

Parallel: My dog not only likes to play fetch, but he also likes to chase cars.

OR

My dog likes not only to play fetch, but also to chase cars.

# Using Parallel Structure

- **With Phrases or Clauses of Comparison**

When you connect two clauses or phrases with a word of comparison, such as than or as, use parallel structure.

Not Parallel: I am taller than her.

Parallel: I am taller than she is.

- **With Lists or items in a series**

When you are comparing items in a list, use parallel structure.

**Not Parallel**: John Taylor Gatto criticizes public schools because they are compulsory, funded by the government, and destroy students' humanity.

**Parallel**: John Taylor Gatto criticizes public schools because they are compulsory, government funded, and destructive.

OR

John Taylor Gatto criticizes public schools because they require students to attend, receive money from the government, and destroy students' humanity.



## Solved Example

1. His co-workers praised both his determination and the way he paid attention to detail.

**A)** and the way he paid attention to detail

**B)** and also praised his attention to detail

**C)** and his attention to detail

**D)** they praised the way he paid attention to detail

**E)** also they praised his attention to detail

### Step 1- Read

His coworkers praised both his determination and the way he paid attention to detail.

### Step 2- Dissect

Grammar issue presented: **Parallelism** (correlative pairs)

"Both...and" to present two characteristics. Both characteristics should be in the same form, but one is a *possessive pronoun + noun* (his determination), while the other is a *phrase* (the way he paid attention to detail). We need another possessive pronoun + noun: " *his attention to detail* ."

### Step 3-Compare

- A) Is it parallel? **NO** – his determination (pronoun + noun) / the way he paid attention to detail (phrase)
- B) Is it parallel? **NO** – his determination (pronoun + noun) / praised his attention to detail (verb phrase)
- C) Is it parallel? **YES** – his determination (pronoun + noun) / his attention to detail (pronoun + noun) Additional errors? **NO**
- D) Is it parallel? **NO** – This choice lacks the second conjunction ( *and*) in the correlative pair *Both...and*
- E) also they praised his attention to detail  
It is parallel? **NO** – This choice lacks the second conjunction ( *and*) in the correlative pair *Both...and*
- (C) is correct.

# Solved Example

- 2. *The art studio is spacious, pleasantly cluttered, and has good lighting.*

**A)** and has good lighting

**B)** and being well-lit

**C)** and is lit well

**D)** and well-lit

**E)** and the lighting is good

## **Step 1-Read**

The art studio is spacious, pleasantly cluttered, and has good lighting.

## **Step 2-Dissect**

Grammar issue presented: **Parallelism** (lists of adjectives)

This sentence presents a list of qualities. The first two are adjectives (“spacious” and “pleasantly cluttered”), while the third is a verb phrase (“has good lighting”). Match adjective s with adjectives

## **Step 3-Compare**

**A)** Is it parallel? **NO** – *spacious, pleasantly cluttered* (adjectives) : *has good lighting* (verb phrase)

**B)** Is it parallel? **NO** – *spacious, pleasantly cluttered* (adjectives) : *being well-lit* (verb phrase)

**C)** Is it parallel? **NO** – *spacious, pleasantly cluttered* (adjectives) : *is lit well* (verb phrase)

- **D)** Is it parallel? **YES** – *spacious, pleasantly cluttered* (adjectives) : *well-lit* (adjective)

Additional errors? **NO**

**E)** Is it parallel? **NO** – *spacious, pleasantly cluttered* (adjectives) : *the lighting is good* (clause)

**(D)** is correct.

# Solved Example

3. *The school board requested that a waiver be obtained and that the residency requirements are reviewed.*

- A) that the residency requirements are reviewed
- B) the residency requirements will be reviewed
- C) the residency requirements be reviewed
- D) to review the residency requirements
- E) a review of the residency requirements

## **Step 1- Read**

The school board requested that a waiver be obtained and that the residency requirements are reviewed.

## **Step 2- Dissect**

Grammar issue presented: **Parallelism** (lists of verbs)

This sentence presents a list of two actions. The first verb, "be obtained," is in the passive voice and is governed by the idiom "request that x be y." The second verb must also be in the form (be) reviewed.

## **Step 3- Compare**

A) Is it parallel? **NO** – *be obtained : are reviewed*

B) Is it parallel? **NO** – *be obtained : will be reviewed*

C) Is it parallel? **YES** – *be obtained : (be) reviewed*

Additional errors? **NO**

D) Is it parallel? **NO** – *be obtained : to review*

E) Is it parallel? **NO** – *be obtained : a review*

**(C)** is correct.

# Solved Example

4. Some of the many renovations set for Memorial Field in the coming years include building additional seating, improving safety, and the construction of a new varsity athletics center.

**A)** and the construction of a new varsity athletics center

**B)** and constructing a new varsity athletics center

**C)** and also the construction of a new varsity athletics center

**D)** and a new varsity athletics center

**E)** and a new varsity athletics center under construction

**READ+DISSECT+COMPARE**

5. Richard is not only a terrific pianist, but also great at playing hockey.
- A) Richard is not only a terrific pianist, but also great at playing hockey.
  - B) Richard not only is a terrific pianist, but is also great at playing hockey.
  - C) Not only great at playing hockey, Richard also is a terrific pianist.
  - D) Richard is not only a terrific pianist, but also a great hockey player.
  - E) Also great at playing hockey, Richard is a terrific pianist.

**READ+DISSECT+COMPARE**





# VERBAL REASONING

THAPAR UNIVERSITY, Patiala



# **OVERVIEW**

- Reasoning Based Questions
- Analogy

# Analogy

## Why Analogy?

- ☐ Tested in many standardized tests—including placement Aptitude tests exams, the SATs, civil service exams, the GREs, and others
- ☐ Test use analogy questions to test both logic and reasoning skills and word knowledge.

## Skills Required

- ☐ identify relationships between pairs of words
- ☐ have a clear understanding of the words' definitions and then use that understanding to determine how the words are related.

# Examples

1. warm : hot :: \_\_\_\_\_ : hilarious

a. humid b. raucous c. summer d. Amusing

2. Birds: Ornithology :: Insects : \_\_\_\_\_,"

a. Botany b. Entomology c. Zoology d. Oology

# Type of Relationships

1. **Part to Whole**- spoke : wheel
2. **Type and Category**- orange : citrus.
3. **Degree of Intensity**-shower : monsoon.
4. **Function**- Scissors: Cut.
5. **Manner**- shamle : walk.
6. **Symbol or representation** -dove : peace.
7. **Action and significance** - cry : sorrow.
8. **Antonyms** – Alleviate: Aggravate
9. **Synonyms**- Flabbergasted: Surprised
10. **Young and Adult** – Elephant : Calf

# Thank You

Presented by

Ms. Tina Sethi