

Parallelism

Definition

- ▶ In grammar, parallelism, also known as parallel structure, is a balance within one or more sentences of similar phrases or clauses that have the same grammatical structure.
- ▶ The application of parallelism improves writing styles and readability, and is thought to make sentences easier to process.

Parallelism with Nouns

- ▶ Example of parallelism with nouns:
- ▶ A memory chip is made of millions of transistors and capacitors.

Parallelism with Verbs

- ▶ Example of parallelism with verbs:
- ▶ The memory controller **reads** the memory and **writes** it.

Parallelism with Adjectives

- ▶ Example of parallelism with adjectives:
- ▶ HP Pro Curve delivers **consistent and efficient** wireless connectivity in industrial work environment.

Parallelism with Noun Phrases

- ▶ Example of parallelism with noun phrases:
- ▶ Smaller indoor automated teller machines (ATMs) dispense money inside **busy shopping malls** and **popular recreational centres**.

Parallelism with Verb Phrases

- ▶ Example of parallelism with verb phrases
- ▶ The temperature of the cake in the microwave oven **rose rapidly** and the chocolates chip on the cake **melted slowly**.

Parallelism with Adjective Clause

- ▶ Example of parallelism with adjective clause:
- ▶ The ATM is a computerised telecommunication device that enables customer to withdraw money in a quick and convenient way.

Parallelism with Prepositional Phrases

- ▶ Example of parallelism with prepositional phrases.
- ▶ Water in an electric water boiler may be dispensed either **by pouring** or **by pressing** the button that functions as a diaphragm pump.

Parallelism with Gerunds

- ▶ Example of parallelism with gerunds:
- ▶ **Designing and manufacturing** gas turbines is a tough problem from both the engineering and materials standpoint.

Parallelism with Infinitive Phrases

- ▶ Example of parallelism with infinitive phrases:
- ▶ Solar and thermal mass refrigerator are designed **to reduce** electrical consumption and **to fit** customer needs.

Faulty Parallelism

- ▶ If joined sentence parts are not balanced/equal, faulty parallelism has occurred.
- ▶ **Example:**
- ▶ FAULTY: I love singing, going to the mall and to run.
- ▶ REVISED: I love singing, shopping, and running.
- ▶ REVISED: I love to sing, to shop and to run.

More Examples:

- ▶ **FAULTY:** Bill lectured on planting and how to harvest. (noun joined to phrase)
- ▶ **REVISED:** Bill lectured on planting and harvesting.
- ▶ **FAULTY:** I know the answer and what it signifies. (noun joined to a clause)
- ▶ **REVISED:** I know the answer and its significance.

More Examples

- ▶ **Faulty:** Single life offers more freedom of choice; more security is offered by marriage.
- ▶ **Revised:** Single life offers more freedom of choice; marriage offers more security.