

Parallel Structure Answer Key SAT

Choose the correct answer from the following options

1. A few amusement parks, such as Great America, have invested in rest spots that provide artificial shade, have drinking fountains, and nicely reminding visitors to apply sunscreen.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. nicely remind**
 - c. nicely to remind
 - d. nicely reminding of

Choice B is the correct answer because the verb form “remind” parallels the previous verbs (“provide” and “have”) in the sentence.

2. In order to qualify for the job, applicants must be proficient in research, collecting data, graphs, and analyzing the results.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. applicants graphing,
 - c. to graph,
 - d. graphing,**

Choice D is the best answer because the verb form “graphing” parallels the other verbals (“collecting” and “analyzing”) in the series. This is an example of parallelism in lists. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each interrupts the parallel structure in the verb series, either through an incorrect verb form or with an unnecessary subject.

3. The bathroom was tight and cluttered, with an oversized shower taking up a whole wall, a barely functioning toilet and messy sink along another wall, and a small basket of towels on the floor by the third wall.
 - a. NO CHANGE**
 - b. a small basket of towels was on the floor by the third wall.
 - c. by the third wall on the floor was a small basket of towels.
 - d. the third wall had a small basket of towels.

Choice A is the best answer because the clause is most similar to the two preceding clauses, which both end with a reference to a specific wall. Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is inconsistent with the stylistic pattern of the previous two clauses.

4. Studies have shown that dogs are quieter, calmer, and better behaved when they have a lifestyle in which they receive sufficient exercise for their breed.
 - a. NO CHANGE**
 - b. calmer, being better
 - c. calm, and better
 - d. calmer, and they are

Choice A is the best answer because the comparative adjective “calmer” and the word “better” to make “behaved” comparative creates a parallel structure within the list that begins with “quieter.” Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none creates a parallel structure within the list of qualities.

5. For weeks, Steve has been working on his project, creating graphs, charts, and other visual aids that could help viewers understand his results, not to mention added some color to an otherwise boring poster board.
- NO CHANGE
 - adding
 - add**
 - to add

Choice C is the best answer. It creates parallelism with the verb “could help” that appears earlier in the clause (“visual aids that could help... [and could] add some color...”) Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they have incorrect verb tenses that do not match with the present-tense verb (“could help”) and subject “graphs, charts, and other visual aids.”

6. The ticket price for children under twelve is significantly lower than those for adults--six dollars versus the twenty charged for adults.
- NO CHANGE
 - that compared with
 - that for**
 - DELETE the underlined portion

Choice C is the best answer because “that for” agrees with the singular antecedent “price” and compares two similar things: the ticket price for children under twelve and that (the ticket price) for adults. (Note: this is also sometimes denoted as an “incomplete comparisons” question. Comparisons trigger a certain type of parallelism).

7. The newly implemented test has a positive effect on the company by regulating the quality of the products, to create a standard, and bringing in more customers.
- NO CHANGE
 - creating a standard,**
 - for a standard creation,
 - the creation of a standard,

Choice B is the best answer. The participle “creating” keeps the parallel with “regulating” and “bringing,” the other participles in the sentence.

8. Old tests, old homeworks too, and readings were being reused by the professor year after year.
- NO CHANGE
 - also old homeworks,
 - in addition to homeworks,
 - homeworks,**

Choice D is the correct answer because it keeps a parallel structure in the sentence and eliminates unnecessary words. It is clear and concise and is consistent with the other topics in the list in which “tests” and “readings” are equally important. It’s clear all of these are recycled given the end of the sentence, so it makes the most sense to leave off the word “old” on this item in the list so that “Old” at the top of the sentence modifies everything.

9. Better for the environment than gas cars, electric cars minimize carbon dioxide pollution, they decrease spending on gas, and help reduce the carbon footprint of the automobile owner.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. spending decrease
 - c. decrease spending**
 - d. also they decrease spending

Choice C is the correct answer because it maintains the parallelism of the other two verbs “minimizes” and “helps.” The plural present verb “decrease” also agrees in number with the plural noun “electric cars.”

10. It is often considered bad luck to give newlywed couples presents of knives (considered as a symbol for severing the relationship) or handkerchiefs (a small, square piece of cloth).
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. (from ancient superstitions)
 - c. (considered as a symbol for wiping away tears)**
 - d. (used for wiping away tears)

Choice C is the best answer. This choice explains why the handkerchief is considered bad luck, consistent with the information explaining why knives are considered bad luck. This choice also keeps a parallel sentence structure of with the prepositional phrase “a symbol for” with the previous prepositional phrase “a symbol for severing the relationship.”

11. The naming of a dog, fish, or other types of household pets can cause an instant connection between owner and animal, and make the relationship feel more personal. (May 2017, 2)
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. type of household pet**
 - c. type of household pets
 - d. household pet types

Choice B is the correct answer. In this case, there is one indefinite article “a” doing the work of all three. The sentence can be seen as “The naming of a dog, [a] fish, or [an] other type of household pets...”

12. Hundreds of harmless, microscopic new insects living underwater were discovered during this period in history, some in oceans but many more in smaller streams, under riverbed rocks, or buried between lake floor vegetation.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. **between**
- c. they were buried between
- d. DELETE the underlined portion

Choice B is the best answer because it creates parallel in the list of locations that all begin with a preposition (“in smaller streams, under riverbed rocks, or between lake floor vegetation”). Choices A, C, and D do not keep this parallelism.

13. Arnold believes bananas to be the best fruit: it is an excellent source of potassium, serves as an instant energy booster, and it comes in an easy-to-peel protective skin.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. coming
- c. **comes**
- d. will come

Choice C is the best answer because the verb tense is consistent with the rest of the sentence. This is an example of parallelism in lists. This choice also does not contain the redundant “it.” Choice A is incorrect because “it” creates a redundancy. Choices B and D are incorrect because the verb tenses are not consistent and destroy the parallelism in the list.