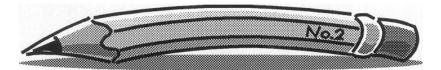
Your Name:



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Parallel Structure

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To improve the *clarity* of your writing, it is important to remember the *equality* of your sentence structure. This worksheet was designed to help you better understand the importance of <u>Parallel</u> <u>Structure</u>.

<u>*Parallel Structure*</u> means using the same construction for sentence elements that are the same in function.

Below are THREE rules to consider when checking for Parallel Structure in your writing:

1. Parallel Structure should be used when elements are joined by coordinating conjunctions:

Incorrect: I am allergic to the dog's hair and how it smells.

Correct: I am allergic to the dog's hair and its smell.

2. Parallel Structure should be used when writing elements in the form of a list or a series:

Incorrect: The class valued <u>respect</u>, <u>honesty</u>, and <u>being on time</u> in a teacher.

Correct: The class valued <u>respect</u>, <u>honesty</u>, and <u>promptness</u> in a teacher.

3. Parallel Structure should be used when comparing or contrasting elements (A is *better than* B – X is *less than* Y):

Incorrect: James enjoys reading more than to write.

Correct: James enjoys reading more than writing.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Complete the exercises on the backside of this worksheet for more practice on using Parallel Structure.

A. In the four sentences below, circle the correct word or phrase that gives the sentence correct parallel structure.

- 1. Justin was excited about inviting friends over, eating a good meal, and _____.
 - a. ...a game of cards.
 - b. ...to play cards.
 - c. ...playing a game of cards.
- 2. I have always enjoyed reading the book more than ______.
 - a. ...I watched the movie version.
 - b. ...watching the movie.
 - c. ...to watch the movie.
- 3. When the weather outside is cold and _____, I like to be indoors.
 - a. ...starting to get windy...
 - b. ...windy...
 - c. ...getting windy...
- 4. Running, lifting, and ______ are three of Ashley's favorite exercises.
 - a. ...racquetball...
 - b. ...a spinning class...
 - c. ...bicycling...

B. In the sentences below, write a word or phrase in the blank that gives the sentence Parallel Structure.

- 1. The little girl liked eating cookies better than ______ at her grandmother's house.
- Students like to sleep, relax and ______ during the summer.

3. He went to the store to pick up a carton of milk and two ______.

- Food, shelter, and ______ are all I need to survive on a deserted island.
- 5. ______ is much better than a visit to the dentist.

Answers: **A.** 1.c, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c > **B.** 1: -ing verbal, e.g. "drinking milk" 2. Infinitive Verb, e.g. "travel" 3. Plural Noun, e.g. "dozen eggs" 4. Noun or Nown Phrase, e.g. "water" 5. Noun or Noun Phrase, e.g. "a trip to the zoo"

Lesson created by Luke Little