**Parallelism**

**Parallelism Guidelines**

3 pages long (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

1. Parallelism is the deliberate repetition of patterns for grammatically equal parts of sentences. Parallelism makes sentences concise, rhythmic, and powerful.

2. Parallelism creates clarity by stressing the balance between similar words, parts of sentences, or entire sentences.

3. Stay consistently in the same tense, or change tenses only when you have reason to do so.

4. Make the active voice the norm; use the passive voice only when you have a good reason to do so. Prepositions , conjunctions , pronouns , and sentence structures arranged in parallel constructions convey meaning clearly and effectively.

5. Clauses and phrases joined by correlative conjunctions must be parallel to be grammatically correct.

6. Independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions must be parallel to be grammatically correct.

7. Seek parallelism with two or more ideas, using a noun with a noun, an –ing verb with an –ing verb, a prepositional phrase with a prepositional phrase, etc.

I. Parallel Structure with Compounds

The simplest parallels occur in strings of nouns , adjectives , verbs , or in various phrases which are linked by commas or by the coordinate conjunctions ...and, but, and or.

1. Nouns

1. The city, the country, and the mountains were all pleasant.

2. She wants to be a lawyer or a nurse.

2. Adjectives

1. The tired, sleepy, hungry child finally found her home.

2. The tall, slender, beautiful woman fell on the ice.

3. Verbs

1. He ran, tripped, and fell on his way to class.

2. Having studied, having slept well, and having had a good breakfast, he was ready for the test.

3. The car pulled in, pulled out and sped away from the parking lot.

4. Verbals (Verbs used as nouns, adjectives, adverbs)

1. Nancy likes to swim , to fish , but not to hike .

2. Bob never smokes nor drinks.

5. Prepositional phrases (at, in, by, for, since, on, from, against, toward, under, beneath, below, above, over, under, between, among ...)

1. He felt her presence in the sun, in the moon, in the wind, and in all things .

2. The book was in the living room, on the table, under the tablecloth.

6. Noun phrases

1. The study of history, the study of geography, and the study of physics are essential to understanding today's world.Horizontal bar

II. Parallel Structure with Paired Conjunctions

(correlative conjunctions)

The most commonly paired conjunctions are both ...and, not only...but also, either...or, neither...nor, and whether....or. The general rule is that structures following each conjunction should be parallel. (Examples from Harbrace p. 312,)

We judge our friends

both by their words

and by their actions.

The team

not only practices at 6 a.m. during the week

but also scrimmages on Sunday afternoons.

Either they obey the manager

or they get fired.

When the subjects following each conjunction changes, problems with verb tenses can occur. Study the following examples (from Azar pp. 260-261).

A) Both my mother and my sister are here.

B) Not only my mother but also my sister is here.

C) Not only my sister but also my parents are here.

D) Neither my mother nor my sister is here.

E) Neither my mother nor my parents are here.

Two subjects connected by both...and take a plural verb. When two subjects are connected by not only...but also,either...or, or neither...nor, the subject that is closer to the verb determines whether the verb is singular or plural.

F) The research project will take both time and money.

G) Yesterday, it not only rained but also snowed.

H) I'll take either chemistry or physics next semester.

I) That book is neither interesting nor accurate.

Notice the parallel structure in the examples. The same grammatical form should follow each word or pair.

In (F), both + noun + and + noun

In (G), not only + verb + but also + verb

In (H), either + noun + or + noun

In (I), neither + adjective + nor + adjective

**Parallelism Grammar Module Activities**

Instructions: Read the Guidelines for Parallelism before you complete the following activities. The Extended Learning Center provides all the videos and books you will need to complete these activities.

Tutoring: You may see a tutor for help with understanding any of the following activities.

Activities:

1. The Allyn and Bacon Video Grammar Library, Lesson 7: Parallel Construction:

1. Watch the video.

2. Write a ½ page summary of what you have learned.

2. SkillsBank:

1. To enter the computer program at Lone Star College–Tomball, click the SkillsBank Icon.

2. At Lone Star College–Willow Chase Center, click the Start button in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen.

3. Select Learning Assistance and then SkillsBank .

4. Log in to SkillsBank with your assigned user name and identification number.

5. In SkillsBank, select Writing from the column of subjects on the left of the screen and then Clear Writing & Paragraphs from the list of lesson topics across the top.

6. Do Lesson 4 (Nonparallel Grammatical Forms)

Your scores will automatically be reported to your instructor, so you will not need to print out a record of your activities.

1. Grammar textbook work: Do not write in the textbooks. Either photocopy exercise pages from the text or complete assignments on your own paper (writing short answers whenever possible, rather than copying entire sentences).

2. The Little, Brown Handbook (8th edition):

1. Read Chapter 25 (pages 442-448).

2. Complete Exercises 2 and 3.

3. Odyssey (3rd edition):

1. Read Chapter 28 (pages 446-459).

2. Complete Exercises 28.2, 28.3, and the Chapter Quick Check: Maintaining Parallelism (page 455-456).

3. Review the Parallelism Recap (pages 458-459).

4. Worksheets: Complete Worksheets D14 , D10 , and D12 . Use the answer keys, located in the Extended Learning Center, to check your work.

Turn in all work assigned by your instructor before taking the Parallel Structure Test.

**Parallelism**

**PRACTICE TEST**

(3 pages, 10¢/page for print jobs in ELC)

Directions : In the following sentences, determine if there is an error in parallel structure or if the sentence contains no parallel structure. Mark your answers as follows:

“A” if the sentence does not contain an error in parallel structure (or) does not contain parallel structure.

“B” if the sentence does contain an error in parallel structure

1. In order to be healthy, one should exercise, eating wisely, and get plenty of sleep.

2. Because the movie was so long and so many people were bored, the theater was nearly empty by the time the film was over.

3. Pulled over for speeding, the frustrated driver tried screaming, threatening, and to bribe the police officer.

4. Go home and study the material, come to school and practice relaxation techniques, go to class to take the test, and then stopping worrying about it.

5. Complaining about your life is really easy, but making it better is much harder.

6. I want friends who are loyal, honest, and going to buy dinner!

7. Three of the most important inventions are the gasoline engine, electric lights,

and airplanes.

8. To dream big, working hard, and being smart will make one succeed.

9. The employees developed the idea of the party, planning it and rented the party hall, but the boss told them no.

10. Everyone hunted for the lost puppy, looking by the creek and searched through the woods.

11. The new school, which will accommodate 2000 students and built on the site of the old factory, is really needed.

12. She keeps gaining weight because she can't stop eating pizza and decided not to try to stop.

13. Building a new house is nearly as hard as buying one.

14. New clubs are developing, often offering many activities and responding to many interests.

15. Preparations for the Super Bowl to come to town need to be completed: finishing the people-mover railroad, cleaning up the streets and yards, and old buildings that should be torn down.

16. Reading, listening to music, and watching movies are his favorite activities.

17. To pack to move, filling the truck, and unpacking again is a hard, dirty job.

18. Having a good sense of pride brings great rewards: people will have clean yards, tidy homes, and the town will be nicer to live in.

19. The author of the book was rude, short-tempered, and refused to sign any of his books.

20. Because of the new generations of children, the Three Stooges, who are named Larry, Mo, and Curly, are popular again.

Answer Key: Parallelism Practice Test

1. B

2. A

3. B

4. B

5. A

6. B

7. A

8. B

9. B

10. B

11. B

12. B

13. A

14. A

15. B

16. A

17. B

18. B

19. B

20. A