

Parallel Structure

Practice

Parallelism is the repetition of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences that are similar in structure or meaning.

Example: I came, I saw, I conquered.

Parallel structure is the expression of similar ideas using similar grammatical form. Parallel structures can include the use of adjectives, verbs, phrases, or entire sentences.

Example: . . . government of the people, by the people, and for the people . . .

Parallel coordinate elements are elements linked by coordinating conjunctions such as *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, or *so*. Parallel coordinate elements may be nouns, adjectives, adverbs, clauses, or phrases. To make elements that are linked with coordinating conjunctions parallel, put them in the same grammatical form.

Example: She knew neither how to phrase her inquiry nor where to address it.

A In each sentence, underline the parallel structure.

1. He went to the department store, to the library, and to the town hall.
2. Twisting and turning, she managed to avoid the obstacles on the road.
3. Eddie decided to wash his truck, to change the oil, and to fix the radio.
4. Karl, Brandy, and I all agreed to work an extra shift at the restaurant.
5. He knew that one of his cousins liked rock and that the other preferred jazz.

B Rewrite each sentence to correct errors in parallel structure.

1. Penelope would rather visit a new restaurant than going to an old favorite.

2. Nick knows how to plan, how to take notes, and using different sources.

3. Brad likes jogging, playing tennis, and to go on hikes.

4. The mayoral candidate is intelligent, compassionate, and we can trust her.
