**Parallel Structure**

* Parallel structure means a sentence uses a balanced pattern to explain ideas.
* It removes repetitive words when combining ideas or sentences.
* The items or words grouped together must be similar; for example, all nouns, or all verbs.

**Rules to achieve Parallelism:**

* Don’t repeat!
* The items in a list must be all nouns, all infinitives, all prepositional phrases, all gerunds, or all clauses.
* All the items need to use the same verb tense.
* Each item must be the same “weight;” one item should not be explained in greater detail than another.

**The items in a list must be all nouns, all infinitives, all prepositional phrases, all gerunds, or all clauses and use the same verb tense.**

Awesome and Not Awesome Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sad.jpg | Janice loves swimming, to dance, and jogging in the rain. |
| happy.jpg | Janice loves swimming, dancing, and jogging. (all gerunds in the list) |
| sad.jpg | Martin and Mary went to the restaurant, the movie, and to the mall. |
| happy.jpg | Martin and Mary went to the restaurant, to the movie, and to the mall. (all prepositional phrases) |
| happy.jpg | Martin and Mary went to the restaurant, the movie, and the mall. (all nouns without “to” before each noun) |
| sad.jpg | Georgy told James to shower, dress, and to walk. |
| happy.jpg | Georgy told James to shower and to dress. (all infinitives) |
| sad.jpg | Darcy will play the piano, sang at the ceremony, and recites a poem. |
| happy.jpg | Darcy will play the piano, will sing a ballad, and will recite a poem. (same verb tense) |

**Each item must be the same “weight;” one item should not be explained in greater detail than another.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sad.jpg | Candice wants to build a sandcastle, eat, fly, and play a game. |
| happy.jpg | Candice wants to build a sandcastle, to eat a sandwich, and to play a game. (all infinitives with an object) |
| happy.jpg | Candice wants to talk, to listen, and to understand. (all infinitives without an object) |
| sad.jpg | Olivia complained about being hungry, she cried about her thirst, and whined. |
| happy.jpg | Olivia complained about being hungry, she cried about her thirst, and whined about being tired. (equal details given for each verb) |
| sad.jpg | Whitney loved to play with dolls, to color, and to play musical instruments. |
| happy.jpg | Whitney loved to play with dolls, to color felt paintings, and to play musical instruments. |

**Other Parallel Structures—They must use the same grammatical form.**

* Both **A** and **B**
* Not **A** but **B**
* Not only **A** but also **B**
* Neither **A** nor **B**
* Either **A** or **B**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sad.jpg | When writing an essay both self-editing and to peer revise are important. |
| happy.jpg | When writing an essay both self-editing and peer revision is important. |
| sad.jpg | We are not for competition but cooperation. |
| happy.jpg | We are not for competition but for cooperation |
| sad.jpg | This pizza is not only spicy but also it is doughy. |
| happy.jpg | This pizza is not only spicy but also doughy. |
| sad.jpg | The piano is neither an old one or out of tune. |
| happy.jpg | The pianos is neither old nor out of tune. |
| sad.jpg | Either you must stop hitting or go to time out. |
| happy.jpg | Either stop hitting or go to time out. |

**Pre Assessment**

1. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. The waiters were ready, able, and determined.
   2. The waiters were ready, able, and were quite determined to do a great job.
   3. The waiters were ready, able, and were quite determined.
2. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. The new version of the car is safe, stronger, and comfortable.
   2. The new version of the car is safer, stronger, and more comfortable.
   3. The new version of the car is safe, stronger, and more comfortable.
3. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. We can either eat at home or wait until we get to Grandma’s.
   2. We can either eat at home and wait until we get to Grandma’s.
   3. We can either eat at home or wait.
4. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. In volleyball practice, Chantel jumped high, ran fast, and hit the ball hard.
   2. In volleyball practice, Chantel jumped high, runs fast, and she hit the ball hard.
   3. In volleyball practice, Chantel jumped high, ran fast, and hit hard.
5. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. The snow plow is neither fast or small.
   2. The snow plow is neither fast nor small.
   3. The snow plow is neither faster nor smallest.
6. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. Martin will either accept my friendship or reject.
   2. Martin will either accept or reject my friendship.
   3. Martin with either accept nor reject my friendship.
7. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. To get into the club you need to fill out an application, to have three references, and sign your name.
   2. To get into the club you need to fill out an application, have three references, and sign your name on the sheet.
   3. To get into the club you need to fill out an application, have three references, and to sign.
8. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. Olivia has wit, charm, and she has a fantastic sense of humor.
   2. Olivia has wit, charm, and she is funny.
   3. Olivia has wit, charm, and a sense of humor.
9. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
   1. Margie’s GPA is higher than Susie.
   2. Margies GPA is higher than Susies.
   3. Margie’s GPA is higher than Susie’s
10. **Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**
    1. We found the movie interesting, humorous, and to be smart.
    2. We found the movie interesting, humorous, and smart.
    3. We found the movie interesting, very humorous, and too intelligent.

**Practice 1—Fill in the blank to create a correct sentence**

1. Elena was a brilliant teacher, a supportive mentor, and a dependable friend.
2. There is nothing better than finding a good book, setting up a comfortable spot, and reading it cover to cover.
3. Ken likes his car clean, neat, and good smelling.
4. Yesterday, a cleaner came and vacuumed, dusted, and sanitized the apartment.
5. Syntax, morphology, and phonology are the areas of linguistics.
6. I want to vacation in either Madrid or Oaxaca.
7. I want to either date a fireman or a policeman.
8. Jill not only passed the test but also wrote the best paper.
9. Henry not only helped me with my car but also fixed my dishwasher.
10. Either grab a towel or get out of the way.

**Assessment- Select TRUE if the sentence is parallel.**

1. The audience cried, laughed, and they applaud.
2. Mrs. Sheets reads mysteries, listens to classical music, and watches television.
3. Either Alex will study for the exam or he fails.
4. The trip was neither enjoyable or relaxing.
5. When we ride bike, run, or to walk, we are helping our health.
6. Dozens of people suggested a great restaurant and that we should watch a movie.
7. The movie starts with a girl going to her car and is starting it up.
8. Jessie bought a new scarf, a bright watch, and a ring.
9. The basketball player lifts weights, practiced shooting, and ran.
10. Mr. Savage teaches Physical Science, Earth Science, and Chemistry.

Writing Prompt:

# Light pillars over Moscow.

[Light pillars over Moscow.
A light pillar is a visual phenomenon created by the reflection of light from ice crystals with near horizontal parallel planar surfaces.](http://thechive.com/2013/05/31/marvels-of-nature-that-actually-exist-20-photos/amazing-natural-marvels-12/)

A light pillar is a visual phenomenon created by the reflection of light from ice crystals with near horizontal parallel planar surfaces.

Because we see this parallel item in nature, it seems only fitting that we write about it with our parallel structure writing prompt. Using this picture as your inspiration, write a paragraph or two explaining (either as factually informative or as fictional as you want) how these light pillars are formed in further detail than the caption above.

## Gravana Items of Mastery to Include:

* 4 parallel sentences (use a variety of the forms if you would like; they do not all need to be lists.)
* Commas were appropriate, especially in sentence types
* 4 prepositional phrases
* 3 verbals of your choice
* 1 semi colon