

20.6 Faulty Parallelism • Practice 1

Recognizing the Correct Use of Parallelism Parallelism is the placement of equal ideas in words, phrases, or clauses of similar types.

PARALLEL WORDS, PHRASES, AND CLAUSES
<p><i>Words:</i> This room seems <i>bright, spacious, and suitable</i>.</p> <p><i>Phrases:</i> <i>Gathering the best spices and mixing them carefully</i> are important if you want this recipe to work.</p> <p><i>Clauses:</i> I have no patience with <i>what you said</i> or with <i>what you did</i>.</p>

Correcting Faulty Parallelism Correct a sentence containing faulty parallelism by rewriting it so that each parallel idea is expressed in the same grammatical structure. Faulty parallelism can involve words, phrases, and clauses in a series as well as comparisons.

CORRECTING FAULTY PARALLELISM
<p><i>Nonparallel:</i> My sister likes <i>to jog, to swim, and dance</i>.</p> <p><i>Parallel:</i> My sister likes <i>to jog, to swim, and to dance</i>.</p> <p><i>Nonparallel:</i> He prefers a <i>sandwich to eating a full meal</i>.</p> <p><i>Parallel:</i> He prefers <i>a sandwich to a full meal</i>.</p>

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Parallel Structure.** In each sentence below, underline the parallel structures.

EXAMPLE: I walk to school and then to work.

1. A person who gives to charity and who helps others is rare indeed.
2. In his career he has been an accountant, an expediter, and a consultant.
3. Growing very slowly and then bursting into glorious color is a characteristic of that tropical plant.
4. I have had virtually no peace since my daughter left and since my oldest son returned.
5. After the accident, she sobbed, whimpered, and collapsed.
6. Maggie always sings in the shower, at the breakfast table, and at most other times.
7. We try to jog daily and to hike on weekends.
8. Her hobbies include refinishing furniture, repairing clocks, and constructing floral displays.
9. Ms. Ames, Mr. Paulson, and Dr. Phillip will all present seminars at the convention.
10. She was fascinated to learn that Joel writes sonnets and that I design mobiles.

Exercise 2 **Recognizing Faulty Parallelism.** Next to each sentence below write *FP* if there is faulty parallelism and *C* if the sentence is correct.

EXAMPLE: I enjoy reading magazines rather than to clean my room. FP

1. Exercising every day, eating the right foods, and to get enough sleep can help a person stay healthy. _____
2. My mother would rather bake fresh bread than buying a packaged loaf. _____
3. I expect to drive to Providence, to see two friends, and to return this evening. _____
4. My teacher prefers a simple list of ideas to preparing a complicated Harvard outline. _____
5. She would rather return to our hotel than going to the stadium. _____