

Parallelism means similarity in value, construction and position. A sentence with parallel structure contains words that are parallel or similar in form and function. In fact sentences with parallel structure are balanced and easy to read as a noun balanced by a noun and a verb by a verb. In other words we can say that all must have grammatical form.

(A) **Words** are balanced with **words**.

*example :*

(i) **Snakes, Crocodiles and lizards and Whales** are all reptiles.

(ii) Traditional methods of food preservation include **drying, smoking and pickling**.

(iii) Like mother, like daughter.

(B) **Phrases** are balanced with **phrases**.

*example :*

(i) In Shimla it is colder **in January** than **in February**.

(C) **Clauses** are balanced with **clauses**.

*example :*

(i) Psychologists study **how we think** and **why we act**.

3. I wondered **what was in the Packet, where it came from, who had sent it and why it had not been delivered**.

#### How to correct faulty Parallelism

To correct a sentence containing faulty parallelism, it usually takes only a few moments of thinking and rewriting and of course some knowledge of the parts of speech.

#### Rule 1 : Correcting Nonparallel Words

In a series of words, each word should be of the same part of speech. You should be careful not to match a series of words with a phrase or a clause.

1. **Wrong** : The qualities of a good soldier are **loyalty, honesty and being brave**.

**Right** : The qualities of a good soldier are **loyalty, honesty and bravery**.

2. **Wrong** : A soldier obeys his senior **willingly, completely and with speed**.

**Right** : A obeys his senior **willingly completely and quickly**.

3. **Wrong** : The trainees **analyzed, discussed and we raised questions about the new rules**.

**Right** : The trainees **analyzed, discussed and questioned the new rules**.

#### Rule 2 : Correcting Nonparallel Phrases

**Nonparallel Phrases** : When ideas are presented in a series of phrases, make sure that each phrase is of same type.

1. **Wrong** : A woman always find time for **doing** her chores, **enjoying** leisure time, and talk about her neighbours.

**Right** : A woman always find time for **doing** her chores, **enjoying** leisure time and **talking about her neighbours**.

2. **Wrong** : They travelled to Delhi, to Agra and **visited Shimla**.

**Right** : They travelled **to Delhi, to**

**Agra and to Shimla.**

**3. Wrong :** I faced the trial **believing** in my own innocence and I **desired** the truth to prevail.

**Right :** I faced the trial **believing** in my own innocence and **desiring** the truth to prevail.

**Rule-3 : Correcting Nonparallel Clauses**

**Nonparallel Clauses :** When a series of subordinate clauses is presented, each clause should be of the same type.

**Wrong :** Our lawyer accepts cases **that are worthy** and **if she thinks** she will win.

**Right :** Our lawyer accepts cases **that are worthy** and **that she thinks** she will win.

**Rule-4 : Correcting Nonparallel Comparisons**

**Wrong :** My essay received a low grade **more for its grammatical mistakes than what was said in it.**

**Right :** My essay received a low grade **more for its grammatical mistakes than for its content.**

**Wrong :** Giving an oral presentation requires **more preparation than to write** a term paper.

**Right :** Giving an oral presentation requires **more preparation than writing** a term paper.

**Wrong :** I **like** television as much as **reading books.**

**Right :** I **like watching** television as much as **reading books.**

**Rule-5 : Correcting Nonparallel with Coordinate Conjunctions**

We use Coordinate Conjunction (and, but, or, yet, for, nor) to join equal expressions. In fact these Conjunctions can join nouns, verbs, adjectives and coordinate clauses i.e. clauses of equal ranks.

To use them correctly we must make sure that what is on one side of these coordinate conjunctions must be parallel to what is on the other side.

**Wrong :** He **likes to go** fishing during the day, but my brother **prefers catching** fish at night.

**Right :** He **likes to go** fishing during the day but my brother **prefers to catch** fish at night.

**Wrong :** **Eating** healthy food, **resting** and **to drink** a lot of fluid is advisable.

**Right :** **Eating** healthy food **resting** and **drinking** a lot of fluid is advisable.

**Rule-6 : Correcting Nonparallel Structure with Correlative Conjunctions**

The paired Correlative Conjunctions both....and either....or, neither....nor, not only....but also and whether....or are used to join equal expressions.

**Wrong :** She is not only **an excellent student** but also **she is a superb singer.**

**Right :** She is **only only an excellent student** but also **a superb singer.**

**Wrong :** We **not only want to visit** the Taj Mahal **but also the Agar Fort.**

**Right :** We want to visit **not only the Taj Mahal but also the Agra Fort.**

*Let us see how we can balance correlatives in different ways. The only thing we have to keep in mind is that correlative conjunction requires equal grammatical units after both the parts of conjunction.*

1. Not only **did** he buy flowers for his mother but also **purchased** the same for his wife (verb 'did' balanced by verb purchased).
2. He bought flowers not only **for his wife** but also **for his mother.** ('for his + Noun' balanced by 'for his + Noun')



### Exercise

1. (A) I like/(B) shopping /(C) and to eat out. /(D) No error.
2. (A) Public transit/(B) such as buses or a train/ (C) can help reduce air pollution./ (D) No error.
3. (A) He swiftly/(B) and with efficiency /(C) controlled the damaged car. /(D) No error.
4. (A) We spent the whole day (B)/ loitering here and there /(C) eating pizzas and we wiggled on the sofas. /(D) no error.
5. (A) Not only he bought flowers for his wife/(B) but also/(C) for his mother. /(D) No error.
6. (A) My friends took me/(B) to a dancing show/(C) and then to a baby show. /(D) No error.
7. (A) I would rather/(B) pay for my fooding and lodging/(C) than assistance from my parents. /(D) No error.
8. (A) The school campus has space /(B) for a new playground /(C) but not computer lab. /(D) No error.
9. (A) It's time /(B) not for words /(C) but action. /(D) No error.
10. (A) My income is /(B) less than/(C) my wife. /(D) No error.

### Answers

1. (C); Change 'to eat' into 'eating'. 'Shopping' (Gerund) has to be balanced by 'eating' (gerund).
2. (B); Change 'a train' into 'trains'. 'Buses' (Plural noun) has to be balanced by 'trains' (Plural noun).
3. (B); Change 'with efficiency' into 'efficiently'. 'Swiftly' (adverb) has to be balanced by 'efficiently' (adverb).
4. (C); Change 'we wiggled' into 'wiggling'. 'Loitering' and 'eating' (both gerunds) have to be balanced by 'wiggling' (a gerund).
5. (A); Shift 'not only' before 'for his wife' because the other part of correlative 'Not only.. but', also (i.e 'but also') is before 'for his mother'.
6. (B); Change 'dancing show' into 'dance show' to balance it with 'baby show'.
7. (C); Add 'take' before assistance. 'Pay' (a verb) has to be balanced by 'take' (a verb).
8. (C); Add 'for' before computer lab.
9. (C); Add 'for' before 'action'.
10. (C); Change 'my wife' into 'my wife's'. 'My income' has to be balanced by 'my wife's income'.