

Parallel Structure in Sentences

Name _____

What is it? Parallel structure means using similar forms of words and phrases to express similar parts of a sentence. You can see what this means by looking at some examples like those below:

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man <u>healthy</u> , <u>wealthy</u> , and <u>wise</u> .	3 adjectives
<u>Sailing</u> , <u>surfing</u> , and <u>swimming</u> are popular sports	3 -ing endings
After I <u>opened</u> the bill, I <u>wrote</u> the check.	2 past tense verbs
Stanley likes <u>to fish</u> , <u>to hunt</u> , and <u>to drive</u> .	3 infinitives
Government of the <u>people</u> , <u>for the people</u> and <u>by the people</u> ...	3 similar phrases

Non-examples:

Stanley likes <u>to fish</u> , <u>to hunt</u> , and <u>driving</u> .	"Driving" is not parallel.
It is easier <u>to do</u> the right thing than <u>doing</u> wrong.	"To do" does not match "doing."

Read each sentence. If the sentence structure is parallel, write "C." If the structure is not parallel, write in corrections.

1. The new student was tall, athletic, and he was strong.
2. Planning your work in advance is better than to correct errors later.
3. We amused ourselves on Halloween Eve by telling ghost stories and watching spooky movies.
4. "To know you is loving you," said the bride to her new husband.
5. Today's new homes are smaller, simpler, and cost less money.
6. The young mechanic performed skillfully and competently on his first job.
7. The graduates crossed the stage slowly and with great care.
8. The babysitter entered the home, looked at the rowdy children, then she resigned from the job.
9. Many young workers not only have a full-time job but also they also work part-time.
10. Medical researchers have had much better luck finding cures for bacterial illnesses than illnesses caused by viruses.
11. A good ending is more important than a beginning that is good.
12. Two hundred years ago, most people could neither read nor write.
13. Mr. Browning scheduled the new student for Algebra 1, Economics, and for American history.
14. The excited Lotto winner jumped for joy and cashed the check.
15. The fugitive dyed his hair, packed his bags, and was leaving town.
16. Driving under the influence of alcohol is as dangerous to play Russian roulette.
17. In the movies, most young people are single, attractive, and free of cares.
18. The novice teacher's kindness, sense of humor, and the fact that she was knowledgeable made her popular with her classes.