

Term: “Parallel Structure”

Definition:

Parallel structure means using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance. This can happen at the word, phrase, or clause level. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating conjunctions such as "and" or "or."

- Example 1

- Not Parallel:

Mary likes hiking, swimming, and to ride a bicycle.

- Parallel:

Mary likes hiking, swimming, and riding a bicycle.

- Example 2

- Not Parallel:

The teacher said that he was a poor student because he waited until the last minute to study for the exam, completed his lab problems in a careless manner, and his motivation was low.

- Parallel:

The teacher said that he was a poor student because he waited until the last minute to study for the exam, completed his lab problems in a careless manner, and lacked motivation.

- Example 3

- Not Parallel:

The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and to do some warm-up exercises before the game.

- Parallel:

The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game.

— or —

The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, not eat too much, and do some warm-up exercises before the game.

- Example 4

- Not Parallel:

The dictionary can be used for these purposes: to find word meanings, pronunciations, correct spellings, and looking up irregular verbs.

- Parallel:

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