

Faulty Parallel Structure I

Elements of a sentence that are similar in function should be similar in construction. When these elements are in similar form, they are "parallel". If they are not, the sentence has *faulty parallel structure*.

B, B and B NOT B, B and C

**ADVERB, ADVERB AND ADVERB, NOT
ADVERB, ADVERB AND NOUN**

If a sentence is not parallel, it is awkward and confusing, like the following:

INCORRECT: My little brother is energetic, loud and a source of entertainment for all.

PARALLEL: My little brother is energetic, loud and entertaining.

INCORRECT: Before you leave, take out the garbage, shut the windows and you should lock the door.

PARALLEL: Before you leave, take out the garbage, shut the windows and lock the door.

Faulty Parallel Structure 2

The following are correlative conjunctions. The grammatical construction that follows one must be parallel to the grammatical construction that follows the other.

EITHER/OR

NEITHER/NOR

BOTH/AND

NOT ONLY/BUT ALSO

INCORRECT: I am either going to visit my sister or the movies.

CORRECT: I am either going to visit my sister or going to the movies. OR I am going either to visit my sister or to the movies.

INCORRECT: I am neither hungry nor am I tired.

CORRECT: I am neither hungry nor tired.

INCORRECT: Shakespeare is both entertaining and he is intelligent.

CORRECT: Shakespeare is both entertaining and intelligent.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I

1 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

My favorite meal is roast beef, mashed potatoes, and when my mother makes her amazing gravy.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I

2 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

To do well in school, a student must be organized, focused and he should be able to manage his time effectively.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I

3 On your task sheet, fix the following sentences:

Before I leave, I need to unload the dishwasher, make my lunch for tomorrow, and my essay needs to be finished.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I

4 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

My brother likes to play basketball and working out at the gym.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2

1 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

My dinner was both cold and it was undercooked.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2

2 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

I have to either start exercising or I need to go on a diet.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2

3 On your task sheet, fix the following sentences:

She is not a good friend because she tells me not only what to do but also tells me what to think.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2

4 On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

My father is neither a good cook nor is he a tidy house keeper.