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 <u>either going</u> to visit my sister <u>or the</u> movies.

CORRECT: I am <u>either going</u> to visit my sister <u>or</u> <u>going</u> to the movies. OR I am going <u>either to</u> visit my sister <u>or to</u> the movies.

INCORRECT: I am neither hungry nor am I tired.

CORRECT: I am neither hungry nor tired.

INCORRECT: Shakespeare is <u>both entertaining and he</u> is intelligent.

CORRECT: Shakespeare is <u>both entertaining and</u> intelligent.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I

On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

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

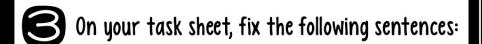
PARALLEL STRUCTURE I



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



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

PARALLEL STRUCTURE I



On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

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

PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2

On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

My dinner was both cold and it was undercooked.

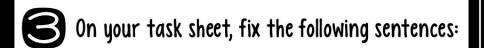
PARALLEL STRUCTURE 2



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



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



On your task sheet, fix the following sentence:

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