Parallelism

Student Name:

Instructor

Date:

Course

# About This DLA

## Important Note

All the activities (4) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with parallel structures and help you identify and correct faulty parallelism in order for you to write sentences with correct parallel constructions.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# Understanding Parallelism

Parallel sentences use a sequence of similar words or phrases to more fully develop an idea.

Parallel sentence examples:

* The vacation was **fun, exciting,** and **educational**. (using a sequence of adjectives)
* Liz won **a sweatshirt**, **a DVD**, and **a trip** to Disneyland. (using a sequence of nouns)
* Jack **jumped**, **clapped**, and **laughed**. (using a sequence of past tense verbs)
* Hansel went **into the forest**, **into the witch's house**, and **into the cage**. (using a sequence of prepositional phrases)

Parallel sentences can make your writing more specific and more concrete. Used effectively and correctly, parallelism helps the sentence flow more smoothly, giving an impression of connection and development of ideas.

Faulty parallelism can cause awkward wording in a sentence.

## Steps to check for parallelism errors:

1. Find the series of words or phrases within a single sentence.
2. Ask, “Do the words or phrases match each other in structure?”
3. Ask, “Does the sentence work if the words or phrases are switched in order?”

## Identifying and Correcting Faulty Parallelism

Faulty parallelism may be more obvious if the sentence is broken into sections, each part of the series linked to the main sentence.

**Example 1:**

**Wrong**: Talula made a chocolate cake, a balloon dinosaur, and went to the store for candy apples.

1. Find the series: a chocolate cake, a balloon dinosaur, and went to the store for candy apples.
2. Are the three parts of the series all similar? The answer is no.
3. How would it read if the three parts of the sentence were switched?  
   Talula made a chocolate cake, went to the store for candy apples, and a balloon dinosaur.
4. How would it read if the three parts of the sentence were isolated so that you had three sentences? Is there a common or uncommon pattern?

* Talula made a chocolate cake. (smooth)
* Talula made went to the store for candy apples. (awkward)
* Talula made a balloon dinosaur. (smooth)

**Correct**: Talula made a chocolate cake, candy apples, and a balloon dinosaur.

**Example 2:**

**Wrong**: On Halloween, the witches ride on brooms, the goblins are hiding behind bushes, and the zombies escape from the cemetery.

1. Find the series: the witches ride on brooms, the goblins are hiding behind bushes, and the zombies escape from the cemetery
2. Are the three parts of the series all similar? The answer is almost.
3. It would read sensibly if the three parts of the sentence were switched, but not as smoothly as possible because the verbs are different verb forms.

* ride, are hiding, escape
* It would be better to match the verb forms: ride, hide, escape

**Correct**: On Halloween, the witches ride on brooms, the goblins hide behind bushes, and the zombies escape from the cemetery.

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Parallelism Review

What is the difference between faulty and smooth parallelism?

| Write the answer |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to http://tinyurl.com/ParallelismDLAQuiz. and take the [Parallelism DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/ParallelismDLAQuiz). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## 3. Paragraph Error Correction

Read the paragraphs below and on a separate sheet of paper, edit the sentences to correct the faulty parallelism. There are ten (10) sentences with faulty parallelism.

Graduating high school is an exciting accomplishment, but, after the prom and the ceremony, young men and women find themselves with many choices regarding their future. Most must decide on either finding a job or attending a college. Some choose to do both simultaneously. Jobs provide money immediately for living expenses and, perhaps, extra purchases. A college education offers the chance of a higher salary once the degree is earned.

If high school graduates choose to immediately enter the work force, their choices of jobs are often limited to those with low pay. Many may find themselves flipping burgers, frying French fries, scooping side dishes or they ask "May I take your order please?" Others may be in a clothing store where they sort, tag, and are hanging clothes on racks. Choices include pushing shopping carts, take a dog for a walk, and giving baths to pets. If delivering pizzas, new workers may at least earn tips, especially on rainy days if they don't wear a hat, don't wear gloves, shivering while smiling.

Attending college takes time but offers more chances for careers that are interesting, fulfilling, and pay a lot of money. Being a therapist, a doctor, a dentist, or nursing requires education to perform the necessary work. Many careers require writing skills that correctly use grammar, punctuating sentences, and specific details. If a nurse, a police officer, or a therapist does not use specific details correctly, the results might not be optimal. Outcomes may include dead patients, happy criminals, and sadness. However, with the proper education, individuals may pursue careers that challenge them to perform intricate tasks, to travel to exotic places, and be discussing interesting topics in several languages. The pay that is earned could be enough to enable purchasing a nicer home, enjoying more family vacations, and a complaint about IRS audits.

## Choose 4a or 4b Below

## 4a. Correct Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. On a separate sheet of paper or in a Word document, write down four examples of faulty parallelism, and then correct them.

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (4b).**

## 4b. Sentence Correction

Underline the faulty parallelism (a word or phrase) in the following sentences. Rewrite each sentence on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Ziyu spends her weekends attending concerts, cooking meals, and she does her homework for school.
2. The Honda Accord has a flat tire, one of the windows is broken, and a missing windshield wiper.
3. Every morning, Mariza eats cereal for breakfast, turns on the air conditioner for the day, and her dog Mitzy is taken for a walk.
4. My hope is for students to practice, to learn, and succeeding.
5. One choice the travelers had was to see the play, and the other was going on a sunset cruise.
6. Many reality shows are written by writers, acted by actors, and watching it are viewers.
7. As the water rose around her, Anna knew her only choices were to swim, or drowning.
8. This winter, Alfonso will travel to Australia, Peru, and he is going to France.
9. Her purple fingernails, her black-rimmed eyes, and tattoos of skulls frightened the child.
10. The Honey Cranberry Sauce recipe uses cranberries, apples, honey, and you need lemon juice.

## 5. DLA Review

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your understanding of parallelism. Consider the main concept you learned in this DLA. Explain to the tutor strategies that you used to identify and correct this error.

Student’s Signature:

Tutor’s Signature

Date:

Date:

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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