

Parallelism

Put parallel content in parallel form. When Benjamin Franklin wrote "A penny saved is a penny earned," he was using parallelism. Consider his idea expressed this way: A penny earned is one worth saving. Would the saying have been as memorable? Putting two or more sentence elements into the same grammatical form helps your reader see the relationship between your ideas. Parallelism makes your writing more elegant, and it makes your ideas more powerful.

Ex: The woman was old, sick, and had no teeth.

Parallel: The woman was old, sick, and toothless.

Ex: My brother has a job washing cars, picking up trash, and he runs errands.

Parallel: My brother has a job washing cars, picking up trash, and running errands.

Ex: In high school chemistry, you will learn about distilling water and to analyze compounds.

Parallel: In high school chemistry, you will learn to distill water and analyze compounds.

PRACTICE

1. My mother has three rules: Don't run in the house, no arguing, and don't be eating food in the living room.

Practice:

1. She likes reading the latest novel and to listen to music.

2. After working hard at school, Jim likes stretching out under a tree and to take a nap.

3. Mr. Albert kept his store clean, neat, and he made it conveniently arranged.

4. Ms. Joon rewarded her students for their hard work on the final project and going beyond what was required.

5. Jim's parents regarded the film as repulsive, offensive, and they thought it was embarrassing.

6. The film was regarded as repulsive, offensive, and was thought embarrassing by Jim's parents.

6. Creativity is being able to identify a problem and the knowledge how to solve it.

7. Everyone needs sympathy and to have attention given to them.

8. The coach was a man of experience, skill, and who never got impatient.

9. Following the trail is easier than to cut through the woods.

10. The salad dressing splattered on the walls, staining the table, the rug, and will ruin my shirt.
