

## Parallel Structure

Parallel structure (also called parallelism) is the repetition of a chosen grammatical form within a sentence. By making each compared item or idea in your sentence follow the same grammatical pattern, you create a parallel construction.

You want to make sure each item in your list has the same grammatical form (all nouns, all verbs of the same form, all adjectives, all words ending in -ing etc.).

Parallel structure adds clarity to your writing. When you use parallel structure, you increase the readability of your writing by creating word patterns readers can follow easily.

**Below are THREE rules to consider when checking for Parallel Structure in your writing:**

1. Parallel Structure should be used when elements are joined by coordinating conjunctions:

**Incorrect:** I am allergic to the perfume *and* **how it smells**.

**Correct:** I am allergic to the perfume *and* its **smell**.

**Incorrect:** My best friend took me clubbing *and* to a concert.

**Correct:** My best friend took me to a club *and* a concert.

2. Parallel Structure should be used when writing elements in the form of a list or a series:

**Incorrect:** In his spare time, basketball legend, Kobe Bryant, enjoyed swimming, soccer, and **to listen** to Jay-Z's music.

**Correct:** In his spare time, basketball legend, Kobe Bryant, enjoyed **to swim**, **to play soccer**, and to listen to Jay-Z's music.

**Incorrect:** TikTok is a social media platform for creating, **to share**, and discovering short videos.

**Correct:** TikTok is a social media platform for creating, **sharing**, and discovering short videos.

3. Parallel Structure should be used when comparing or contrasting elements (A is *better than* B – X is *less than* Y):

**Incorrect:** Oprah enjoys reading *more than* **to write**.

**Correct:** Oprah enjoys reading *more than* **writing**.

**Incorrect:** I would rather pay for my education **than** financial aid.

**Correct:** I would rather pay for my education than **receive** financial aid.