

Revise The Sentence Below To Correct The Lack Of Parallel Structure. Be Sure That Your Revised Sentence

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Introduction: Understanding the Importance of Parallel Structure in Writing

Effective communication in writing hinges on clarity, coherence, and grammatical correctness. One common grammatical error that can undermine the clarity of a sentence is the lack of parallel structure. When sentences lack parallelism, they become awkward, confusing, or difficult to follow, which can diminish the overall impact of your writing.

In this article, we will explore what parallel structure is, why it is essential for clear and professional writing, and how to revise sentences that lack it. We will also provide practical tips and examples to help you identify and correct parallelism errors, ensuring your sentences are balanced, clear, and engaging.

What Is Parallel Structure?

Definition of Parallel Structure

Parallel structure, also known as parallelism, refers to the grammatical framing of similar ideas or items within a sentence. It involves using the same pattern of words—such as the same verb forms, phrases, or clauses—when listing items or comparing ideas. This consistency helps readers easily understand the relationship between ideas and enhances the rhythm and flow of the sentence.

Examples of Parallel Structure

- Correct: She enjoys reading, writing, and swimming.
- Incorrect: She enjoys reading, writing, and to swim.

- Correct: The project requires careful planning, thorough research, and precise execution.
- Incorrect: The project requires careful planning, researching thoroughly, and to execute precisely.

In the correct sentences, each item in the list follows the same grammatical pattern, creating a balanced and clear sentence. The incorrect examples show a mismatch in grammatical forms, leading to confusion or awkwardness.

The Significance of Parallel Structure in Writing

Enhances Clarity and Readability

Parallel structure makes sentences easier to read and understand. When similar ideas are presented in a consistent grammatical pattern, readers can quickly grasp the relationship between ideas without confusion.

Creates Rhythm and Flow

Well-structured sentences with parallelism have a pleasing rhythm that engages the reader. This flow helps maintain interest and encourages the reader to follow your argument or narrative smoothly.

Strengthens Arguments and Emphasizes Points

Parallelism highlights the importance of ideas by presenting them with equal weight. It emphasizes the balance and symmetry of ideas, strengthening your overall message.

Maintains Professionalism and Credibility

Proper use of parallel structure demonstrates grammatical competence and attention to detail, enhancing your credibility as a writer, especially in academic, business, or professional contexts.

Common Errors Causing Lack of Parallel Structure

Understanding common mistakes can help you identify and correct parallelism errors more effectively.

Mixing Different Grammatical Forms

Using different forms within a list or comparison, such as a mixture of nouns, verbs, and infinitives, disrupts parallelism.

- Example of error: She likes dancing, to sing, and playing the piano.
- Corrected: She likes dancing, singing, and playing the piano.

Inconsistent Use of Phrases or Clauses

Switching between phrases and clauses without maintaining consistency can cause imbalance.

- Example of error: He wanted to cook dinner, to clean the house, and going for a walk.
- Corrected: He wanted to cook dinner, clean the house, and go for a walk.

Using Different Verb Forms

Mismatch in verb tense or form undermines parallelism.

- Example of error: The team aims to improve efficiency, reducing costs, and to increase productivity.
- Corrected: The team aims to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase productivity.

How to Revise a Sentence for Correct Parallel Structure

Revamping a sentence to ensure parallelism involves several key steps:

Step 1: Identify the List or Paired Ideas

Begin by pinpointing parts of the sentence that list items or compare ideas. These are prime candidates for parallel structure.

Step 2: Check for Consistency in Grammatical Forms

Ensure that each item in a list or each element in a comparison follows the same grammatical pattern.

Step 3: Revise for Uniformity

Adjust the sentence so that all components match in form. This might involve changing verbs to the same tense, converting phrases to a similar structure, or aligning clauses.

Step 4: Read Aloud and Edit

Reading the revised sentence aloud can help you detect awkwardness or imbalance. Make further adjustments as needed for smoothness.

Examples of Corrected Sentences

Let's examine some sentences that lack parallel structure and see how to revise them.

Example 1

- Original: She enjoys cooking, to bake, and going shopping.
- Issues: Mix of gerunds ("cooking," "baking") and infinitive ("to bake") and a gerund ("going shopping").
- Revised: She enjoys cooking, baking, and shopping.

Example 2

- Original: The company values honesty, accountability, and being transparent.
- Issues: Inconsistent noun and gerund forms.
- Revised: The company values honesty, accountability, and transparency.

Example 3

- Original: He likes to swim, biking, and to run.
- Issues: Mix of infinitive ("to swim," "to run") and gerund ("biking").
- Revised: He likes swimming, biking, and running.

Practical Tips for Ensuring Parallel Structure

To make your writing consistently clear and grammatically correct, consider the following tips:

- **Use consistent grammatical forms:** When listing items, ensure all are nouns, verbs, or phrases in the same form.
- **Maintain same tense and voice:** Keep verb tense and voice uniform across related clauses.
- **Break complex sentences into simpler parts:** If a sentence is lengthy or complicated, divide it into simpler sentences to better identify parallelism issues.
- **Use parallel structures intentionally for emphasis:** Parallelism can be a stylistic tool to emphasize balance and symmetry.
- **Proofread and revise:** Carefully review your sentences for consistency, especially after editing or rewriting.

Conclusion: The Power of Correcting Parallel Structure

Mastering the art of maintaining parallel structure in your writing is essential for clarity, professionalism, and persuasive communication. Whether you're composing academic papers, business reports, or everyday correspondence, ensuring your sentences are balanced and grammatically consistent enhances your message's effectiveness.

Remember, the key to correcting a sentence that lacks parallelism is to identify mismatched elements, understand their grammatical forms, and revise them to follow a consistent pattern. By doing so, your writing will not only meet grammatical standards but also resonate more powerfully with your readers.

Final Note: Practice Makes Perfect

The best way to improve your skills in recognizing and correcting parallelism errors is through practice. Regularly review your writing, seek feedback, and study well-edited texts to internalize the principles of parallel structure. Over time, constructing balanced and clear sentences will become second nature, elevating the quality of your writing to professional standards.

Remember: When revising sentences for parallelism, always aim for consistency, clarity, and rhythm. Your readers will thank you for your attention to detail, and your writing will stand out as polished and effective.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main goal when revising a sentence to correct lack of parallel structure?

The main goal is to ensure that all parts of the sentence are grammatically similar in structure, improving clarity and readability.

How can I identify a lack of parallelism in a sentence?

Look for items in a list or related ideas that are not in the same grammatical form, such as mixing nouns, verbs, and phrases inconsistently.

What are common mistakes that lead to lack of parallel structure?

Common mistakes include mixing verb forms, inconsistent use of conjunctions, and inconsistent grammatical structures within a sentence.

Can you give an example of a sentence with poor parallel structure?

Yes, for example: 'She likes reading, to swim, and jogging.' It lacks parallelism because the items are not in the same form.

What is a corrected version of the sentence: 'She

likes reading, swimming, and to jog'?

Revised: 'She likes reading, swimming, and jogging.'

Are there any tips to ensure my sentences have proper parallel structure?

Yes, read your sentences aloud, check that items in lists are in the same grammatical form, and revise to match structures for consistency.

Why is maintaining parallel structure important in writing?

Maintaining parallel structure improves clarity, makes sentences easier to understand, and creates a more polished, professional appearance.

Additional Resources

Revise The Sentence Below To Correct The Lack Of Parallel Structure. Be Sure That Your Revised Sentence

Introduction

Writing clear, concise, and grammatically correct sentences is fundamental to effective communication. One common grammatical issue that hampers clarity and readability is a lack of parallel structure (also known as parallelism). This problem often manifests when parts of a sentence that are similar in function are not formatted consistently, leading to confusion or a disruption in the reader's flow.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what parallel structure is, why it is essential, how to identify violations, and most importantly, how to revise sentences to correct these issues. Our focus will be on the task of revising a given sentence to improve its grammatical consistency, thereby enhancing clarity and professionalism in your writing.

Understanding Parallel Structure

What Is Parallel Structure?

Parallel structure refers to the repetition of a chosen grammatical form within a sentence. When parts of a sentence are parallel, they are constructed similarly, making the sentence easier to read and understand. Parallelism applies to:

- Words
- Phrases
- Clauses

Example of parallel structure:

- Correct: She likes reading, writing, and painting.
- Incorrect: She likes reading, writing, and to paint.

In the incorrect example, the first two items are gerunds, but the third is an infinitive, which breaks the pattern.

Why Is Parallel Structure Important?

- Enhances readability: Consistent structure helps readers follow the sentence effortlessly.
- Creates rhythm and balance: Parallel sentences have a pleasing flow that makes writing more engaging.
- Reduces ambiguity: Proper parallelism clearly indicates related ideas or actions.
- Demonstrates professionalism: Correct grammatical structure reflects careful editing and command of language.

Common Violations of Parallel Structure

Understanding typical errors is key to recognizing and correcting them. Here are the common types of parallelism violations:

1. Mixing Verb Forms

When elements that are meant to be similar use different grammatical forms.

- Incorrect: He wanted to cook, clean, and going shopping.
- Correct: He wanted to cook, clean, and go shopping.

2. Inconsistent Use of Phrases or Clauses

Different parts of a list or comparison should follow the same grammatical pattern.

- Incorrect: The job requires patience, dedication, and being punctual.
- Correct: The job requires patience, dedication, and punctuality.

3. Mixing Infinitives, Gerunds, and Nouns

Switching between different forms can make sentences confusing.

- Incorrect: Her hobbies include reading, to write, and painting.
- Correct: Her hobbies include reading, writing, and painting.

4. Misaligned Items in Lists

Items in a series or list should be parallel in structure.

- Incorrect: The conference was informative, engaging, and a good networking opportunity.
- Correct: The conference was informative, engaging, and beneficial for networking.

How to Revise Sentences for Correct Parallel Structure

Step 1: Identify the List or Related Elements

Begin by isolating parts of your sentence that are supposed to be similar. These could be:

- Items in a list
- Phrases following a conjunction (and, or, but)
- Elements being compared or contrasted

Step 2: Determine the Correct Grammatical Form

Decide what grammatical form is appropriate for the elements. Usually, this involves choosing between:

- Gerunds (verb + -ing): Reading, writing, painting
- Infinitives (to + verb): To read, to write, to paint
- Nouns: Patience, dedication, punctuality

Choose one form and apply it consistently.

Step 3: Revise for Consistency

Rearrange or modify the sentence to ensure all related elements follow the same pattern. This might involve:

- Changing verb forms
- Adjusting phrases
- Rephrasing segments for consistency

Practical Examples of Sentence Revision

Let's analyze a typical problematic sentence and walk through the revision process.

Original sentence with lack of parallelism:

She enjoys playing tennis, swimming, and to hike.

Step-by-step revision process:

1. Identify the elements: playing tennis, swimming, to hike
2. Determine the appropriate form: Since "playing" and "swimming" are gerunds, it makes sense to make "to hike" also a gerund.
3. Revise for consistency: She enjoys playing tennis, swimming, and hiking.

Revised sentence:

She enjoys playing tennis, swimming, and hiking.

Strategies for Effective Sentence Revision

- Use a checklist: Before finalizing, check if all items in a series are grammatically parallel.
- Read aloud: If the sentence sounds uneven or awkward, it's likely due to parallelism issues.
- Break complex sentences into simpler components: Simplification can reveal where parallelism is broken.
- Use editing tools: Grammar checkers can flag non-parallel structures, but human judgment is essential.

Addressing Specific Sentence Structures

1. Lists of Items

When creating lists, always ensure each item follows the same grammatical pattern:

- Incorrect: The project requires attention, patience, and to be diligent.
- Correct: The project requires attention, patience, and diligence.

2. Comparisons

When comparing two or more items, ensure the comparison is structured identically:

- Incorrect: She is smarter than him who works harder.
- Correct: She is smarter than he who works harder.

3. Pairs and Contrasts

In pairs or contrasting ideas, maintain grammatical symmetry:

- Incorrect: Not only is he intelligent, but also hardworking.

- Correct: Not only is he intelligent, but he is also hardworking.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Mixing verb forms within a list: Ensure all items are in the same form.
- Using different grammatical structures in clauses: Keep the structure consistent across clauses.
- Overcomplicating sentences: Simplify complex sentences to identify and correct parallelism issues.
- Ignoring context: Sometimes, what appears parallel in form may not be contextually appropriate; ensure the elements are logically comparable.

Final Tips for Effective Revision

- Always cross-check your sentences after writing. Revising for parallelism is a critical step in editing.
- Practice regularly with exercises focused on parallel structure.
- Read widely to develop an intuitive sense of grammatical balance and rhythm.
- Seek feedback from peers or mentors to identify subtle parallelism errors.

Conclusion

Correcting a lack of parallel structure is vital for refining your writing, making your sentences clearer, more engaging, and more professional. By understanding the principles of parallelism, recognizing common errors, and applying systematic revision techniques, you can significantly improve your grammatical accuracy.

Remember: When revising a sentence to correct parallelism, focus on consistency in grammatical form, clarity of expression, and the overall rhythm of your writing. With practice, maintaining parallel structure becomes second nature, elevating the quality of your communication.

Practice Exercise

Original sentence:

The workshop aims to teach students about effective communication, critical thinking, and how to manage time.

Revised version:

The workshop aims to teach students effective communication, critical thinking, and time management.

By diligently applying these principles, you will develop a keen eye for parallelism and craft sentences that are both grammatically sound and stylistically compelling.

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