

The Writing Center

DLA: Parallelism



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.

Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

Student Name:

Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

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?

 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/parallelismdlaquiz> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

3. **Paragraph Error Correction**

Read the paragraphs below and 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.

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. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

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, (909) 274-4290.

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