

## Parallelism

Observe:

### WRONG

The lab was spacious, light, and it was also well equipped.

A manager should have the following qualities: leadership, responsibility, and he must be able to organize and communicate.

Getting young people into engineering is a challenge, and to keep them there is another.

### RIGHT

The lab was spacious, light, and well equipped.  
(verb + a series of adjectives)

A manager should have the following qualities: leadership, responsibility, and ability to organize and communicate.  
(a series of three nouns)

Getting young people into engineering is a challenge, and keeping them there is another.  
(a series of –ing forms)

1. Complete the definition by filling the gaps. In each gap, there is only one word:

= ..... (a) of the same (= parallel) grammatical structures (words, phrases, clauses) in two or more parts of a sentence in order to give the sentence a definite, readily recognizable pattern, elegance, and rhythm. .... (b), verbs should not be mixed with nouns, nouns with –ing forms or adjectives, imperatives with other verb forms, active voice with passive voice, “that” clauses with other structures, ..... (c) ..... (d) structures may be grammatically ..... (e) in themselves; they ..... (f), however, make reading and understanding the text more difficult.

Parallel structures are most commonly used in sentences containing elements that appear in a series or in a pair where the items (words, phrases, clauses) have an ..... level of importance.

Parallel grammatical construction is required when items (words, phrases, clauses):

- are joined by a ..... conjunction (and, or, nor,.....)
- are joined by a correlative conjunction (.....)
- are joined by a ..... expression (as, over, than)
- are in a ..... (e. g. It is useful, handy and well-maintained.)
- are grouped in a bulleted .....
- are used in headings and outlines in academic writing

Go at <https://www.niu.edu/writingtutorial/grammar/parallelism.shtml> to check your answers and complete the text.

*II. Underline the parallel structures in the following text:*

One of the purposes of this course is to show you that there are differences between academic and general English. You should learn to recognize these differences and to understand that what may be acceptable in speaking may not be appropriate in writing a paper/report/ thesis/project/formal letter, and application. Also, jumping from informal English (i.e. using colloquial expressions like “stuff” instead of “material/things”, or “he’s” instead of “he is”) to academic English is wrong.

*III. Correct the following sentences, using parallel structures.*

1. Our experience is different from our partners in the project.
2. People’s ways of thinking, doing things, and the way they formulate their ideas are influenced by the environment they live in.
3. In the student competition, his paper was awarded the 1st prize for the novel approach to the problem, applicability of the results in practice, and because it was written in very good English.
4. Politicians in Germany have responded to the shortage of engineers with the following measures: changes in immigration laws, salary rise, and offering programmes to attract engineers from abroad.
5. He expected that he would describe his programme at the workshop, that he would have time to demonstrate it, and that lots of questions would be asked by prospective users.
6. A device of this kind is simple to design, easy to operate, but it is expensive to produce.
7. In that project, there is money for researchers’ salaries but not equipment.
8. He told us what method he used, how he used it, and explained his reasons for using it.
9. After graduation he wants either to work at the University or in a research institute.
10. His paper was very informative, well structured, and it was also written in good English.
11. This is not a time for long discussions but actions.
12. She was awarded the Dean’s prize for the organization of a workshop and for presenting an excellent paper at an international conference.
13. There is nothing I like better than reading, playing the guitar, and to spend my weekends hiking in the mountains.
14. Preparation for writing a paper includes searching the literature, choice of a suitable method, and plans of the experiments.
15. Papers written by students with a poor knowledge of English are often difficult to understand not because the choice of words is wrong, but because of faulty sentence structure.
16. He hoped that the conference participants would understand his English, would find his presentation interesting, and that he would not be asked any difficult questions.
17. The examiner wants the students to answer his questions quickly, accurately, and in a concise manner.
18. We must either raise taxes, or it will be necessary to reduce social benefits.
19. The average salary of a teacher is much lower than a doctor.
20. That experiment was time-consuming and it was also expensive.
21. Smoking cigarettes is as dangerous as to drive recklessly.

22. The thesis is to be written in Czech, is not to be longer than 60 pages, the last day for handing it in is May 31st, and it must be submitted electronically.

23. You can improve your English if you read English books, watch British or American films, and by spending some time abroad.