

## 44. PARALLEL STRUCTURE

One way to make sentences easier to follow is to use the same form for lists and comparisons. This means using the same grammatical structure:

- adjectives with adjectives
- infinitives with infinitives
- gerunds (nouns ending in *-ing*) with gerunds

Here are examples of sentences that lack parallel structure and how to fix them:

NOT PARALLEL	PARALLEL
<i>The proposal to develop the waterfront is <u>economical</u> and has <u>benefits</u>.</i> (adjective and clause)	<i>The proposal to develop the waterfront is <u>economical</u> and <u>beneficial</u>.</i> (adjectives)
<i>The performer is <u>beautiful</u>, <u>young</u>, and a <u>talented violinist</u>.</i> (adjectives and noun phrase)	<i>The performer is a <u>beautiful young woman</u> and a <u>talented violinist</u>.</i> (noun phrases)
<i>She has played with <u>European</u> orchestras and in <u>Asia</u>.</i> (adjective and prepositional phrase)	<i>She has played with <u>European</u> and <u>Asian</u> orchestras.</i> (adjectives) <b>OR</b> <i>She has played with orchestras <u>in Europe</u> and <u>in Asia</u>.</i> (prepositional phrases)
<i>Checking grammar is important for <u>writing</u> essays, and also <u>to write</u> resumes.</i> (gerund and infinitive)	<i>Checking grammar is important for <u>writing</u> essays, and also for <u>writing</u> resumes.</i> (gerunds)

Parallel structure is especially useful for lists.

NOT PARALLEL	PARALLEL
<i>Written for corporate managers, the article discusses:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>how to deal with corporate politics</u> (adverbial clause)</li> <li>2. <u>coping with stressful situations</u> (gerund and prepositional phrase)</li> <li>3. <u>what the role of the manager should be in the community</u> (noun clause)</li> </ol>	<i>Written for corporate managers, this article discusses:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>ways of dealing with corporate politics</u> (noun phrase)</li> <li>2. <u>techniques of coping with stressful situations</u> (noun phrase)</li> <li>3. <u>methods of working with the community</u> (noun phrase)</li> </ol> <b>OR</b> <i>Written for corporate managers, this article explains how to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>deal with corporate politics</u> (infinitive verb and prepositional phrase)</li> <li>2. <u>cope with stressful situations</u> (infinitive verb and prepositional phrase)</li> <li>3. <u>work with the community</u> (infinitive verb and prepositional phrase)</li> </ol>