CORRECTED SENTENCES: While holding a sidewalk sale, the store had some merchandise shoplifted. Some merchandise was shoplifted while the store was holding a sidewalk sale.

EXERCISE B: Identifying and Correcting Dangling Modifiers. Read the following sentences. If the sentence is correct, write correct on your paper. If the sentence contains a dangling modifier, rewrite it using one of the techniques described in this section.

1. To eat before the game, dinner must be ready within fifteen minutes.
2. The chicken bone stuck in her throat while laughing.
3. Checking all the stations, the assembly line was running smoothly.
4. Having lost my hat in the wind, I unfortunately missed the trolley I wanted.
5. Falling on the asphalt, my knees were badly skinned.
6. To find our way to camp, the compass pointed out the direction.
7. To pursue the problem logically, a solution could easily be reached.
8. Dinner looked unappetizing after eating snacks all day.
9. You must rehearse a speech thoroughly before presenting it before a group.
10. Having decorated the cake with flowers, it looked like a work of art.

APPLICATION: Avoiding Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers. Complete each of the following sentences on your paper, filling in the blank with the kind of clause or phrase indicated. Make sure that you do not use any misplaced or dangling modifiers.

1. When carving the turkey, ______. (independent clause)
2. She devoured the meal ______. (elliptical clause)
3. ______, the jockey rode the horse to victory. (participial phrase)
4. To remark on such a trivial matter, ______. (independent clause)
5. ______, the huge rock threatened the boats in the area. (participial phrase)
6. Standing speechless before the group, ______. (independent clause)
7. Beautiful to look at, ______. (independent clause)
8. ______, the companies were merged. (adverb clause)
9. ______, the family explained their destitute circumstances. (participial phrase)
10. Before ______, he asked for a receipt. (gerund phrase)

Faulty Parallelism

Two parallel lines will run smoothly side by side—never colliding. Writers try to achieve a similar effect by writing a series of ideas in similar grammatical structures so that they will read smoothly—never colliding. If one element in a series is not parallel with the others, the sentence may be jarring and its meaning may be altered. This section will show you how to correct this sentence error, called faulty parallelism.

Correct Parallelism in Sentences

To express a comparison or a series of ideas of equal importance, careful writers use parallel grammatical structures.

Parallelism is the placement of equal ideas in words, phrases, or clauses of similar types.

A parallel grammatical structure can be two or more words of the same part of speech, two or more phrases of the same type, two or more clauses of the same type, and sometimes, for emphasis, two or more sentences of the same type.

PARALLEL WORDS: The boxer looked strong, fit, and agile as he entered the ring.

PARALLEL PHRASES: The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident. —Charles Lamb

PARALLEL CLAUSES: The professor whom I have met and whom you currently have in class will be on television next week.

PARALLEL SENTENCES: It couldn’t be, of course. It could never, never be. —Dorothy Parker

Now examine the following passage that begins A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens, a novel about the French Revolution. Notice how the parallel structures set up vivid contrasts and end with the ironic sentence hinting at the political conflict to come.

EXAMPLE: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the
Correcting Sentence Faults

season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

There was a king with a large jaw and a queen with a plain face, on the throne of England; there was a king with a large jaw and a queen with a fair face, on the throne of France. In both countries it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes, that things in general were settled for ever.—Charles Dickens

EXERCISE A: Recognizing Parallel Structures. Find the parallel structures in the following quotations and write them on your paper. Then identify what each is composed of: words, phrases, clauses, or whole sentences.

1. The earth belongs to the living, not to the dead.
—Thomas Jefferson
2. Great men never feel great; small men never feel small.
3. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection.—Book of Common Prayer
4. I love thee freely, as men strive for Right; I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning
5. Communism possesses a language which every people can understand—its elements are hunger, envy, and death.
—Heinrich Heine
6. Pleasures are transient; honors are immortal.
—Greek Proverb
7. The less we know the more we suspect.—H.W. Shaw
8. We are born for cooperation, as are the feet, the hands, the eyelids, and the upper and lower jaws.—Marcus Aurelius
9. When I did well, I heard it never; when I did ill, I heard it ever.—English Proverb
10. I lingered round them, under that benign sky: watched the moths fluttering among the heath and harebells; listened to the soft wind breathing through the grass; and wondered how anyone could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth.—Emily Brontë

Faulty Parallel Structures

Faulty parallelism occurs when a writer uses unequal grammatical structures to express related ideas.

Correct a sentence containing faulty parallelism by rewriting it so that each parallel idea is expressed in the same grammatical structure.

Faulty parallelism can involve words, phrases, and clauses in series or in comparisons.

Nonparallel Words, Phrases, and Clauses in Series. Always check a series of ideas in your writing for parallelism. If, for example, you begin a series with prepositional phrases, make certain you maintain consistency by making all the items in the series prepositional phrases.

The following chart presents some nonparallel structures and shows how they can be repaired to restore the smoothness and clarity to the sentence. Notice how coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, and so forth) often join series and can serve as a signal for you to check the items they connect for parallelism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORRECTING FAULTY PARALLELISM IN SERIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonparallel Structures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thinking, outlining, drafting, and revision are four steps in the writing process.</td>
<td>German and revising are four steps in the writing process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was appalled to see her manners, to hear her bad language, and feeling her intense animosity.</td>
<td>I was appalled to see her manners, to hear her bad language, and to feel her intense animosity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some experts feel that our population is too large, but it will diminish.</td>
<td>Some experts feel that our population is too large but that it will diminish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though correlative conjunctions, such as both ... and or not only ... but also, connect just two related items, writers often mistakenly include more words than are necessary under the umbrella of the first part of the conjunction. The result is faulty parallelism.
NONPARALLEL: The student not only won a National Merit scholarship but also a National Honor Society scholarship.

CORRECTED: The student won not only a National Merit scholarship but also a National Honor Society scholarship.

**Nonparallel Words, Phrases, and Clauses in Comparisons.** As the old saying goes, you cannot compare apples with oranges. In writing comparisons, you usually should not compare a phrase with a clause or with a different type of phrase. Furthermore, you should make sure your ideas themselves, as well as the structures you use to express them, are logically parallel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonparallel Structures</th>
<th>Corrected Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noun Gerund Phrase</td>
<td>Noun Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people prefer corn to eating Brussels sprouts.</td>
<td>Most people prefer corn to Brussels sprouts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Phrase</td>
<td>Prep Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I left my job at 7:00 p.m. rather than stopping work at 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>I left my job at 7:00 p.m. rather than at the usual 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S DO S DO</td>
<td>S DO S DO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I delight in foggy days as much as sunny days delight other people.</td>
<td>I delight in foggy days as much as other people delight in sunny days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISE B: Correcting Faulty Parallelism.** Each of the following sentences contains faulty parallelism. Rewrite each sentence so that it is in proper parallel form.

1. The new employee was lazy, insolent, and came tardy.
2. I think the plants did well because of the fertilizer rather than that I talked to them each day.
3. Karl either will go to the demolition derby or to the Egyptian museum.
4. I hate writing papers as much as having shots upsets me.
5. My father both wanted to keep his job at the bank and to move our family to the country.
6. Vincent van Gogh was a brilliant painter but unbalanced in the mind.
7. I would choose reading a book over a television show.
8. His old tennis shoes were dirty, smelly, and had many large holes.
9. The coach tells me that I bat well, but I field poorly.
10. Laughing together, sharing one another’s close times, and to overlook faults—these are the things that make true friends.

**APPLICATION: Writing Sentences Containing Parallel Structures.** Follow the instructions in parentheses to revise each of the following sentences. Make sure your revised sentences contain parallel structures.

1. Gathering honey, the bees work diligently. (Add another participial phrase.)
2. I listened to the melody floating through the air. (Add another independent clause.)
3. The writer published a novel. (Add three adjectives.)
4. I love weeding in the garden. (Compare weeding to something else.)
5. I will participate in the log rolling contest. (Add two more prepositional phrases.)
6. The parade route headed down Main Street. (Add two more verbs with prepositional phrases.)
7. The knight had to slay the dragon. (Add two more infinitive phrases.)
8. I was pleased by the game we played. (Add another prepositional phrase that is modified by an adjectival phrase.)
9. Whoever keeps the thermostat at 68° helps conserve energy. (Add another noun clause.)
10. I prepared the canapés. (Add two more direct objects.)

**Faulty Coordination**

*And* is a useful word for joining ideas, but when two or more independent clauses of unequal importance are joined by *and*, the result is faulty coordination. This section will help you recognize faulty coordination and show you how to correct it.

### The Use of *And* in Compound Sentences

*To coordinate* means “to place side by side in equal rank.” Two independent clauses that are joined by the coordinating