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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>Most people prefer corn to eating Brussels sprouts.</td>
<td>Most people prefer corn to Brussels sprouts.</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 delight in foggy days as much as sunny days</td>
<td>S 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 clause.)
9. Whoever keeps the thermostat at 68° helps conserve energy. (Add another noun clause.)
10. I prepared the canapés. (Add two more direct objects.)

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...
conjunction *and*, therefore, should have equal rank. One idea should not be less important than the other.

*Use and or other coordinating conjunctions only to connect ideas of equal importance.*

**CORRECT COORDINATION:** John dusted the furniture, *and* I vacuumed the carpet.

Sometimes, however, writers carelessly use *and* to join independent clauses that either should not be joined or should be joined in another way so that the real relationship between the clauses will be clear. Then the faulty coordination puts all the ideas on the same level of importance whether or not they logically deserve to be. The precise relationship between the ideas is left haphazard and vague. (For more information about connecting your ideas logically, see Section 20.1.)

**FAULTY COORDINATION:** My tooth cracked, *and* I desperately needed to see the dentist.

I lost *and* the race was easy.

Occasionally, writers will string together so many ideas with *and*s that the reader is left breathless.

**STRINGY SENTENCE:** The man who entered the restaurant wore a sportshirt and gray slacks *and* he asked for a table *and* the maître d’ apologetically said the man had to have a tie and jacket *and* the man became furious and left.

**EXERCISE A: Identifying Correct and Faulty Coordination.** Each of the following compound sentences is joined by *and*. For the four sentences in which *and* is properly used, write *correct* on your paper. For the other six, write *faulty.*

1. The spaniel has been snapping and barking at approaching strangers, and her puppies were born last night.
2. Willow trees lined the main street, and it was called Grand Avenue.
3. The children jumped into the heated pool and squealed as they hit the water, and immediately they hopped out and dried themselves off and decided to forgo the swim.
4. The outside of my house wears a fresh coat of paint, and the inside has been newly redecorated.
5. I remembered that I had read the book a long time ago, and I saw the movie last night.
6. My throat felt parched, and the cool drink soothed it.
7. The covered wagon pulled its load over the plains and its wheel became mired in the mud and four oxen and five able bodies were needed to free it.
8. You will come, and our family will show you around our part of the country.
9. I relaxed while basking in the warm sun, and soon I fell fast asleep.
10. I could hardly get the key in the lock, and my fingers were numb from the cold.

**Revising Sentences with Faulty Coordination**

Faulty coordination can be corrected in several ways.

**Revise sentences with faulty coordination by (1) putting unrelated ideas into separate sentences, (2) putting a less important or dependent idea into a subordinate clause, or (3) reducing an unimportant idea into a phrase.**

When faulty coordination occurs in a sentence in which the independent clauses are not closely related, separate the clauses and omit the coordinating conjunction.

**FAULTY COORDINATION:** Steam was pouring forth from my car, *and* the gas station attendant said my radiator was cracked.

**CORRECTION:** Steam was pouring forth from my car. The gas station attendant said my radiator was cracked.

The second method for correcting faulty coordination takes a bit more thought. You will have to examine each independent clause and determine if one is less important or dependent on the other. If so, turn it into a subordinate clause.

**FAULTY COORDINATION:** My tooth cracked, *and* I desperately needed to see a dentist.

**CORRECTED SENTENCE:** When my tooth cracked, I desperately needed to see a dentist.

**FAULTY COORDINATION:** I lost *and* the race was easy.

**CORRECTED SENTENCE:** I lost, even though the race was easy.
The third method involves reducing an unimportant idea to a phrase—that is, changing the compound sentence into a simple sentence. An independent clause that can be reduced to a phrase will often begin with a pronoun and a linking verb, such as he is or it was. In the following example, notice that the second clause has been turned into a participial phrase and made part of the first clause.

**FAULTY COORDINATION:** The dog looked ferocious, and it was snarling and snapping at me.

**CORRECTED SENTENCE:** Snarling and snapping at me, the dog looked ferocious.

Stringy sentences should be broken up and revised using any of the three methods just described. Often, there will be several ways to regroup the ideas logically. Experiment with a few possibilities before making a choice. Following is one way that the stringy sentence on page 142 can be revised.

**REVISION OF STRINGY SENTENCE:** The man who entered the restaurant wore a sportshirt and slacks. When he asked for a table, the maitre d’ apologetically said the man had to have a tie and jacket. At that, the man became furious and left.

**EXERCISE B: Correcting Faulty Coordination.** Each of the following sentences contains faulty coordination. Rewrite the sentences correctly, using each method of correction at least twice.

1. I slowly climbed to the lookout point and reaching the top provided me with a spectacular view.
2. The car is dented and it has room for six.
3. We watched a special on naturalist John James Audubon and the organization dedicated to birds is named after him.
4. The diesel truck had a full load and it slowed down going up the grade.
5. We turned on the television and a commercial promptly showed up and I turned the channel looking for something better and commercials were on wherever I turned.
6. Evan has a new wool pullover and he plans to wear it to the beach where the wind can turn very cold.
7. Tammy walked on her sprained ankle and the ankle started to swell again.

8. Rocky Bleir received a serious injury in Vietnam and he came back to play football for the Pittsburgh Steelers.
9. Some terminally ill people wish to be frozen, and this is the science of cryogenics.
10. The crowds to see the movie were enormous and we even ordered tickets prior to going, and unfortunately, we still sat near the screen and came away with kinks in our necks.

**APPLICATION: Avoiding Faulty Coordination in Sentences.** Combine each of the following sets of sentences, using coordination or subordination wherever appropriate. Check each of your combined sentences for faulty coordination.

1. I lost the gold charm. It had been a gift from my father.
2. Daydreams invade the waking hours. Nightmares haunt the darkness.
3. Millions of bats inhabit one particular cave. Each night, they journey to a lake over a hundred miles away.
4. I enjoy thumbing through encyclopedias. They contain fascinating articles.
5. The ice was inadvertently left out. It melted all over the countertop.
6. The handbook had a soft cloth cover. Inside, it was filled with clever ideas and shortcuts for household tasks.
7. The shepherds huddled near the fire, the only source of warmth on the lonely hill. Their dogs lay snuggled against their masters’ legs.
8. I use a knapsack for a daylong hike. I switch to a backpack for longer excursions.
9. Prehistoric beasts once walked this land. Today, we study fossils from that time period.
10. I told the obnoxious man to stop talking during the movie. Next, I asked the management to remove him. They obliged me. The man was escorted from the theater, still talking loudly.

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**Review Exercises: Grammar**

**REVIEW EXERCISE 1: Identifying the Parts of Speech**

On your paper, identify the part of speech—noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, or interjection—of each of the following underlined words.