

English Grammar: Parallel Structure Study Guide

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Roslyn Heights, New York

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English Grammar: Parallel Structure

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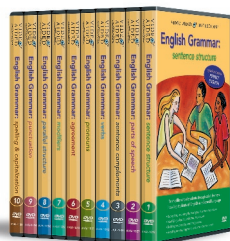
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Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's English Grammar Series makes the tricky rules of English grammar easier to learn than ever before – whether you're new to English or you've been speaking it for years!

When you use a consistent grammatical pattern to link related gerunds, infinitives, and verbs in your sentences, you're using parallel structure. This important device helps you avoid clumsy sentence construction that can confuse and distract your audience. Once you master parallel structure, your sentences will flow logically and be easy to understand!

Before you begin studying, let us make a few recommendations. First, have a notebook and pen ready so you're prepared to take notes. You'll probably want to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself – when you're done, you'll have a notebook on English grammar that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

Now you can eliminate embarrassing mistakes from your speaking and writing forever. Let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Karl Weber, M.A., is a professional writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of two popular series of test prep guidebooks, and has worked on books with such noted personalities as former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Richard Butler, and U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt.

Lesson 1 – Understanding Parallelism

Exercise 1

Directions: Some of the following sentences contain errors in parallelism. Read each sentence and decide whether or not parallel grammatical structures have been used correctly. If there is an error, revise the sentence to correct it.

1. Just as Darwin revolutionized biology with his theory of evolution, Einstein's theory of relativity revolutionized physics.
2. Coach Jabbar demands three things of his players: hard work, that they have personal integrity, and self-discipline.
3. Thrilled by the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, thousands of prospectors rushed to California, traveling by boat, by covered wagon, and walking.
4. Each of these three poets is admired for a different quality: Milton for his grand rhetoric, Shakespeare for his sweeping vision, Chaucer for his simple humanity.
5. I agree with Hong Wei's political views, but his way of expressing them is something I don't agree with.

Lesson 2 – Common Errors in Parallelism

Exercise 2

Directions: Some of the following sentences contain errors in parallelism. Read each sentence and decide whether or not parallel grammatical structures have been used correctly. If there is an error, revise the sentence to correct it.

1. We spent our days in St. Petersburg touring historic churches, magnificent art museums, and admiring ornate palaces.
2. The doctors moved quickly to wash the wound, disinfect it, and applying a sterile dressing.
3. The hardwood floors in the old house were stripped, sanded, stained, and sealed with varnish.
4. In 1968, the Democratic Convention was held in Chicago, and the Republicans held their convention in Miami.
5. Either the snowstorm must stop within the next two hours or the town festival will have to be postponed.

Lesson 3 – Using Ellipsis

Exercise 3

Directions: Some of the following sentences contain errors in parallelism. Read each sentence and decide whether or not parallel grammatical structures have been used correctly. If there is an error, revise the sentence to correct it.

1. In accordance with the First Amendment to the Constitution, no state has or may enact a law establishing an official state religion.
2. Many scientists agree about the causes of global warming, fewer about the best ways to combat it.

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3. Baseball pitcher Cy Young's lifetime record of 511 victories has never been challenged and probably never will.
4. As global trade increased, manufactured goods began to flow from north to south, raw materials from south to north.
5. The main legal barrier to an improved school system has been eliminated and the economic obstacles reduced.