Parallelism

Definition

Parallelism refers to using *similar words, clauses, phrases, sentence structure, or other grammatical elements to* emphasize similar ideas in a sentence.

Examples:

1. Like father, like son.
2. Easy come, easy go.
3. Whether in class, at work, or at home, she was always busy.
4. The escaped prisoner was wanted dead or alive.
5. Flying is fast, confortable, and safe.
6. She played basketball, had a shower, and went to the school.

Not parallel	Parallel
The company is looking for a candidate who is friendly, organized, meticulous, and is going to arrive to work on time.	The company is looking for a candidate who is friendly, organized, meticulous, and punctual.

- Parallelism is also called "parallel structure" or "parallel construction".
- Using parallelism in speech or writing allows speakers and writers to maintain a consistency within their work and create a balanced flow of ideas.
- It can also be employed as a tool for persuasion Because of the repetition it uses.

How to Use Parallelism?

- It is used to balance nouns with nouns, prepositional phrases with prepositional phrases, participles with participles, infinitives with infinitives, clauses with clauses, etc.
- It is used with elements joined by coordinating conjunctions.

  E.g. My mother likes *cooking* **and** to *read*. ✗

  My mother likes *cooking* **and** *reading*. √

- It is used with elements in lists or series.

  E.g. This task can be done *individually, in pairs,* or *can be done in group.* ✗

  This task can be done *individually, in pairs,* or *in group.* √

- It is used with elements being compared.

  E.g. She likes *watching TV* more than *to read books*. ✗

  She likes *watching TV* more than *reading books*. √

- It is used with elements joined by a linking verb or a form of be.

  E.g. To learn is understanding the world. ✗

  To learn is to understand the world. √

- It is used with elements joined by <u>linking words.</u>

E.g. The teacher **not only** wants his students *to keep quite* **but also** *to do the task.* ✗

The teacher wants his students **not only** to keep quite **but also** to do the task. √