

Parallelism

A parallel structure occurs when the writer uses the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same grammatical construction. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating or correlative conjunctions such as "and," "or," and "but also." In the end, revising your work for parallel construction improves clarity and emphasizes your points.

Note: Parallelism can happen at the word, phrase, or clause level.

Words and Phrases

With the -ing form (gerund) of words:

- ✓ Parallel: The zombie likes groaning, biting, and walking aimlessly.
- ✗ Not Parallel: The zombie likes groaning, biting, and to walk aimlessly.

With infinitive phrases

- ✓ The zombie likes to groan, to bite, and to walk aimlessly.
- OR
- ✓ The zombie likes to groan, bite, and walk aimlessly.

Note: You can use "to" before all the verbs in a sentence or only before the first one.

Clauses

Pattern structure

- ✓ The leader told the remaining survivors that they should get some sleep, that they should eat what they can, and that they should keep each other company.
- ✗ The leader told the remaining survivors that they should get some sleep, that they should eat what they can, and to keep each other company.

Voice of the verb

- ✓ The survivors expected that they would hide in the grocery store, that they would have time to wait out the zombie horde, and that potential rescuers would arrive to help them.
- ✗ The survivors expected that they would hide in the grocery store, that they would have time to wait out the zombie horde, and that help would arrive from potential rescuers. (passive voice)