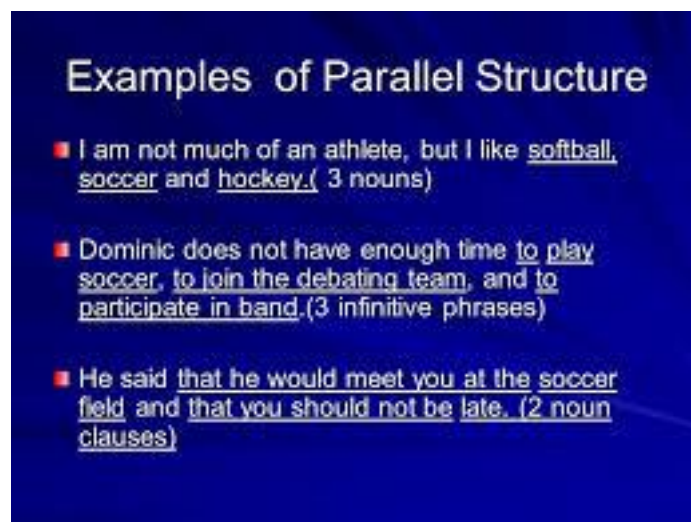


Parallel structure is a very confusing concept, and different to many other grammatical concepts. It is the style the sentence is written in and the structure it has. It means that the verbs and nouns are all related to each other in the way they are written. For example, 'sprinkled and baked' is a sentence with a parallel structure, whilst 'sprinkled and I baked' is not. This is because the second very (to bake) is said in a different way to the first verb (to sprinkle). Another example of a sentence with correct parallel structure would be, 'Johnny went to Coles. He grabbed some sweets, he swiped some bread and he seized some apples.' This sentence has a parallel structure, because the nouns (the food) are all related in the way they are presented (they all have 'some' before them) and the verbs are also presented similarly (they all have 'ed' on the end). Another sentence with incorrect parallel structure would be, 'Alice went to the park and played with her dog, before going to the swing and pushing her brother on it.' This sentence does not have a parallel structure, since the two verbs (actions) aren't similarly presented - she played with her dog, but she went to the swing (going), which isn't parallel. Parallel isn't always compulsory in writing, but it is important if you want your sentence to flow and make sense.



**Examples of Parallel Structure**

- I am not much of an athlete, but I like softball, soccer and hockey. (3 nouns)
- Dominic does not have enough time to play soccer, to join the debating team, and to participate in band. (3 infinitive phrases)
- He said that he would meet you at the soccer field and that you should not be late. (2 noun clauses)

### Activity

Decide if these sentences have parallel structure. If they don't, rewrite the incorrect sentences in your exercise book, but with parallel structure:

1- Ellen likes hiking, the rodeo, and to take afternoon naps.

2- James kicked, punched, and does boxing in the dojo.

3- Alex sprinted down the street, tumbled up the road, and jogged through the park.