

Department of English Language and Literature.
Written Expression
G 1, 2, 3

Practice: Parallelism/ Dangling modifiers

Part I: Parallelism

Exercise 1: Identifying Parallel and Non-Parallel Elements

Underline the parallel elements in the following sentences. Mark the beginning of the parallelism with //. Circle elements in lists that are not parallel. Write “P” beside sentences with good parallelism and “F” beside sentences with faulty parallelism.

Example:

F *Urban wildlife includes animals like // raccoons, skunks, and bigger animals.*

1. ___ Raccoons like to forage for garbage at night, play on city streets at dusk, and during the day they sleep.
2. ___ Many people think urban wildlife is a problem, but others believe we should protect these animals.
3. ___ A raccoon can be recognized by its black facial mask, ringed tail and its thick black coat.
4. ___ Raccoons are insatiably curious, extremely intelligent, and love shiny objects.
5. ___ These animals are so clever that they wash or wipe their food before eating it.
6. ___ They eat insects, fruit, and garbage in the city.
7. ___ In the wild, they prefer to eat frogs, fish, and shellfish.
8. ___ From November to January, a raccoon will find an abandoned building building, hollow tree, or a bush to shelter from the cold.
9. ___ Raccoon kittens are born in spring, April, or May.
10. ___ The young are nursed for four months and spend their first year with their mothers.

Exercise 2: Completing Lists with Parallel Elements

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with elements that are parallel to the italicized parts.

1. Taking a writing course involves *listening to lectures* and _____ .
2. Writing instructors expect students *to do research* and _____ .
3. In many science courses, students write *lab reports* and _____ .
4. Language learning courses involve *the memorization of new vocabulary* and _____ .
5. A great part of student life is the opportunity to meet other people. Students meet new people *in the cafeteria, at sporting events,* and _____ .
6. *Friends* and _____ can be very important support networks for students who are taking courses in college.
7. *Some students like to study with others in study groups,* but _____ .
8. College life is *stressful* but _____ .
9. One student quit college because *she had no money* and _____ .
10. Another student reported that at college she learned *how to study, how to think,* and _____ .

Exercise 3: Writing Sentences Using Parallelism

Write one sentence which answers each of the following questions. Be sure to include a list of at least 3 parallel elements in each sentence.

1. What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I like to ...

2. Why do students go to college?

3. Describe one of your favorite places.

Exercise 4: Correcting Faulty Parallelism

Identify elements that are not parallel then rewrite the sentence to create parallelism.

1. Peter likes singing, dancing, and to swim in his free time.

2. The winter in Vancouver can be wet, dark, and depresses me.

3. The instructor put words, pictures, and drew charts on the overhead.

4. The ideal conditions for growing tomatoes are spring rain, sun in summer, and dry weather in fall.

5. Singing in the shower, to camp in the woods, and conversation with her friends are all things she enjoys.

6. I hate weeding as much as having shots upsets me.

7. Ken either will go to the parade or to the Egyptian museum.

8. He both wanted to keep his job and to go to the country.

Part II: Misplaced and dangling modifiers.

Exercise 1: Write “C” if the modifier is correctly placed; write “MM” if it is misplaced. In the “MM” sentences, rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. The woman was stopped for speeding in the green sweater.

2. I almost saw the whole movie, but I fell asleep towards the end of it.

3. Daniel promised to mow the lawn running out the door.

4. The names were those of the lovers carved on the tree.

5. There are only three spaces left in the parking lot.

6. Every two hours the nurse told him to take a pill.

7. Sitting on the porch, I took my last sip of lemonade.

8. The man walked toward us wearing a black fedora hat.

9. The plane crashed into a mountain carrying 200 passengers.

10. I hardly ate any food at the banquet dinner.

11. I watched the mechanic fix the bus with intrigue.

12. We borrowed a leaf blower from a neighbor that was broken.

Exercise 2: Write “DM” if a dangling modifier is present or “C” if the sentence is correct.

___ 1. Chasing his brother, Ryan fell and bruised his knee.

___ 2. Feeling nervous, stomachs were queasy.

___ 3. Running scared, the bear climbed the tree.

___ 4. Laughing hysterically, the story was repeated.

___ 5. Slipping on the wet pavement, her leg was broken.

Exercise 3: All of the following sentences have dangling modifiers. Rewrite each sentence correctly in the space provided below.

1. Reaching the finals, the game was won by the Lions.

2. Playing skilfully, a touchdown was made by the visiting team.

3. Raising his hand, the question was answered by Thomas.

4. Planting tomatoes, her knees got filthy.

5. Speaking for the committee, the issue was raised by Victoria.
