**Parallel Structure**

To improve the clarity of your writing, it is important to remember the *equality* of your sentence

structure. This exercise will help you better understand the importance of *Parallel Structure*.

*Parallel Structure:* means using the same construction for sentence elements that

are the same in function.

THREE rules to consider when checking for Parallel Structure in your writing:

1. Parallel Structure should be used when elements are joined by coordinating

conjunctions:

**Incorrect**: I am allergic to the dog’s hair *and* how it smells.

***Correct****: I am allergic to the dog’s hair and its smell.*

2. Parallel Structure should be used when writing elements in the form of a list or a series:

**Incorrect**: The class valued respect, honesty, and being on time in a teacher.

***Correct****: The class valued respect, honesty, and promptness in a teacher.*

3. Parallel Structure should be used when comparing or contrasting elements

(A is *better than* B – X is *less than* Y):

**Incorrect**: James enjoys reading *more than* to write.

***Correct****: James enjoys reading more than writing.*

***PRACTICE***

*In the four sentences below, circle the correct word or phrase that gives the sentence correct*

*parallel structure.*

1. Justin was excited about inviting friends over, eating a good meal, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

a. …a game of cards.

b. …to play cards.

c. ...playing a game of cards.

2. I have always enjoyed reading the book more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. …I watched the movie version.

b. …watching the movie.

c. …to watch the movie.

3. When the weather outside is cold and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I like to be indoors.

a. …starting to get windy…

b. …windy…

c. …getting windy…

4. Running, lifting, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are three of Ashley’s favorite exercises.

a. …racquetball…

b. …a spinning class…

c. …bicycling…

*In the sentences below, write a word or phrase in the blank that gives the sentence parallel structure.*

5. The little girl liked eating cookies better than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at her

grandmother’s house.

6. Students like to sleep, relax and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during

the summer.

7. He went to the store to pick up a carton of milk and two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Food, shelter, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are all

I need to survive on a deserted island.

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is much better than a visit to the dentist.

10. Write your own complete sentence using parallel structure:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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