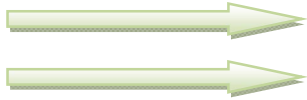


## What's Parallelism? Conjunctions

### Parallelism



### What is parallelism in grammar?

The best way to understand the idea of parallelism is to look at examples.

For example:

(Not parallel)

We wanted to cook and to go swimming.

(Parallel)

We wanted to cook and to swim.

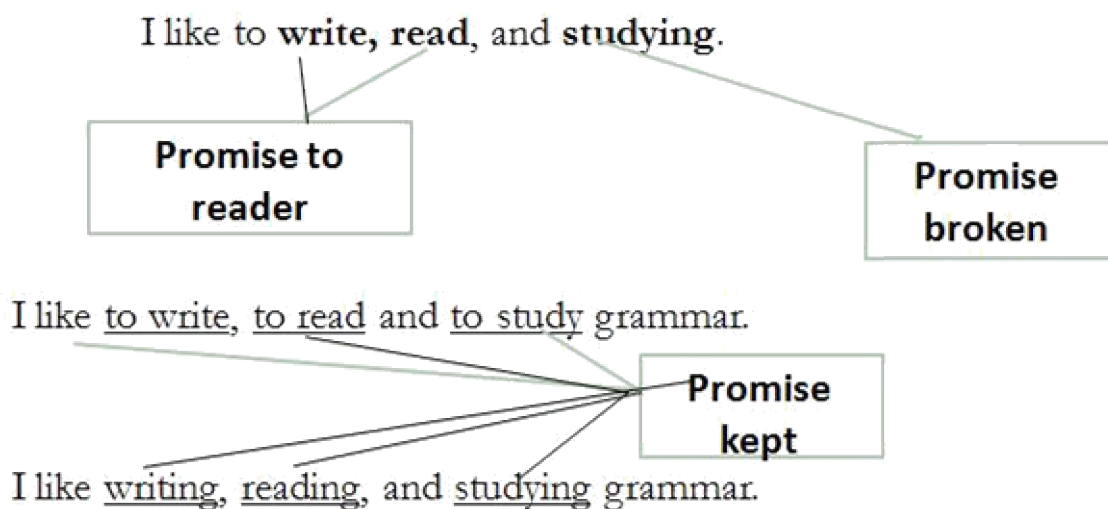
### What is parallelism?

- Parallelism means using similar structures to express similar ideas.
- Parallel structures make sentences clearer and easier to read.
- Editing for parallel structure helps you avoid awkward sentences and keeps you from breaking your promise to the reader.

### Using parallel structure in your writing will help with

- 1) economy      2) clarity
- 3) equality      4) delight.

### Example:



### Now you try. Which sentence is parallel?

- This semester I'm studying **art, music, and taking a math course.**
- This semester I'm studying **art, music, and math.**

### Use parallel structure with elements in lists or in a series.

**Faulty:** The tribes emphasized collective survival, mutual aid, and being responsible for one another.

parallel

parallel

NOT parallel

**Correct:** The tribes emphasized collective survival, mutual aid, and responsibility for one another.

parallel

parallel

parallel

### How Can we make a paralleled structure?

Use parallel structure with elements joined by coordinating conjunctions.

**Faulty:** Your company and what its potential is are of great value to me.



**Correct:** Your company and its potential are of great value to me.



### What is a Conjunction?

A conjunction is like glue. It helps things to stick together.

A conjunction joins words, phrases, and sentences, which are called clauses.



### What is a Conjunction?

Conjunctions join two or more words.

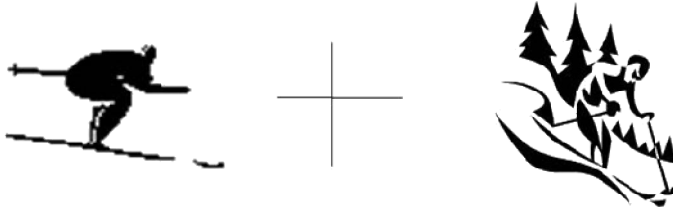
**Example:** I went to the store to buy eggs, milk, and bread.



### What is a Conjunction?

Conjunctions can join two prepositional phrases.

**Ex.** I went skiing down the hill **and** past the trees.

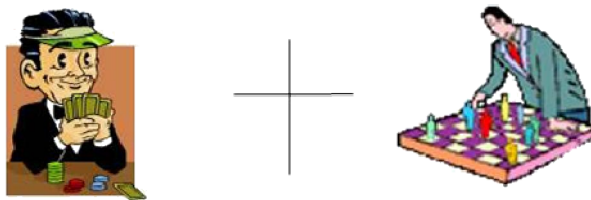


### What is a Conjunction?

Conjunctions can connect two clauses or sentences.

When two sentences are joined, a comma **MUST** be placed before the conjunction.

**Ex.** I played cards for awhile, **but** then I played chess.



### Types of Conjunctions

One type of conjunction is the coordinating conjunction.

They connect words, phrases, and clauses, which are sentences.

They connect things of equal value.

(This means that they would connect a noun with another noun or a prepositional phrase with another prepositional phrase.)

### CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are words used as **joiners**.

Different kinds of conjunctions join different kinds of grammatical structures.

## "AND"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"And" connects things that are alike or joined together.

**Ex.** I want popcorn and pizza.



## "BUT"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"But" is used to connect things that are different or separated.

**Ex.** I want popcorn but not pizza.



## "OR"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"Or" is used to offer a choice.

**Ex.** Do I want popcorn or pizza?



## "NOR"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"Nor" is used to offer a negative choice.

**Ex.** I do not want popcorn nor pizza.

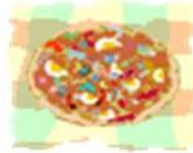


## "YET"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"Yet" is used to show a change. When it is used to combine two sentences, you must put a comma before it.

**Ex.** I want popcorn, **yet** I also want pizza.



## "SO"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"So" is used to show a relationship between things. When it is used to combine two sentences, you must put a comma before it.

**Ex.** I want popcorn, **so** I made some.



## "FOR"

Coordinating conjunctions affect the meaning of your sentence.

"For" is also used to show a relationship between things. When it is used to combine two sentences, you must put a comma before it.

**Ex.** I ordered a pizza, **for** I was hungry.



### Coordinating conjunctions

join equals to one another:  
words to words,  
phrases to phrases,  
clauses to clauses.

Examples:

**word to word** Most children like *cookies* **and** *milk*.

**phrase to phrase** The gold is hidden *at the beach* **or** *by the lakeside*.

**clause to clause** *What you say* **and** *what you do* are two different things.

Coordinating conjunctions go **in between** items joined, not at the beginning or end.

Examples:

**Correct:** I like coffee, **but** I don't like tea.

**Incorrect:** **But** I don't like tea, I like coffee.

### Punctuation with coordinating conjunctions:

When a coordinating conjunction joins **two** words, phrases, or subordinate clauses, no comma should be placed before the conjunction.

Examples:

words: *cookies **and** milk.*

phrases: *at the beach **or** by the lakeside.*

subordinate clauses: *what you say **and** what you do*

A coordinating conjunction joining **three or more** words, phrases, or subordinate clauses creates a series and requires commas between the elements.

Examples:

words: *peanuts, cookies, **and** milk.*

phrases: *in the mountains, at the beach, **or** by the lakeside.*

subordinate clauses: *what you think, what you say, **and** what you do*

A coordinating conjunction joining **two independent clauses** creates a [compound sentence](#) and requires a comma before the coordinating conjunction.

Examples:

Tom ate all the peanuts, **so** Phil ate the cookies.

I don't care for the beach, **but** I enjoy a good vacation in the mountains.