Parallelism & Parallel Structures

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Parallelism

- If two or more ideas are parallel, they should be expressed in a parallel grammatical form.
- Single words should be balanced with single words, phrases with phrases, clauses with clauses.
Balance parallel ideas linked with coordinating conjunctions

- Coordinating conjunctions are used to connect a pair or series of items. When those items are parallel in content, they should be expressed in parallel grammatical form. Which of the examples below do NOT have a parallel form?

  - Theft, vandalism, and cheating can result in suspension or even **being expelled** from school.

  - Theft, vandalism, and cheating can result in suspension or even **expulsion** from school.
Balance parallel ideas linked with correlative conjunctions.

- Make sure that the grammatical structure following the first half of the pair is the same as that following the second half.
  - The shutters were not only too long but also were too wide.
    - The words too long follow not only, so too wide should follow but also.
  - I was advised either to change my flight or take the train.
    - To change my flight, which follows either, should be balanced with to take the train, which follows or.
Balance comparisons linked with than or as.

- In comparisons linked with than or as, the elements being compared should appear in parallel grammatical structure.

- Mother could not persuade me that giving is as much a joy as to receive. 
  To receive should be receiving.

- Comparisons should also be logical and complete.

- REMEMBER: Faulty logic in your writing weakens the appeal to *logos* in your persuasion!
What is Parallelism?

- **Parallelism** means that series of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences have the same grammatical form.

**NOT**

**PARALLEL:** I like **singing**, **kayaking**, and to dance.

**PARALLEL:** I like **singing**, **kayaking**, and **dancing**.
1. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Ella’s job responsibilities include _____, training, and informing workers of company policies.

A) to hire
B) hired
C) hire
D) none of the above
1. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Ella’s job responsibilities include _____, training, and informing workers of company policies.

**ANSWER:**

A) to hire  
B) hired  
C) hire  
D) none of the above; *hiring* is the correct answer.
2. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Henry likes pizza more than ________.

A) spinach
B) to eat spinach
C) to be eating spinach
D) none of the above
2. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Henry likes pizza more than ________.  

**ANSWER:**  
A) spinach  
B) to eat spinach  
C) to be eating spinach  
D) none of the above
3. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

He drove to the store to buy milk, eggs, and ________.
A) to get bread  
B) bread  
C) getting bread  
D) none of the above
3. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

He drove to the store to buy milk, eggs, and ________.

**ANSWER:**

A) to get bread

**B) bread**

C) getting bread

D) none of the above
4. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Tom jogs, swims, and __________.

A) he is kick boxing
B) kick boxes
C) he kick boxes
D) none of the above
4. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Tom jogs, swims, and __________.

**ANSWER:**

A) he is kick boxing

B) **kick boxes**

C) he kick boxes

D) none of the above
5. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

The film had many stars, used various special effects, and ________.

A) violence
B) featured graphic violence
C) it was violent
D) none of the above
5. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

The film had many stars, used various special effects, and __________.

**ANSWER:**

A) violence

B) **featured graphic violence**

C) it was violent

D) none of the above
6. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

I think that learning a new language is harder than ________.

A) math
B) to learn math
C) learning math
D) none of the above
6. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

I think that learning a new language is harder than ________.

**ANSWER:**
A) math  
B) to learn math  
C) learning math  
D) none of the above
7. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

For some very shy people, giving a speech can be as frightening as __________.

A) having a serious illness
B) illness
C) to have an illness
D) none of the above
7. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

For some very shy people, giving a speech can be as frightening as __________.

**ANSWER:**

A) having a serious illness

B) illness

C) to have an illness

D) none of the above
8. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

I’d rather be lucky or hardworking than _________.

A) to have talent

B) having talent

C) talented

D) none of the above
8. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

I’d rather be lucky or hardworking than _________.

**ANSWER:**
A) to have talent
B) having talent
C) talented
D) none of the above
9. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

That football team has both a good offense and __________.
A) it has a good defense
B) a good defense
C) having a good defense
D) none of the above
9. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

That football team has both a good offense and ________.

**ANSWER:**

A) it has a good defense

**B) a good defense**

C) having a good defense

D) none of the above
10. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Bob is not only loyal to friends but also ________.

A) he is friendly to strangers
B) to be friendly to strangers
C) friendly to strangers
D) none of the above
10. Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank.

Bob is not only loyal to friends but also __________.

**ANSWER:**
A) he is friendly to strangers  
B) to be friendly to strangers  
C) friendly to strangers  
D) none of the above