

Aggie Grammar Guide: Parallel Structure

Intermediate Practice

None of the sentences below are parallel, either in terms of grammar or logic. Revise each sentence so it is parallel. You may need to change some of the wording to fix logic issues. Please note, because parallel structure can deal with style and grammar rules, there may be multiple parallel revision options although you will see only one option in the answer key. Compare your revision to the one provided and determine if one is more effective.

Example: Making friends in class can help you create connections in case you need to copy notes or clarification on something you might have missed.

*Answer: Making friends in class can help you create connections in case you need to copy notes or **clarify** something you might have missed. (Explanation: changed “clarification” to its verb form, “clarify,” to make it parallel to the verb “copy.” Both are now verbs.)*

- 1) Some suicide rulings are based on cops, physicians, or the coroners’ methods.
- 2) There is always a dilemma between trying to overcome problems, solving problems, and to stay safe.
- 3) The author’s main pieces of evidence are her feelings, experiences from her childhood, and implies the effect these experiences had on her.
- 4) Languages consist of read, write, speaking and listen in our daily life.
- 5) This means that once I have been issued a French visa, I can easily go to other Schengen Agreement member countries, including German, Italy, Spanish, etc. – to travel and visit.
- 6) The majority of professors teaching other languages such as Spanish, French, German or Chinese are not native speakers themselves, they have forgotten, or lost their accent over the years due to the lack of practice.
- 7) For instance, my basketball coach in middle school studied abroad in Africa for two years and taught young ladies about health, such as sexually transmitted diseases and basketball.
- 8) Finally, the author introduces how we, normal people, can save coral reefs, including using fewer sunscreens and find substitutions which are less harmful.
- 9) If the government can help them by teaching them some skills and give some assistance in finding a job, their conditions might be better.
- 10) The author used many different examples to illustrate his points, such as the use of water, keep using the same clothing for a long period of time, no shower but a soaked wet cloth for showers, etc.

Advanced Practice

The paragraph below contains many instances of grammatical and logical parallel structure. Below the paragraph, write all the sentences that contain parallel structure.

In the answer key, you will see the same paragraph with the sentences containing parallel structure in italics and the specific parallel words/phrases in bold. Compare your choices to the paragraph and determine if you correctly identified all the instances of parallel structure.

Example: If this is done at every level such as middle school, high school, and college and to every student, there will be a higher chance that people will be going to college and getting a degree.

*Parallel Forms: If this is done at every level such as **middle school, high school, and college** and to every student, there will be a higher chance that people will be **going to college** and **getting a degree**.*

In 2015, U.S. News announced that Princeton is ranked number one on the list of the best national universities. On the other hand, the Princeton Review revealed that Bryant University is the best college in the United States. The cause of this difference is that they have different processes on how to rank colleges. While U.S. News relies on experts and categories, the Princeton Review relies on student surveys about colleges. U.S. News has seven categories for ranking with unequal statistical weight for each of them; it then divides colleges into different categories. Colleges within a category will rank each other. The Princeton Review's ranking system is a little simpler. It surveys a large amount of students by asking them more than eighty questions about themselves, their schools, other students, and life at their school. The questions offer an answer choice on a five-point scale from excellent to awful. Both of them are credible sources, but the question is whether we should trust U.S. News or the Princeton Review. From my perspective, I would trust the Princeton Review's college ranking system. Letting colleges rank each other would lead to a biased result because colleges do not know anything about each other and compete against each other. Surveying students is more reasonable since they are at that college and experience the college life there.