

Sentence Balance Using Parallel Construction

You can create balance in sentences by using **parallel construction**. This means repeating similar grammatical elements (words or phrases) to give your writing rhythm. Here are some ways to make your sentences parallel.

| Sentence Elements | Example | Technique Used |
|--|--|---|
| Words— All words in a series should be the same <i>parts of speech</i> . | Not parallel: Opera can amuse, sadden, or make you think. | |
| | Parallel: Opera can amuse, sadden, or inspire . | All the words in the series are verbs . |
| | Parallel: Opera can be amusing, depressing, or inspiring . | All the words in the series are adjectives . |
| Phrases— All phrases in a series should be the same <i>type</i> . | Not parallel: The audience members reacted to the show by jumping to their feet, cheering for an encore, and with calls of "Bravo!" | |
| | Parallel: The audience members reacted to the show by jumping to their feet, cheering for an encore, and calling "Bravo!" | All the phrases are participial phrases (they start with <i>-ing</i> words). |
| | Parallel: The audience began to cheer, to jump to their feet, and to call "Bravo!" | All the phrases are infinitive phrases (they start with <i>to</i>). |

Try It!

Rewrite each of the following sentences, using parallel construction.

1. I enjoy swimming, to play computer games, and when we go to the movies.
2. When I choose music, I listen to jazz, rock, and chilling out to Latin rhythms.
3. Our library contains study tables, computer stations, and it has a reading corner.
4. Korean summers are hot, it rains a lot, and humid.