



Writing Centre

Parallelism

Parallelism, the use of similar structures within clauses or phrases of a sentence, is used to create balance and uniformity among different parts of a sentence.

Method: To create parallelism, model repeated forms (tenses, parts of speech, etc.) after each other.
For example:

Parallelism with **adjective/noun pairs**:

The instructor asked for three things: careful work, keen attention, and being on time. ✗

*The instructor asked for three things: **careful work, keen attention, and prompt attendance.** ✓*

Parallelism with **gerunds**:

Her favorite activities are swimming, to watch movies, and dancing. ✗

*Her favorite activities are **swimming, watching** movies, and **dancing.** ✓*

Parallelism with **verbs**:

Marisa's dog chased a cat, ran through a puddle, and splashes mud and water everywhere! ✗

*Marisa's dog **chased** a cat, **ran** through a puddle, and **splashed** mud and water everywhere! ✓*