

Preparation For University of Ibadan

Proficiency in English language test (PARALLELISM)

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What is Parallelism?

Parallelism is the use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same, similar in their construction, sound, meaning or meter.

Parallelism are also found in literally works as well as ordinary conversation, This method adds balance and rhythm to sentences, giving ideas a smoother flow and thus can be persuasive because of repetition.

In literature, parallelism is used in different ways to impress upon the readers in order to convey messages or moral lessons.

For Example:

- 1) Like father, Like son
- 2)The escaped prisoner was wanted dead or alive
- 3) Flying is fast, comfortable and safe
- 4) Easy come, easy go.

We have different types of parallelism.

Word and opposite type of parallelism.

For example:

We see repetition of parallel structures in d following lines from "A Tale of two cities" by Charles Dickens.

"It was the **best of times**, it was the **worst of times**, it was the **age of wisdom**, it was the **age of foolishness**, it was the **epoch of belief**, it was the **epoch of incredulity**, it was the **season of light**, it was the **season of darkness** ,it was the **spring of hope**, it was the **winter of despair**."

Antithesis

Antithesis is another type of parallelism in which two opposite ideas are put together in parallel structures.

For Example:

To err is human; to forgive is divine.

The sentence simply means that imperfection is a human trait and God is most forgiving, through these antithetical but parallel structures, the poem wants to say that God is forgiving because His creation is erring.

Rhetorical

Parallelism is often used as a rhetorical device.

For Example:

The inherent vice of **capitalism** is the **unequal** sharing of **blessings**; the inherent virtue of **socialism** is the **equal** sharing of **miseries**.

We can see that Capitalism and socialism; Equal and unequal; Blessings and miseries are all parallel.

Classwork:

Check the following Questions and determine what's wrong and correct.

1. She likes cooking, dancing and to read.
2. This is not only just what I wanted, but also just what I need.
3. His coworkers praised both his determination and the way he paid attention to detail.
4. The art studio is spacious, pleasantly cluttered, and has good lighting.
5. The dog ran across the yard, jumped over the fence and down the valley sprinted.
6. We have petitioned and our petitions have been scorned. We have entreat and our entreaties have been disregard. We have begged and they have mock when our calamity came.

Answers:

1. She likes cooking, dancing and reading.
2. This is not only just what I wanted, but also what I needed.
3. His coworkers praised both his determination and his attention to details.
4. The art studio is spacious, pleasantly cluttered, and well-lit.
5. The dog ran across the yard, jumped over the fence and sprinted down the valley.
6. We have petitioned and our petitions have been scorned. We have entreated and our entreaties have been disregarded. We have begged and they have mocked when our calamity came.

Assignment

Check the sentences below:

1. Democracy is the government of the people by the people and for the people. Is it parallel? If so write down the parallel words.
2. The more we grew in age, the more we draw closer to our grave. Is it true or parallel?. If parallel, write the parallel words.