

Name: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

English 10 Grammar Unit PARALLEL STRUCTURE

When you combine several related ideas in one sentence, it's important to make sure that your combinations are balanced. You create balance in a sentence by using the same form or part of speech to express each idea. For example, you balance a noun with a noun, a phrase with a phrase, and a clause with a clause. This balance is called parallelism or parallel structure.

EXAMPLES:

Not Parallel: I'm not much of an athlete, but I like softball, soccer and to play hockey. (*two nouns and a phrase*)

Parallel: I'm not much of an athlete, but I like softball, soccer, and hockey. (*three nouns*)

Not Parallel: Dominic doesn't have enough time to play soccer, join the debating team, and band. (*two phrases and a noun*)

Parallel: Dominic doesn't have enough time to play soccer, join the debating team, and participate in band. (*three phrases*)

Not Parallel: I knew that soccer was popular in Europe and its popularity in Latin America, too. (*clause and a phrase*)

Parallel: I knew that soccer was popular in Europe and that it was popular in Latin America, too. (*two clauses*)