

WORKSHEET 3 Using Parallel Structure

EXERCISE A Each sentence below contains three ideas that should be expressed with parallel structure. Underline the word group that is not parallel with the others. Then, write the word group correctly on the line provided.

EXAMPLE to make appointments 1. The duties of the receptionist are to receive visitors, making appointments, and to sort the mail.

- _____ 1. Most of our neighbors are friendly, considerate, and they give help.
- _____ 2. Sales are often held to clear out old stock, for increasing profits, or to advertise the store.
- _____ 3. Del's good grades were due to regular attendance, good participation in class, and he studied effectively.
- _____ 4. Tamisha's report got high marks because of its interesting subject, it covered the topic thoroughly, and it was written on a word processor.
- _____ 5. Before writing your theme, you should prepare a rough outline, collect your material, and a topic should be selected.
- _____ 6. To bake a potato, you should scrub it, pierce it with a fork, and it should be placed on the center rack of the oven.
- _____ 7. We traded in our car because the body was rusty, the worn-out tires, and the engine burned oil.
- _____ 8. Armando finally decided to find a job, to save his earnings, and that he would go to college.
- _____ 9. We made our paper profitable by getting more subscribers, we sold more ads, and by raising its price.
- _____ 10. Science fiction may entertain anyone who has a strong imagination, who is fascinated by the future, and with a yearning for adventure.

EXERCISE B On the blank line that follows the *and*, *or*, *than*, or *as*, write the idea printed in parentheses. Make this idea parallel in construction to its partner, which is printed in italics.

EXAMPLE 1. We enjoyed simple things like *watching the sunrise* or walking in the woods (a walk in the woods)

1. A recent book is not necessarily better than _____ (one that is old)
2. I often relax by *closing my eyes* and _____ (picture soft clouds floating in the sky)
3. Our sports editor *attends each game* and _____ (a report of it is written)

Continued 

4. *Seeing other people's faults* is much easier than _____
_____ (to see our own)
5. Exercise *relieves nervous tension* and _____
_____ (the energy level is increased)
6. This test shows *your interests* and _____
_____ (what your abilities are)
7. The committee's chief duties are *to plan programs* and _____
_____ (keeping up the members' interest)
8. Mr. Blumenthal has the habit of *reading the newspaper thoroughly* and _____
_____ (then he forms his opinions)
9. *Hearing Miguel's report on the book* was almost as good as _____
_____ (if I read it myself)
10. Your purpose should be *to discover the truth* rather than _____
_____ (proving yourself right)
11. Our cousins *arrived for a visit* and _____
_____ (are bringing a friend with them)
12. I would rather *ride a bicycle for two miles* than _____
_____ (jogging for one mile)
13. *Listening to your speech* is as good a review of the amendments as _____
_____ (to read the Constitution)
14. Mom expects us *to feed the dog* or _____
_____ (doing some of our other chores)
15. *Finding the epicenter of the earthquake* took longer than _____
_____ (identify its magnitude on the Richter scale)
16. Mr. Owens let us vote on whether we would *hear a guest speaker* or _____
_____ (taking our chemistry test)
17. Gerry preferred *meeting his customers in person* rather than _____
_____ (to talk to them over the phone)
18. Recently, I have had little time *to watch the news* or _____
_____ (reading a book)
19. Parchment was often used *for official documents* and _____
_____ (letters were written on it)
20. At that park, *canoeing* is more popular than _____
_____ (to go swimming)