Parallel Construction

…making similar word groups match grammatically

# Explanation

When creating items or phrases in a series or making a bullet list, it is important that they are all formatted in the same way. For example, if the series includes several verb phrases and the first one contains an –ing verb, the following verbs should be in the –ing format, as well. If they are formatted similarly, it is considered **parallel construction***.*

# Examples

Janelle’s “to-do” list included **doing** the family laundry, **picking up** her children from school, and **preparing** dinner. (-ing verbs)

The puppeteer created a **big yellow bird,** a **grouchy cookie monster**, and a **cute tooth fairy**. (nouns with descriptive adjectives preceding them)

# Exercises

*Do the following underlined sentence parts illustrate parallel construction? How would you correct those that do not?*

1. As a successful project manager, I increased employee participation by 50 percent, facilitated more efficient meetings, and was planning rewards for work well done.
2. Detective Mariana wanted to know who the victim was, when the crime occurred, and how the perpetrator escaped.
3. Singing in the choir, kicking goals for my soccer team, and a well-read book are my favorite things to do.
4. When writing a research paper, a student should limit their topic, find relevant resources, and use either MLA or APA formatting.
5. The horses will need water, the cows will need hay, and someone should bring more table scraps to the pigs.