

Are They Parallel?

An activity of “The Rock’ is the highest paid actor”

In grammar, parallel structure means using the same pattern of words to express two or more ideas that have equal importance.

Consider these sentences:

She likes <u>to read</u> , <u>swimming</u> and <u>the cinema</u> .	<i>Not parallel structure.</i>
She likes <u>reading</u> , <u>swimming</u> and <u>going to the cinema</u> .	<i>Parallel structure – all three action words use gerunds (verb+ing)</i>

Note that the first sentence is not wrong. However, using parallel structures makes your writing clearer as readers can follow the patterns to understand your ideas easily.

Activity 1

Read “The Rock is the highest paid actor” (page 14, *What’s Up* September 2020). In the last section of the main story — “Lovable Antics”— there are at least two sentences that use parallel structure. Can you find them? Underline them in the story.

Activity 2

Read the following sentences and put a tick next to those which are parallel. Rewrite those which are not parallel.

1. I would rather eat the sandwich than drinking the smoothie.

2. To help her mother, Fen washed the dishes, cleaned her room and swept the floor.

3. We followed the path through the forest, over the hill, and we went across the river.

4. Ahmad studied for the test by reviewing his notes and read the textbook.

5. Not only did Sofia bake the cake, but she also made the salad.

6. Being a good friend means being considerate, honest and have a listening ear.
