

The following chart outlines the use of parallel structures with coordinate conjunctions:

PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH COORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS			
(same structure)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">and but or</div>	(same structure)	
(same structure),	(same structure),	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">and but or</div>	(same structure)

**EXERCISE 24:** Each of the following sentences contains words or groups of words that should be parallel. Circle the word that indicates that the sentence should have parallel parts. Underline the parts that should be parallel. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. She held jobs as a typist, a housekeeper, (and) in a restaurant.
- C 2. The report you are looking for could be in the file (or) on the desk.
- \_\_\_ 3. She works very hard but usually gets below-average grades.
- \_\_\_ 4. The speaker introduced himself, told several interesting anecdotes, and finishing with an emotional plea.
- \_\_\_ 5. You should know when the program starts and how many units you must complete.
- \_\_\_ 6. The term paper he wrote was rather short but very impressive.
- \_\_\_ 7. She suggested taking the plane this evening or that we go by train tomorrow.
- \_\_\_ 8. The dean or the assistant dean will inform you of when and where you should apply for your diploma.
- \_\_\_ 9. There are papers to file, reports to type, and those letters should be answered.
- \_\_\_ 10. The manager needed a quick but thorough response.

## SKILL 25: USE PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH PAIRED CONJUNCTIONS

The paired conjunctions *both...and*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, and *not only...but also* require parallel structures.

I know *both* where you went *and* what you did.

*Either* Mark *or* Sue has the book.

The tickets are *neither* in my pocket *nor* in my purse.

He is *not only* an excellent student *but also* an outstanding athlete.

The following is not parallel and must be corrected:

He wants *either* to go by train *or* by plane\*

It is not correct because *to go by train* is not parallel to *by plane*. It can be corrected in several ways.

He wants *either* to go by train *or* to go by plane.

He wants to go *either* by train *or* by plane.

He wants to go by *either* train *or* plane.

When you are using these paired conjunctions, be sure that the correct parts are used together. The following are incorrect:

I want *both* this book *or*\* that one.

*Either* Sam *nor*\* Sue is taking the course.

These sentences are incorrect because the wrong parts of the paired conjunctions are used together. In the first example, *and* should be used with *both*. In the second example, *or* should be used with *either*.

The following chart outlines the use of parallel structure with paired conjunctions:

PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH PAIRED CONJUNCTIONS			
<i>both</i> <i>either</i> <i>neither</i> <i>not only</i>	(same structure)	<i>and</i> <i>or</i> <i>nor</i> <i>but also</i>	(same structure)

**EXERCISE 25:** Each of the following sentences contains words or groups of words that should be parallel. Circle the word or words that indicate that the sentence should have parallel parts. Underline the parts that should be parallel. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. According to the syllabus, you can (either) write a paper (or) you can take an exam.
- C 2. It would be (both) noticed (and) appreciated if you could finish the work before you leave.
- \_\_\_ 3. She would like neither to see a movie or to go bowling.
- \_\_\_ 4. Either the manager or her assistant can help you with your refund.
- \_\_\_ 5. She wants not only to take a trip to Europe but she also would like to travel to Asia.
- \_\_\_ 6. He could correct neither what you said nor you wrote.
- \_\_\_ 7. Both the tailor or the laundress could fix the damage to the dress.
- \_\_\_ 8. He not only called the police department but also called the fire department.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. You can graduate either at the end of the fall semester or you can graduate at the end of the spring semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The movie was neither amusing nor was it interesting.

### SKILL 26: USE PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH COMPARISONS

When you make a comparison, you point out the similarities or differences between two things, and those similarities or differences must be in parallel form. You can recognize a comparison showing how two things are different from the *-er...than* or the *more...than*.

My school is farther *than* your school.

To be rich is better *than* to be poor.

What is written is more easily understood *than* what is spoken.

A comparison showing how two things are the same might contain *as...as* or expressions such as *the same as* or *similar to*.

Their car is as big *as* a small house.

Renting those apartments costs about *the same as* leasing them.

The work that I did is *similar to* the work that you did.

The following chart outlines the use of parallel structures with comparisons:

PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH COMPARISONS		
(same structure)	<i>more ... than</i> <i>-er ... than</i> <i>less ... than</i> <i>as ... as</i> <i>the same ... as</i> <i>similar ... to</i>	(same structure)

**EXERCISE 26:** Each of the following sentences contains words or groups of words that should be parallel. Circle the word or words that indicate that the sentence should have parallel parts. Underline the parts that should be parallel. Then indicate if each sentence is correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. His research for the thesis was (more useful than) hers.
- I 2. Dining in a restaurant is (more fun than) to eat at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I want a new secretary who is as efficient as the previous one.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What you do today should be the same as did yesterday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. This lesson is more difficult than we had before.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. You have less homework than they do.