

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What you do has more effect than what you say.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Music in your country is quite similar to my country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The collection of foreign journals in the university library is more extensive than the high school library.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. How to buy a used car can be as difficult as buying a new car.

**EXERCISE (Skills 24–26):** 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).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After retirement he plans on traveling to exotic locations, dine in the finest restaurants, and playing a lot of golf.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. She was both surprised by and pleased with the seminar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What came after the break was even more boring than had come before.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He would find the missing keys neither under the bed or behind the sofa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Depending on the perspective of the viewer, the film was considered laudable, mediocrity, or horrendous.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He exercised not only in the morning, but he also exercised every afternoon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Working four days per week is much more relaxing than working five days per week.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Sam is always good-natured, generous, and helps you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Either you have to finish the project, or the contract will be canceled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The courses that you are required to take are more important than the courses that you choose.

**TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 24–26):** Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Truman Capote's <i>In Cold Blood</i> is neither journalistically accurate _____.</p> <p>(A) a piece of fiction</p> <p>(B) nor a fictitious work</p> <p>(C) or written in a fictitious way</p> <p>(D) nor completely fictitious</p> | <p>2. Vitamin C is necessary for the prevention and _____ of scurvy.</p> <p>(A) it cures</p> <p>(B) cures</p> <p>(C) cure</p> <p>(D) for curing</p> |
|--|---|

3. A baby's development is influenced by both heredity and \_\_\_\_.
- (A) by environmental factors  
(B) environmentally  
(C) the influence of the environment  
(D) environment
4. Because bone loss occurs earlier in women than \_\_\_\_, the effects of osteoporosis are more apparent in women.
- (A) men do  
(B) in men  
(C) as men  
(D) similar to men

Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

- \_\_\_\_ 5. Fire extinguishers can contain liquefied gas, dry chemicals, or watery.
- A                      B                      C                      D
- \_\_\_\_ 6. The U.S. Congress consists of both the Senate as well as the House of Representatives.
- A                      B                      C                      D
- \_\_\_\_ 7. The prison population in this state, now at an all time high, is higher than any state.
- A                      B                      C                      D
- \_\_\_\_ 8. A well-composed baroque opera achieves a delicate balance by focusing alternately on the aural, visual, emotional, and philosophy elements.
- A                      B                      C                      D
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Manufacturers may use food additives for preserving, to color, to flavor, or to fortify foods.
- A                      B                      C                      D
- \_\_\_\_ 10. A bankruptcy may be either voluntary nor involuntary.
- A                      B                      C                      D

**TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–26):** Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The growth of hair \_\_\_\_ cyclical process, with phases of activity and inactivity.
- (A) it is  
(B) is a  
(C) which is  
(D) a regular
2. The fire \_\_\_\_ to have started in the furnace under the house.
- (A) is believed  
(B) that is believed  
(C) they believe  
(D) that they believe
3. In Roman numerals, \_\_\_\_ symbols for numeric values.
- (A) are letters of the alphabet  
(B) letters of the alphabet are  
(C) which uses letters of the alphabet  
(D) in which letters of the alphabet are
4. The legal systems of most countries can be classified \_\_\_\_ common law or civil law.
- (A) as either  
(B) either as  
(C) either to  
(D) to either

5. One difference between mathematics and language is that mathematics is precise \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) language is not  
 (B) while language is not  
 (C) but language not  
 (D) while is language
6. Your criticism of the three short stories should not be less than 2,000 words, nor \_\_\_\_\_ more than 3,000.  
 (A) should it be  
 (B) it should be  
 (C) it is  
 (D) should be it

Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In 1870, the attorney general was made head of the Department of Justice, given an enlarged staff, and endow with clear-cut law-enforcement functions.  
 A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The General Sherman Tree, the largest of all the giant sequoias, are reputed to be the world's largest living thing.  
 A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The skeleton of a shark is made of cartilage rather than having bone.  
 A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. At least one sample of each of the brands contains measurable amounts of aflatoxin, and there is three which exceed the maximum.  
 A B C D

## PROBLEMS WITH COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES \_\_\_\_\_

Sentences with incorrect comparatives and superlatives can appear on the TOEFL test. It is therefore important for you to know how to do the following: (1) form the comparative and superlative correctly; (2) use the comparative and superlative correctly; and (3) use the irregular *-er*, *-er* structure that has been appearing frequently on the TOEFL test.

### SKILL 27: FORM COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES CORRECTLY

The problem with some of the comparative and superlative sentences on the TOEFL test is that the comparative or superlative is formed incorrectly. You should therefore understand how to form the comparative and superlative to answer such questions correctly.

The comparative is formed with either *-er* or *more* and *than*. In the comparative, *-er* is used with short adjectives such as *tall*, and *more* is used with longer adjectives such as *beautiful*.

Bob is taller *than* Ron.

Sally is *more* beautiful *than* Sharon.