**Lesson one**

**What is Parallelism in English?**

**When writing a list, every item starts with the same type of verb or noun, adjective or adverb format. Examples:**

**1. "ing" verbs: We went running, biking, swimming, and fishing.**

**2. "ed" verbs: We walked, jumped and skipped on the way.**

**3. nouns: We drove to the lake, mountains, desert and beach all in one day.**

**4. adjective: She had purple, silver-tipped, spiky hair.**

**5. adverb: Lovingly, graciously and generously, she helped us out.**

**What is Faulty Parallelism?**

Faulty parallelism in a sentence is when you are writing a list of things and mix up verb forms (to run, jumping, played). Example:

* ***Faulty****: Samantha likes to run, jumping around in the backyard and played with her friend Jorge yesterday.*
* ***Correct:****Samantha likes running and jumping around in her backyard; in fact, yesterday she played there with her friend Jorge.*

Another problem is mixing up a list of nouns and verbs (a ball, to jump, running outside). Example:

* ***Faulty:****Henry likes a ball, to jump and running outside.*
* ***Correct:****Henry likes balls and likes jumping and running outside.*

Mixed up adjectives or adverb forms can also be a problem:

* ***Faulty:****Grandpa walked carefully, in a slow way, and halted a lot.*
* ***Correct:****Grandpa walked carefully, slowly, and haltingly.*

**Solved Parallelism Exercises**

Re-write the following sentences so that each has a list using the same verb or noun form. Sample answers are below.

1. The English teacher spoke in a nasal tone, unpleasantly, but conveying the information clearly and was funny.
2. The coach told his players that they should get plenty of water, to not eat sugary snacks, and being sure they are getting plenty of sleep.
3. Benefits of coaching include: knowing each player, helping that player to improve and to get to see that person succeed in life.
4. At the party, my sister helped us make the cake, gathering the kids for games, clean up, and to drive some kids home.
5. Exercises that I enjoy doing are marathon running, to swim lengths in a pool, riding my bicycle in the park, and to walk along the trails in a forest.
6. We must either change the laws about drunk driving or it will be necessary to start enforcing them more strictly.
7. The protestors were gathering outside, held signs, starting to shout loudly and stopped the speaker from being heard.
8. My sister-in-law loves fad diets and has tried: eating only meat, to not eat anything but rice, smoothies every morning while not restricting anything else, and fasting 12 hours a day.
9. To my horror, my wedding dress looked stained, torn and it had wrinkles.
10. Our latest math instructor was enthusiastic, cracked a lot of jokes, is demanding, and failed half the class.

**How to Correct?**

There is more than one way to correct the sentences above and that is true for faulty sentences in your own papers. While just changing the faulty verbs is sometimes the answer, sometimes you need to completely re-do the sentence by

* Re-arranging the words.
* Using a semi-colon to make two sentences connected together.
* Putting extra information in parenthesis.

**Answers**

Here are some sample answers to the exercises above with the parallel elements in bold:

1. The English teacher had an **unpleasant**, **nasal** tone, but conveyed the information **clearly** and **humorously**.
2. The coach told his players**to get** plenty of water, **not eat** sugary snacks and**be sure** they get plenty of sleep.
3. Benefits of coaching include:**knowing** each player,**helping** that player improve, and**seeing** that person succeed in life.
4. At the party, my sister**helped** us make the cake, **gathered** the kids for games, **cleaned** up the mess, and **drove** some kids home.
5. Exercises I enjoy doing are**running** marathons, **swimming**lengths in a pool, **riding** my bicycle in the park, and **walking** along the trails in a forest.
6. We must either**change** the laws about drunk driving or**start** enforcing them more strictly.
7. The protesters**gathered** outside,**held** signs, **started** shouting loudly, and **stopped** the speaker from being heard.
8. My sister-in-law loves fad diets and has tried: **eating** only meat, **consuming** nothing but rice, **drinking** smoothies in the morning (while not restricting anything else), and **fasting** 12 hours every day.
9. To my horror, my wedding dress looked **stained**, **torn**, and **wrinkled**.
10. Our latest math instructor was enthusiastic, joking, and demanding; in fact, she failed half of the class.