

Grammar Explanation

Using parallel structures in sentences

- Use parallel structures (the same type of words) whenever you write a list or comparison.
 - Incorrect (and confusing): *The proposal will provide several benefits, including **creating jobs, crimes will be prevented, and reducing taxes.***
 - Corrected (all the items in the list start with nouns ending in *-ing*): *The proposal will provide several benefits, including **creating jobs, preventing crime, and reducing taxes.***
- To create parallel structures, use the same grammatical forms (e.g., adjectives, nouns with *-ing* endings, prepositional phrases, clauses) in a list or comparison.
 - Example (four adjectives):
*The proposed law is not only **unfair and unpopular, but also unnecessary and dangerous.***
 - Example (three phrases with a noun with an *-ing* ending):
***Eating** fruits and vegetables, **exercising** daily and **getting** enough sleep are some of the things each of us can do to maintain a healthy lifestyle.*
 - Example (two prepositional phrases that are followed by a clause):
For students, flexible working hours are helpful; however, for parents, a steady job is more important.

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 3