

Grammar Parallelism

Pointers

What is this parallel universe in grammar? Think of it as aligning the stars. Parallelism balances words and phrases and the structures we use in our writing.

Below are a few examples.

Connected Ideas (look for words like *and, but, or, nor*)

NOT PARALLEL I love swimming, bicycling and to jog.

PARALLEL I love swimming, bicycling and **jogging**.

Comparing Ideas

NOT PARALLEL I like to swim more than I like jogging.

PARALLEL I like **swimming** more than I like jogging.

I like to swim more than I like **to jog**.

Corresponding Ideas (look for phrases like *either...or, not only...but also*)

NOT PARALLEL Mike excels not only as a swimmer, but also at playing softball.

PARALLEL Mike excels not only as a swimmer, but also **as a softball player**.

SHARE THIS DOCUMENT



Cathy Miller,
Business Writer/Consultant

cathy@millercathy.com
(858) 344-9959
www.simplystatedbusiness.com