

FAULTY PARALLELISM

Name _____
Period _____

Words in a pair or a series should have a parallel structure. By balancing the items in a pair or a series so that they have the same structure, you will make your sentences clearer and easier to read. Furthermore, such parallelism will improve your writing style.

Directions: The unbalanced part of each sentence is in bold. Rewrite this part so that it matches the rest of the sentence.

Example: In the afternoon, I changed two diapers, ironed several shirts, and was watching soap operas. watched

1. I attended three classes in the morning, studied most of the afternoon, and **my sales job was in the evening.** _____
2. Mel spends his free time reading, listening to music, and **he watches TV sports.** _____
3. After the camping trip, I was exhausted, irritable, and **wanted to eat.** _____
4. My hope for retirement is to be healthy, to live in a comfortable house, and **having plenty of money.** _____
5. Nightly, Fred puts out the trash, checks the locks on the doors, and **the burglar alarm is turned on.** _____
6. In Allan's nightmare, he was audited by the IRS, investigated by *Sixty Minutes*, and **bill collectors were chasing him.** _____
7. With her pale skin and **her eyes that were green,** she appeared ghostly in the moonlight.

8. Caulking the windows, **to replace weather stripping,** and painting the garage are my chores for the weekend. _____
9. After the exercise class, I woke up with stiff knees, throbbing legs, and **arms that ached.**

10. Our favorite restaurant specializes in delicious omelets, **soups that are freshly made,** and inexpensive desserts. _____
11. The man running the checkout counter was tall, thin, and **having a bad temper.**

II. Directions: Complete the following statements. The first two parts of each statement are parallel in form, the part that you add should be parallel in form as well.

1. Among the drawbacks of apartment living are noisy neighbors, yearly rent increases, and _____.
2. Three things I like about myself are my sense of humor, my thoughtfulness, and _____.
3. Three bad habits I have resolved to change are losing my temper, showing up late for appointments, and _____.
4. The best features of my part-time job are good pay, flexible hours, and _____.
5. Cigarette smoking is expensive, disgusting, and _____.
6. Lessons I had to learn after moving from my parents' home included how to budget my money, how to take care of my laundry, and _____.

Directions: Write three of your own that use parallel structure. Each sentence should contain three items in a series. Try to use past tense verbs; *-ing* verbs; descriptive words; *to* verbs; or present tense verbs.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
