

Exercise on Parallel Structure

In the following pairs, one sentence has parallel structure, and the other sentence lacks parallel structure. Mark the CORRECT sentence.

1. A___ Jennifer is smart, beautiful, and loves everyone.
B___ Jennifer is smart, beautiful, and caring.

Answer A is incorrect. *Smart* and *beautiful* are adjectives, but *loves everyone* is a phrase.

Answer B is correct.

2. A___ Andy's day is so long that he gets up at 6:00 a.m., leaves for work at 6:30 a.m., is eating dinner at 11:00 p.m., and goes to bed at 2:00 a.m.
B___ Andy's day is so long that he gets up at 6:00 a.m., leaves for work at 6:30 a.m., eats dinner at 11:00 p.m., and goes to bed at 2:00 a.m.

Answer A is incorrect. *Gets up*, *leaves*, and *goes* are in the present tense. *Is eating* is present progressive tense.

Answer B is correct.

3. A___ Bob was not only Sam's roommate, but also he was his best friend.
B___ Bob was not only Sam's roommate, but also his best friend.

Answer A is incorrect. *Sam's roommate* is a phrase, and *he was his best friend* is a sentence.

Answer B is correct.

4. A____ If you go to the store, please remember to pick up your prescription, buy some shampoo, and to look for a notebook.

B____ If you go to the store, please remember to pick up your prescription, to buy some shampoo, and to look for a notebook.

Answer A is incorrect. *To* is used in the first phrase and the third phrase, so *to* should also be used in the second phrase.

Answer B is correct.

5. A____ I spent two hours with Ms. Smith, reviewing my job performance, evaluating my goals, and discussing my future with the company.

B____ I spent two hours with Ms. Smith, reviewing my job performance, evaluating my goals, and my future with the company was also discussed.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Reviewing my job performance* and *evaluating my goals* are phrases. *My future with the company was also discussed* is a sentence.

6. A____ Mr. Brown's lecture was inaccurate, boring, and unnecessary.

B____ Mr. Brown's lecture was inaccurate, boring, and should have been omitted.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Inaccurate* and *boring* are adjectives. *Should have been omitted* is a phrase.

7. A____ Most people play golf for pleasure, for exercise, and for social contacts.

B____ Most people play golf for pleasure, for exercise, and so they can meet people.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *For pleasure* and *for exercise* are prepositional phrases. *So they can meet people* is a clause.

8. A___ The most dangerous forms of transportation are bicycles, cars, and riding a motorcycle.

B___ The most dangerous forms of transportation are bicycles, cars, and motorcycles.

Answer A is incorrect. *Bicycles* and *cars* are nouns. *Riding a motorcycle* is a phrase.

Answer B is correct.

9. A___ Many people share the same three fears: making speeches, being in high places, and numbers.

B___ Many people share the same three fears: making speeches, being in high places, and working with numbers.

Answer A is incorrect. *Making speeches* and *being in high places* are phrases. *Numbers* is a noun.

Answer B is correct.

10. A___ At the body shop, the car was sanded to the bare metal, painted with primer, and sprayed with blue enamel.

B___ At the body shop, the car was sanded to the bare metal, painted with primer, and blue enamel was sprayed on.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Sanded to the bare metal* and *painted with primer* are verbs and prepositional phrases. *Blue enamel was sprayed on* is a sentence.