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*This Mini-lesson can be used with Activities 1.4 and 1.8 to help students identify parallel structure, correct nonparallel structures, and use parallel structure in their own writing.*

## Learning Target

- Use parallel structure.
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Parallelism is the use of similar grammatical forms or sentence structures to balance related ideas in a sentence or passage. Using parallelism helps readers and listeners understand that ideas are related and can make your writing and speech more sophisticated and compelling.

<b>parallel words</b>	I enjoy <b>biking, hiking,</b> and <b>reading.</b>  Our life skills include <b>patience, respect,</b> and <b>compassion.</b>
<b>parallel phrases</b>	Eli is going <b>to the store, to the park,</b> and then <b>to your house.</b>  We do this <b>for ourselves, for our families,</b> and <b>for our community.</b>
<b>parallel clauses</b>	<b>I came, I saw, I conquered.</b>  I prefer this game <b>because it is fun, because it has a multiplayer option,</b> and <b>because it requires creativity.</b>

## Check Your Understanding: Correcting and Using Parallel Structure

A. Each of the following sentences has nonparallel structures. Revise each sentence to make it parallel.

*Answers will vary.*

1. Isabel chose a book that is about recent discoveries that will improve our understanding of nutrition, our ability to make healthier choices, and cancer.

*Isabel chose a book that is about recent discoveries that will improve our understanding of nutrition, our ability to make healthier choices, and our resources for treating cancer.*

2. He explained that he is leaving early because he wants a good spot in line, he knows traffic will be bad, and to meet Colin beforehand.

*He explained that he is leaving early because he wants a good spot in line, he knows traffic will be bad, and he has to meet Colin beforehand.*

3. I would like to thank my parents for believing in me, my spouse for helping me achieve my goals, and my friends who support me emotionally.

I would like to thank my parents for believing in me, my spouse for helping me achieve my goals, and my friends for supporting me emotionally.

- B. Write sentences using the following sentence starters. Make sure you use parallel grammatical structures to express related ideas.

Answers will vary. Students should use parallel structure to express their answers. Sample answers:

1. When I am feeling blue, I like *[list at least three parallel items]* to sleep late, to eat blueberry pancakes, and to watch my favorite movie.
2. When I am feeling especially happy, I like *[list at least three parallel items]* hanging out with my best friend, visiting my cousins, and playing with my dog.
3. I like to believe *[list at least three parallel items]* that people are fundamentally good, that we can take better care of the environment, and that we can end war.