

5. This animal lives both in grass and trees.
Prep Phrase Noun



6. This animal lives in both grass and trees.
Noun Noun



Takeaway: If there is no SIGNAL on the front (as is the case with “and” or “or”), you need to figure out the parallelism from right to left.

Let's take a look at a problem:

14 The largest trade-book publisher in the US has announced the creation of a new digital imprint division, under which it will publish about 20 purely digital works to be sold online as either electronic books or downloadable copies that can be printed upon purchase.

- A) works to be sold online as either electronic books or
- B) works to sell them online, either as electronic books or
- C) works and it will sell them online as either electronic books or as
- D) works, and selling them online as either electronic books or as
- E) works, and it will sell them online as either electronic books or

Let's analyse the choices:

We'll first check the parallelism in the choices as we can see SIGNAL words here.

The SIGNALS are "EITHER" and "OR".

A) works to be sold online as either electronic books or

(A) is perfectly parallel with electronic books following either and downloadable copies following or.

~~B)~~ works to sell them online, either as electronic books or

(B) is not parallel as as electronic books follows either which is not parallel with downloadable copies following or.

~~C)~~ works and it will sell them online as either electronic books or as

Similarly, (C) is also not parallel

~~B~~) works, and selling them online as either electronic books or as

And (D) is not parallel due to same reason as (B) and (C).

E) works, and it will sell them online as either electronic books or

(E) is absolutely parallel (w.r.t. either and or)

Now we have to pick the correct choice from A and E.

The prime difference we see in the two sentences is the use of and.

Let's take a look at and analogy:

if you connect two sentences / clauses with "and",
you are implying (unless other transition words are present) that
these 2 ideas are independent of one another. -- "spoken language trap"

"There was a great deal of traffic today, and I was late to work"

--> the traffic is NOT responsible for my being late. these are presented as two independent events.

"There was a great deal of traffic today, and THUS I was late to work"

--> the traffic made me late.

Sentence A is a little better as the use of and in E is not very appropriate.
Also, to be sold defines the meaning more clearly.

NOUN + no comma + to be VERBed --> this is going to happen to the NOUN

Let's take a look at some more different type of sentences:

Tell whether each of the following sentences is properly parallel:

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and writing hints on hidden slips of paper.

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and writes hints on hidden slips of paper.

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and stealing food from the school cafeteria.

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and steals food from the school cafeteria.

Let's first analyse that why two sentences should be parallel (apart from being mechanically parallel).

A REALLY BASIC NON-PARALLEL SENTENCE:

I like ^{one thing I like to do} reading and ^{another thing I like to do} to lift weights. → THIS is the reason why these 2 elements should be parallel!

--> not parallel

but...

WHY SHOULD THESE WORDS BE PARALLEL IN THE FIRST PLACE?

reason #1: signal word "and"

reason #2: **THE IDEAS ARE PARALLEL!**

takeaway:

PARALLELISM IS NOT RANDOM!!

You only want structures to be parallel IF THE IDEAS REPRESENTED BY THOSE WORDS are parallel.

We'll use the same principle to find out which of the above 4 sentences are parallel.

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and writing hints on hidden slips of paper.

this IDEA is not parallel to any other idea.

this is A METHOD OF CHEATING

where is ANOTHER method of cheating?



SOMETHING
MUST BE PARALLEL
TO THIS.

As explained earlier, we move right to left to analyse the parallelism of the sentence. Writing hints (a method of cheating) should be parallel to something on left of and, we find copying other students' answers parallel to the meaning and grammar of the clause on right of and.

This word is "fake parallel" – it's actually irrelevant, since the IDEA is not parallel to anything.

this is a method of cheating.

where is there another method of cheating?

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and writes hints on hidden slips of paper.

Similar to above, we do find an idea parallel to writes hints (a method of cheating) but copying is not grammatically parallel to writes.

this is the other GENERALLY BAD THING ... and how the student does so

this is A GENERALLY BAD THING that the student does

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and stealing food from the school cafeteria

Now in this sentence, stealing food (a generally bad thing to do, of course its not a method of cheating for sure) should be parallel to similar idea on left. We have to idea being presented on the left of and, cheats and copying. Now , in the context of the sentence . Now , in the context of the sentence copying is a method how a student cheats, it's more of a secondary idea. Cheats is another generally bad thing to do but it is not parallel to stealing grammatically.

If copying and stealing were to be parallel then it would mean that they are parallel in meaning too, i.e. , both are methods of cheating which they are not.

IF YOU PUT WORDS IN PARALLEL, THEN YOU ARE GIVING THEM PARALLEL MEANINGS!

This student cheats on exams by copying other students' answers and steals food from the school cafeteria

! method of cheating – not parallel to anything else

Similar to the analogy explained above, we can make out that this sentence is parallel.

Let's take a look at GMAT Prep Problem:

36. Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory have succeeded for the first time in mining heat from the Earth's interior and producing energy on a commercial scale, enough for efficient generation of electricity and heating factories and homes.

- A. and producing energy on a commercial scale, enough for efficient generation of electricity and heating
- B. and producing enough energy on a commercial scale for electricity to be generated efficiently and to heat
- C. for energy production on a commercial scale, enough for generating electricity efficiently and to heat
- D. to produce energy on a commercial scale, enough for generating electricity efficiently and for heating
- E. to produce enough energy on a commercial scale for efficient generation of electricity and heat

In the above problem, we can see that there are two uses of and, one in the beginning of underlined sentence and one towards the end of it.

The one towards the end of sentence is common to all 5 choices while there are only two choices where and appears in the beginning, so we should attack the and towards the end of the sentence.

Now and is a signal word, so we should look for parallel structures preceding and following and.

Heating and generation of electricity are outcomes of increased energy. They are parallel in meaning, so now we have to check for grammatically correct usage.

- (A) – generation vs heating X
- (B) – generated vs to heat X
- (C) – generating vs to heat X
- (D) – for generating vs for heating ✓
- (E) – geanration vs heat X