

Use of “And”

A truck crashed in front of me on the freeway, and I was late to work.

According to this sentence, I was late for some OTHER reason than the truck crash.

Basically, AND does the following in a sentence:

Ø AND creates a parallel structure between elements which are :

- Presumed to be independent (unless they are in a sequence)
- Equal in priority/importance.
-

Some examples of above:

I like apples, grapes, and bananas. (three SEPARATE foods I enjoy, with presumably comparable levels of enjoyment)

We ate dinner, saw a show, and (then) went to a club.
(three SEQUENTIAL events -- still pretty much independent -- with equal priority)

Here are two common ways to present Cause and effect:

- One is to use modifier:

A truck crashed in front of me on the freeway, making me late to work.

One of the important roles of COMMA -ING is to signify a proximate or causal relationship between the main clause and the modifier.

- Another way is by using and:

A truck crashed in front of me on the freeway, and I was thus late to work.

... so ... consequently

Alone, "and" implies relative independence.

However, you can pair "and" with other connectors, such as the ones above, to signify this kind of relationship.

Now we'll see four different sentences to analyse the use of and:

Ron devoured his lunch, gulped down the drinks, and fell asleep.

Three ideas: devouring lunch, gulping drinks, falling asleep.

These are three separate actions and none of them is prioritised over the other and none is a component of other one→ Need parallel structures

So we see that the above structure is perfectly parallel.

Ron devoured his lunch, gulping down the drinks and falling asleep.

Similar to last example, there are three ideas, but gulping and falling asleep are used as a modifier in this sentence which doesn't make sense here, though grammatically they are correct and parallel, but doesn't make any sense.

Ron devoured his lunch, crunched loudly, and burped at regular intervals.

Three actions: devouring, crunching, and burping.

Crunching and burping are further description of Ron devouring the lunch, so they should be modifiers.

Parallel structure doesn't make sense here.

You cannot judge grammatical structures until you understand what the context of the sentence is.

Ron devoured his lunch, crunching loudly and burping at regular intervals.

Similar to above example, there are three actions in this sentence too.

Use of crunching and burping as modifiers is appropriate and makes sense as they provide further description of Ron devouring his lunch.

Let's take a look at the question:

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

When we look at a sentence we should use two things:

- Common sense/real world thinking
- The sentence is a unit in the sense that it should have some sort of "unified" meaning

In the original sentence, when we use and between mining and producing, it means that mining the heat had nothing to do with producing energy, which certainly is not the case.

So, we don't want and here.

A and B can be omitted.

To select the correct answer between C, D, and E we use simple parallelism concept and find that only D is parallel with the concept of generating electricity and heating homes and factories.

Besides meaning what other things should you be looking for in the first read of the problem. There are a lot of SC rules to be looking for. What should be our mindset?

FIRST READ:

- * Fast -- you are *NOT* picking through and trying to find errors!!
- * Get the MEANING
... including "what SHOULD be parallel?"
- * If anything is blatant enough that you notice it WHILE READING QUICKLY, then use it to eliminate. If not, wait until you see splits in the answer choices.

Let's take a look at another question:

45. Hydrocarbons, with which fruit flies perfume themselves in species-specific blends, are known to be important in courtship, and apparently this assists flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from that of others.

- A. and apparently this assists flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from that of
- B. and apparently this assists flies when they taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in distinguishing their own species from those of
- C. which apparently assists flies that tastes the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in being able to distinguish their own species from
- D. apparently assisting flies to taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates to distinguish their own species from those of
- E. apparently assisting flies that taste the hydrocarbons on prospective mates in distinguishing their own species from

In the above sentence we can see that the underlined part is an explanation to the non-underlined part, so both these parts shouldn't be separated by an and.

So, we can omit choices A and B.

In choice C, which modifies the part which it is closest to, which is in case is courtship, which is incorrect. (I used a lot of which while explaining which :))

So we can omit choice C.

D versus E:

There are two issues here:

- In choice D assisting flies to taste is not idiomatically correct and is also not the right idea. Hydrocarbons don't assist flies in tasting.
- In choice D those of is redundant here.

The correct choice is E.

Let's take a look at another problem:

Many of the earliest known images of Hindu deities in India date from the time of the Kushan Empire, fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or Gandharan grey schist.

- (A) Empire, fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or
- (B) Empire, fashioned from either the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from
- (C) Empire, either fashioned from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or
- (D) Empire and either fashioned from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from
- (E) Empire and were fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from

You can actually solve this whole thing with basic parallelism:

EITHER x OR y --> "x" and "y" have to match.

- (a) "x" = from the sandstone, "y" = schist
--> not parallel
- (b) "x" the sandstone, "y" = from the schist
--> not parallel
- (c) "x" fashioned from the sandstone, "y" = the schist
--> not parallel
- (d) "x" = fashioned from the sandstone, "y" = from the schist
--> not parallel
- (e) "x" = from the sandstone, "y" = from the schist. parallel!

With reference to the topic of and let's analyse the use of and in the sentences.

Do we need an and here?

Hindu deities dating from xxx empire and Hindu deities fashioned from blah blah blah are two independent ideas. They need to be separated, not to be followed by a modifier as is the case with choices with A, B, and C.

So we can eliminate A, B, and C from our learning of the use of and.

Let's take a look at another question:

Many house builders offer rent-to-buy programs that enable a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to be able to move into new housing and to apply part of the rent to a purchase later.

- (A) programs that enable a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to be able to move into new housing and to apply
- (B) programs that enable a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to move into new housing and to apply
- (C) programs; that enables a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to move into new housing, to apply
- (D) programs, which enables a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to move into new housing, applying
- (E) programs, which enable a family with insufficient savings for a conventional down payment to be able to move into new housing, applying

We have two ideas here:

- (Be able) to move into a new housing.
- Apply part of rent to a purchase later.

These two are independent ideas and need to be separated, so we can omit all the choices which do not have an and, which are C, D, and E.

C and D can be omitted because of enables too (singular verb for plural programs)

In choice A use of to be able is redundant as we already use enable.

So the correct choice is B.

Let's take a look at another question:

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

Connecting:

- 1/ Publish the books
- 2/ Sell the books

... publish in order to sell? (not independent --> modifier)

... publish and also sell? (viewed as independent --> parallel structure)

This is tricky because we have to establish the meaning of the sentence correctly.

If we take a look at the non-underlined part of the sentence we find digital imprint division which implies that the publishing house is publishing these books in order to sell them. Therefore, we cannot use an and here.

So we can eliminate C, D, and E.

Between A and B, A is perfectly parallel with the correct use of either X or Y.

So, correct choice is A.