



## Parallel Structure

Parallel structure is about balance; when two or more elements in a sentence are combined (usually with commas and/or the word *and*), they must match grammatically by using the same part of speech.

### Incorrect:

I request that you *come to class on time* and *bringing your assignments*.

### Correct:

I request that you *come to class on time* and *bring your assignments*.

An article or preposition should appear directly before the first term in a series; otherwise, it must be repeated before each term.

- While away at camp, kids learn **to** water ski, hike, and swim. **OR** While away at camp, kids learn to water ski, to hike, and to swim.
- The local easy-listening station plays songs from **the** 60's, **the** 70's and **the** 80's.
- We need an English tutor and a math tutor.

## Common Connectors

Parallel structure should also be used with common connectors like *either/or*, *neither/nor*, and *not only/but also*. The first item must match the second item.

### Incorrect:

Your work must *not only* be done *quickly*, but also *in a thorough manner*.

### Correct:

Your work must *not only* be done *quickly*, but also *thoroughly*.