

Coordinating Conjunctions: Parallelism

FORM **noun + coordinating conjunction + noun**
 adjective + coordinating conjunction + adjective
 verb + coordinating conjunction + verb
 infinitive + coordinating conjunction + infinitive
 gerund + coordinating conjunction + gerund

USE **Parallelism** is when words or phrases with the same grammatical form are joined in a sentence. **Parallel structure** allows us to combine sentences with the same grammatical structures, and to leave out unnecessary words (words that are repeated but understood, like articles, prepositions, and auxiliaries) in sentences. For example:

Sue is watching TV. Sue is drinking tea. = Sue is watching TV and drinking tea.
Jeff has cooked dinner and has washed the dishes. = Jeff has cooked dinner and washed the dishes. (leave out 2nd “has”)

EXAMPLES *My mother and father are visiting me this weekend.* (noun **and** noun)
 Ottawa is a small but vibrant capital city. (adjective **but** adjective)
 Brad wants to rent a DVD or (to) read a book tonight. (infinitive **or** infinitive)
NOT: *He likes to rent DVDs or reading books.* (not parallel structure)
 Christie likes bananas and eating apples. (not parallel structure)

These sentences contain PARALLEL STRUCTURES. Cross out the unnecessary (repeated) words in each.

1. My dog loves to swim in the lake and to chase balls.
2. He bought souvenirs in London and in Paris.
3. There are chairs in the living room and in the dining room.
4. I looked for my keys but I couldn't find them.
5. She wants to watch a horror movie or she wants to watch a comedy.
6. Diana painted the living room and the kitchen on the weekend.
7. Sushi and kimchi come from Japan and from Korea, respectively.