

Parallelism

- **Parallelism** is **the use of the same grammatical structure for items in a sentence that deserve equal emphasis.**
- Parallelism is an attractive and effective stylistic device.
- Lack of parallelism is considered bad writing style.
- **Parallelism** is especially effective in the following situations:
 - Items in a series
 - **Not parallel**: The poems may be e-mailed, sent by postal mail, or the poet can drop them off at the editor's office.
 - **Parallel**: The poems may be e-mailed, sent by postal mail, or dropped off at the editor's office.
 - **Not parallel**: Ingmar Bergman's films remain famous for their stark cinematography, epistemological angst, and the acting is intense.
 - **Parallel**: Ingmar Bergman's films remain famous for their stark cinematography, epistemological angst, and intense acting.
 - Items connected by *and* or *or*
 - **Not parallel**: A docent tells visitors about the paintings and who painted them.
 - **Parallel**: A docent tells visitors about the paintings *and* the painters.
 - **Parallel**: A docent tells visitors about the paintings *and* the people who painted them.
 - **Not parallel**: Working eighty hours a week can result in early retirement in Florida or you might be interred early in the grave.
 - **Parallel**: Working eighty hours a week can result in early retirement in Florida *or* early interment in the grave.
 - Items compared by using *than*, *more than*, or *rather...than*
 - **Not parallel**: Many Americans fear speaking in public more than the loss of a limb.
 - **Parallel**: Many Americans fear speaking in public *more than* losing a limb.
 - Items inserted into parallel structures such as *either...or* or *not only...but also*
 - **Not parallel**: Thomas Hardy mastered the writing of not only novels but he also wrote poems.
 - **Parallel**: Thomas Hardy mastered the writing of *not only* novels *but also* poems.