

Parallel Structure



Parallel structure means using similar or the same grammatical structure in multiple phrases in a sentence. Parallel structure is used for effect. It makes lines more appealing and more memorable. It gives writing balance, clarity, patten, and/or a sense of rhythm.

Ordinary Sentences: Love is patient. It's kind. It's also quiet.

Parallel Structure: Love is patient. Love is quiet. Love is kind.

In this example, the parallel structure is the succession of the pattern "Love is (adjective)." In the ordinary sentences, the structure of each sentence is slightly different.

Parallel structure can be found in all kinds of texts, including poetry, prose, and speeches.

DIRECTIONS: Do the sentences use parallel structure?

_____ 1. We will eat. We will sing. We will dance.

_____ 2. We will eat dinner, then head out to dance.

_____ 3. We ate, we sang, we danced.

_____ 4. May got a valentine. Toby got one too.