

Structural Parallelism

- *I like hockey, handicrafts, and going to the races.*
- *Inconvenient ice times and spending so much money on equipment may deter some parents from enrolling their daughters in hockey.*
- *Both getting to the rink before dawn and the cost of equipment are deterrents to participation.*

Parallel structures in sentences keep the reader on track. Parallelism is required for items in a list, coordinate structures (using and, or) and correlative structures (using either/or, neither/nor, both/and)

Solutions

Find and use the structure that works for all the elements. There is usually more than one way to get your structures into line; if one doesn't work, try another. A bonus is that fixing parallelism sometimes makes your ideas more specific and therefore clearer to your reader.

- *I like hockey, handicrafts, and race-going.*
LIST: ALL NOUN STRUCTURES (the last one is a verbal noun)
- *I like playing hockey, making handicrafts, and going to the races.*
CO-ORDINATE: ALL PARTICIPLE STRUCTURES
- *I like watching hockey, designing handicrafts, and betting on the races.*
CO-ORDINATE: ALL PARTICIPLE STRUCTURES, but a different meaning.
- *Inconvenient ice times and the high cost of equipment may deter some parents from enrolling their daughters in hockey.*
CO-ORDINATE: BOTH STRUCTURES BASED ON NOUNS
- *Both the inconvenient ice times and cost of equipment are deterrents to participation.*
CORRELATIVE: BOTH STRUCTURES BASED ON NOUNS.
- *Neither getting to the rink before dawn nor spending hundreds of dollars on equipment will deter some parents from supporting their Wickenhauser wannabe.*
CORRELATIVE: BOTH STRUCTURES BASED ON PARTICIPLES.