Name:





Date:

Score:

Parallel Structure



It is your turn to practice identifying parallel structure. If the sentence uses parallel structure, say why. If the sentence does not use parallel structure, rewrite the sentence so that it does.

- 1. Yesterday I played football, watched television and went hiking with friends.
- 2. The man said that Mike finished painting the house, installing the laminate, and the windows were installed.
- 3. The football team focused on their game plan, played great defense, and converted on most of their third down plays.
- 4. It came to my attention that you like to eat hamburgers, singing karaoke, and running marathons.

5. I not only like to fish, but I also listen to music.



Possible Answers

1. Yesterday I played football, watched television and went hiking with friends.

Does not use parallel structure.

Answer: Yesterday I played football, watched television, and hiked with friends.

2. The man said that Mike finished painting the house, installing the laminate, and the windows were installed.

Does not use parallel structure.

Answer: The man said that Mike finished painting the house, and installing the laminate and windows.

3. The football team focused on their game plan, played great defense, and converted on most of their third down plays.

Yes, this is an example of parallel structure. Focused, played, and converted are all regular verbs in the simple past tense that end with "ed."

4. It came to my attention that you like to eat hamburgers, singing karaoke, and running marathons.

Does not use parallel structure.

Answer: It came to my attention that you like eating hamburgers, singing karaoke, and running marathons.

5. I not only like to fish, but I also listen to music.

Yes, this is an example of parallel structure. Both verbs "like to fish" and "listen to music" are present tense verbs in their infinitive forms.

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