

Key

LEVEL 1 - MODIFIERS AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Directions: **Read** and **evaluate** the given sentences. **Identify** the response that most accurately reflects parallel structure.

1. When Delores realized that her father had made lima beans and rice for dinner, she _____, claimed to feel nauseous, and excused herself from the table. The bag of stale popcorn in her room would tide her over until breakfast.

- A. clutched her stomach
- B. was clutching her stomach
- C. did clutch her stomach

2. Not only did Hank despise the way June chewed with her mouth open, _____ finding her wet towels all over the bathroom floor.

- A. but also disliked
- B. but also disliking
- C. but he also disliked

3. To protect her delicate hands, Fran will not rake the yard, do the dishes, or _____.

- A. refuses to scrub the bathtub
- B. won't scrub the bathtub
- C. scrub the bathtub

4. When Diane takes her beagle for a walk, Santana enjoys sniffing for edible garbage, _____, and lunging at squirrels.

- A. howls at bicyclists
- B. howling at bicyclists
- C. she howls at bicyclists

5. After Amanda cashes her paycheck, the money goes to her savings account, cappuccino fund, and _____.

- A. paying her credit card bill
- B. toward her credit card balance
- C. credit card balance

6. In preparation for her run, Alicia _____, applied sunscreen, and increased the volume on her iPod.

- A. tightened her shoelaces
- B. was tightening her shoelaces
- C. did tighten her shoelaces

7. We searched the car trunk, _____, and the top of the refrigerator, but we could not find the box of cornflakes that we remember buying.

- A. looked on the pantry shelves
- B. on the pantry shelves
- C. the pantry shelves

8. Bonkers, our ninety pound golden retriever, chews on furniture, _____, and snots up the car windows—inconveniences we didn't anticipate when we adopted him.

- A. would drag us around the neighborhood during walks
- B. he drags us around the neighborhood during walks
- C. drags us around the neighborhood during walks

LEVEL 2 - MODIFIERS AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Directions: **Read** and **evaluate** the given sentence starters. Choose the option that does **not** contain a dangling or misplaced modifier.

1. Sucking with its powerful mouth, ...

- A. the vacuum cleaned dog hair and crumbs off the carpet.
- B. dog hair and crumbs disappeared from the carpet.

2. Working a minimum-wage job on the weekends, ...

- A. the expensive gifts that his girlfriend Gloria required couldn't be purchased with Caesar's limited funds.
- B. Caesar discovered that he couldn't afford the expensive gifts that his girlfriend Gloria required.

3. We enjoyed ...

- A. the crisp and spicy fried shrimp served on paper plates.
- B. the fried shrimp served on paper plates which were spicy and crisp.

4. Grooving to the music pumping through his earbuds, ...

- A. Colby danced on the sidewalk, which amused the passengers waiting for the bus.
- B. Colby's dance moves amused the passengers waiting for the bus.

5. Squeezing from the bottom of the tube, ...

- A. toothpaste splattered the mirror.
- B. Kendra splattered the mirror with toothpaste.

6. Cursing her heavy book bag, ...

- A. Jillian's professors seldom made assignments in the thick textbooks.
- B. Jillian lugged around thick textbooks that her professors seldom asked her to use.
- C. the textbooks that Jillian seldom needed made her shoulders sore.

7. Gobbling the slice of pizza, ...

- A. the complaints of Phillip's growling stomach finally stopped.
- B. Phillip's growling stomach ceased its complaints.
- C. Phillip quieted his growling stomach.

8. Inching toward the 12, ...

- A. Christopher watched the minute hand crawl through the last half hour of his work week.
- B. Christopher's work week would end once the minute hand reached the top of the clock.
- C. the minute hand crawled through the last half hour of Christopher's work week.

LEVEL 3 - MODIFIERS AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Directions: **Read** and **evaluate** the given sentences. **Evaluate** if the sentence violates parallel structure. If it does, **change** it to be parallel.

1. Monica brewed espresso, steamed milk, and told jokes as she prepared Mike's latte.

parallel

2. Natasha tried holding her breath, chewing a piece of gum, and poking her belly, but she could not quiet her empty stomach, which rumbled during the chemistry exam.

parallel

3. In the restroom, Tishena was brushing her hair, freshened her lip-gloss, and took deep breaths, trying to work up the courage to walk to her first speech class.

brushed

4. Celine looked behind the toilet, in the laundry basket, and checked under the bed, but she could not find Squeeze, her nine-foot albino python.

5. Not only did Dennis apply an extra layer of deodorant to his armpits, but he also polished each tooth with special care. He did not want to offend Malinda with any unpleasant odors.

parallel

6. For his first date with Malinda, Dennis bought not only a dozen roses but he also purchased a box of chocolates.

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7. Not only did Malinda squeal at the sight of the beautiful bouquet, but she also was tearing open the box and eating chocolates all the way to the restaurant.

ate

~~tearing~~
tore

8. Dennis tried to be thoughtful and generous, yet Malinda refused to give him not only a kiss good night but also a single chocolate from the nut and caramel sampler.

parallel

9. Chelsea had to paddle past a school of jellyfish, kick a small sand shark in the nose, and untangle seaweed from her surfboard before she reached her favorite point break.

parallel

LEVEL 4 - MODIFIERS AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Directions: Read and evaluate the given sentences. Evaluate if the sentence contains a dangling/misplaced modifier. If it does, change to provide clarity for your reader.

1. Emma Sue was delighted when Mr. Nguyen returned her perfect calculus test with an ear-to-ear grin.

↑ returned, with an ear-to-ear grin, her perfect...

2. Scrubbing the tile grout with bleach and an old toothbrush, the mildew stains began to fade.

↑ noticed

3. To finish by the 3 p.m. deadline, the computer keyboard sang with Sylvia's flying fingers.

Sylvia typed so quickly that the computer keyboard sang.

4. Sheila watched Desmond stuff his mouth with a cupcake frosted with vanilla icing.

Correct

5. Perched on the curtain rod, the parakeet watched Rocky the cat slink behind the living room sofa.

Correct

6. Groaning on rusty springs, the trampoline tossed the children like clothes in a dryer.

Correct

7. Rapping the pencil on the edge of the desk, the fourth cause of the French Revolution would not come to mind.

↑ The student could not think of the fourth cause of the French Revolution.

8. Slathering the popcorn with melted butter, the calorie count skyrocketed.

↑ The moviegoer made the calorie count skyrocket.

9. Attached to the email, Charlotte sent her boyfriend Byron another photographic self-portrait with eerie red eyes.

Correct

10. Hungry for dinner, ~~the surface is where~~ Gert the goldfish waited in anticipation of food flakes. *at the surface.*

11. After the rainstorm, Jeremy walked his dachshund on a sidewalk covered in wet leaves.

Correct

12. Tonya made the mistake of walking her boisterous bulldog Billy in high heels.

while she was wearing

LEVEL 5 - MODIFIERS AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE - EXTRA CREDIT

Directions: Create or find a dangling modifier; this can be from our exercises, the internet, or your own brain!

Write the incorrect sentence on the left hand side and draw a picture reflecting the error. On the right hand side, fix the sentence and draw a new, updated picture to reflect the correct modifier usage.

Incorrect Sentence:

Correct Sentence:

<p>Answers will vary</p>	
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