

1. We debated between two options immigration had given us: going back to Nicaragua or to stay in the US with no hope of ever going back.

Answer 1: We debated between two options immigration had given us: **going** back to Nicaragua or **staying** in the US with no hope of ever going back.

Answer 2: We debated between two options immigration had given us: **to go back** to Nicaragua or **to stay** in the US with no hope of ever going back.

2. My uncle Julius likes bagels, lox, and eating chicken salad.

Answer 1: My uncle Julius likes bagels, lox, and **chicken salad**.

Answer 2: My uncle Julius likes **eating bagels, lox, and chicken salad**. $x(a + b + c)$

Answer 3: My uncle Julius likes **eating** bagels, **eating** lox, and **eating** chicken salad. $xa + xb + xc$

Teaching Tip: I wouldn't recommend Answer 3; it's too wordy, but it IS useful to use as an example of "can't miss" parallelism. I like to use the distributive property of multiplication. Sometimes a mathematical concept illuminates a syntactic structure. Students get a kick out of it. I point out to students that in Answer 2, **eating** is "distributed" over **bagels**, **lox**, and **chicken salad**.

3. Bill not only runs five miles every day, he consumes eight thousand calories.

Answer 1: Bill not only runs five miles every day, **but** he **also** consumes eight thousand calories.

Answer 2: Bill runs five miles every day and consumes eight thousand calories.

Teaching Tip: The response we are going for is Answer 1, but there's really nothing wrong with a response like Answer 2. It is simple, with one subject (Bill) and a compound predicate (runs + consumes). While Answer 1 is more elegant than Answer 2, the second may be more useful in the long run, for most students. But do TRY to teach the stylistic variation of **not only** ... **but also**. This construction gives **emphasis** an idea.

4. Jose's daughter will either attend Harvard, or she plans to go to the Stanford.

Answer 1: Jose's daughter will attend **either** Harvard **or** Stanford.

Answer 2: Either Jose's daughter will attend Harvard, **or** she will attend Stanford.

Teaching Tip: Obviously, Answer 1 is much better than 2. It is shorter and clearer. I tell students, "In writing, as in life, LESS IS MORE." (Usually!)

5. The principal is excited about both the swim team earning national honors, and that the debate team won its first tournament.

Answer 1: The principal is excited about both the swim team earning national honors and the debate team **winning** its first tournament.

Teaching Tip: Note that there is no comma after the word "honors." You don't separate objects of a preposition (about) with a comma. Let students see the parallel structure in the revision.

The Team	What it did (ing...)	What it earned or won
the swim team	earning	national honors
the debate team	winning	its first tournament

Answer 2: The principal is excited **because** the swim team earned national honors and the debate team won its first tournament.

Teaching Tip: Again, in Answer 2, a comparison with algebra may be useful.

because (the swim team earned + the debate team won)

The word because is distributed over the two clauses.

6. Fatima's knowledge of accounting is greater than Farah's.

Answer 1: Fatima's knowledge of accounting is greater than Farah's.

Teaching Tip: Emphasize that the comparison is between Fatima's knowledge and Farah's knowledge. We omit word "knowledge" after Farah, but we still need the apostrophe to indicate possession.

Answer 2: Fatima has more knowledge of accounting than Farah (does).

Teaching Tip: Answer 2 is a more traditional elliptical construction. Inform students that although the verb "does" is not written, it is implied.

7. Miranda's flowers are neither red, nor are they orange.

Answer 1: Miranda's flowers are neither red nor orange.

Answer 2: Miranda's flowers are not red or orange.

Teaching Tip: Some students will respond with something like Answer 2, and that's fine. It's not wrong. However, try to convince students to vary their style. The **neither** ... **nor** construction is elegant.

8. Stephen King's book reviews were as positive as Asimov.

Answer 1: Stephen King's book reviews were as positive as **Asimov's** (book reviews were).

Answer 2: Stephen King's book reviews were as positive as **Asimov's book reviews**.

Teaching Tip: Note the elliptical construction in Answer 1, and Answer 2 simply includes "book reviews."

9. The house sitter lost the keys, neglected the dogs, and she also trashed the kitchen.

Answer 1: The house sitter lost the keys, neglected the **dogs, and trashed the kitchen**.

Teaching Tip: This sentence is a good one to leave for last because it is fairly simple. Note the "mathematical" construct:

house sitter (lost the keys + neglected the dogs + trashed the kitchen).

Parallelism, Worksheet 2, 16 Exercises

1. My parents considered getting a divorce or they would obtain a legal separation.

Answer 1: My parents considered getting a divorce or **obtaining a legal separation**.

2. Meaghan was excited by the prospect of visiting Paris, or that she might attend a family reunion in Italy.

Answer 1: Meaghan was excited by the prospect of visiting Paris **or attending a family reunion in Italy**.

Answer 2: Meaghan was excited **that she might visit** Paris or that she might attend a family reunion in Italy.

3. Katherine told me that after school she would practice volleyball, conduct the science experiment, and she would also apply for a job at Starbucks.

Answer 1: Katherine told me that after school she would practice volleyball, conduct the science experiment, **and apply for a job at Starbucks**.

Teaching Tip: she would (practice volleyball + conduct the science experiment + apply for a job at Starbucks) -- $x(a + b + c)$

4. Publishing the first edition of the literary magazine and the fact that the editorial staff attended the FCCPA conference in Daytona Beach cost the administration \$8000.

Answer 1: **Publishing** the first edition of the literary magazine and **sending** the editorial staff **to** the FCCPA conference in Daytona Beach cost the administration \$8000.

Answer 2: **The administration spent \$8000 publishing the first edition of the literary magazine and sending the editorial staff to the FCCPA conference in Daytona Beach.**

Teaching Tip: Answer 1 is quick and accurate, but answer 2 is better. The agent (the “doer” of the action is the subject – The Administration). This Subject + verb + object structure is easier to read than both the original sentence and answer 1.

5. The veterinarian examined the lab results, consulted with a colleague, and he also studied the stool specimen under a microscope before meeting with the owner of the expensive bulldog.

Answer 1: The veterinarian examined the lab results, consulted with a colleague, **and studied** the stool specimen under a microscope before meeting with the owner of the expensive bulldog.

6. Kiara’s ability to read complex passages quickly is greater than Sally.

Answer 1: Kiara’s ability to read complex passages quickly is greater than **Sally’s (ability to read complex passages).**

Teaching Tip: This sentence provides another opportunity to examine elliptical constructions. Ask students to imagine what is implied, not said, after “Sally’s.”

7. After Neil ran home, he thought he would either play basketball or he might also study his piano lessons.

Answer 1: After Neil ran home, he thought he would either play basketball or **study** his piano lessons.

8. Jasmine not only listens to political speeches; she analyzes them and posts her opinions on Facebook.

Answer 1: Jasmine not only listens to political speeches, **but** she **also** analyzes them and posts her opinions on Facebook.

Answer 2: Jasmine listens to political speeches, **analyzes them, and posts** her opinions on Facebook.

Teaching Tip: I prefer answer 1 because it has a certain elan that the more prosaic answer 2 lacks. But answer 2 is just fine, in the Jasmine(listens + analyzes + posts) manner.

9. If the Tampa Bay Rays win, they will play either The New York Yankees or they will face the Texas Rangers.

Answer 1: If the Tampa Bay Rays win, they will play either The New York Yankees **or the Texas Rangers**.

Teaching Tip: This is a simple either – or construction.

10. Joshua sometimes wrote poorly researched essays that were sloppy, and they were not well organized.

Answer 1: Joshua sometimes wrote **sloppy, poorly-researched, disorganized essays**.

Teaching Tip: Joshua needs a stern lecture on writing well-researched, neat, organized essays. Note the **(adjective, adjective, adjective)noun** construction.

11. Ruthie always knew that her pumpkin pie recipe was better than Aunt Sally.

Answer 1: Ruthie always knew that her pumpkin pie recipe was better than **Aunt Sally's (pumpkin pie recipe)**.

Teaching Tip: Although it's conceivable that Ruthie thinks that her pumpkin pie recipe is actually better than Aunt Sally (the actual person) she probably is referring to "Aunt Sally's pumpkin pie recipe"). Again, this sentence provides an opportunity to mention elliptical constructions.

12. After dropping out of Annapolis, Roger promised himself that he would finish college, write a book, and that he would invest in the stock market.

Answer 1: After dropping out of Annapolis, Roger promised himself that he would finish college, write a book, and **invest** in the stock market.

Teaching Tip: Roger promised himself that he would (finish + write + invest).

13. Either Jasmine will study chemical engineering or anthropology.

Answer 1: Jasmine will study **either** chemical engineering or anthropology.

Answer 2: Jasmine will study chemical engineering or anthropology.

14. Although Richard's inheritance is substantial, it is still smaller than his sister.

Answer 1: Although Richard's inheritance is substantial, it is still smaller than his sister's (inheritance).

Teaching Tip: Boohoo for Richard. He should have studied elliptical constructions and parallel structures.

15. Rosemary practiced her faith by giving money to the poor, preparing and serving food during the holidays, and she also served as a volunteer in the Big Brother/Big Sister program.

Answer 1: Rosemary practiced her faith by giving money to the poor, preparing and serving food during the holidays, and volunteering in the Big Brother/Big Sister program.

16. The baseball coach wants players who are hard-working, determined, and who get along well with their teammates.

Answer 1: The baseball coach wants hard-working, determined players who get along well with their teammates.

Answer 2: The baseball coach wants players who work hard, who are determined to succeed, and who get along well with their teammates.

Teaching Tip: Answer 1, certainly, is more satisfying than answer 2. It's shorter and it makes more intuitive sense. Answer 2, while parallel, sounds bombastic and bloated. I still prefer it to the original, though.

If I could find ONE ADJECTIVE that means "teammates who get along well" I would use it. But "congenial" does not have the right connotation; neither does "gracious" or "harmonious."