

## Parallelism

A writer often works with multiple ideas in a sentence. To show their equal importance, the writer must present them in equal grammatical form. For instance, a writer listing three of her hobbies must present each in the same grammatical form.

- Example: *I love to paint, to ski, and to listen to music.*

Each hobby takes the form of an infinitive phrase (to + verb). When you list ideas together, each idea should be expressed in the same form. They should all be verb phrases or all noun phrases or all independent clauses or all prepositional phrases.

- Example: *I love painting, skiing, and listening to music.* (All three items are gerunds, which are verb participle phrases that function as nouns.)
- Example: *I have visited San Francisco, New York, and Plymouth.* (All three items are nouns.)
- Example: *As the storm approached, the sky grew dark and ominous.* (Both items are adjectives.)
- Example: *I cannot attend the meeting tonight because I have several errands to make and I have ballet practice.* (Both items are clauses.)

