

## Parallelism Exercise

**Directions:** Some of the passages below contain faulty parallelism. Revise them so that the ideas are expressed in equal grammatical form. (Hint: Not all passages are incorrect.) When you are finished, check your responses with the answer key on the next page.

- 1.) *My professor told us that his purpose is to guide us through the curriculum, instill a sense of enthusiasm for the content, and the evaluation of our work.*
  
- 2.) *He explained to us that writing can be a difficult process and the hardships of writer's block.*
  
- 3.) *Before I begin to write, I must generate ideas and refine my topic.*
  
- 4.) *This article is ineffective because it lacks sufficient evidence, the author's credibility is questionable, and its failure to address opposing views.*
  
- 5.) *The author argues that our standards of beauty and fitness are distorted and damaging to young women.*
  
- 6.) *By his second birthday, the little boy seemed much happier, healthier, and he could toddle around his adoptive father's apartment.*
  
- 7.) *The author's argument is not only compelling but also she addresses various views on capital punishment.*

## **Answer Key**

- 1.) *My professor told us that his purpose is to guide us through the curriculum, instill a sense of enthusiasm for the content, and evaluate our work. (three verb phrases)*
- 2.) *He explained to us the difficulties of writing and the hardships of writer's block. (two noun phrases)*
- 3.) *Before I begin to write, I must generate ideas and refine my topic. **Correct as is***
- 4.) *This article is ineffective because it lacks sufficient evidence, the author's credibility is questionable, and it fails to address opposing views. (three clauses)*
- 5.) *The author argues that our standards of beauty and fitness are distorted and damaging to young women. **Correct as is***
- 6.) *By his second birthday, the little boy seemed much happier and healthier, and he could toddle around his adoptive father's apartment. (The two adjectives have been separated from the rest of the sentence.)*
- 7.) *The author's argument not only is compelling but also addresses various views on capital punishment. (two verb phrases)*

*(This one is trickier. "Not only...but also" is a correlative conjunction. Whatever comes after "not only" must grammatically match whatever comes after "but also.")*