**Parallelism**

* **Your Diagnosis.** The parts of your sentence are not parallel because your focus seems to shift or change partway through the sentence. Your sentences are sometimes awkward and confusing.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. Locate any complex sentences that are made up of a multiple parts—especially those that contain a list. Underline each part separately, and then check to see if the parts match up with one another in a clear and logical way.

Example: In the winter, I like **skiing** and **to skate**.

**Revised:** In the winter, I like to go ski**ing** and skat**ing**.

Example: Winning the award was as great a pleasure **to the teacher** **as the student**.

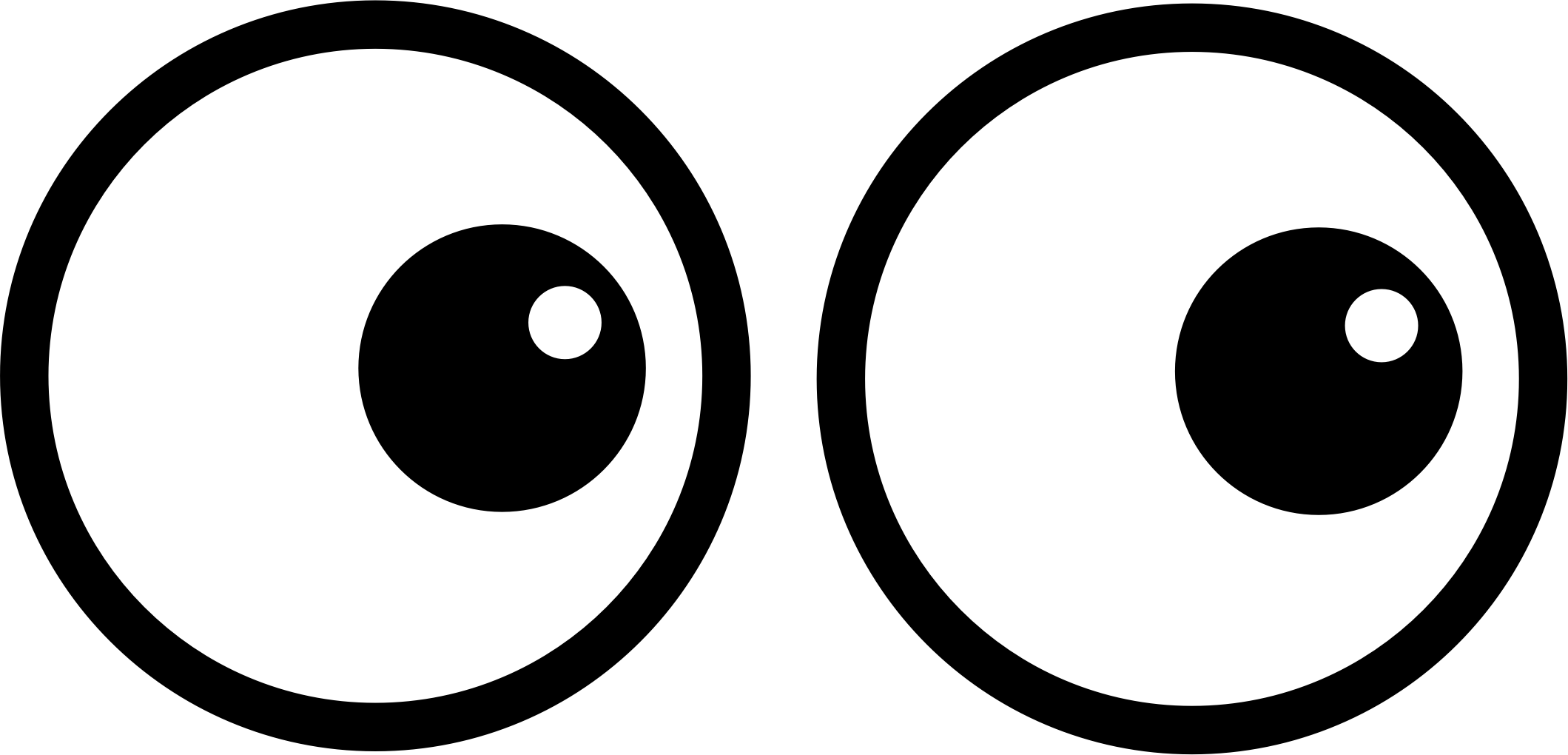
**Revised:** Winning the award was as great a pleasure **to the teacher** as **to the student**.

Example: She **wakes up**, **made breakfast**, **showers**, and **watches T.V.** before going to work.

**Revised:** She wak**es** up, mak**es** breakfast, tak**es** a shower, and watch**es** T.V. before going to work.

* **The Cure!** Look at the underlined parts of the sentence and revise so that all of them match up in terms of [**verb tense**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/12427606) and form. Check to make sure that each part is introduced in the same way.

**Be on the lookout for…**



**Sentences that *introduce* or *compare* 2 or more** [**nouns**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035056) **or** [**verbs**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035060)**, but not in a parallel fashion.**

* + INCORRECT: The speaker bored us with **his monotone voice** and **the fact that his visual aids were unreadable**.
    - *The word “monotone” is an* [***adjective***](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035073) *that describes the* ***noun*** *“voice,” and it is placed before it. How can we arrange the part about visual aids so that it follows the same structure (order)?*
  + REVISED: The speaker bored us because of **his monotone voice** and **his unreadable visual aids**.

**Sentences that contain the words “not only” and “but also” without repeating a** [**pronoun**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035056)**.**

* + INCORRECT: The teacher was not only admired for **her intellect** but also **sense of humor**.
    - *Where is the pronoun that tells us who these 2 qualities belong to? It needs to appear before EACH of the qualities to eliminate any confusion in the sentence.*
  + REVISED: The teacher was admired not only for **her intellect** but also for **her sense of humor**.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page.  🡪**

**Rewrite the following sentences, making corrections to faulty parallelism.**

1. To write her favorite movie star and later meeting him were her greatest thrills last year.
2. In the Elizabethan Era, many of the general public preferred the plays of Ben Jonson to Shakespeare.
3. The instructor was very strict about having students get to class on time and turning in papers promptly.
4. The writing of a research paper is a much greater challenge than an ordinary essay.
5. The actor was not only known for his acting skill but also for his immense popularity.
6. While traveling across Europe, I preferred the food in the quaint cafes to the restaurants at home.
7. Some American paintings from the late 18th Century depict the pride of the newly formed nation and how the artists had hope for the future.
8. The lecturer lacked appeal because of her difficult topics and the fact that she spoke poorly.
9. The police investigation both relied on witnesses’ statements and forensic evidence.
10. To milk a cow is more tedious than merely buying one.