

Lesson Plan:

Parallel structure

LEVEL	TIME	FOCUS	TOPIC
Intermediate/Advanced (B2-C2)	60 minutes	Writing and speaking	Parallel structure in English

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify examples of parallel structure in writing and speech.
- Correct sentences that lack parallelism.
- Use parallel structure to improve sentence fluency and clarity in writing and speaking.

Materials

- Whiteboard/Markers
- Handouts with practice exercises
- Sample sentences (good and bad examples)
- Short video clip or speech excerpt (optional)
- Timer or stopwatch (for activities)

Lesson Procedure

1. Warm-up (5-10 minutes)

Activity: Sentence Brainstorm

- Write three similar sentences on the board, one with correct parallelism and two with errors.

Example:

1. I like reading, to swim, and biking. ✗
2. I like to read, swimming, and to bike. ✗
3. I like reading, swimming, and biking. ✓

Ask students which one "sounds best" and why.

Transition: Introduce the term "parallel structure" and explain its importance in writing and speech clarity.

2. Presentation (10-15 minutes)

Explanation:

Define parallel structure: using the same grammatical form for elements in a list or series.

Common cases:

- Lists: She likes dancing, singing, and painting.
- Comparisons: He is not only smart but also hardworking.
- Correlative conjunctions: Neither the manager nor the employees were prepared.

Examples on Board:

- Faulty: He wants to win, to train, and success.
- Correct: He wants to win, to train, and to succeed.

Tips: Use consistent verb forms, noun forms, prepositions, or clauses.

3. Practice (15-20 minutes)

Activity A: Fix It! (Pair Work)

- Give students a handout with 8-10 faulty sentences.
- Task: Identify and correct parallel structure errors.

Activity B: Create Your Own (Individual)

- Students write 3 original sentences using parallel structure: one list, one comparison, and one using a correlative conjunction.

4. Production (10-15 minutes)

Group Activity:

- In small groups, students write a short speech or advertisement (4-5 lines) promoting a product or idea using parallel structure.
- Present to class or in breakout groups.

5. Wrap-Up & Homework (5 minutes)

Wrap-Up Questions:

- Why is parallel structure important in communication?
- How can you check your writing for parallel structure?

Homework:

- Write a short paragraph (6-8 sentences) about a goal or experience using at least three examples of parallel structure.

Assessment

Informal: Observation during pair/group activities

Formal: Evaluate written sentences and homework for correct usage of parallel structure