**The House on Mango Street: Parallel Structure**

In geometry, when lines are parallel, they run side-by-side smoothly, with no confusion about which line is which. In communication, sentences that use parallel structure use the same forms of subjects, verbs, phrases, or clauses. When parallel structure is used well, a sentence is clear and smooth. When parallel structure is not used well, a sentence can be confusing and distracting to the reader. There are several common types of parallel structures.

A. Using verbs as nouns (gerunds or infinitives)

Incorrect: Deborah loves camping, scrapbooking, and to bake.

Correct: Deborah loves camping, scrapbooking, and baking.

Correct: Deborah loves to camp, to scrapbook, and to bake.

B. Using adjectives or adverbs

Incorrect: The new Prius is compact, quiet, and runs on very little gas.

Correct: The new Prius is compact, quiet, and energy-efficient.

Incorrect: Liliana danced into the room quietly and with grace.

Correct: Liliana danced into the room quietly and gracefully.

C. Connecting phrases or clauses with a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

Incorrect: Carlos and José went hiking and then to a fast food restaurant.

Correct: Carlos and José went on a hike and then to a fast food restaurant.

D. Comparing options

Incorrect: I would prefer eating at home instead of to go out for dinner tonight.

Correct: I would prefer eating at home instead of going out for dinner tonight.

E. Offering a list of items

Incorrect: Schools are unfair because of grades, dress codes, and using cell phones.

Correct: Schools are unfair because of grades, dress codes, and cell phone policies.

**Directions: Combine the short sentences below into one complete sentence that uses parallel structure.**

1. Gil’s Furniture Bought & Sold sells old refrigerators. He also sells dusty couches. The televisions he is selling probably do not work.

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2. Meme Ortiz has a dog. The sheepdog has grey eyes. Meme gave the dog two names. The dog has a clumsy, floppy run.

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3. Louie, his mom, and his sisters live in the basement of Meme’s house. Marin is also living in the basement of Meme’s house. Louie’s other cousin is going to jail.

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4. Marin wears her skirts short. She also has pretty green eyes. She has a boyfriend back in Puerto Rico.

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5. In a neighborhood of another color, Esperanza’s knees begin to shake. The car windows get rolled up. Straight ahead is where she looks.

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6. Efren Vargas chipped his buck tooth on a parking meter. Refugia Vargas’s head was stuck between two slats in the gate. Death is what resulted when Angel Vargas fell.

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7. Staying up late and studying is something Alicia likes doing. Alicia studies for university. The kitchen is not where Alicia wants to stay all her life.

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