PARALLEL STRUCTURE

PARALLEL STRUCTURE means using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance. This can happen at the word, phrase, or clause level. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating conjunctions such as and or or.

PROOFREADING STRATEGIES TO TRY:

* Skim your paper, pausing at the words "and" or "or."
  
  Check on each side of these words to see whether the items joined are parallel. If not, make them parallel.

* If you have several items in a list, put them in a column to see if they are parallel.

* Listen to the sound of the items in a list or the items being compared.
  
  Do you hear the same kinds of sounds?
  For example, is there a series of "-ing" words beginning each item?

  Or do you hear a rhythm being repeated?
  If something is breaking that rhythm or repetition of sound, check to see if it needs to be made parallel.