

Parallelism

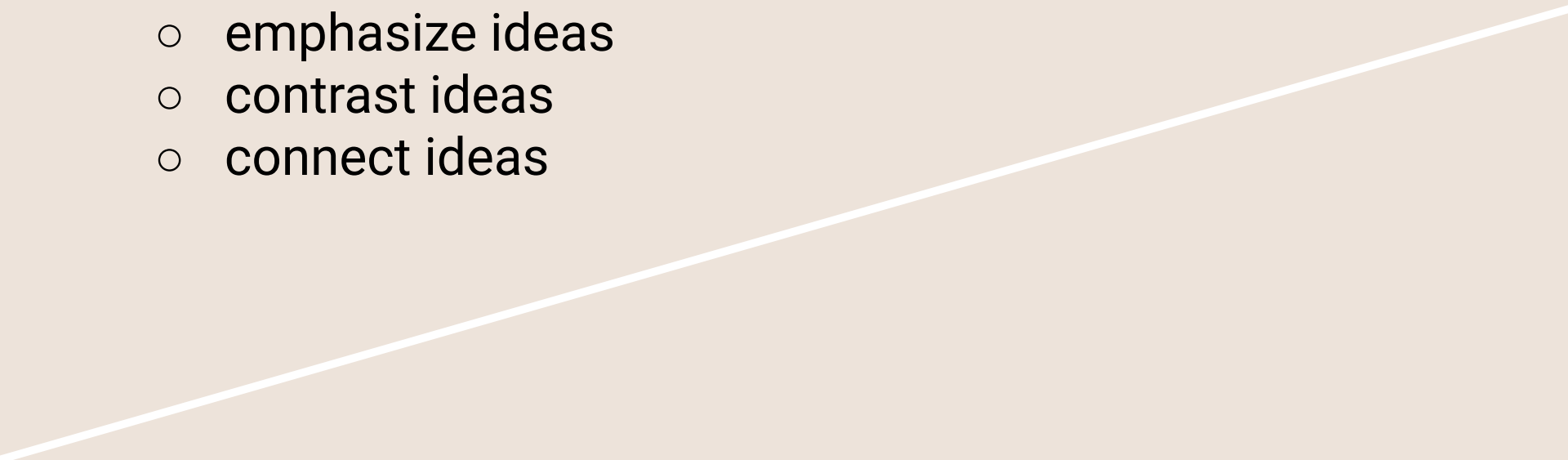
Grammar Mania Monday

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What is Parallelism?

- Parallel structure involves putting together elements of similar structure to achieve balanced writing.
 - Winston Churchill did **not** say:
 - “I have nothing to offer but bleeding, toil, tears, and sweating.”
 - He said:
 - “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”

Why Use Parallelism?

- Writers use parallelism as a device to...
 - emphasize ideas
 - contrast ideas
 - connect ideas
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How to Use Parallelism

- Good parallel structure improves the clarity of your writing.
- To make your writing parallel, use the same grammatical form for all items in a list.
- Parallelism is important at the level of:
 - the word
 - the phrase
 - the clause

Using Parallelism: Words

Poor: Betty has intelligence, honesty, and she is funny.

Improved: Betty has intelligence, honesty, and humor.

Poor: Good writing requires you to plan outlines, write several drafts, and revision.

Improved: Good writing requires you to plan outlines, write several drafts, and revise your work.

Using Parallelism: Phrases

Poor: A good attitude, being on time, and speaking effectively are her attributes.

Improved: Having a good attitude, being on time, and speaking effectively are her attributes.

Poor: This proposal is profitable, timely, and it helps us.

Improved: This proposal is profitable, timely, and helpful.

Using Parallelism: Clauses

Poor: The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and to do some warm-up exercises before the game.

Improved: The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game.

Group Practice

1. Many gases are invisible, odorless, and they have no taste.
2. Mr. Foster is not only an excellent barber but also sings well.
3. Olympic athletes usually like practicing, competing, and to eat ice cream sandwiches.
4. For dinner we like lamb chops and to fry brussel sprouts.
5. Daniel spent his Saturday afternoon cooking chili,
_____ (then he watched football), and
_____ (took a nap.)
6. Louise will be swimming, _____ (then bike), and
_____ (run) this weekend in her triathlon.'

Individual Practice

1. In the spring, summer, or in the winter, we will go to Germany.
2. Eric Foreman decorates the Christmas tree, picks up his grandma from the nursing home, and friends are invited over for dinner.
3. The internet can be used to find word meanings, medical information, and locating hotels.
4. Tennis requires hand-eye coordination, flexibility, and to be able to concentrate.
5. Brad and Dennis rode their motorcycles, _____, (swimming with sharks) and _____ (running with bulls).
6. The professor scolded the student for failing the test, _____ (come to school late), and _____ (classmates were bullied by him).
7. Chefs love to utilize rare ingredients, while homemakers prefer to cook with familiar food, _____ (using leftovers), and _____ (created quick meals).