

Polish Your Writing with Parallelism

Predictability makes a text and the logic in it easier to follow and thus more engaging. That's why the most popular music is very predictable with lots of repetition and clear unchanging rhythms.

A means to add predictability to your text is by applying Parallelism. Here, joined ideas and elements of lists follow the same syntax.

A task commonly found in cognition tests makes powerful use of parallelism:

'Leaf' relates to tree,
as
'page' relates to '_____'.

The two components follow the same syntax of subject - predicate - object. One immediately picks up on this pattern, and understanding the pattern makes the logic to follow in order to fill the blank obvious. One might even infer that the missing word should probably have only one syllable.

EXAMPLES:

(1) A list

Original sentence:

This atlas is based on a multimodal map obtained combining cytological architecture, functional specialization, connectivity and topographic organization rather than on strictly retinotopic or functional data.

Analysis:

This atlas is based on a multimodal map obtained combining

- *cytological architecture,*
- *functional specialization,*
- *connectivity and*
- *topographic organization*

rather than

on strictly

- *retinotopic or*
- *functional*

data.

In this list, the elements don't follow the same pattern. You have some with adjectives, one without, and two that are adjectives sharing a noun. Further, the first part speaks of "multimodal map", but in the second part, it is not contrasted in parallel.

Final edit:

This atlas is based

on a multimodal map integrating cell anatomy, connectivity, function, and topography rather than

on a monomodal map solely using function or topography.

(2) Sentences

Original:

Future studies are needed to understand how much the activity in the scene-selective regions is triggered by low-level features, which are essential for a quick discrimination of complex stimuli or by high-level category information which is important in supporting more abstract or specialized actions.

Analysis:

Future studies are needed to understand how much the activity in the scene-selective regions is triggered

*by **low-level features**, which are **essential for a quick discrimination of complex stimuli***

or

*by **high-level category information** which **is important in supporting more abstract or specialized actions**.*

Final Edit:

Additional studies are needed to understand how much the activity in the scene-selective regions is triggered

*by **low-level features**, which are **essential for discriminating stimuli** or
by **high-level categories**, which are **essential for planning actions**.*