

## Module 10: Conflicting Ideologies

### Topic 6 Content: Faulty Parallelism, Faulty Comparisons, and Wordiness

#### Faulty Parallelism

Errors in parallelism involve the position and relation of words, meanings, and forms of words in a sentence. The phrases in a sentence must be parallel in agreement, direction, and comparison. Observe how the incorrect sentences below can be corrected to make the sentence parallel.

Faulty Parallelism	Correct Parallelism
In the mall, she bought boots, stockings, and found some gloves.	In the mall, she bought boots and stockings and found some gloves. <i>or</i> In the mall, she bought boots and stockings. She also found some gloves.
In a burst of emotion, the actor smiled, was snarling, grimacing, and whimpered.	In a burst of emotion, the actor smiled, snarled, grimaced, and whimpered.
The twins were busy wrapping packages and tied ribbons.	The twins were busy wrapping packages, and then they tied ribbons. <i>or</i> The twins were busy wrapping packages and tying ribbons.

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#### Faulty Comparisons

Comparisons contrast at least two things using the word *than*. Errors in comparisons often result from missing words that clarify what is being compared.

State comparisons fully. Be sure to express the two (or more) items being compared. If you are comparing actions, remember to repeat the verb (or verbal phrase), or use the word "do."	
Faulty Comparison	Correct Comparison
Automakers worry about their industry more than environmentalists.	Automakers worry about their industry more than environmentalists worry about it. <i>or</i> Automakers worry about their industry more than environmentalists do.
Items being compared should be comparable.	
Faulty Comparison	Correct Comparison
His car is more expensive than his neighbor.	His car is more expensive than his neighbor's car.
Use any or any other appropriately.	
Faulty Comparison	Correct Comparison
Los Angeles is larger than any other city in Canada.	Los Angeles is larger than any city in Canada.
Use less and fewer appropriately. Less refers to things that are collective nouns and cannot be physically counted like sunlight or raindrops; fewer refers to items that can be counted like desks or cookies. (The signs in stores should read "10 Items or Fewer.") Consider the term "countable" in its grammatical sense rather than its literal sense.	
Faulty Comparison	Correct Comparison
I have less quarters than you do.	I have fewer quarters than you do.
But observe the following*:  I have fewer money than you do.  *Although you can count money, grammatically you would not count the word "money" and say "one money, two moneys..." like you can count quarters.	I have less money than you do.

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#### Wordiness

Wordiness is using more words than needed to make a point. Sometimes longer phrases may be preferred for sentence variety or clarity in meaning, but often longer phrases are redundant and needlessly distract the reader. Rather than live by the maxim "the more the merrier," embrace the maxim "less is better" when it comes to writing. You can make your writing more concise by making certain that every word is necessary and chosen well. Observe the following wordy phrases below and their concise counterparts:

Wordy Phrases	Concise Phrases
absolutely essential	essential
are connected with	relate to
as a result	thus
as long as	if
at all times	always
at this time	now; currently
close proximity	proximity
consensus of opinion	consensus
despite the fact that	even though
due to the fact that	since; because
few in number	few
first and foremost	first
for the production of	to produce
for the purpose of	for; to
for the reason that	since; because
in a given	each
in an attempt (effort) to	to
in connection with	about
in order for	for
in order to	to
in point of fact	in fact
in reference to	about

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#### Wordiness (continued)

Wordy Phrases	Concise Phrases
in the event that	if
in view of the fact that	since; because
inasmuch as	since; because
is allowed to	can
is required to	must; should
it should be noted that	<i>omit this phrase</i>
more often than not	usually
not allow	prevent; preclude; forbid
not different	similar
not include	omit
on the basis of	based on
owing to the fact that	since; because
past history	history
payment made to	paid to
whether or not	whether
will be able to	can
will depend upon	depends on
will have to	must; should
with reference to	regarding
with regard to	regarding; about
with the exception of	except