



SAT Grammar
Parallel Structure

Rule: Write parallel items in a similar way.

For example: The newscaster was popular among viewers for her impartial coverage of events, her creative style or journalism and she had great morality.

The sentence has an error in parallel structure because the first two items that made the newscaster popular are written as noun phrases (“impartial coverage of events” and “creative style”), but the third is written as an independent clause (“she had great morality”). To maintain consistency, the sentence should be rewritten with another noun phrase: “The newscaster was popular among viewers for her impartial coverage of events, her creative style of journalism and **her great morality.**”

Rule: Either goes with or. Neither goes with nor.

For example: My mother said that neither my brother or I had enough money saved to buy the new toys we wanted.

The sentence has an error in parallel structure because it incorrectly pairs “neither” with “or.” It should be rewritten for consistency of structure: “My mother said that **neither** my brother **nor** I had enough money saved to buy the new toys we wanted.”

SAT GRAMMAR TAKE AWAY

On the SAT:

- If a sentence lists two or more parallel items (“A and B”; “A or B”; “A, B and C”) all items should be written the same way. Make sure all items are the same part of speech and/or verb tense.
- If part of any of the following structures appears in a sentence, check to make sure it is completed and consistent with the context of the sentence.
 - between A and B
 - neither A nor B
 - either A or B
 - from A to B
 - both A and B