

“Please, no grammar.”

Yes, we have to talk about grammar. You need to know enough grammar to apply the Rule of Parallelism and to know where to put in the punctuation marks. And you need to understand your teacher if she talks to you about what went wrong with this or that sentence. But check it out—you just need to know what is given in the next 12 pages. Cool, eh?

B. GRAMMAR [7]

- [1] Sentence Structure—no sentence fragments or run-on sentences
- [1] Variety of Length—simple sentences, correct co-ordination in compound sentences or subordination of related ideas in complex sentences
- [1] Variety of Type and Mood—statements, questions, commands, wishes, many of 7 structure patterns, order pattern
- [1] Pronouns—agree with antecedent noun in number/person, correct cases
- [1] Verbs—agree with subject in number/person, tenses correct and consistent
- [1] Modifiers—no misplaced modifiers or dangling participles, nor adverb/adjective mix-up
- [1] Rule of Parallelism correctly applied, not broken

Sentence Structure—no sentence fragments or run-on sentences

There are only seven things you can say in English. Isn't that a relief? Say what you mean and stop.

Variety of Length—simple sentences, correct co-ordination in compound sentences or subordination of related ideas in complex sentences

On page 63 you are given examples of compound and complex sentences in case you want to join up related ideas.

Variety of Type and Mood—statements, questions, commands, wishes, many of 7 structure patterns, order pattern

Variety is the spice of life, and of writing, too. Use short sentences as well as long sentences. Throw in questions as well as statements. Exclaim once in a while! See page 71.

Pronouns—agree with antecedent noun in number/person, correct cases

Once you have named a person, you can use a pronoun instead of repeating the name. If you have problems with this item, check out page 66.

Verbs—agree with subject in number/person, tenses correct and consistent

You need to use the right verb with your subject. You also have to stay in the same time. Mostly we write in the past tense, but you might want to use the present tense for immediacy. *He shoots. He scores!* See pages 68.

Modifiers—no misplaced modifiers or dangling participles, nor adverb/adjective mix-up

Being a teacher, the students will make mistakes. Huh? Adjective modifiers must modify their nearest noun, single adjectives in front and phrases and clauses behind. Don't use an adjective for an adverb. Fragments are often disconnected modifiers.

Rule of Parallelism correctly applied, not broken

When you use a coordinate conjunction, write the items to be joined in the same grammatical pattern. You want to make the reader comfortable and to make the reading easy. See page 69.

First, here is a short article on how we read. As a writer, you need to know how the general reader reads. These passages have been taken from my book on solving word problems.