

1. Common symptoms of flu include fever, a head that is aching, and muscular pain.

*Common symptoms of flu include fever, headache, and muscular pain.*

*“Head that is aching” seems to be the non-parallel item here. “Fever” and “pain” are simple nouns. Changing “head that is aching” to “headache” (also a simple noun) seems to be the easiest way to express this item in a way that is more parallel to the other items in the list.*

2. The college student promised her parents that she would telephone frequently and to write on a regular basis.

*The college student promised her parents that she would telephone and write frequently.*

*In this example we have verbs instead of nouns. “The college student promised her parents that **she would telephone** . . . .” She also promised them that **she would write**. Since it is not correct to say “she would to write,” it is simplest to just rewrite the sentence “. . . she would telephone and write frequently.”*

3. Cheryl felt honored, excited, and embarrassment when her name was announced as the winner.

*Cheryl felt honored, excited, and embarrassed when her name was announced as the winner.*

*This problem is one of the easiest to explain: we have two words with “-ed” endings (honored, excited) and one with an “-ment” ending (embarrassment). The principles of parallelism ask us to express items in a list as similarly as possible, so changing “embarrassment” to “embarrassed” is a simple fix in this case.*

4. Neither a stiff back nor an ankle that was sprained was going to keep the halfback out of the big game.

*Neither a stiff back nor a sprained ankle was going to keep the halfback out of the big game.*

*The first item in this sentence—“stiff back”—is an adjective and noun. The simplest way to fix the problem with parallelism here is to change “ankle that was sprained” so that it is also expressed as an adjective followed by a noun—“sprained ankle.”*

5. Lying in bed until noon, classes being attended irregularly, and partying until late at night are poor habits to get into at college.

*Lying in bed until noon, attending classes irregularly, and partying until late at night are poor habits to get into at college.*

*Two of the items in this list already began with an “-ing” word. Rewriting “classes being attended irregularly” to be expressed in the same way as the others—“attending classes irregularly” is the simplest way to correct the problem with parallelism in this case.*

6. We ordered a pizza with ground beef, mushrooms, and we also asked for extra cheese.

*We ordered a pizza with ground beef, mushrooms, and extra cheese.*

*The other two items in this list were either a simple noun (“mushrooms”) or an adjective with a noun (“ground beef”), simply writing “extra cheese” (instead of “we also asked for extra cheese”) expresses this item in a way that is more parallel with the others.*

7. Answering mail, the cleaning of closets, and putting away out-of-season clothes are three chores that never seem to get done on time.

*Answering mail, cleaning closets, and putting away out-of-season clothes are three chores that never seem to get done on time.*

*The problem with this sentence is similar to the problem with number five above. We must simply express all three items in the simplest “-ing” form: “answering mail, cleaning closets, putting away out-of-season clothes.”*

8. Hawaii is famous for its beaches that are beautiful, warm climate, and exotic atmosphere.

*Hawaii is famous for its beautiful beaches, warm climate, and exotic atmosphere.*

9. Before leaving for work, Teresa exercises, eats breakfast, and the dog is fed.

*Before leaving for work, Teresa exercises, eats breakfast, and feeds the dog.*

*Two of the items in this sentence were already expressed in the simple present tense form of the verb: Teresa exercises, Teresa eats. The simplest solution is to express the third item in the same way: Teresa feeds the dog.*

10. A wrecked car and breaking a collarbone were the results of the accident.

*A wrecked car and a broken collarbone were the results of the accident.*

*This final sentence is another example of “-ed” vs. “-ing” endings. Here, however, I must point out that these “-ed” things are actually called past participles. “Broken” is an irregular past participle. We can’t say “brokek” so we must say “a broken collar bone.” Expressing both items in the past participle form (wrecked, broken) corrects the problem with parallelism.*