

Name _____

Date _____

Parallel Structure

Parallel structure involves using the same or similar grammatical structure in multiple parts of a sentence or series of sentences. This rhetorical device is often used to create rhythm, balance, and clarity while making writing more engaging and memorable.

Parallel structure is commonly found in poetry, prose, speeches, and other forms of writing. It provides patterns and repetition that enhance the overall flow of the text and emphasize key ideas.

Example:

Ordinary Sentence: Love is patient. It's kind. It's also quiet.

Parallel Structure: Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is quiet.

Read the excerpt below from Matthew 5:3-11: The Beatitudes. Answer the questions to identify the parallel grammatical structure being used and explain its effect.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Name _____

Date _____

Parallel Structure

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Answer the questions to identify the parallel grammatical structure being used and explain its effect.

1. What is the parallel grammatical structure being used?

2. Write out the pattern(s) by identifying the parts of speech.

3. What is the effect of the parallel structure?

Name _____

Date _____

Parallel Structure – Answer Key

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Answer the questions to identify the parallel grammatical structure being used and explain its effect.

1. What is the parallel grammatical structure being used?

Parallel Grammatical Structure:

The repeated pattern is: "Blessed are [subject]: for [result]."

2. Write out the pattern(s) by identifying the parts of speech.

Parts of speech:

"Blessed" (adjective)

"are" (verb)

"[subject]" (noun or pronoun)

"for" (conjunction)

"[result]" (noun clause or phrase)

3. What is the effect of the parallel structure?

The repetition of the phrase "Blessed are" creates a rhythmic and memorable structure, emphasizing the blessings associated with virtuous qualities and actions. It reinforces the spiritual and moral teachings by giving each line equal weight, making the message feel balanced and cohesive.