

Parallelism: Lists

Parallelism requires that items in lists balance grammatically. Balance is achieved by consistency in the list: the same types of terms—parts of speech, tense of verbs, agreement in number, etc.—are repeated throughout the list.

ILLUSTRATION: Zachary Taylor, twelfth President of the United States (1849-1850), served as a general in the United States Army, fought bravely in the Mexican-American war, and was becoming a hero as a result.

Correction:

Explanation:

In a parallel list of verbs, you need to keep the same form and the same tense: “served” and “fought” are past tense, so “was becoming” should be in the same form: “became.”



ON THE TEST

Items in a list need to look and sound the same for parallel consistency.

Parallel Number Agreement

ILLUSTRATION: Both presidents were highly regarded as a war hero.

Correction:

Explanation:

Parallelism also relates to number agreement. In this parallel structure, we must have parallelism between nouns, specifically in terms of number agreement. “Both presidents” = plural; “a war hero” = singular. Plural must equal plural (presidents = heroes), so “a war hero” must be revised to “war heroes.”

Exercises

- On Saturdays, I like sleeping late, hanging out with my friends, and to study grammar.
 - NO CHANGE
 - sleeping late, to hang out with my friends, and to study
 - to sleep late, to hang out with my friends, and studying
 - sleeping late, hanging out with my friends, and studying
- Before I could even contemplate starting the term paper, I had to pick a topic, going to the library, and clean off my desk.
 - NO CHANGE
 - pick a topic, having gone to the library, and cleaning
 - pick a topic, go to the library, and clean
 - picking a topic, go to the library, and clean

Annotation Strategy 1: Vital 10%

The Vital 10% strategy works best when you need to quickly identify the most important information in a passage, and it can be particularly useful when applied to Social Science or Humanities passages.

Vital 10% Diagnostic: Read the paragraph below. Be prepared to answer the questions that follow.

Sea Turtles: The Original GPS?

Sea turtle beach hatchings are celebrated occasions in the conservation community. In fact, many organizations, such as Sea Turtle Conservancy, work to ensure the safety of sea turtles as they first emerge from their shells and make a daring race to the ocean. Sea turtles are classified as an endangered species, and without the help of organizations that provide safe barriers, remove trash on the beach, and shoo away predators, only one in 1,000 baby sea turtles would survive its first journey to the ocean. Once sea turtles make it to the ocean, though, it is extremely difficult for researchers to track them. This means that very little is known about the life of sea turtles until they reemerge on their natal beaches to lay their own eggs. Considering sea turtles have very poor eyesight and the returning journey to their natal beaches can sometimes span years and great distances, the sea turtles' ability to locate the exact beaches on which they were born has long fascinated scientists. How exactly do sea turtles learn to navigate such vast and featureless distances to find the beaches on which they are born?

What is this paragraph about?

What do you think is the author's purpose in writing this paragraph?

Underline one sentence that best represents the main idea. Why did you choose that sentence?

Mixed Skills Review

1. John measured the height of his window. It was 64 inches tall. How tall was the window in feet and inches?
 - (A) 5 feet 2 inches
 - (B) 5 feet 4 inches
 - (C) 5 feet 14 inches
 - (D) 6 feet
 - (E) 6 feet 4 inches

2. A group of friends set up a lemonade stand on its block. The friends sold 105 drinks at \$0.25 each. Their total cost for the drinks was \$11.50. Approximately what was their profit as a percent of their revenue?
 - (A) 12.8%
 - (B) 14.8%
 - (C) 25.3%
 - (D) 56.2%
 - (E) 128.3%

3. A car uses 11 gallons of gasoline to travel 374 miles. Which of the following is the distance, in feet, the car can travel on 27 gallons of gasoline? (1 mile = 5,280 feet)
 - (A) 918
 - (B) 6,649
 - (C) 804,516
 - (D) 1,974,720
 - (E) 4,847,040

4. Bianca sells beauty products. She earns \$18 per hour, an additional \$0.29 per mile for driving expenses, and \$30 per day for meals. Approximately how many miles did Bianca travel on Monday if she worked 7.5 hours on that same day and received \$187.42 in wages and expenses for the day?
 - (A) 22.4
 - (B) 26.1
 - (C) 47.9
 - (D) 64.1
 - (E) 77.3

5. Mrs. Brown's students wanted to know her age. She gave them this riddle: "I started working when I was 17 years old. I spent $\frac{1}{3}$ of my working life in a restaurant. I spent $\frac{1}{4}$ of my working life in an office, and I spent $\frac{1}{8}$ of my working life from home. For the remaining 7 years of my working life, I've been a teacher. How old am I?" What is the answer to Mrs. Brown's riddle?
 - (A) 24
 - (B) 34
 - (C) 41
 - (D) 44
 - (E) 48

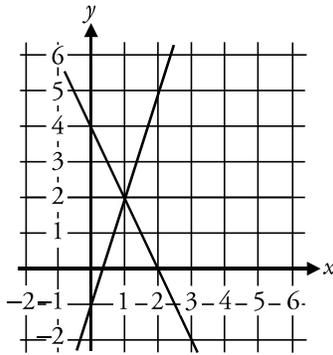
Systems of Linear Equations

Why Systems of Linear Equations?

In the Real World	On the Test
Imagine spotting a faraway friend who is walking slowly. If you run fast enough, you can catch them. Systems of equations are used to determine the conditions under which two or more groups meet. This meeting of groups is not limited to physical location; time management, supply and demand, and chemical reactions can all be modeled using systems of equations.	There are typically 1 or 2 questions featuring systems of linear equations on each test. These questions usually ask you to solve for the variables(s) outright given the system or to translate a word problem into a system before solving for a variable. Other variants show up much less frequently.

Warm-Up

- Two lines are shown in the xy -plane below.



- At what point do the two lines intersect? What two linear equations do they represent?
 - Summarize how to find a solution that simultaneously satisfies two linear equations by looking at their graphs.
- Find the solution (x, y) that satisfies the equations $3x + y = 5$ and $2x - y = 0$ by both substitution and elimination. Which method was easier for you?

Scientists often track population growth in nature. For example, rabbit populations grow exponentially given ideal conditions. A group of scientists tracked a population of rabbits in a carefully monitored, predator-free environment, where the rabbits had access to a surplus of food and space. The results are shown below in Figure 1.

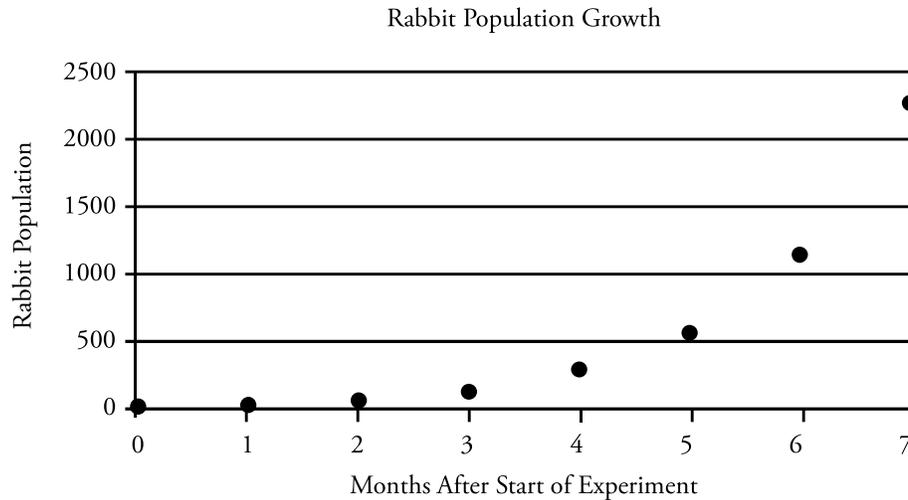


Figure 1

Questions:

- Based on Figure 1, how many months did it take for the rabbit population to reach 1,152?
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
- According to Figure 1, what would the rabbit population be after 3.5 months?
 - 204
 - 407
 - 815
 - 1,629
- The equation $P(t) = 36 \times 2^t$ is used to approximate the growth of the rabbit population, with $P(t)$ being the population and t being the time in months. What does 36 represent in this equation?
 - 36 represents the number of months required to double the population.
 - 36 represents the population at the beginning of the experiment.
 - 36 represents the number of months before the population stops growing.
 - 36 represents the population at the end of the experiment.