



In Class Exercises Set A

Answers and Explanations: WR Parallels

PART I

- 1) Parallelism happens with Lists, Structures, and Comparisons
- 2) Independent, Dependent, and Relative
- 3) Prepositional, Appositive, Gerund, Participial, Infinitive
- 4) Check the... Antecedent, Agreement, and Ambiguity!
- 5) The past perfect puts one item in the past in terms of another item: *he had finished his dinner before moving on to dessert.*
- 6) The progressive tense requires a form of the verb “to be” (am, is, are, was, were, being) and the present participle of the verb.
- 7) That, which, who, when and where were all mentioned.
- 8) My hammer is better than every **other** tool on the planet. (As it’s written, ‘hammer’ is being compared to every tool, including the hammer. It’s not Thor’s hammer so this doesn’t make sense. We must specify that my hammer is being compared all the other tools to make it a logical statement.)
- 9) Frantically vying for attention, **my mother decided** to use the hammer for every problem in the house. (As written, the participial phrase is describing ‘decision,’ which doesn’t make logical sense.)
- 10) Trudeau, Canadian Minister, **who** was never part of the contingency of hammer creators. (As written, the relative pronoun ‘who’ makes this sentence into a dependent clause. Removing ‘who’ turns the sentence into an independent clause.)

PART II

- 1) The answer is **A**). Parallelism does require that we use an infinitive here, but note that although ‘to stop’ college ball. The other infinitive, ‘to play’ is the exact opposite of ‘to stop’ and thus loses the meaning of the sentence.
- 2) The answer is **C**). “Prefer to” is the correct idiomatic phrase.
- 3) The answer is **D**). The modifier is currently dangling, as the correct antecedent is nowhere to be found (instead expressed through the possessive executives’). The executives are the ones who are angry, so they should be in the subject of the sentence.
- 4) The answer is **B**). A singular antecedent (each team) must take a singular pronoun. ‘Its’ has no problems. ‘Each of their’ would be alright, except it would have to be ‘names.’ Repeating the antecedent is unnecessary.
- 5) The answer is **C**). Parallelism 101: compare apples to apples. We can’t compare the success of the of the modern western conference to just the historical western conference: we’ve got to compare success to success. Rather than repeating the word success, option choice C) maintains stylistic consistency while using the proper singular pronoun “that.
- 6) The answer is **B**). Compare apples to apples: we are comparing the predicate ‘is unfair’ to ‘creates competition,’ which works perfectly. A compares a present simple predicate (is) to a present progressive form of the verb (is creating), while D compares a predicate to a clause (it is creating). C would work, but it uses the present perfect, messin’ up the darn tense agreement with ‘is unfair.’



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- 7) The answer is **B**. 'Seems as though' is the correct idiomatic phrase for having a clause as its object, while 'seems like' will take a nominative as its object ("this seems like a scam" is correct, as is "this seems as though it is a scam," but not "this seems like it is a scam."). Using the infinitive with the verb to seem is fine, but you'd have to drop the like/as though (seems to be . . .).
- 8) The answer is **B**. Apples to apples. 'More a slowdown than an obstacle' is the only construction that makes sense. We shouldn't compare a slowdown, a noun, to other grammatical structures like 'is an obstacle,' 'plan is an obstacle,' or 'objection is an obstacle.'
- 9) The answer is **A**. Everything in the phrase "with . . . CBA" is prepositional. The subject, people, is plural, meaning B is incorrect. From that point, the tense that makes the most sense is the present, as the action is ongoing, rather than the conditional (C), used for hypothetical action or the past perfect (D), used for predication in the past.
- 10) The answer is **D**. 'Composed of' is the best idiomatic phrase. 'Composed by' indicates the creator of a piece (the piece was composed by Bach).
- 11) The answer is **B**. B concludes the passage by tying the ideas from the paragraph (differing plans) to the broader issue and its problems (talent drain). A doesn't tie back to the passage's broader ideas and focuses too much on the focus of the paragraph (the CBA). C introduces an out of place detail that provides support for ideas developed in earlier paragraphs but doesn't conclude anything. D provides an entirely new opinion with no support from the paragraph.