

## Sentence-Level Issues

- Parallel Sentence Structure
  - When constructing sentences, make sure that you balance grammatical elements, clauses, and sentences.
    - Example #1: I traded **wealth for simplicity** and **smugness for satisfaction**.
    - Example #2: Eventually, she came to understand Ted, **who longed for love, who worried about rejection**.
    - Example #3: **When I got the job, I managed not to shout./When I interviewed for the job, I tried not to sweat**.

## Parallel Sentence Structure

- Consider that parallel structures help readers grasp ideas within a sentence.
  - The satisfaction came not **from the money** but **from the recognition**.
- Parallel structures can also establish a relationship between two or more sentences.
  - **If I have said anything** in this letter **that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates** my having a **patience** that allows me to settle for anything less than brotherhood, **I beg God to forgive me.**—MLK, Jr.
- Finally, keep in mind that parallel structures can require correlative conjunctions.
  - Correlative conjunctions include...both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also, and whether/or
    - Example#1: **Either** you pass the final **or** you repeat the course.
    - Example #2: **Whether** at home **or** at work, she was always busy.

## Misplaced/Dangling Modifiers

- In your writing, it is vital that you keep related parts of a sentence together and avoid modifiers that do not logically refer to other words in a sentence (aka a “dangling modifier”).
  - Placing modifiers near the words they modify clarifies meaning
    - Butch **just** sat down at the table with his hat on.

- **Just** Butch sat down at the table with his hat on.
- Butch sat down at the table with **just** his hat on.
- To keep the meaning clear, place modifiers such as *almost*, *even*, *hardly*, etc. immediately before the words they modify.
  - The flight costs *only* \$380.
  - Drew spent *even* his tuition money.
- Modifiers that refer to no particular element in a sentence need to be revised.
  - Dangling modifier refers to a verbal phrase that does not refer clearly and logically to another word or phrase in a sentence
  - Example:
    - Incorrect: *Tuning the television to CNN*, the State of the Union speech reached millions of voters.
    - Correct: *Because they tuned the television to CNN*, the State of the Union speech reached millions of voters.
    - Why the difference?—The second revision allows for a more clear connection between the main clause and the modifier