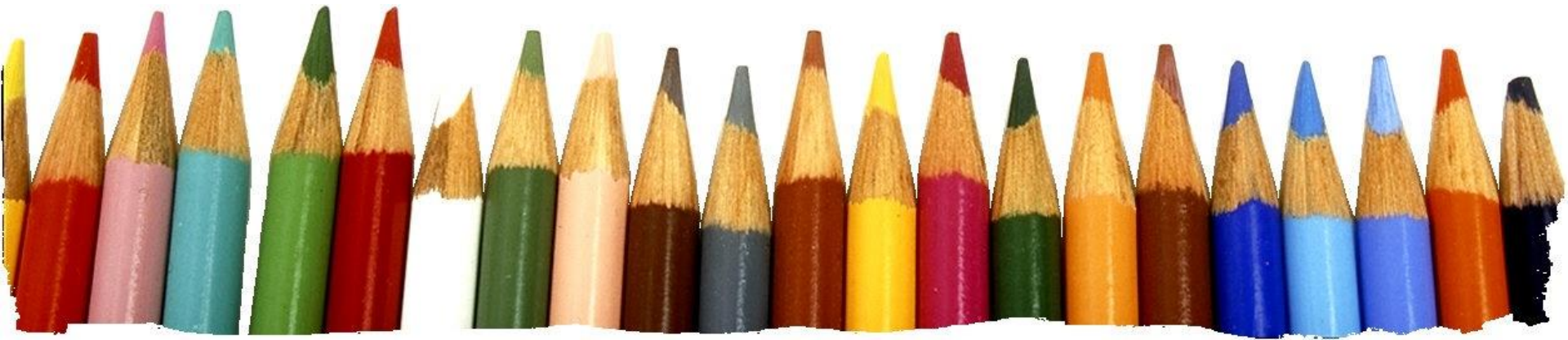


What is Parallel Structure?



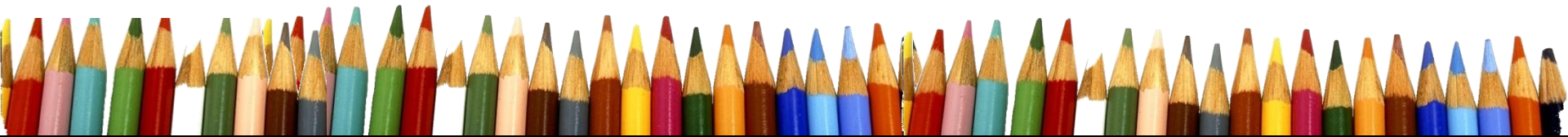
Parallel Structure/Parallelism

- Parallelism refers to matching grammatical structures in sentences. Elements in a sentence that have the same function or express similar ideas should be grammatically parallel, or grammatically matched.
- Parallelism is used effectively as a rhetorical device throughout literature and in speeches, advertising copy, and popular songs.



Parallelism in Writing

- Good parallel structure improves the clarity of your writing
- To make your writing parallel, use the same grammatical form for all items in a list
- Lists can be any of these things:
 - Parts of a sentence
 - Headings in a report
 - Items in a resume
 - Bulleted lists



Thesis statements

- When you write a thesis statement, often you have to summarize three reasons in parallel form.
- Example: Tobacco should be outlawed because it **endangers** everyone's health, **pollutes** the environment, and **drains** us of valuable energy.



Parallelism in Sentences

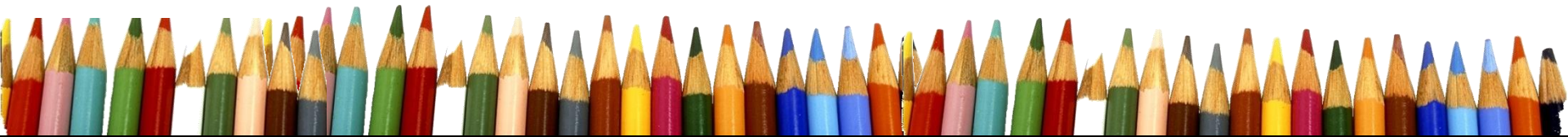
- **Poor:** Betty has intelligence, honesty, and she is funny.
- **Improved:** Betty has intelligence, honesty, and ~~she is funny~~ **humour.**

- **Poor:** Good writing requires you to plan outlines, write several drafts, and revision.
- **Improved:** Good writing requires you to plan outlines, write several drafts, and ~~revision~~ revise **your work.**



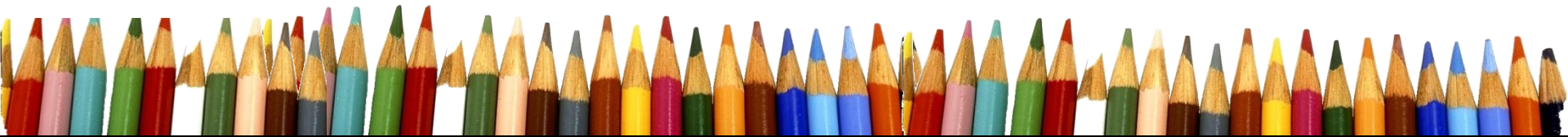
Parallelism in Lists

- **Poor:** I left my job for several reasons:
 - The pay was poor
 - Long hours
 - I found the work tedious
 - Equipment was dangerous
- **Improved:** I left my job for several reasons:
 - Poor pay
 - Long hours
 - Tedious work
 - Dangerous equipment



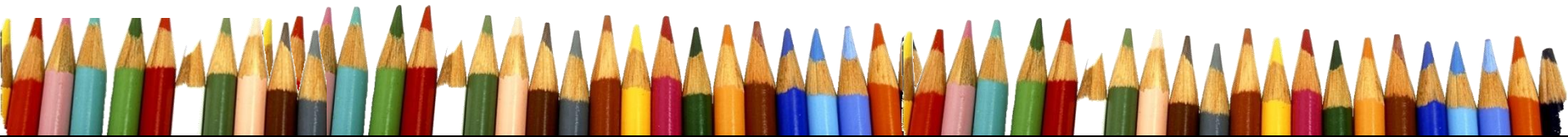
Examples of Parallelism

- Winston Churchill did not say
 - I have nothing to offer but bleeding, toil, tears, and sweating.
- He said
 - I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.
- Churchill understood parallelism!



Examples of Parallelism

- Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.—
Joseph Addison
- Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the
ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in
the seat of the scornful.—The Book of Psalms 1:1
- Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you
can do for your country.—John F. Kennedy

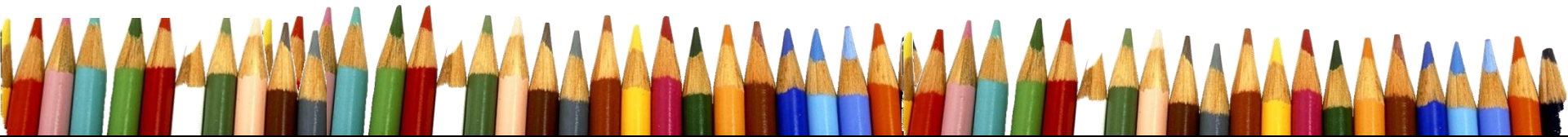


Not Parallel

The housekeeper looked inside the drawers, the bookcase, and under the recliner.

Parallel

The housekeeper looked inside the drawers, on top of the bookcase, and under the recliner.

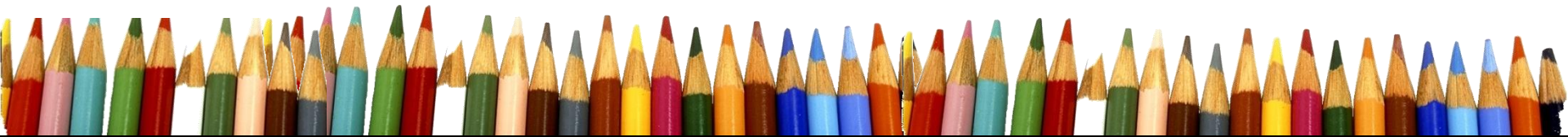


Not Parallel

These boys could name the types of trees, flowers, and some kinds of birds in the forest.

Parallel

These boys could name the types of trees, flowers, and birds in the forest.

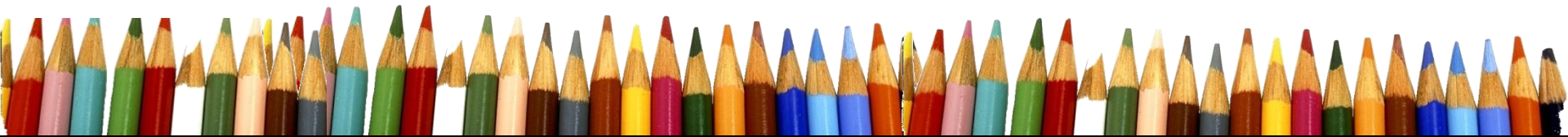


Not Parallel

The man was lonely, old, and a miser.

Parallel

The man was lonely, old, and miserly.



Not Parallel

The model learned to speak well, walking with poise, and that she must apply makeup correctly.

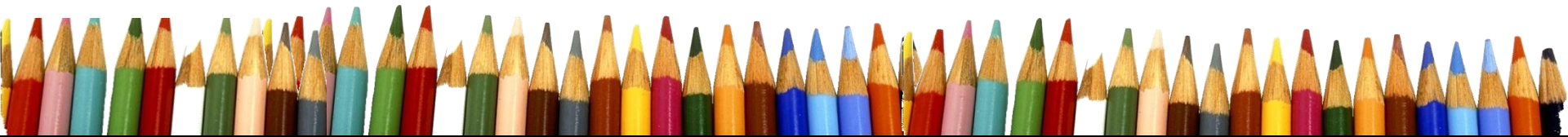
Parallel

The model learned to speak well, to walk with poise, and to apply makeup correctly.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

- A. I wondered whether to make an outline first or I should write the rough draft.
- B. I wondered whether to make an outline first or to write the rough draft.
- C. I wondered whether to make an outline first or writing rough draft.
- D. I wondered whether to make an outline first or that I should write a rough draft.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

A. I wondered whether to make an outline first or I should write the rough draft.

B. I wondered whether to make an outline first or to write the rough draft.

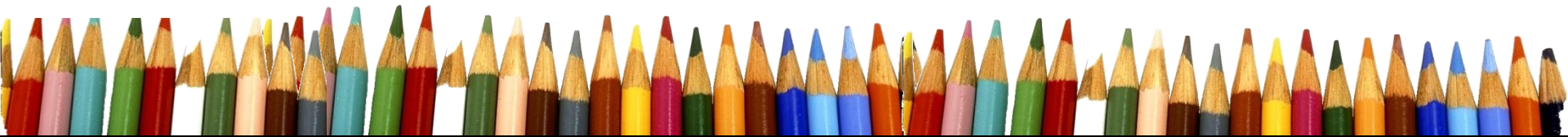
C. I wondered whether to make an outline first or writing rough draft.

D. I wondered whether to make an outline first or that I should write a rough draft.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

- A. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and began the lesson.
- B. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and he began the lesson.
- C. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and decided to begin the lesson.
- D. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and beginning the lesson.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

- A. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and began the lesson.
- B. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and he began the lesson.**
- C. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and decided to begin the lesson.
- D. The teacher came into the room, he paused before the class, and beginning the lesson.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

- A. Her choices were one, to begin college, or two, to find a job.
- B. Her choices were one, begin college, or two, be an employee.
- C. Her choices were one, begin college, or two, that she find a job.
- D. Her choices were one, beginning college, or two, find a job.



Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.

A. Her choices were one, to begin college, or two, to find a job.

B. Her choices were one, begin college, or two, be an employee.

C. Her choices were one, begin college, or two, that she find a job.

D. Her choices were one, beginning college, or two, find a job.

