**Parallelism, Pronouns, Modifiers, & Verbs**

**Practice Exercises[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**I. PARALLELISM,** (*JW* pp*.* 220-226, 168-170)

1. One factor governing the award of child support includes the cost of caring for, maintaining, and the education of the children.
2. The proposed transmission line is ugly, unsafe, and will endanger the environment.
3. Smith’s reasons for breaking into the locked box were his suspicion that it contained financial records, and he expected a reward from the Justice Department.
4. The voluminous record in this case both contains substantial and conflicting evidence regarding the sequence of events, the actions of the parties, and what was the condition of the intersection.

E. The trial court concluded that the agreement was not only fair economically, but also procedurally fair.

**II. PRONOUNS,** (*JW,*  pp.206-215)

1. Two bothers, Earl and Mason Hargrove, own two lumber yards. They are both financially stable.
2. The Washington State Constitution forbids in-court questioning of a witness about their religious beliefs. This is repeated in Washington Rule of Evidence 610.
3. The appellate court upheld the trial court’s verdict, stating that they found no manifest abuse of discretion.

**III. MODIFIERS,** (JW pp. 215-220)

1. The victim described her attacker as having a tattoo on his right buttock in the shape of a peace sign.
2. Wedged in a crack in the sidewalk, Mrs. Harris found the ring.
3. In determining what constitutes “appreciable time,” a specific or standard amount of time has not been clearly defined by the courts.
4. Some states hold that one is not responsible for one’s acts while in certain mental states, such as Alabama.
5. Sagging and needing a new coat of paint, Mr. Preston hired our client.

**IV. Verbs/ Subject-Verb Agreement & Sentence Fragments,** (*JW* pp.199-205, 187-192)

1. The defendant’s statement to the police, as well as her testimony, suggest that her actions were premeditated.
2. The defendant’s statement to the police and her deposition suggests that her actions were premeditated.
3. Neither the defendant’s testimony nor her deposition suggest her actions were premeditated.
4. Even if the jury finds the defendant innocent.

**ANSWER KEY**

1. One factor governing the award of child support includes the cost of caring for, maintaining, and educating the children.
2. The proposed transmission line is ugly, unsafe, and dangerous to the environment.
3. Smith’s reasons for breaking into the locked box were his suspicion that it contained financial records and his expectation of a reward from the Justice Department.
4. The voluminous record in this case both contains substantial and conflicting evidence regarding the sequence of events, the actions of the parties, and the condition of the intersection.
5. The trial court concluded that the agreement was not only economically fair but also procedurally fair.

OR

The trial court concluded that the agreement was fair not only economically but also procedurally.

1. Both lumber yards are financially stable.

OR

Both brothers are financially stable.

1. The Washington State Constitution forbids in-court questioning of witnesses about their religious beliefs. This prohibition is repeated in Washington Rule of Evidence 610.
2. The appellate court upheld the trial court’s verdict, stating that it found no manifest abuse of discretion.
3. The victim described her attacker as having a tattoo in the shape of a peace sign on his right buttock.
4. Wedged in a crack in the sidewalk, the ring was found by Mrs. Harris.

OR

Mrs. Harris found the ring wedged in a crack in the sidewalk.

1. In determining what constitutes “appreciable time,” the courts have not clearly defined a specific or standard amount of time
2. Some states, such as Alabama, hold that one is not responsible for one’s acts while in certain mental states.
3. Because his home was sagging and needing a new coat of paint, Mr. Preston hired our client.

OR

Mr. Preston hired our client because his home was sagging and needing a new coat of paint.

1. The defendant’s statement to the police, as well as her testimony, suggests that her actions were premeditated.
2. The defendant’s statement to the police and her deposition suggest that her actions were premeditated.
3. Neither the defendant’s testimony nor her deposition suggests her actions were premeditated.
4. Even if the jury finds the defendant innocent, his reputation is damaged forever. (Note that this answer is an example. Another phrase could potentially complete the sentence.)

1. Practice exercises taken from examples in *Just Writing* and *The Legal Writing Handbook* by Laurel Currie Oates and Anne Enquist. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)