Joining Elements

Parallel Structure means using the same construction for elements in a sentence that have the same function. Use parallel structure when:

- Elements are joined by coordinating conjunctions;
- Writing elements in the form of a list or series; and
- Comparing or contrasting elements (i.e., A is better than B).

Examples:

- I am allergic to that shampoo and that conditioner.
- My cat is nervous, irritable, and lazy.
- I like pizza more than cake.

Directions: Choose words to fill in the blank that give the correct parallel sentence structure.

_____ 1. Kim was happy about finishing school, getting good grades and ___.
   A. ...summer camp.
   B. ...to summer camp.
   C. ...going to summer camp.

_____ 2. I have always enjoyed walking more than ___.
   A. ...rode the bus.
   B. ...riding the bus.
   C. ...to ride the bus.

_____ 3. When my mother is tired and ___, I like to avoid her.
   A. ...starting to get irritable...
   B. ...irritable...
   C. ...getting irritable...

_____ 4. Reading, writing, and ___, are three of Jill’s favorite activities.
   A. ...sewing...
   B. ...a sewing class...
   C. ...sew something...