Parallel Use in Sentences

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:

- Katy hates going to school and doing her homework.
- Jim is friendly, outgoing, and ambitious.
- I like Alice more than I like Carol.

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

_____ 1. John prefers reading to _____________________.
   A. …write.
   B. …doing writing.
   C. …writing.

_____ 2. Paula wants to eat, play and ________________ at the picnic.
   A. …go swimming
   B. …swim
   C. …to go swimming

_____ 3. Right after work and ________________, everyone in our house is grumpy
   A. …getting home from school ...
   B. …school...
   C. …right after school...

_____ 4. The secret to health is having good friends, eating a good diet, and ___.
   A. …good night’s sleep...
   B. …get a good night’s sleep...
   C. …getting a good night’s sleep