



Parallelism

Grade 8

Expository Reading & Writing

What is it?

- Parallelism is sometimes called **parallel structure** or **parallel construction**.
- **Parallelism** prevents your writing from sounding **awkward**.

Examples

o Check out the next two sentences.

Which one sounds smooth? Which one sounds awkward?

Ew. What's Wrong Here?

◦ **Rachel loves playing football and to play soccer and swimming.**

Ahhh... So Much Better!

- ~~o Rachel loves playing football and to play soccer and swimming.~~
- o Rachel loves **playing** football, soccer, and **going** swimming.
- o Rachel loves **to** play football and soccer and **to** swim.

Ew. What's Wrong Here?

- **Bob has never been to Georgia, Alaska, or seen North Dakota and South Dakota.**

Ahhh... So Much Better!

- ~~o Bob has never been to Georgia, Alaska, or been to North Dakota or South Dakota.~~
- o Bob has never been to Georgia, Alaska, North Dakota or South Dakota.

The #1 Rule of Parallelism

o Keep things the same!!

o My dog likes **smiling**
and **to bark**.✘

o My dog likes **smiling**
and **barking**.✓

Why use it:

- o Parallelism makes your writing more balanced and even-sounding.
- o It helps your writing feel less awkward.
- o It adds a sense of rhythm and “beat” to your writing.
- o It makes what you’re saying easier to remember (great for trying to persuade someone to agree with you!)



Here's the point:

**How can infinitives,
participles, and gerunds
help writers maintain
parallelism?**

Discuss how infinitives create parallelism in this quote.



Discuss how participles create parallelism in this quote.

But love shouldn't feel like
an accident, like two
highspeed hearts crashing,
burning, mistaking the sparks
for stars.

- Unknown

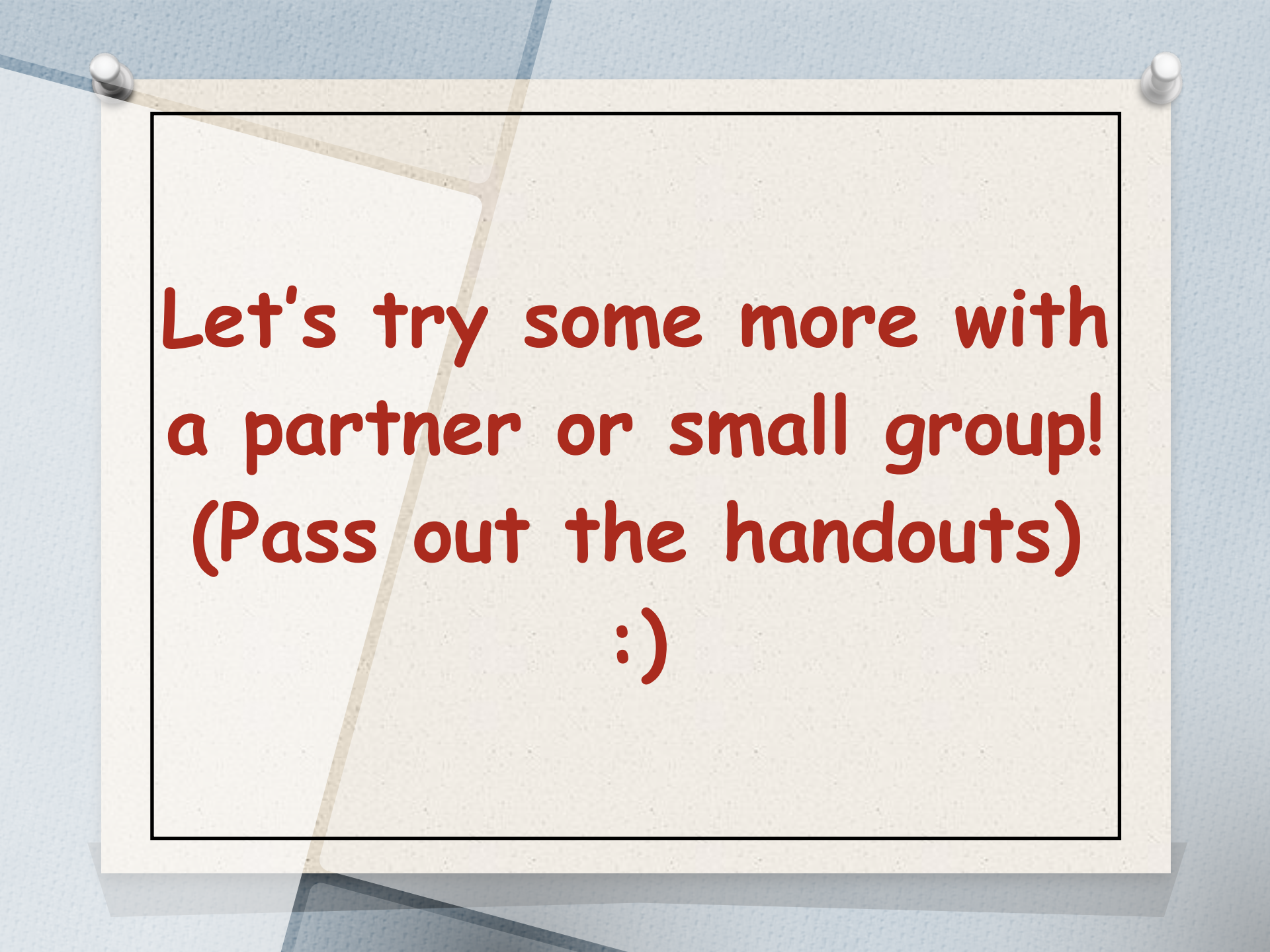


Discuss how gerunds create parallelism in this quote.

**LEARNING HISTORY
IS EASY; LEARNING
ITS LESSONS SEEMS
ALMOST IMPOSSIBLY
DIFFICULT.**

Nicholas Bentley

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Let's try some more with
a partner or small group!
(Pass out the handouts)
:)