Exercises A Each sentence below contains three ideas that should be expressed with parallel structure. Underline the word group that is not parallel with the others. Then, write the word group correctly on the line provided.

Example: to make appointments.

1. The duties of the receptionist are to receive visitors, making appointments, and to sort the mail.

2. Most of our neighbors are friendly, considerate, and they give help.

3. Sales are often held to clear out old stock, for increasing profits, or to advertise the store.

4. Del's good grades were due to regular attendance, good participation in class, and he studied effectively.

5. Tamisha's report got high marks because of its interesting subject, it covered the topic thoroughly, and it was written on a word processor.

6. Before writing your theme, you should prepare a rough outline, collect your material, and a topic should be selected.

7. To bake a potato, you should scrub it, pierce it with a fork, and it should be placed on the center rack of the oven.

8. We traded in our car because the body was rusty, the worn-out tires, and the engine burned oil.

9. Armando finally decided to find a job, to save his earnings, and that he would go to college.

10. We made our paper profitable by getting more subscribers, we sold more ads, and by raising its price.

Exercises B On the blank line that follows the and, or, than, or as, write the idea printed in parentheses. Make this idea parallel in construction to its partner, which is printed in italics.

Example: We enjoyed simple things like watching the sunrise or walking in the woods. (a walk in the woods)

1. A recent book is not necessarily better than __________________________________________ (one that is old)

2. I often relax by closing my eyes and __________________________________________ (picture soft clouds floating in the sky)

3. Our sports editor attends each game and __________________________________________ (a report of it is written)

Continued ☞
4. Seeing other people’s faults is much easier than ________________________________
   (to see our own)

5. Exercise relieves nervous tension and ________________________________
   (the energy level is increased)

6. This test shows your interests and ________________________________
   (what your abilities are)

7. The committee’s chief duties are to plan programs and ________________________________
   (keeping up the members’ interest)

8. Mr. Blumenthal has the habit of reading the newspaper thoroughly and ________________________________
   (then he forms his opinions)

9. Hearing Miguel’s report on the book was almost as good as ________________________________
   (if I read it myself)

10. Your purpose should be to discover the truth rather than ________________________________
    (proving yourself right)

11. Our cousins arrived for a visit and ________________________________
    (are bringing a friend with them)

12. I would rather ride a bicycle for two miles than ________________________________
    (jogging for one mile)

13. Listening to your speech is as good a review of the amendments as ________________________________
    (to read the Constitution)

14. Mom expects us to feed the dog or ________________________________
    (doing some of our other chores)

15. Finding the epicenter of the earthquake took longer than ________________________________
    (identify its magnitude on the Richter scale)

16. Mr. Owens let us vote on whether we would hear a guest speaker or ________________________________
    (taking our chemistry test)

17. Gerry preferred meeting his customers in person rather than ________________________________
    (to talk to them over the phone)

18. Recently, I have had little time to watch the news or ________________________________
    (reading a book)

19. Parchment was often used for official documents and ________________________________
    (letters were written on it)

20. At that park, canoeing is more popular than ________________________________
    (to go swimming)