

Name _____ Date _____

Parallel Structure – Exercise 4

This handout accompanies Exercise 4 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Choose the option that maintains parallel structure in the sentence.

1. Ironing a clean shirt, _____, and buying a pack of gum for fresh breath were the tasks Aaron completed before the first day of spring semester.
 - A. the printout of a course schedule
 - B. printing a course schedule
 - C. making sure that he had printed a course schedule
2. Stuart wiggled his foot, drummed a Jimi Hendrix riff with his pencil, and _____, but he could not burn off the caffeine-induced energy from an extra large cup of coffee.
 - A. chewed a mouthful of gum
 - B. was chewing a mouthful of gum
 - C. his jaw worked a mouthful of gum
3. The blonde who sucked the ends of her hair, the athlete who blinked nervously, and _____ would not share their algebra homework with Jake.
 - A. the rebel slouching in his seat
 - B. the slouching rebel
 - C. the rebel who slouched in his seat
4. _____, no recognition for her skills, and a dislike for the polyester uniform made Kelsey quit the ping-pong team.
 - A. Because she was frustrated with the coach
 - B. Frustration with the coach
 - C. Having become frustrated with the coach
5. The hike through the canyon exhausted Kim. The steep incline made her thigh muscles throb, _____, and the relentless sun burned her skin.
 - A. the heavy pack caused her shoulders to ache
 - B. aching shoulders from the heavy pack
 - C. shoulders that ached from the heavy pack
6. Instead of finishing her chemistry homework, Terry wanted to spend her birthday money at the mall, _____, and eat pizza in the food court.
 - A. see a movie at the theater
 - B. she planned to see a movie at the theater
 - C. planning to see a movie at the theater

7. Because Alex is always flirting with Becky, Bridgette will neither lend him an eraser nor _____.
- A. will she let him peek at her score sheet
 - B. let him peek at her score sheet
 - C. agreeing to let him peek at her score sheet
8. Mrs. Martin, the hiring manager, explained that she would consider an interview if Lester remembered to wear shoes, comb the crumbs out of his beard, and _____.
- A. replace the shark-tooth necklace with a tie
 - B. he needed a tie, not a shark-tooth necklace
 - C. she wanted to see a tie, not a shark-tooth necklace, around his throat
9. After no rabbit popped out of the hat, Lori decided she had neither the patience nor _____ to tolerate another of Darren's poorly performed magic tricks.
- A. the good humor
 - B. did she have the good humor
 - C. the ability to muster the good humor
10. Elizabeth wanted to enjoy the plate of nachos that she and Jared shared, but she worried about black beans sticking to her teeth, cheese dripping from her chin, and _____.
- A. the possibility that chip crumbs might catapult from her mouth
 - B. whether or not chip crumbs would catapult from her mouth
 - C. chip crumbs catapulting from her mouth
11. Neither the carrots rotting in the bottom bin nor _____ will make a suitable side for the chicken you are planning to bake for dinner.
- A. the broccoli that is crusting over with freezer burn
 - B. the broccoli which has crusted with freezer burn
 - C. the broccoli crusted with freezer burn
12. Horatio tickled the pads of Samson's feet, blew in his ears, and _____, but the ancient German shepherd refused to leave the sofa for a walk in the rain.
- A. she removed dog hair from the sofa cushions
 - B. removing dog hair from the sofa cushions
 - C. removed dog hair from the sofa cushions
13. While sitting in English class, Peterson wonders how Dr. Jones can speak so passionately about comma splices, why she would spend her free evenings voluntarily reading Shakespeare, and _____.
- A. when she manages to have some real fun
 - B. does she ever have some real fun
 - C. ever having any real fun

14. _____, a dirty hamster cage, and a glass of old milk all contribute to the unbearable stench emanating from Wilson's bedroom.
- A. Gym socks that are smelly from sweat
 - B. Sweaty gym socks
 - C. Sweaty gym socks that smell
15. Natalya quietly unzipped her book bag, removed a bottle of pink polish, and _____ while Dr. Adams droned on and on about the Mesopotamians.
- A. began painting her fingernails
 - B. she began painting her fingernails
 - C. with utter disrespect, she began painting her fingernails
16. In a car, Wesley wants _____, a sound system that vibrates with booming bass, and a style that attracts beautiful women.
- A. an engine that roars with power
 - B. an engine roaring with power
 - C. a powerful engine
17. In a girlfriend, Wesley wants a shapely body, a smart head, and _____.
- A. a wallet that is fat
 - B. a fat wallet
 - C. a fat wallet that is bursting with cash
18. In a home, Wesley wants windows showcasing the skyline of Los Angeles, steel and glass furniture sparkling in the sunlight, and _____.
- A. a Great Dane sleeping on the white shag carpeting
 - B. a Great Dane who sleeps on the white shag carpeting
 - C. a sleeping Great Dane on the white shag carpeting
19. In reality, Wesley has a bus pass, an Angelina Jolie poster, and _____ in the room he shares with his brother.
- A. sleeping in the bottom bunk
 - B. the bottom bunk
 - C. the bunk which is on the bottom
20. Everyone points to Jeannine as an example of an excellent student because she has an attentive attitude, detailed class notes, and _____.
- A. never is the one who yawns in class
 - B. a bright smile
 - C. the fact that she gets As on everything

