

## GRAMMAR TIP #2

# SEMICOLON IN A PARALLEL STRUCTURE



If the items in a list are long clauses or contain internal punctuation (e.g. sub-lists or commas), use semicolons instead of commas to maintain clarity in your parallel structure. The same rules for a parallel structure with commas apply.

Each item in the list includes a sub-list. Use a comma to separate items in the sub-list.

### Example:

Climbing a steep, snowy, and challenging mountain, like the K2, tests physical endurance and mental commitment; swimming across a vast, chilly, and deep lake demands physical commitment and sustained breath control; **and** running a rugged, uphill, and long trail run challenges the whole body.

Use the semicolon and a subordinating conjunction to introduce the last item of the main list.

Commas to introduce a phrase

Use the semicolon to separate items in the main list.

**Note:** You can also separate the items in the list with numbers or letters to make it stand out more.

**GOT  
QUESTIONS?**

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