



## 英文寫作秘訣：平行結構 Part C - both, and; not, but; not only, but also; either, or; first, second, third 等的用法

難度：中階

### 平行結構 Part C — both, and; not, but; not only, but also; either, or; first, second, third 等的用法

在英文句子中使用以上詞彙時，必須配合平行結構，以確保文意的清晰。如果原來的寫法違背了這個原則，只需稍微調整一下句中字詞的順序，便可改正過來。

錯誤：It was both a long ceremony and very tedious.

正確：The ceremony was both long and tedious.

(整個典禮既冗長又乏味。)

解釋：在正確用法中，主詞很明顯是‘ceremony’這個字，因為它是整個句子所描述的對象。而在錯誤用法中，則不清楚句子的主詞是代名詞‘it’或‘ceremony’本身，因為無法確認主詞為何，所以使得這個句子不符合文法。

以下是另一個例子，請注意平行結構中‘for’的使用。

錯誤：A time not for words, but action.

正確：A time not for words, but for action.

(此時需要實際的行動，而非空泛的言語。)

以下是另一個例子，請注意平行結構中‘that’的使用。

錯誤：My objections are, first, the injustice of the measure; second, that it is unconstitutional.

正確：My objections are, first, that the measure is unjust; second, that it is unconstitutional.

(我提出異議的原因在於：第一，那是不公正的衡量方式；第二，那是違反憲法的。)

解釋：在錯誤用法中，讀者不清楚代名詞‘it’指的是什麼。而在正確用法中，“that the measure is”和“that it is”組成了平行結構，讀者很容易明白代名詞‘it’指的就是「衡量方式」(measure)。

**Uni-edit English Writing Tip: Parallel structures Part C — both, and; not, but; not only, but also; either, or; first, second, third etc.**

Level of difficulty: Intermediate

**Parallel structures Part C — both, and; not, but; not only, but also; either, or; first, second, third etc.**

This is the third part in a five part series about using parallel structures. This part focuses on the use of commonly found words in parallel structures.

While editing English manuscripts, Uni-edit editors often need to correct sentences for correct usage of parallel structures. Correct use of parallel structures makes the writing easier to read and easier to understand for native-speakers of English and for non-native speakers of English.

For sentences that use these commonly found words, parallel structures are required to ensure clarity. Many violations of this rule can be corrected by rearranging the sentence.

Incorrect: It was both a long ceremony and very tedious.

English corrected: The ceremony was both long and tedious.

Explanation: In the correct sentence, 'ceremony' is clearly the subject that is being described. In the incorrect sentence, is the subject 'it' or 'ceremony'? The subject is not clear, which makes the sentence grammatically incorrect.

Another example is below. Pay attention to the use of 'for' in the parallel structure.

Incorrect: It is a time not for words, but action.

English corrected: It is a time not for words, but for action.

Another example is below. Pay attention to the use of 'that' in the parallel structure.

Incorrect: My objections are, first, the injustice of the measure; second, that it is unconstitutional.

English corrected: My objections are, first, that the measure is unjust; second, that it is unconstitutional.

END OF TIP