The Parallelism Problem: most parallelism issues lie within the verb-subject-object relationship.

**A Parallelism Problem**

*I practiced my sweet nunchuck skills, drawing talents, and kickball.*

The trouble here is with “kickball.” Reference is made to “nunchuck skills” and “drawing talents,” so for “kickball” to be parallel, it must be referred to as “kickball abilities.”

**Why Use Parallelism Anyway?**

Writers use parallelism to make comparisons and connections between parts of their sentences.

This is evident from the example at the left. There, the writer wanted to make a connection between the three things she was practicing.

For the connection to be made correctly, each object in the sentence needs to agree.

**Another Parallelism Problem**

*My papers for College Writing are longer than everyone.*

Here, the writer wanted to make a comparison between his papers and everyone else’s papers.

However, the object (papers) is not parallel to the subject (everyone), so the reader can not clearly make the comparison.

Correction: *My papers for College Writing are longer than everyone else’s papers.*

**Parallelism Without a Problem**

*When people fondue with chocolate and strawberries, they must first dip the strawberries in the chocolate, then put the chocolate-covered berries in their mouths, then, finally, they should savor the delicious morsels before reaching for seconds.*

In this sentence, the author wants to make a connection between the progressive steps in enjoying a chocolate-covered strawberry. The connection is successfully made by assuring that the verbs and their objects remain parallel with each other and with the subject.