

Name _____ Date _____

Parallel Structure – Exercise 3

This handout accompanies Exercise 3 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. When Delores realized that her father had made lima beans and rice for dinner, she _____, claimed to feel nauseous, and excused herself from the table. The bag of stale popcorn in her room would tide her over until breakfast.
 - A. clutched her stomach
 - B. was clutching her stomach
 - C. did clutch her stomach
2. Not only did Hank despise the way June chewed with her mouth open, _____ finding her wet towels all over the bathroom floor.
 - A. but also disliked
 - B. but also disliking
 - C. but he also disliked
3. To protect her delicate hands, Fran will not rake the yard, do the dishes, or _____.
 - A. refuses to scrub the bathtub
 - B. won't scrub the bathtub
 - C. scrub the bathtub
4. When Diane takes her beagle for a walk, Santana enjoys sniffing for edible garbage, _____, and lunging at squirrels.
 - A. howls at bicyclists
 - B. howling at bicyclists
 - C. she howls at bicyclists
5. After Amanda cashes her paycheck, the money goes to her savings account, cappuccino fund, and _____.
 - A. paying her credit card bill
 - B. toward her credit card balance
 - C. credit card balance
6. In preparation for her run, Alicia _____, applied sunscreen, and increased the volume on her iPod.
 - A. tightened her shoelaces
 - B. was tightening her shoelaces
 - C. did tighten her shoelaces

7. We searched the car trunk, _____, and the top of the refrigerator, but we could not find the box of cornflakes that we remember buying.
- A. looked on the pantry shelves
 - B. on the pantry shelves
 - C. the pantry shelves
8. Bonkers, our ninety pound golden retriever, chews on furniture, _____, and snots up the car windows—inconveniences we didn't anticipate when we adopted him.
- A. would drag us around the neighborhood during walks
 - B. he drags us around the neighborhood during walks
 - C. drags us around the neighborhood during walks
9. Belinda saw very little of the horror movie, for she shut her eyes _____, when she heard the monster's footsteps in the dead leaves, and when characters started screaming.
- A. when the violins began to play
 - B. while listening to the violins play
 - C. during the violin music
10. In Mrs. Curall's office, Ruben feigned the flu. He hoped to be excused from class, get an extension on his paper, and _____.
- A. spend the afternoon playing tennis with his friends
 - B. to spend the afternoon playing tennis with his friends
 - C. then to spend the afternoon playing tennis with his friends
11. Carlos not only missed his one-year anniversary with Adrianna _____.
- A. but he also forgot his mother's birthday
 - B. but also forgot his mother's birthday
 - C. but also forgetting his mother's birthday
12. Teresa was expecting a visit from her mother, so she spent the day cleaning the shelves of the refrigerator, scrubbing mold from the bathroom tile grout, and _____.
- 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. When Noodle the poodle realized that the leash meant a bath, not a walk to the park, he growled, pulled, and _____.
- A. was leaping like a fish on a line
 - B. he was leaping like a fish on a line
 - C. leaped like a fish on a line
14. With the humans out of the house, Skeeter had to decide either to shred a roll of toilet paper or _____.
- A. chew another hole in the sofa arm
 - B. chewing another hole in the sofa arm
 - C. if he wanted to chew another hole in the sofa arm

15. Neither _____ nor the ineffective air conditioner rattling in the window will deter Tiffany from loving the freedom of her first apartment.
- A. when the inconsiderate neighbors played loud music
 - B. the inconsiderate neighbors playing loud music
 - C. playing loud music by the inconsiderate neighbors
16. We looked everywhere for the car keys—under the sofa cushions, _____, and on the counters and tabletops. All along, Andrew had them in the front pocket of his jeans!
- A. our search included the trash can
 - B. searching for them in the trash can
 - C. in the trash can
17. Laura and Diane bang on Boen's door when they need heavy furniture moved, after they have clogged the garbage disposal, and _____.
- A. having discovered a spider in the bathtub
 - B. upon the discovery of a spider in the bathtub
 - C. if they find a spider in the bathtub
18. Bathing Noodle, our poodle, requires four arms to hold him in the tub, towels to mop up the water, and _____.
- A. raincoats which will keep us dry
 - B. raincoats to keep us dry
 - C. raincoats as protection against the oncoming deluge
19. We hate having dinner at Aunt Ida's house because she is a vegan health nut. Baked tofu, _____, and decaffeinated tea do not make a satisfying meal!
- A. vegetables steamed with no oil or seasoning
 - B. steamed vegetables
 - C. vegetables that are flavorless
20. Tonia kicked the back of Vincent's desk, _____, and poked his arm with her sharp pencil, but he would not bend to the side so that she could get a glimpse of his quiz answers.
- A. blew on his neck
 - B. she blew on his neck
 - C. blowing on his neck



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