

Categories and Commonality: *Practice with parallel structure*

Directions for the teacher:

Step 1 – Place students in small groups of 4 or 5. Give one handout to each group. (See below.)

Step 2 – Allow approximately 10 minutes for the groups to complete the statements on the handout. Tell them not to address the discussion questions. They must only create statements with parallel structure.

Step 3 – Have the groups exchange papers. Each group will read the statements written by another group. First, they must all agree that parallel structure is used in a given statement. Then they must discuss the corresponding discussion question.

SUGGESTION: In a large class, you may have groups switch papers a few times, to allow students to answer different sets of questions.

VARIATION: You can turn this into a pre-writing activity. After doing one switch of the handouts, have groups look at their original statements. Each member of the group should select one statement and make it the topic sentence of a paragraph. Allow 10-15 minutes for each student to compose his or her paragraph. Then allow time for authors to read their paragraphs aloud to the group. Feedback should be encouraged. Final versions of the paragraph must be submitted to the teacher.

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1. Some sports, such as _____ and _____, involve _____ and _____.

Discussion Questions: Do any member of your group enjoy such sports? If not, why? If so, what do they like most about the sports?

2. Drinking too much coffee, _____, and _____ are examples of unhealthy habits.

[Hint: Use three different gerunds in your statement.]

Discussion Question: Can any members of your group admit to the poor habits listed above?

3. People can be shy in new settings. Shy people tend to _____ and _____.

Discussion Questions: In your group, who is shy by nature? Who is outgoing by nature?

4. One can improve his or her _____ skills in English by either _____ or _____. Both are good forms of practice.

Discussion Questions: Do you agree with the statement above? Can you recommend other forms of practice for this set of skills?

5. Taking the time to _____, not only is good for the mind, but also is good for _____.

Discussion Questions: Do you follow the practice above? Can you recommend another practice that leads to a healthy, happy lifestyle?

6. Neither _____ nor _____ leads to success in life. To be successful, you need to _____ and _____.

Discussion Questions: Do you agree with the statement above? Give examples to support your answer.