Balance the Sentence

Sort sentences by whether their ideas follow matching forms.

9.L.GC.2.e "Recognize and use parallel structure within a sentence to create symmetry and convey a congruence of ideas. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

MATCHING STRUCTURE

The parts of a list use the same grammatical form, such as all infinitive verbs, all -ing verbs, or all noun phrases. This matching structure connects equal ideas.

Lanterns flickered, shadows shifted, raindrops glittered.

MIXED STRUCTURE

The parts of a list change grammatical form, such as moving from an -ing verb to an infinitive verb. This uneven pattern can make equal ideas sound unbalanced.

Her hobbies include sailing, to build models, and chess.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle PARALLEL or MIXED, then choose two items and explain which forms match or do not match.

1.	The committee agreed to review the plan, revise the budget, and publish its findings.	PARALLEL MIXED
2.	At dawn, the campers packed their gear, cleaned the cabin, and checked the trail map.	PARALLEL MIXED
3.	Maya enjoys sketching portraits, to compose music, and coding games.	PARALLEL MIXED
4.	The speech was clear, focused, and persuasive.	PARALLEL MIXED
5.	The job requires patience, to communicate clearly, and careful planning.	PARALLEL MIXED
6.	Jordan promised that he would call, to arrive early, and that he would bring snacks.	PARALLEL MIXED
7.	Our goal is to reduce waste, to conserve water, and to protect wildlife.	PARALLEL MIXED
8.	The novel explores friendship, loss, and the search for identity.	PARALLEL MIXED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with PARALLEL structure and one new sentence with MIXED structure.

PARALLEL _____

MIXED _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so all three actions use matching verb forms, then name the form you used: The volunteers spent Saturday sorting donations, to paint benches, and planting flowers.

ANSWER KEY

Balance the Sentence

GRADE 9 · 9.L.GC.2.e

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee agreed to review the plan, revise the budget, and publish its findings.	**PARALLEL**	The coordinated actions are base verbs governed by the infinitive marker to.
2	At dawn, the campers packed their gear, cleaned the cabin, and checked the trail map.	**PARALLEL**	All three actions use simple past-tense verbs.
3	Maya enjoys sketching portraits, to compose music, and coding games.	**MIXED**	The list shifts from -ing verbs to an infinitive verb and back to an -ing verb.
4	The speech was clear, focused, and persuasive.	**PARALLEL**	All three describing words are adjectives.
5	The job requires patience, to communicate clearly, and careful planning.	**MIXED**	The list combines noun phrases with an infinitive phrase.
6	Jordan promised that he would call, to arrive early, and that he would bring snacks.	**MIXED**	The list shifts between that-clauses and an infinitive phrase.
7	Our goal is to reduce waste, to conserve water, and to protect wildlife.	**PARALLEL**	All three goals use to-infinitive verb phrases.
8	The novel explores friendship, loss, and the search for identity.	**PARALLEL**	All three ideas are noun phrases.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PARALLEL**: The architect measured the site, drew the plans, and presented the model.
- **MIXED**: Priya hopes to study engineering, earning a scholarship, and that her family will attend graduation.

Challenge: The volunteers spent Saturday sorting donations, painting benches, and planting flowers. I used -ing verb forms.

For Part 2, students should identify the grammatical form of each listed part, not just point out that the ideas seem related. Accept varied original responses in Part 3 when the forms are consistently parallel or intentionally mixed.