Tools and Talk

A model of parallel structure and purposeful clauses

L.9-10.1 "In both written and oral expression: Demonstrate appropriate use of parallel structure. Demonstrate task-appropriate use of phrases and clauses to communicate purpose, develop structure and add variety."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three phrases beginning with *to* in the second sentence of paragraph 1, circle the clause beginning with *Although* in paragraph 2, and number the two clauses beginning with *when* in paragraph 3. Use your marks to trace how the writer groups actions and connects ideas.

The Tool Library

1 On Saturday mornings, the old ticket booth beside our train station becomes a tool library. Neighbors stop by to fix a loose hinge, to plant a window box, or to build a bookshelf. Instead of buying a drill for one afternoon, they borrow one and return it by Tuesday. The shelves hold basic equipment, but the sign at the door offers something less obvious: a chance to learn from people who have used it before. At the checkout desk, a volunteer asks what each visitor plans to make, then points to the right tool and a safe way to use it.

2 Before any tool goes home, volunteers inspect its cord, test its switch, and record its condition. This routine matters because a cracked plug can turn a small repair into a serious injury. Each tool carries a tag that lists its return date and explains whom to call if something fails. Although the library charges no fee, visitors leave a deposit that they receive back when they return the tool. The system makes borrowing practical for the next person, not just convenient for the first. It also gives volunteers a clear record when a tool needs attention.

3 When a saw grows dull, a volunteer sharpens it; when a handle comes loose, someone tightens it. Those repeated checks cost time, yet they keep usable tools out of the trash. On one busy weekend, a teenager borrowed a wrench for a bicycle, while a retired mechanic showed her how to adjust the brakes. Neither person could have planned that meeting. The library works not because everyone owns the same skills, but because neighbors share what they know. By lending equipment and exchanging advice, they make the next repair a little less daunting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three actions does the parallel series in paragraph 1's second sentence group together? How does the repeated *to* help the reader?

2. Which three verbs form a parallel series in the first sentence of paragraph 2? What routine does the series describe?

3. In paragraph 2, how does the clause beginning with *Although* shape your understanding of the deposit?

4. What two situations do the *when* clauses pair in paragraph 3's first sentence? How does their matching structure help show the library's routine?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences proposing a shared community resource other than tools. Include a parallel list of three uses, an introductory dependent clause, and a phrase beginning with *By* that explains how the resource helps people.

ANSWER KEY

Tools and Talk

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three phrases beginning with *to* in the second sentence of paragraph 1, circle the clause beginning with *Although* in paragraph 2, and number the two clauses beginning with *when* in paragraph 3. Use your marks to trace how the writer groups actions and connects ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three actions does the parallel series in paragraph 1's second sentence group together? How does the repeated *to* help the reader?	**Fixing a hinge, planting a window box, and building a bookshelf. The repeated *to* presents them as equally possible reasons to borrow tools.**
2	Which three verbs form a parallel series in the first sentence of paragraph 2? What routine does the series describe?	**Inspect, test, and record. The verbs describe the checks volunteers make before lending a tool.**
3	In paragraph 2, how does the clause beginning with *Although* shape your understanding of the deposit?	**It contrasts the library's lack of a fee with its deposit requirement, showing that borrowing is free but still has a condition.**
4	What two situations do the *when* clauses pair in paragraph 3's first sentence? How does their matching structure help show the library's routine?	**A saw grows dull and a handle comes loose. The matching clauses show that each problem prompts a repair.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a neighborhood seed exchange, gardeners trade seeds to grow herbs, to try new vegetables, and to save money. Although some visitors have never planted anything, experienced gardeners can offer practical advice. By labeling each packet with its planting season, volunteers help newcomers choose wisely. The exchange turns spare seeds into shared harvests.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately identify the passage's parallel structures and explain their effects. For the open task, check for four original sentences, a three-part parallel list, an introductory dependent clause, and a *By* phrase explaining a benefit.