

## Grammar and Style

### ADD EMPHASIS AND RHYTHM

Writers use **repetition** and **parallelism** to add emphasis and rhythm to their writing.

Parallelism is the use of similar grammatical structures in a series. Notice how Yeats uses these techniques in these lines from “An Irish Airman Foresees His Death.”

*Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,*

*Nor public men, nor cheering crowds.* (lines 9–10)

The repetition creates a series, a list of things that did not influence the speaker’s decision to go to war. In the opening stanza of “Dreamers,” Sassoon repeats the phrase “Soldiers are” three times, creating a sense of a definition that is expanding as the poem continues.

**Directions:** Rewrite the following paragraph, adding parallel elements or repetition. An example sentence is provided.

### Example

*Original:* Brennan Malloy was a leader. He did not follow anybody. His friends at home always listened to his advice. At war, everyone knew to follow his strategies.

*Revised:* Brennan Malloy was always a leader, never a follower. At home, both friends and neighbors deeply prized his advice. At war, both soldiers and officers carefully followed his strategies.

Nonetheless, Brennan wasn’t bossy. He was never domineering. His men were devoted to him. He was adored by his family. Anyone who knew him remembers his gentle voice, which was usually accompanied by a stern gaze. He was demanding, yet everyone wanted to please him. Sometimes he could be strict. Still, people wanted to live up to his standards. He rarely smiled. When he did, his smile was remarkable. He never smiled for himself. He would only smile for others. He liked to acknowledge someone else’s accomplishment. Brennan inspired everyone he met.

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