presentation, and *that prospective buyers would ask* him questions.

3. Lists after a colon

Be sure to keep all the elements in a list in the same form.

Example 1

**Not Parallel:** The dictionary can be used for these purposes: to find *word meanings, pronunciations, correct spellings*, and *looking up irregular verbs.*

**Parallel:** The dictionary can be used for these purposes: to find *word meanings, pronunciations, correct spellings, and irregular verbs.*

**Proofreading Strategies to try:**

- Skim your paper, pausing at the words "and" and "or." Check on each side of these words to see whether the items joined are parallel. If not, make them parallel.
- If you have several items in a list, put them in a column to see if they are parallel.
- Listen to the sound of the items in a list or the items being compared. Do you hear the same kinds of sounds? For example, is there a series of "-ing" words beginning each item? Or do you hear a rhythm being repeated? If something is breaking that rhythm or repetition of sound, check to see if it needs to be made parallel.

The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

This page is located at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/g_parallel.html.

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