

Problems and Pain and Parallel Structure

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APPENDIX A: Coordinating Conjunctions Handout

Using Coordinating Conjunctions to Join Sentences

Directions: Join the following pairs of sentences using one of the coordinating conjunctions: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*

Sentences	Conjunction
Problems and pain help us grow mentally. They call forth our courage and our wisdom.	
Most people moan about their problems. They complain about their burdens.	
Wise people do not dread problems. They do not complain about the pain of problems.	
Problems evoke in us uncomfortable feelings. We become stronger because of them.	
Do we want to solve our problems? Do we want to moan about them?	
Life is full of problems. It is in the process of meeting and solving problems that life has its meaning.	
Complaining about problems will not make them go away. We should just accept that life is difficult.	

Directions: Fill in the blanks with a coordinating conjunction that expresses the given relationship.

Relationship	Coordinating Conjunction
Reason/Result	_____
Addition	_____
Choice (negative)	_____
Contrast	_____
Choice	_____
Contrast	_____
Cause/effect	_____

APPENDIX B: Cheat Sheet

Examples of Parallel Structure in M. Scott Peck's "Problems and Pain"

Nouns/Noun Phrases

- a. Problems evoke in us frustration or grief or sadness or loneliness or guilt or regret or anger or fear or anxiety or anguish or despair. (¶12)
- b. It is because of pain that events or conflicts engender in us that we call them problems. (¶12)
- c. Problems are the cutting edge that distinguishes between success and failure. (¶13)
- d. Problems call forth our courage and our wisdom; indeed they create our courage and our wisdom. (¶13)

Verb Phrases

- e. Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly understand and accept it—then life is no longer difficult. (¶11)
- f. Life is always difficult and is full of pain as well as joy. (¶12)
- g. We challenge and encourage the human capacity to solve problems. (¶13)

Gerunds [verb + -ing] and infinitives [to + verb]

- h. What makes life difficult is that the process of confronting and solving problems is a painful one. (¶12)
- i. It is in this whole process of meeting and solving problems that life has its meaning. (¶13)
- j. It is through the pain of confronting and resolving problems that we learn. (¶13)
- k. Wise people learn not to dread but actually to welcome problems and actually to welcome the pain of problems. (¶13)

Adverbs

- l. It is only because of problems that we grow mentally and spiritually. (¶13)