

The Moai of Easter Island



Located 2,180 miles west of Chile, Easter Island is said to be the most remote inhabited island in the world. Easter Island is a triangle of volcanic rock in the South Pacific and is best known for the many giant stone statues, the Moai, which dot the coastline. In recent times, the island has served as a warning of the cultural and environmental dangers of overexploitation.

Parallel Structure

When comparing or listing items in a sentence, the items must have the same grammatical form.

Parallelism is a balance of two or more similar words, phrases, or clauses
(gerund + gerund, infinitive + infinitive, prepositional phrase + prepositional phrase, etc.)

Ex: We enjoyed **visiting, exploring, and photographing** the island.

Ex: In 400 A.D., seafarers and their families from Polynesia reached Easter Island and **established homes, planted gardens, and started a new life.**

Ex: The statues were created by people whose only tools were **stone, bone, and coral.**

Ex: Today, inhabitants of the island try **to remember** and **to continue** the old traditions.

Ex: The island's history comes **from reports** of visitors, **from information** conveyed in family histories, and **from studies** of the ruins and ancient remains.

A. The sentences below all contain errors in parallelism. Rewrite each correctly:

1. Thousands of people come each year to see the giant statues and discovering what has been called the “world’s largest open-air museum.”

2. When the first European visitor arrived on the island in 1722, he noticed that the land had been stripped, food is in short supply, and warring families.

3. Ancient sites on the island continue to be excavated and restoration.

4. Early settlers created nearly a thousand of the stone figures and erecting hundreds of them on huge stone altars called ahu.

5. After a slave raid on the island in 1862, many of the captured people died of disease, overwork, or starving.

6. The expert navigators were skilled at finding their way across the sea to use the sun and stars as a kind of sky map.

7. Most settlements were erected along the coast of Easter Island, and the Moai erecting along the coastline with their backs toward the spirit world in the sea.

B. In the sentences below, choose the correct form of who, whoever, whom, or whomever:

1. I read that it was Jacob Roggeveen (who, whom) gave Easter Island its name.
2. Tell (whoever, whomever) asks, that the island is riddled with fascinating caves.
3. From (who, whom) did you learn that the island once had an apparent script called “rongorongo?”
4. It is the Rapa Nui (who, whom) we credit for carving and moving the Moai statues.
5. (Whoever, whomever) visits the island will most likely fly from Santiago, Chile.

C. Underline the prepositional phrases in the sentences below:

1. According to tradition, each Moai represents an ancestor of the family or clan.
2. Most of the Moai were carved from the walls of the volcano Rano Raraku.

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3. The ancient Easter Island statue makers were skilled craftsman trained in the art of stone carving.
4. All of the Moai were designed to be standing figures with the base at about hip level.
5. Some experts believe that a Moai was fastened onto a wooden sledge and pulled with ropes to an ahu.

D. Read the underlined sections in the sentences below. Circle the letter of the section that contains an error, write the correction on the line, or write D for "no error."

1. Easter Islanders also carved smaller wooden figures from the wood of the toromiro tree.
A B C

2. Inhabitants have endure famines, epidemics, civil war, slave raids, colonialism, and near deforestation.
A B C

3. The larger Moai raised on a platform weighs 82 tons and is 32 feet long.
A B C

4. Petroglyphs are drawings that are painted on or to engrave in rock, and Easter Island has one of the richest collections in all of Polynesia.
A B C

5. Some of Easter Island's ahu, one of which is nearly two hundred yards long, supports as many as fifteen statues in a long line!
A B C

6. Easter Island was annexed by Chile on September 9, 1888, by Policarpo Toro, by means of the "Treaty of Annexation of the Island."
A B C

