

# Word for Word

## Using *both...and* correctly

When *both* and *and* are used together to join parts of a sentence, the parts of the sentence that they join should be structurally identical.<sup>1</sup>



**Incorrect:** Novice authors of research articles may find both **writing the Introduction section** and **the Discussion section** somewhat difficult.

**Correct:** Novice authors of research articles may find writing both **the Introduction section** and **the Discussion section** somewhat difficult.

**Also correct:** Novice authors of research articles may find both **writing the Introduction section** and **writing the Discussion section** somewhat difficult.

**Incorrect:** Local officials are working to overcome challenges both **in the storage** and **distribution** of vaccines.

**Correct:** Local officials are working to overcome challenges both **in the storage** and **in the distribution** of vaccines.

**Also correct:** Local officials are working to overcome challenges in both **the storage** and **the distribution** of vaccines.

If an adjective that applies to the part of the sentence after *both* also applies to the part of the sentence after *and*, the adjective should be repeated.

**Incorrect:** Both stage 0 breast cancer and melanoma are examples of in situ disease.

**Correct:** Both stage 0 breast cancer and stage 0 melanoma are examples

of in situ disease.

## **Bibliography**

1. Garner BA. Garner's Modern English Usage. 4th ed. Oxford University Press; 2016:224-225.

--Stephanie Deming

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