

Hebrew Parallelism

Syntactic Parallelism

Two or more lines follow the same or similar grammatical order (syntax).



The order may use forward symmetry (ABAB).



The order may be chiastic (ABBA).

Semantic Parallelism

Two or more lines relate to each other in meaning (semantics).



Repeat

The second line repeats or reinforces the first line to give a full idea or picture.



Add

The second line adds more detail to the first line to by explaining or expanding on it.



Contrast

The second line contrasts the first line to provide two opposite ideas or pictures.