

Advanced 3
Unit 6 Language Focus 2
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Double Comparatives

Double comparatives are phrases commonly used in English to express increasing or decreasing returns. Double comparatives are often employed to underline the importance of doing or not doing a certain activity.

Examples:

The more crowded the restaurant (gets), the slower the service (becomes).

The more you study, the more you learn.

The less you worry about the others, the less they will bother you.

The Formula:

The more / less + (Noun / Noun Phrase) + Subject + Verb + , + the more / less + (Noun/Noun Phrase) + Subject + Verb

Examples:

The more money you earn, the more friends you'll have.

The more brilliant ideas you possess, the more success you'll achieve.

The + Comparative Adjective + (Noun) + Subject + Verb + , + the + Comparative Adjective + it is + Infinitive

Examples:

The faster the car is, the more dangerous it is to drive.

The crazier the idea is, the more fun it is to try.

The more difficult the task is, the sweeter it is to succeed.

Point:

These forms can be mixed up as well. For example, a double comparative might begin with a more / less plus a subject and then end in a comparative adjective plus the subject.

Examples:

The more money and time he spends with her, the happier he becomes.

The less Mary thinks about the problem, the more relaxed she feels.

The more the students study for the test, the higher their scores will be.

Point:

You can also reverse the above by beginning with a comparative adjective and ending with more / less plus a subject and verb or noun, subject and verb.

Examples:

The richer the person is, the more privilege he enjoys.

The happier the child is, the more the mom can relax.

Point:

Adverbs can also be used in double comparatives instead of adjectives or noun phrases.

Examples:

The more slowly you move your feet, the more gracefully you dance.

The more carelessly you drive, the more accidents you'll experience.

Point:

Double comparatives are often shortened in spoken English, especially when used as a cliché.

Examples:

The more the merrier. = The more people there are, the merrier everyone will be.

Double Comparatives in Imperatives

Double comparatives can also be turned into commands in the imperative form when recommending certain actions:

Examples:

Study more, learn more.

Play less, study more.

Work more, save more.

Think harder, get smarter.

Double Comparatives to Show Gradual Change

Double comparatives are also used to show a continual increase or decrease.

Examples:

There are more and more people coming to this vacation spot.

It seems like there is less and less time to spend with the family these days.

Recently, people are finding more and more time to spend with their families.

Robert is growing taller and taller.

The restaurant becomes more and more crowded at night.

Sources:

[Double Comparatives in the English Language \(thoughtco.com\)](http://thoughtco.com)

[Advanced 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)