

- (a) Because he was afraid, he walked **faster and faster**.
 (b) Life in the modern world is becoming **more and more complex**.

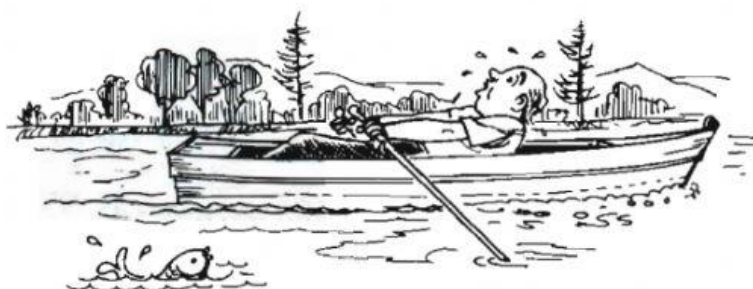
Repeating a comparative gives the idea that something becomes progressively greater, i.e., it increases in intensity, quality, or quantity.

EXERCISE 22. Repeating a comparative. (Chart 9-9)

Directions: Complete the answers by repeating a comparative. Use the words in the list.

angry	discouraged	hard	weak
big	✓ fast	long	wet
cold/warm	good	loud	

- When I get excited, my heart beats faster and faster.
- When you blow up a balloon, it gets _____.
- My English is improving. It is getting _____ every day.
- As the ambulance came closer to us, the siren became _____.
- She sat there quietly, but during all that time she was getting _____
_____. Finally she exploded.
- The line of people waiting to get into the theater got _____.
- I've been looking for a job for a month and still haven't been able to find one. I'm getting _____.
- The weather is getting _____ with each passing day.
- As I continued walking in miserable weather, it rained _____.
I got _____. By the time I got home, I was completely soaked.
- As I continued to row the boat, my arms got _____
until I had almost no strength left in them at all.



(a) The harder you study, the more you will learn.	A double comparative has two parts; both parts begin with the , as in the examples. The second part of the comparison is the result of the first part. In (a): If you study harder, the result will be that you will learn more.
(b) The more she studied, the more she learned.	
(c) The warmer the weather (is), the better I like it.	
(d) A: Should we ask Jenny and Jim to the party too? B: Why not? The more, the merrier.	The more, the merrier and the sooner, the better are two common expressions. In (d): It is good to have more people at the party. In (e): It is good if we leave as soon as we can.
(e) A: When should we leave? B: The sooner, the better.	

EXERCISE 23. Double comparatives. (Chart 9-10)

Directions: Complete the sentences with double comparatives (**the more/-er ... the more/-er**).

1. If the fruit is *fresh*, it tastes *good*.

→ The fresher the fruit (is), the better it tastes.

2. We got *close* to the fire. We felt *warm*.

→ _____ we got to the fire, _____ we felt.

3. If a knife is *sharp*, it is *easy* to cut something with.

→ _____ a knife (is), _____ it is to cut something.

4. The party got *noisy* next door. I got *angry*.

→ I had a terrible time getting to sleep last night. My neighbors were having a loud party. _____ it got, _____ I got.
Finally, I banged on the wall and told them to be quiet.

5. If a flamingo eats a lot of *shrimp*, it becomes very *pink*.

→ The _____ a flamingo eats,
the _____ it gets.



(a) Tokyo is one of <i>the largest cities in the world</i> .	Typical completions when a superlative is used: In (a): superlative + <i>in</i> a place (<i>the world, this class, my family, the corporation, etc.</i>). In (b): superlative + adjective clause.* In (c): superlative + <i>of all</i> .
(b) David is <i>the most generous person I have ever known</i> .	
(c) I have three books. These two are quite good, but this one is the <i>best</i> (book) <i>of all</i> .	
(d) I took four final exams. The final in accounting was <i>the least difficult</i> of all.	<i>The least</i> has the opposite meaning of <i>the most</i> .
(e) Ali is <i>one of</i> the best <i>students</i> in this class. (f) <i>One of</i> the best <i>students</i> in this class <i>is</i> Ali.	Notice the pattern with <i>one of</i> : one of + PLURAL noun (+ SINGULAR verb)

EXERCISE 24. Superlatives. (Chart 9-11)

Directions: Complete the sentences with superlatives and the appropriate preposition, *in* or *of*.

- Jack is *lazy*. He is the laziest student in the class.
- Mike and Julie were *nervous*, but Amanda was the most nervous of all.
- Costa Rico is *beautiful*. It is one of _____ countries _____ the world.
- Scott got a *bad* score on the test. It was one of _____ scores _____ the whole school.
- Pluto is *far* from the sun. In fact, it is _____ planet from the sun _____ our solar system.
- There are a lot of *good* cooks in my family, but my mom is _____ cook _____ all.
- Alaska is *big*. It is _____ state _____ the United States.
- My grandfather is very *old*. He is _____ person _____ the town where he lives.
- That chair in the corner is *comfortable*. It is _____ chair _____ the room.
- Everyone who ran in the race was *exhausted*, but I was _____ all.

EXERCISE 31. Review of comparatives and superlatives. (Charts 9-1 → 9-11)

Directions: Complete the sentences. Use any appropriate form of the words in parentheses and add any other necessary words. There may be more than one possible completion.

1. Lead is a very heavy metal. It is (*heavy*) heavier than gold or silver.
It is one of (*heavy*) the heaviest metals of all.
2. Dogs are usually (*friendly*) _____ cats.
3. One of (*famous*) _____ volcanoes _____ the world is Mount Etna in Sicily.
4. A car has two (*wheels*) _____ a bicycle.
5. Mrs. Cook didn't ask the children to clean up the kitchen. It was (*easy*) _____ for her to do it herself _____ to nag them to do it.
6. Duck eggs and chicken eggs are different. Duck eggs are (*large*) _____ chicken eggs. Also, the yolk of a duck egg is (*dark*) _____ yellow _____ the yolk of a chicken egg.
7. The volcanic explosion of Krakatoa near Java in 1883 may have been (*loud*) _____ noise _____ recorded history. It was heard 2,760 miles (4,441 kilometers) away.
8. (*important*) _____ piece of equipment for birdwatching is a pair of binoculars.