

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

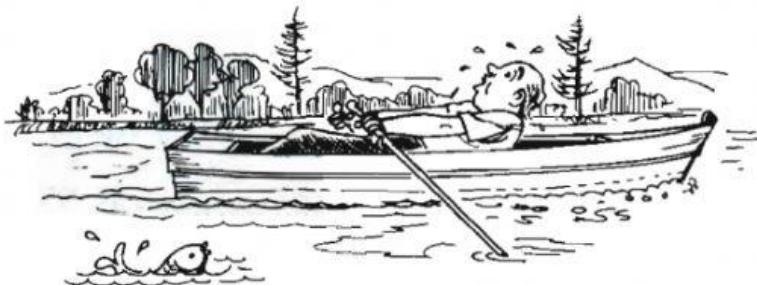
Repeating a comparative gives the idea that something becomes progressively greater, i.e., it increases in intensity, quality, or quantity.

**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	

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



(a) *The harder* you study, *the more* you will learn.  
(b) *The more* she studied, *the more* she learned.  
(c) *The warmer* the weather (is), *the better* I like it.

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(d) A: Should we ask Jenny and Jim to the party too?  
B: Why not? *The more, the merrier.*  
(e) A: When should we leave?  
B: *The sooner, the better.*

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.

*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.

**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 *the largest cities in the world*.

(b) David is *the most generous person I have ever known*.

(c) I have three books. These two are quite good, but this one is the *best* (book) *of all*.

(d) I took four final exams. The final in accounting was *the least difficult* of all.

(e) Ali is *one of* the best *students* in this class.

(f) *One of* the best *students* in this class *is* Ali.

Typical completions when a superlative is used:  
 In (a): superlative + *in* a place (*the world, this class, my family, the corporation, etc.*).  
 In (b): superlative + adjective clause.\*  
 In (c): superlative + *of all*.

*The least* has the opposite meaning of *the most*.

Notice the pattern with *one of*:  
*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*.

1. Jack is *lazy*. He is the laziest student in the class.
2. Mike and Julie were *nervous*, but Amanda was the most nervous of all.
3. Costa Rica is *beautiful*. It is one of \_\_\_\_\_ countries \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
4. Scott got a *bad* score on the test. It was one of \_\_\_\_\_ scores \_\_\_\_\_ the whole school.
5. Pluto is *far* from the sun. In fact, it is \_\_\_\_\_ planet from the sun \_\_\_\_\_ our solar system.
6. There are a lot of *good* cooks in my family, but my mom is \_\_\_\_\_ cook \_\_\_\_\_ all.
7. Alaska is *big*. It is \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ the United States.
8. My grandfather is very *old*. He is \_\_\_\_\_ person \_\_\_\_\_ the town where he lives.
9. That chair in the corner is *comfortable*. It is \_\_\_\_\_ chair \_\_\_\_\_ the room.
10. 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 in 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 in recorded history. It was heard 2,760 miles (4,441 kilometers) away.
8. (*important*) \_\_\_\_\_ piece of equipment for birdwatching is a pair of binoculars.