

UNIT 8 : FAMILY TRENDS

Part 1: Grammar

WHAT ARE REPEATED COMPARATIVES?

1. **Repeated comparatives:** all of them are used to describe actions and things that are increasing or decreasing

XI. Repeated comparatives and double comparatives

1. adj-er and adj-er
 - The birthrate is getting **lower and lower**.
2. more and more + noun
 - **More and more people** are marrying later.
3. more and more + adj
 - It's becoming **more and more difficult**.



1.1 INCREASING

To indicate that something is increasing we can apply two structures: er and er / more and more.

a)er ander

To form this structure we have to add "er" to the adjective to form a comparative adjective. It is used with adjectives and short adverbs; such as, closer and closer, longer and longer.

Examples:

She is getting **closer and closer** of her mother.

By the end of the twentieth century, couples were waiting **longer and longer** to marry.

b) more and more

We can use this structure with long adjectives or adverbs ; for example, more and more difficult, more and more slowly.

Examples:

It's becoming **more and more** difficult. /He is going **more and more** slowly.

1.2 DECREASING

In order to indicate that something is decreasing we can use the following structures: fewer and fewer, less and less.

a) Fewer and fewer

It is used with countable nouns.

Example:

Fewer and fewer children are leaving school.

b) Less and less

It is used with uncountable nouns and adjectives.

Example:

He needs less and less money everyday.

WHAT ARE DOUBLE COMPARATIVES?

DOUBLE COMPARATIVES

- Double comparatives are used to describe a cause-and-effect process, for example:
 - The more something causes a situation, the better the effect is.
 - The higher the price of the food (cause), the fewer the people buy (effect).
- Note: When be is used in double comparatives, it is sometimes omitted:
 - The better the quality of health care (is), the highest the life expectancy (is).

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2. Double comparatives

Double comparatives describe a cause and effect process. Also, they are written as a sentence with a comma separating the cause and the effect. The structure to use them is the following:

[the + comparative form] + (subject) + (verb), [the + comparative form] +
(subject) + (verb)]

Examples:

The more education women get, the later they marry.
The less children studied, the more slowly they learned.

General Practice

Exercise 1: Use Repeated Comparative

- 1) He gets _____ (boring). I can't listen to him any longer.
- 2) I didn't like this book at first, but it's getting _____ (interesting).
- 3) My daughter's English results are getting _____ (bad).
- 4) The boss will be angry with you. You arrive _____ (late) at work.
- 5) In spring the weather gets _____ (warm).

Exercise 2: Use double comparatives.

| | |
|---|---|
| louder hotter smaller better more | later more merrier cheaper more |
|---|---|

- 1) The _____ you study for these exams, the _____ you will do.
- 2) She doesn't really like vodka, so the _____ a bottle you find, the _____ it will be for us.
- 3) My neighbour is driving me mad! It seems that the _____ is at night, the _____ he plays his music!
- 4) He spent a year in India and loves spicy food. The _____ the food is, the _____ he likes it.
- 5) Of course you can come to the party. The _____ the _____.