

# 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 and .....er

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 higher 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	later
hotter	more
smaller	merrier
better	cheaper
more	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 \_\_\_\_\_.