

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

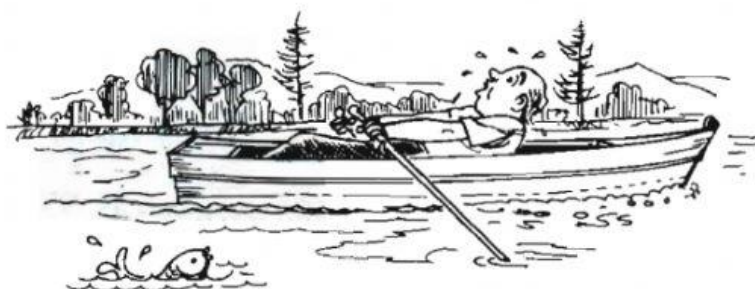
Repeating a comparative gives the idea that something becomes progressively greater, i.e., it increases in intensity, quality, or quantity.

## 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.



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

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

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

- If the fruit is *fresh*, it tastes *good*.  
→ The fresher the fruit (is), the better it tastes.
- We got *close* to the fire. We felt *warm*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_ we got to the fire, \_\_\_\_\_ we felt.
- If a knife is *sharp*, it is *easy* to cut something with.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_ a knife (is), \_\_\_\_\_ it is to cut something.
- 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.
- 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:<br>In (a): superlative + <i>in</i> a place ( <i>the world, this class, my family, the corporation, etc.</i> ).<br>In (b): superlative + adjective clause.*<br>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.<br>(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> :<br><b>one of + PLURAL noun (+ SINGULAR verb)</b>                                                                                                                                                            |

#### 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.