

DOUBLE COMPARATIVES



“the ...the” structure

We use the “the ... the” structure to show a relationship between two changes. It explains that when one thing increases or decreases, another thing changes as a result.

THE MORE ... THE MORE

Use this pattern when both things increase together.

- The more you practice speaking, the more confident you become.
- The more books they publish, the more readers they attract.
- The more miles we drive, the more fuel we use.

THE LESS ... THE LESS

Use this structure when both elements decrease together.

- The less attention he pays, the less he understands.
- The less money they invest, the less profit they earn.
- The less care you take, the less accurate your results are.

THE MORE ... THE LESS

Use this when one thing increases while the other decreases.

- The more noise there is, the less I can concentrate.
- The more distractions we have, the less productive we are.
- The more she talks, the less I follow the conversation.

THE LESS ... THE MORE

Use this when a decrease in one thing causes an increase in another.

- The less sleep I get, the more tired I feel.
- The less preparation you do, the more mistakes you make.
- The less sunlight plants receive, the more slowly they grow.

We can also form this structure with adjectives, adverbs, and nouns.

ADJECTIVES

- The taller the building, the more impressive it looks.
- The warmer the water, the faster the ice melts.
- The sharper the knife, the safer it is to use.
- The longer the journey, the more exciting it feels.

ADVERBS

- The more carefully she drives, the fewer accidents she has.
- The faster they work, the sooner they finish.
- The more clearly you explain, the better people understand.
- The more efficiently he manages time, the more tasks he completes.

NOUNS (more, less, fewer + noun)

- The more experience a worker has, the more opportunities they find.
- The more practice a musician gets, the greater their skill becomes.
- The fewer mistakes you make, the more confidence you build.
- The less time we waste, the more progress we achieve.

SHORT FORMS

Sometimes we use a shorter version, especially with expressions like “the better” or “the more the merrier.”

- How spicy do you want the food? The hotter, the better.
- When should we meet? The sooner, the better.
- How detailed should the report be? The clearer, the better.
- Can I invite extra people? Of course — the more, the merrier!

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