

## DOUBLE COMPARATIVES (L'ACCROISSEMENT PARALLÈLE) (Plus ... plus .... / moins ... moins ... / plus ... moins ...)

Double comparatives are phrases commonly used in English to express increasing or decreasing returns. Double comparatives are often employed to underline the importance of doing or not doing a certain activity. Here are some examples of double comparatives:

- *The more you study, the more you learn.*
- *The more time you take, the better the assignment you turn in.*
- *The less money I spend, the less I have to worry about saving.*
- *The less you worry about the others, the less they will bother you.*

### Using Double Comparatives

As you can see from these examples, the format of double comparatives is as follows:

**The (more / less) + (noun / noun phrase) subject + verb + , + the (more / less) + (noun) subject + verb**

Double comparatives with 'more' and 'less' can be used with adjectives in the same way. In this case, the structure places the comparative adjective first:

**The + comparative adjective + (noun) + subject + verb, the + comparative adjective + it is + infinitive**

- *The easier the test is, the longer students will wait to prepare.*
- *The faster the car is, the more dangerous it is to drive.*
- *The crazier the idea is, the more fun it is to try.*
- *The more difficult the task is, the sweeter it is to succeed.*

These forms can be mixed up as well. For example, a double comparative might begin with a more / less plus a subject and then end in a comparative adjective plus the subject.

- *The more money and time he spends with her, the happier he becomes.*
- *The less Mary thinks about the problem, the more relaxed she feels.*
- *The more the students study for the test, the higher their scores will be.*

You can also reverse the above by beginning with a comparative adjective and ending with more / less plus a subject and verb or noun, subject and verb.

- *The richer the person is, the more privilege he enjoys.*
- *The happier the child is, the more the mom can relax.*
- *The more dangerous the amusement park ride is, the less management worries about making a profit.*

Double comparatives are often shortened in spoken English, especially when used as a cliché. Here are some examples of typical clichés using double comparatives.

EX 1 : *The more the merrier*  
means...

*The more people there are, the merrier everyone will be.*

EX 2 : *The sooner, the better.* Le plus tôt sera le mieux.

Double comparatives can also be turned into commands in the imperative form when recommending certain actions:

- *Study more, learn more.*
- *Play less, study more.*
- *Work more, save more.*
- *Think harder, get smarter.*

**Attention :**

On ne calque pas l'ordre des mots français quand il y a un adjectif.

Plus un livre est court...*The shorter a book is...*

On n'emploie pas *will* de sens futur dans la première proposition. En français on peut utiliser un futur.

Plus vous lirez, plus vite vous apprendrez. *The more you read, the faster you will learn.*

Moins se traduit par *the fewer* lorsqu'il modifie un nom pluriel.

Moins il y a d'accidents, mieux ça vaut. *The fewer accidents there are, the better.*

### Practice Double Comparatives

Use the following sentence segments to create double comparatives of your own.

1. people / come / party , food / we / need
2. difficult / test , students / study
3. nice / customer service representative / happy / customer
4. high-tech / car , expensive / model
5. full / church , good / pastor
6. funny / comic , sales / cd / have
7. severe / judge , harsh / sentence
8. experienced / technician , satisfying / repair
9. long / play , bored / audience
10. money / spend , money / save

---

## HOMEWORK

**Exercice 1 :** Transformez les phrases suivantes en utilisant un accroissement parallèle.

ex : *She's very tired, therefore, she gets up late. >> The more tired she is, the later she gets up.*

1. Driving very fast made him happy (become). >>
2. As the settlers went far, they met many native Americans. >>
3. As I read many pages, the book appears very uninteresting. >>
4. If there are not many customers, the bar will close early. >>

**Exercice 2 :** Traduisez

- 1) L'Empire State Building (381 mètres) est bien plus élevé que la tour Eiffel (324 mètres).
- 2) Il est de plus en plus difficile de trouver un emploi de nos jours.
- 3) Plus il grandit, plus il est intelligent.
- 4) Un fauteuil est bien plus confortable qu'une chaise.
- 5) Le comité de surveillance était d'autant plus surpris par la démission de l'un de ses membres qu'il s'était très bien adapté à son nouveau poste.
- 6) L'honneur est aussi important que le courage.
- 7) Une voiture qui roule au sans plomb est moins chère qu'une voiture diesel.
- 8) Il a eu la même augmentation de salaire que son collègue avait obtenu l'année précédente.
- 9) Il y avait deux fois plus de monde le jour de la fermeture du salon automobile qu'à l'ouverture.
- 10) Plus il travaille, moins il voit sa femme et ses enfants.