

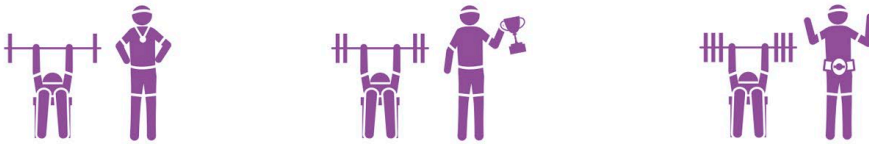
95 Two comparatives together

Two comparatives can be used together in a sentence to show the effect of an action. They are also used to show that something is changing.

See also:
Comparative adjectives 94

95.1 COMPARATIVES SHOWING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Pairing two phrases that use comparative adjectives is a way of making comparisons that show cause and effect.



The **harder** I train, the **stronger** I get.

Implies that training results in getting stronger.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

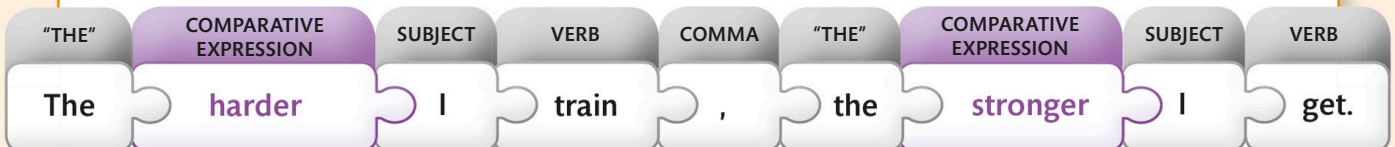


The **worse** the children behave, the **angrier** the teacher gets.



The **louder** the cat meows, the **louder** the dog barks.

HOW TO FORM



95.2 SHORTENING COMPARATIVE PHRASES

Double comparatives that end with “the better” are often shortened where the context makes the meaning obvious to the listener.

How do you like your tea?



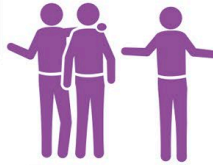
The **stronger** the **better**.

The **stronger** [the tea is,] the **better** [it tastes].

These words are implied, or understood, and can be left out.

“The more the merrier” is a phrase that means when more people are at an event, the better it will be.

Can I bring my brother along?

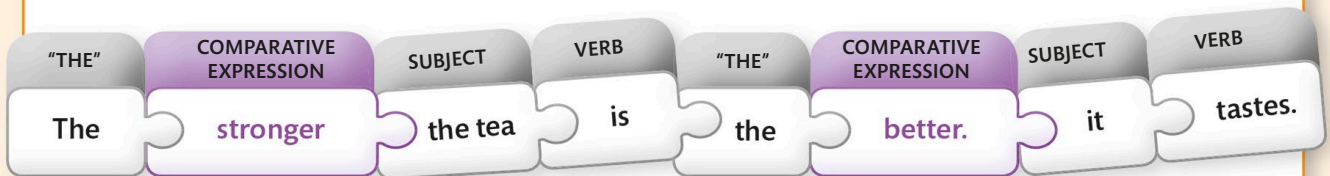


Sure! The **more** the **merrier**.

This expression means people are welcome.

The **more** [people come,] the **merrier** [the party will be].

HOW TO FORM



FURTHER EXAMPLES

What time do we need to leave?



The **sooner** the **better**.

Do we need to take a big suitcase?



Yes. The **bigger** the **better**.

95.3 COMPARATIVES SHOWING CHANGE

A comparative can be repeated to show that something is changing. This expression emphasizes the change, and is often used to describe extremes.



The weather is getting **colder and colder**.

The repetition emphasizes that the change is continuing.

"And" goes between the repeated comparatives.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The tree outside my house is growing **taller and taller**.



The car went **faster and faster** down the hill.



95.4 LONG COMPARATIVES SHOWING CHANGE

In two comparatives that go with long adjectives, "more" is repeated but the adjective is not.



Houses are getting **more and more expensive**.

"More" is repeated.

The adjective is only used once, after the second "more."

FURTHER EXAMPLES



His music is getting **more and more annoying**.



My job has become **more and more stressful**.