



Comparatives:

Double Comparatives & Progressive Change

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The harder you study, ___ your results will be.
a) the more good
b) the better
c) the best
d) better
- The city is getting ____. We need to find a quieter area.
a) more noisier
b) noisier and noisier
c) the noisiest
d) noisy and noisy
- The more you practise, ____.
a) the more confident you become
b) more confident you become
c) you become more confident
d) the most confident you become
- House prices are becoming ____.
a) the most expensive
b) more and more expensive
c) expensiver and expensiver
d) more expensive and expensive
- If we leave early, we'll avoid the traffic. ____!
a) The sooner, the better
b) The soonest, the best
c) More soon, more better
d) Sooner is better
- As technology advances, life becomes ____.
a) more convenient and convenient
b) convenienter and convenienter
c) more and more convenient
d) the most convenient
- ___ we walked, the more tired we became.
a) The farthest
b) More far
c) The farther
d) Farther
- The weather is getting ___ as summer approaches.
a) the warmest
b) warm and warmer
c) more warm
d) warmer and warmer
- The longer you wait, ____.
a) it will be harder
b) the hardest it will be
c) the harder it will be
d) harder it will be
- Can we invite more people to the party? ____!
a) More is merrier
b) More and more merry
c) The more, the merrier
d) The most, the merriest
- It's getting ___ to find affordable housing in the city.
a) hard and harder
b) the hardest
c) more hard and hard
d) harder and harder

12. The more money he earns, ____.
- a) he spends more
b) more he spends
c) the most he spends
d) the more he spends
13. The children are growing ____.
- a) taller and taller
b) more tall and tall
c) the tallest
d) tall and taller
14. ____ the task, the more time you'll need.
- a) The most complex
b) The more complex
c) More complex
d) Complex
15. The competition is becoming ____.
- a) intenser and intenser
b) more intense and intense
c) more and more intense
d) the most intense
16. The less sugar you eat, ____.
- a) healthier you'll be
b) the healthier you'll be
c) the healthiest you'll be
d) you'll be healthy
17. I'm getting ____ with this project. I want to quit.
- a) more frustrated and frustrated
b) frustrateder and frustrateder
c) the most frustrated
d) more and more frustrated
18. The older I get, ____.
- a) the wiser I become
b) wiser I become
c) the wisest I become
d) I become wiser
19. Technology is changing _____. It's hard to keep up.
- a) more fast and fast
b) fast and faster
c) the fastest
d) faster and faster
20. The more carefully you plan, ____ mistakes you'll make.
- a) the fewer
b) less
c) fewer
d) the fewest



Answers

1. b) the better
2. b) noisier and noisier
3. a) the more confident you become
4. b) more and more expensive
5. a) The sooner, the better
6. c) more and more convenient
7. c) The farther
8. d) warmer and warmer
9. c) the harder it will be
10. c) The more, the merrier
11. d) harder and harder
12. d) the more he spends
13. a) taller and taller
14. b) The more complex
15. c) more and more intense
16. b) the healthier you'll be
17. d) more and more frustrated
18. a) the wiser I become
19. d) faster and faster
20. a) the fewer



Explanations

1. “the better” (b)

In 'the + comparative...the + comparative' structures, both parts need 'the' before the comparative. 'Good → better' is irregular.

2. “noisier and noisier” (b)

We use 'comparative + and + comparative' to describe a continuing change: noisier and noisier. For short adjectives, repeat the -er form.

3. “the more confident you become” (a)

In 'the more...the more' structures, both clauses start with 'the + comparative'. The word order is: the + comparative + subject + verb.

4. “more and more expensive” (b)

For long adjectives, we use 'more and more + adjective' to show progressive change: more and more expensive.

5. “The sooner, the better” (a)

'The sooner, the better' is a fixed expression meaning 'as soon as possible is best'. It follows the 'the + comparative, the + comparative' pattern.

6. “more and more convenient” (c)

'More and more convenient' shows a gradual, continuing change. For multi-syllable adjectives, we repeat 'more and more'.

7. “The farther” (c)

'The farther we walked, the more tired we became' follows the double comparative pattern. 'Far → farther' is irregular. Both 'farther' and 'further' are acceptable here.

8. “warmer and warmer” (d)

'Warmer and warmer' shows a continuing increase in temperature. Both parts of the progressive comparative must use the same form.

9. “the harder it will be” (c)

Both parts of the 'the...the...' structure need 'the + comparative': the longer...the harder.

10. “The more, the merrier” (c)

'The more, the merrier' is a fixed expression meaning 'a larger number of people makes it more fun'. It's one of the most common double comparative idioms.

11. “harder and harder” (d)

'Harder and harder' shows a continuing increase in difficulty. For one-syllable adjectives, repeat the -er form.

12. “the more he spends” (d)

'The more...the more' shows that two things increase together. Both clauses need 'the' before the comparative.

13. “taller and taller” (a)

'Taller and taller' shows continuous growth over time. For short adjectives, repeat the -er form: taller and taller.

14. “The more complex” (b)

The double comparative structure requires 'the' before each comparative: 'The more complex the task, the more time you'll need.'

15. “more and more intense” (c)

'More and more intense' shows progressive change. 'Intense' takes 'more', not -er, so we repeat 'more and more'.

16. “the healthier you'll be” (b)

'The less...the + comparative' shows that reducing one thing improves another. 'Less' is the comparative of 'little'.

17. “more and more frustrated” (d)

'More and more frustrated' shows increasing frustration over time. 'Frustrated' is a long adjective and takes 'more'.

18. “the wiser I become” (a)

'The older...the wiser' is a classic double comparative meaning wisdom grows with age. Both clauses need 'the + comparative'.

19. “faster and faster” (d)

'Faster and faster' shows that the pace of change keeps increasing. For one-syllable words, repeat the -er form.

20. “the fewer” (a)

'The fewer' is correct because 'mistakes' is a countable noun, and the correlative comparative pattern requires 'the + comparative' in both clauses. 'Fewer' alone is missing 'the'. 'Less' is for uncountable nouns and also lacks 'the'.