

English Grammar: Cause and Effect

In English, to show a “cause and effect” or a correlation between two variables, we can use the word “more” and/or comparatives. The four possible forms are:

the more / the more	The more you run, the more energy you use.
the more / the _____er	The more you eat, the fatter you get.
the _____er / the more	The faster you drive, the more fines you get.
the _____er / the _____er	The higher you fly, the harder you fall.

Here are some more examples:

- **The more** beautiful a lady is, **the more** suitors she has.
- **The more** polluted a city is, **the more** the people suffer.
- **The older** a person is, **the weaker** he is.
- **The richer** you are, **the more** powerful you are.
- **The more** you push him, **the more** he resists.
- **The more** you rush, **the more** mistakes you make.
- **The more** coffee I drink, **the better** I work.
- **The more** I read, **the more** I learn.

Sometimes, you don't need to use a verb – it is implicit:

- **The sweeter** the cake (is), **the more** I like it.
- **The lower** the air pressure (is), **the colder** the weather (is).
- **The faster** you run, **the shorter** your time (is).

Sometimes, if the context is clear we can use just four words:

- I love pizza – **the bigger the better**.
- Please don't be late – **the earlier the better**.
- Please drive quickly – **the faster the better**.

We can also use “less” (uncountable) or “fewer” (countable):

- **The less** you work, **the less** you earn.
- **The more** you rush, **the less** you achieve.
- **The less** coffee I drink, **the more** sleepy I feel.
- **The fewer** problems I get, **the sooner** I can go home.
- **The fewer** people in the meeting, **the shorter** it is.

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences using the given adjectives:

1. The _____ you climb, the _____ the air is. (*high, thin*)
- 2a. The _____ you drive, the _____ the risk of crashing. (*fast, big*)
- 2b. The _____ you drive, the _____ the risk of crashing. (*slow, small*)
3. The _____ a snake is, the _____ it probably is. (*colorful, poisonous*)
4. I love a tropical climate! The _____ the _____ (*hot, good*)

Exercise 2. Complete the following sentences using appropriate words:

1. The _____ time I spend with you , the _____ I love you.
2. I want lots of ice-cream! The _____ the _____ !