

Comparative Correlative: The ... the

Activity Type

Reading, matching, writing, listening and speaking activity

Focus

Comparative correlative:
The ... the

Aim

To practice or review comparative correlative constructions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

This correlative comparisons worksheet helps students practice or review comparative correlative constructions.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Students begin by matching comparative correlative clauses together.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. d 2. e 3. a 4. f 5. b 6. c

Next, students rewrite conditional sentences using comparative correlative constructions as in the example.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. The higher the mountain, the lower the temperature.
2. The bigger the risk, the greater the reward.
3. The higher the price, the better the quality.
4. The hotter the country, the more exotic the food.

After that, students answer questions using short comparative correlative constructions with 'the better' to show their preference.

Exercise C - Possible answers

1. The earlier, the better.
2. The shorter, the better.
3. The hotter, the better.
4. The scarier, the better.

In the last exercise, students work with a partner. The pairs of students choose a topic and take it in turns to make 'The ... the' constructions about the topic until one of them fails to make a correlative comparison. The winning student scores a point. The game continues until all the topics have been used. The student with the most points wins the game.

Example: Countries

A: The larger the country, the more interesting it is.

B: The poorer the country, the friendlier the locals are.

A: The more developed the country, the more expensive it is.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

Comparative Correlative: The ... the

A comparative correlative is a sentence pattern containing two corresponding phrases or clauses, separated by a comma. Each phrase or clause starts with 'the' and is followed by a comparative.

A. Match the comparative correlative clauses together.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The more you have, | a. the more you worry. |
| 2. The better you work, | b. the more they talk. |
| 3. The more you know, | c. the sooner you finish. |
| 4. The bigger they are, | d. the more you want. |
| 5. The less they have to say, | e. the more you earn. |
| 6. The sooner you start, | f. the harder they fall. |



B. Rewrite the conditional sentences using comparative correlative constructions.

Example: If the dish has fewer ingredients, it tastes better.

..... *The fewer ingredients, the tastier the dish.*

1. If the mountain is higher, the temperature is lower.

.....

2. If you take a bigger risk, you will get a greater reward.

.....

3. If the price is higher, the quality is better.

.....

4. If the country is hotter, the food is more exotic.

.....

C. Answer the questions using short comparative correlative constructions with 'the better' to show your preference.

Example: How do you like your coffee? *The stronger, the better.*

1. What time should you get up?

2. What kind of books do you like?

3. What climate do you prefer?

4. What kind of movies do you like?

D. With a partner, choose a topic and take it in turns to make 'The ... the' constructions about the topic until one of you fails to make a correlative comparison. The winning student scores a point. Continue the game until all the topics have been used.

friends food countries music dogs teachers weather