

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Grammar Self-Checks

(Unit 8, page 88)

Repeated comparatives and double comparatives

Look at the statements using repeated comparatives.

Repeated comparatives describe things that are increasing or decreasing.

The birthrate is getting **lower and lower**.

Fewer and fewer children are leaving school.

It's becoming **more and more** difficult.

By the end of the century, couples were waiting **longer and longer** to marry.

FIGURE IT OUT...

Fill in the blanks.

1. Which repeated comparatives in the example sentences describe things that are increasing?

2. Which repeated comparatives in the example sentences describe things that are decreasing?

Look at the statements using double comparatives.

Double comparatives describe a cause-and-effect process.

The more education women get, **the later** they marry.

[Women are getting more education, so they're marrying later.]

The better the quality of health care (is), **the higher** the life expectancy (is).

[If the quality of health care is better, the life expectancy is higher.]

FIGURE IT OUT...

Choose the letter of the best interpretation.

1. **The less** children studied, **the more** slowly they learned.

- a. Children studied less because they were slow learners.
- b. Children studied less, so they learned more slowly.

Fill in the blank.

2. Which verb is sometimes omitted in double comparatives? _____

BE CAREFUL! Don't use continuous verb forms in double comparatives.

FIGURE IT OUT...

Check the correct statement.

- a. The longer couples wait to have children, the fewer children they have.
- b. The longer couples are waiting to have children, the fewer children they're having.