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Grammar Reference

Grammar Reference: Double comparatives

You can use two comparatives, each preceded by the article *the* in order to show how one quality, or amount, is linked to another. The first comparative used expresses a condition for the second comparative.

Form: *The + more/less + clause*

Example:

The more I sing in front of people, the more confident I feel.

The more I practice, the better I am at playing guitar.

The more you like to dance, the more you appreciate music with a beat.

The more I hear a pop song on the radio, the less I feel like buying it.

The more I listen to classical music, the more I appreciate it.

Form: *The + comparative form of an adjective + clause*

Example:

The more exciting the soundtrack, the better the movie seems.

The louder the music gets, the sooner I feel like leaving.

The more romantic a song is, the less my brother wants to listen to it.

Form: *The + comparative form of an adverb + clause*

Example:

The louder he plays his music, the more his neighbors complain.

Note: If the verb BE is the main verb in the first clause, it may be omitted.

Example:

The more experienced the musicians are,
the more confidence they have.

Grammar Reference: *would*, *used to*, and *will* for habits and general truths

You can use ***would to*** express habitual actions in the past. ***Would*** is more formal than ***used to*** and is frequently used in past narratives. ***Would*** needs to be clearly associated with a time in the past.

Example:

From a very young age, Adele ***would*** perform for her mother.

When she was in primary school, Adele ***used to*** perform to her mother.

You can use ***will*** to express personal habits or characteristic behavior in the present.

Example:

Today, superstar Rihanna ***will*** often reinvent her look with shocking new hairstyles and clothes.

Will is also used to express facts that are generally true.

Example:

True talent ***will*** always be noticed.

Used to and ***would*** may also both used to express habits in the past.

Example:

Before he became a big star, he ***would*** play music on the street for money.

Before he became a big star, he ***used to*** play music on the street for money.

Before her big break, Kelly Clarkson ***would*** live in her car to save money.

Before her big break, Kelly Clarkson ***used to*** live in her car to save money.

However, *would* cannot be used with stative verbs such as *be, have, like, live, love, mean,* and *own*.

Example:

When I was younger, I used to love country music.

~~When I was younger, I would love country music.~~