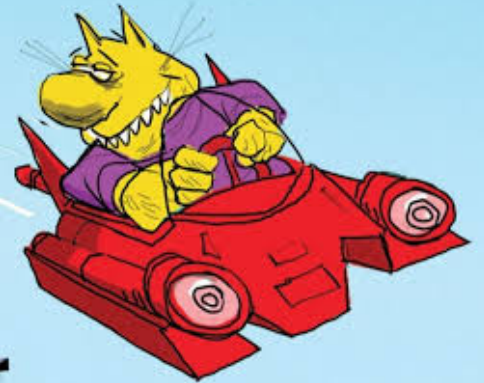


Words Are CAtegorical®

Breezier, Cheesier, Newest, and Bluest



What Are Comparatives
and Superlatives?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



To my friends at Hainerberg Elementary School in
Wiesbaden, Germany

—B.P.C.

Comparatives:
Forms of describing
words that compare
two things

Superlatives:
Forms of describing
words that compare
three or more things

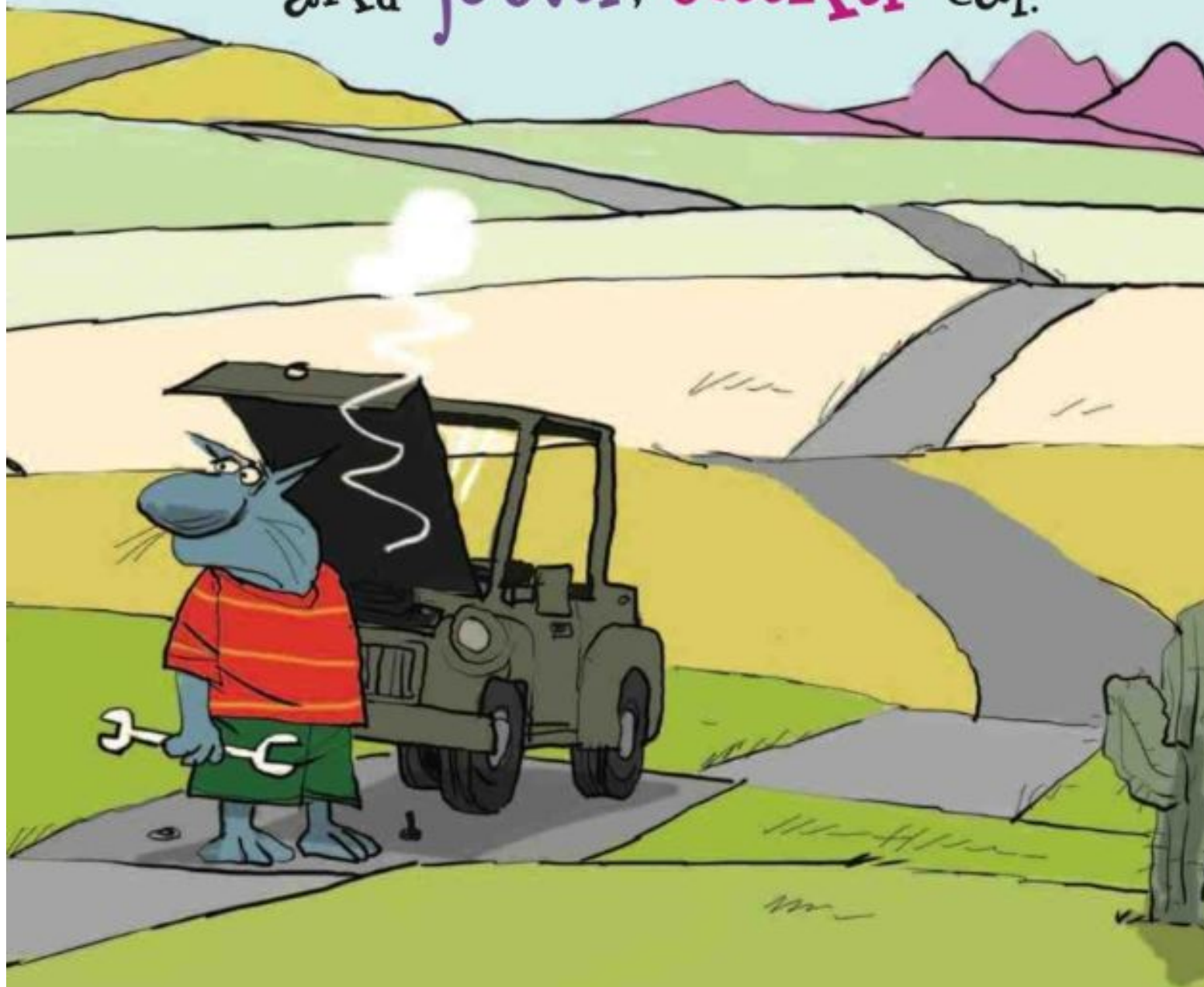


comparatives
all help describe things.

Most end in **e-r**,



like **hotter** day
and **longer** way
and **faster, sleeker** car.



See how they compare two things,
like long when paired with **longer**?





They help distinguish by degree,
like strong
compared with **stronger**.

cooler,
crueler,



louder, prouder,



hairier, and scarier—



these are all comparatives,
like **mellower** and **merrier**.

Try taking a
deScribing Word,
like bright.

NoW add e-r.





You've made it a comparative
to name the **brighter** star!

But sometimes, you don't add **e-r**.
Instead, you reach for "more."



as in more tired,



more beautiful,



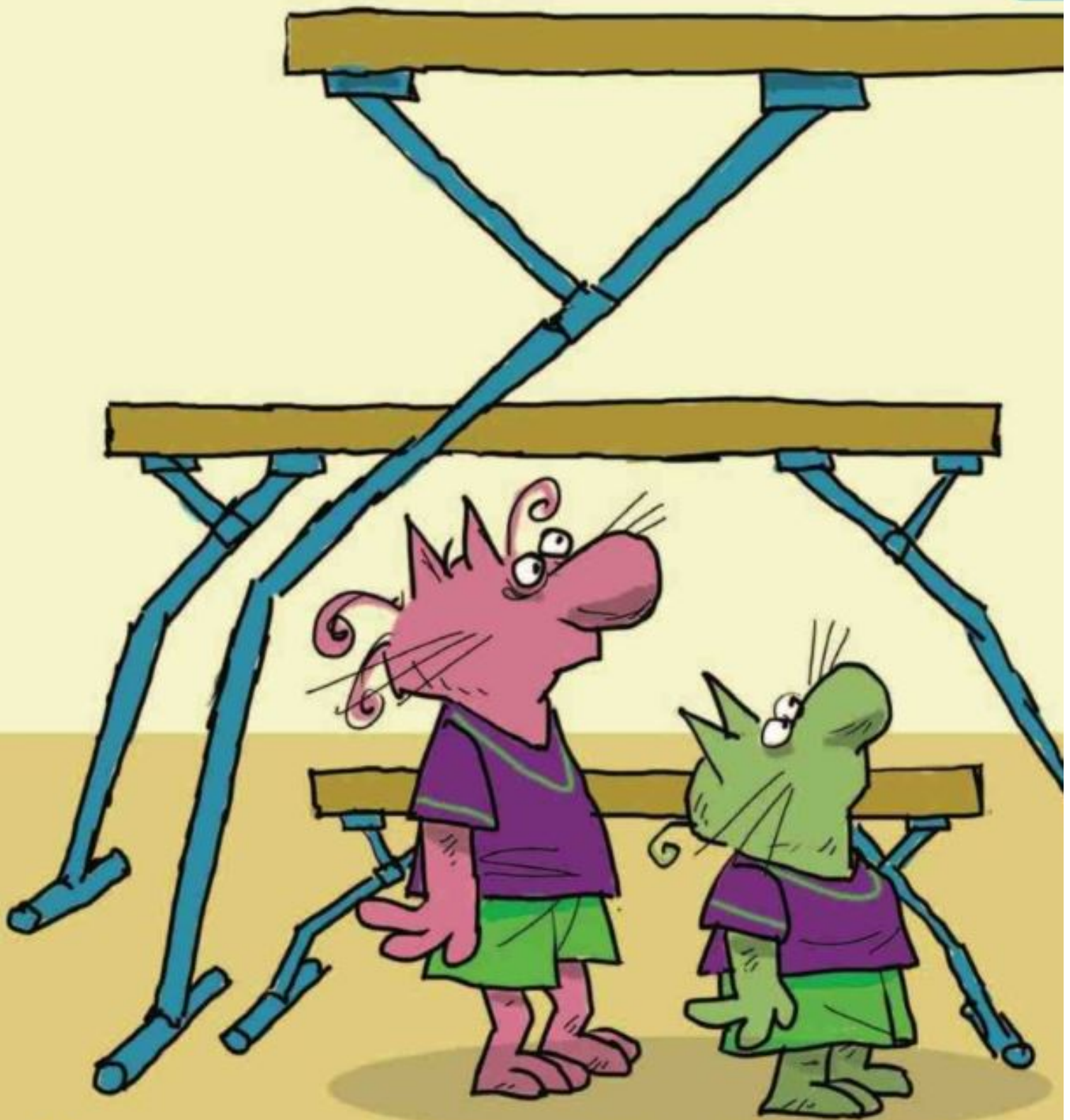
and more impressive store.

other times, comparatives,
like those I've listed here,



Seem to have no type of rule
to which they all adhere.





*Superlatives compare as well
but speak of an extreme—*



the **tallest** girl, the **longest** curl,
the **highest** balance beam.



"Tall" is a describing word,
and **taller** is comparative.



Tallest is Superlative.
You following my narrative?

Most times, a Superlative
will end in e-s-t:



the **meanest** dog,

the **greenest** frog,

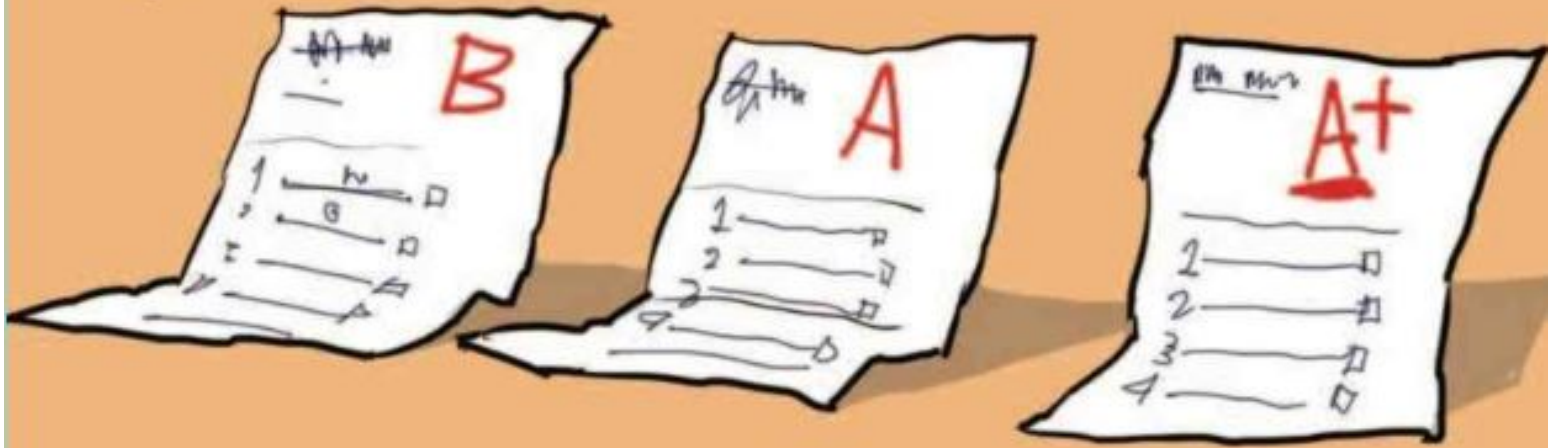


the **fanciest** TV.

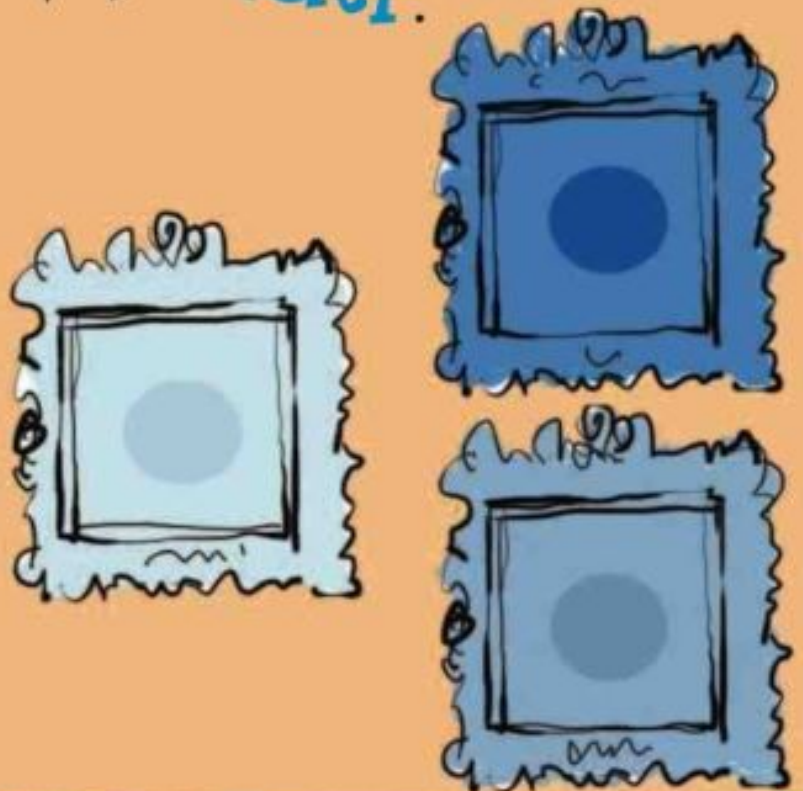
It's one up from comparative,
like *newest* topping *newer*.



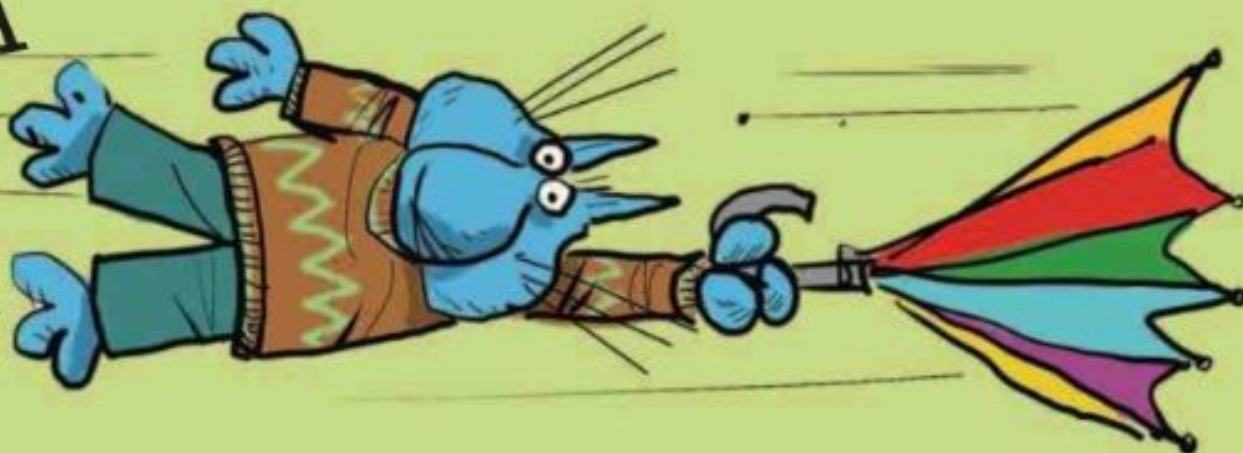
smartest up from smarter.



and bluest over bluer.



superlatives are breeziest



and chattiest



and cheesiest,



funniest and sunniest



and quietest and queasiest.



But **e-s-t** is not the end
for some Superlatives.



Most modern and most fun
are two examples I can give.





*These words can be quite difficult,
but study them with zest*

so that your "good" gets better
and your "better" will be best!



So what are comparatives
and superlatives?

Do you know?



How to Form Comparatives and Superlatives

Usually, add **-er** or **-est** to the end of the adjective (describing word).

tall	tall er	tall est
long	long er	long est

If a one-syllable adjective ends in an e, simply add **-r** or **-st**.

blue	blue r	blue st
large	large r	large st

If a one-syllable adjective ends in a consonant with a vowel right before it, **double the consonant** before adding **-er** or **-est**.

big	bigger	big gest
thin	thin ner	thin nest

If an adjective ends in y, change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-er** or **-est**.

happy	happi er	happi est
lucky	lucki er	lucki est

With many other two-syllable adjectives, use **"more"** or **"most."**

pleasant	more pleasant	most pleasant
thoughtful	more thoughtful	most thoughtful

Other adjectives don't follow any pattern.

far	far ther	far thest
bad	wor se	wor st
many	more	most