

Words Are CAtegorical®

Thumbtacks, EarWax, Lipstick, Dipstick



What Is a Compound Word?

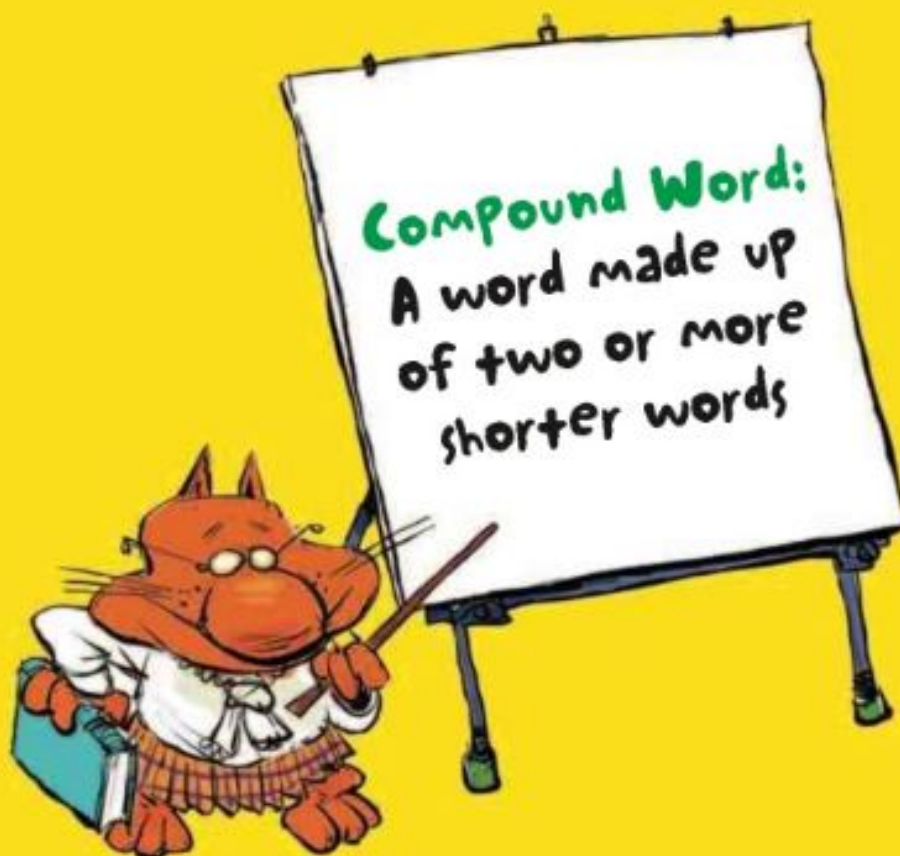
by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



To my mom, who taught
elementary school
before she had kids

—B.P.C.

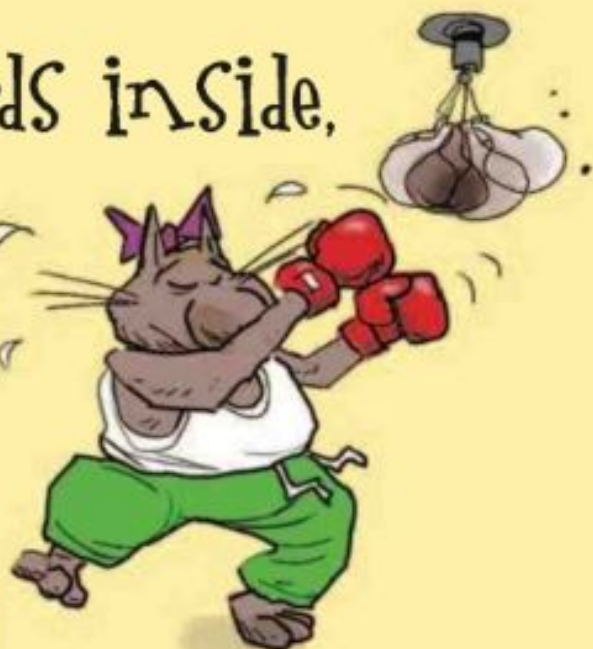


Compound Words

are single words

with other words inside,

like **sweatpants**,



cowboy,



horsemanship,

upstairs,



or worldwide.





Sometimes when we're reading,
we might see a big, long word,

then find it's made of smaller ones
as in this one: **bluebird**.



It's partly blue and partly bird,
two shorter words you know.



same with **armpit**,



undershirt,



outrun, and **overgrow**.

You'll cut those big words
down to size



When you see what they're made of:



Words you can pronounce and spell
and aren't a bit afraid of!

Words like haircut,



dragonfly,



cupcake,

earring,



freeway,



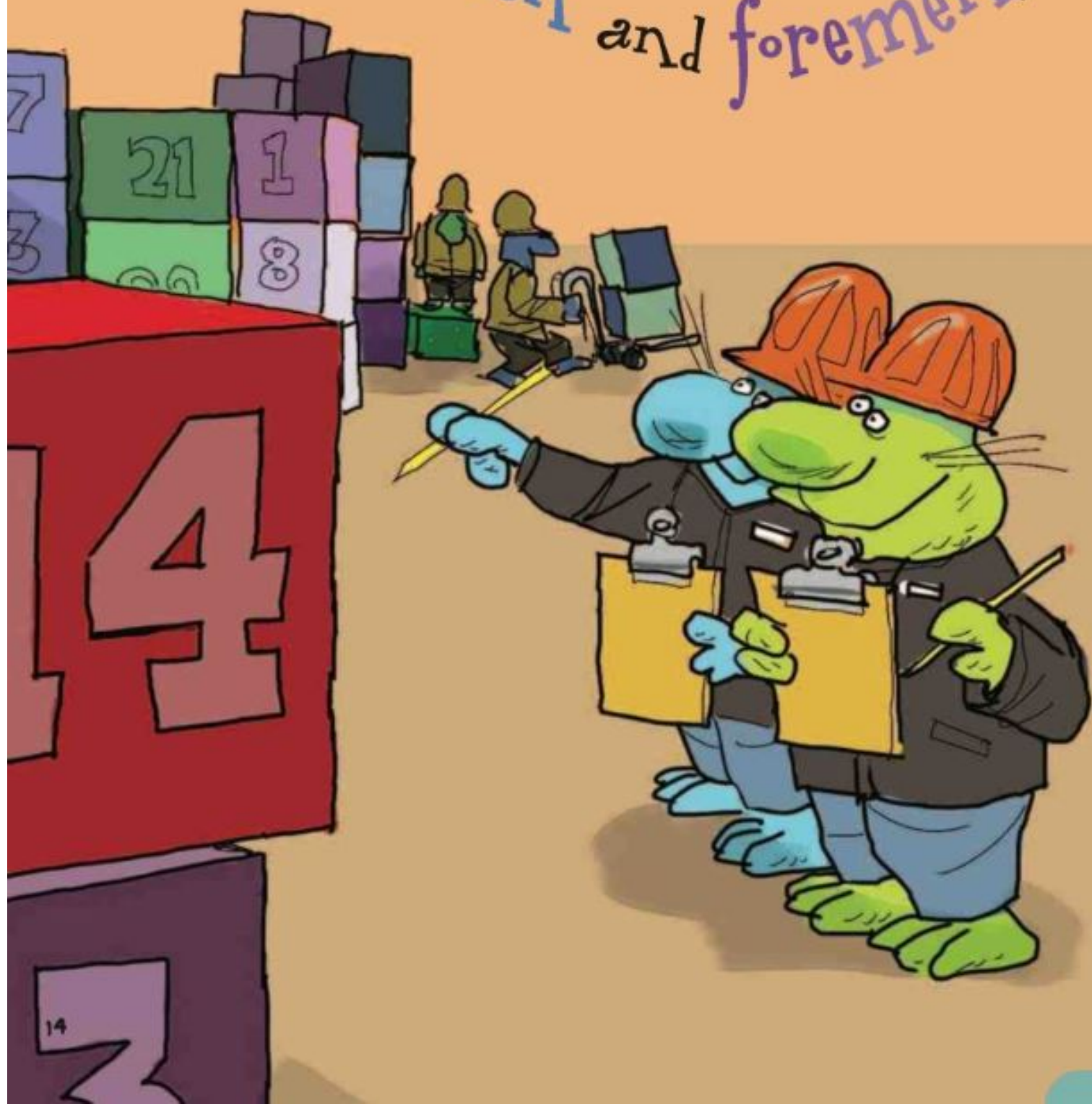
drumstick, lipstick,
chopstick, dipstick,



seasick, seafood, seaway.



All of these are compound words,
just like *fourteen* and *foremen*.



earwax, thumbtacks,
grandmother,



both longtime
and longshoremen.

Compound Words
are mostly nouns—
that's people, things, and places—



like sunshine,



ballpark,

bulldogs,



third baseman, and shoelaces.

Airport,

airplane,

runway?

They're also compound nouns,

along with
crosswalk,



sidewalk,

backyard, earthquake, and
touchdowns.



other times a compound word
will tell about a noun,



like **overworked**

or **handwritten**,

uphill



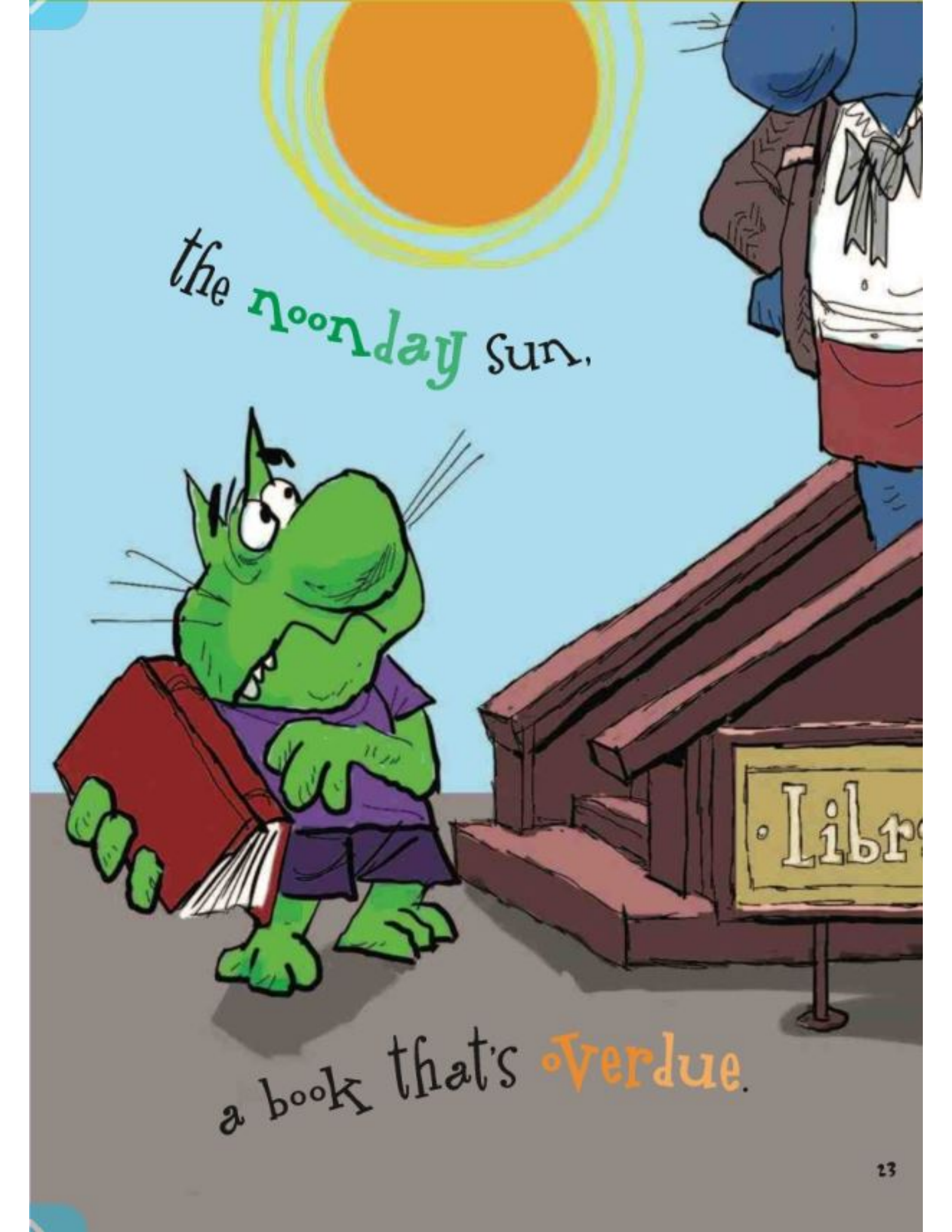
or underground



These compound words
are adjectives,
and here are more for you:



the downtown mall,



the noonday sun.

a book that's overdue.

still other
compound words can help



express some form of action,



like "Connor liked to **daydream**
when the class
worked on subtraction."

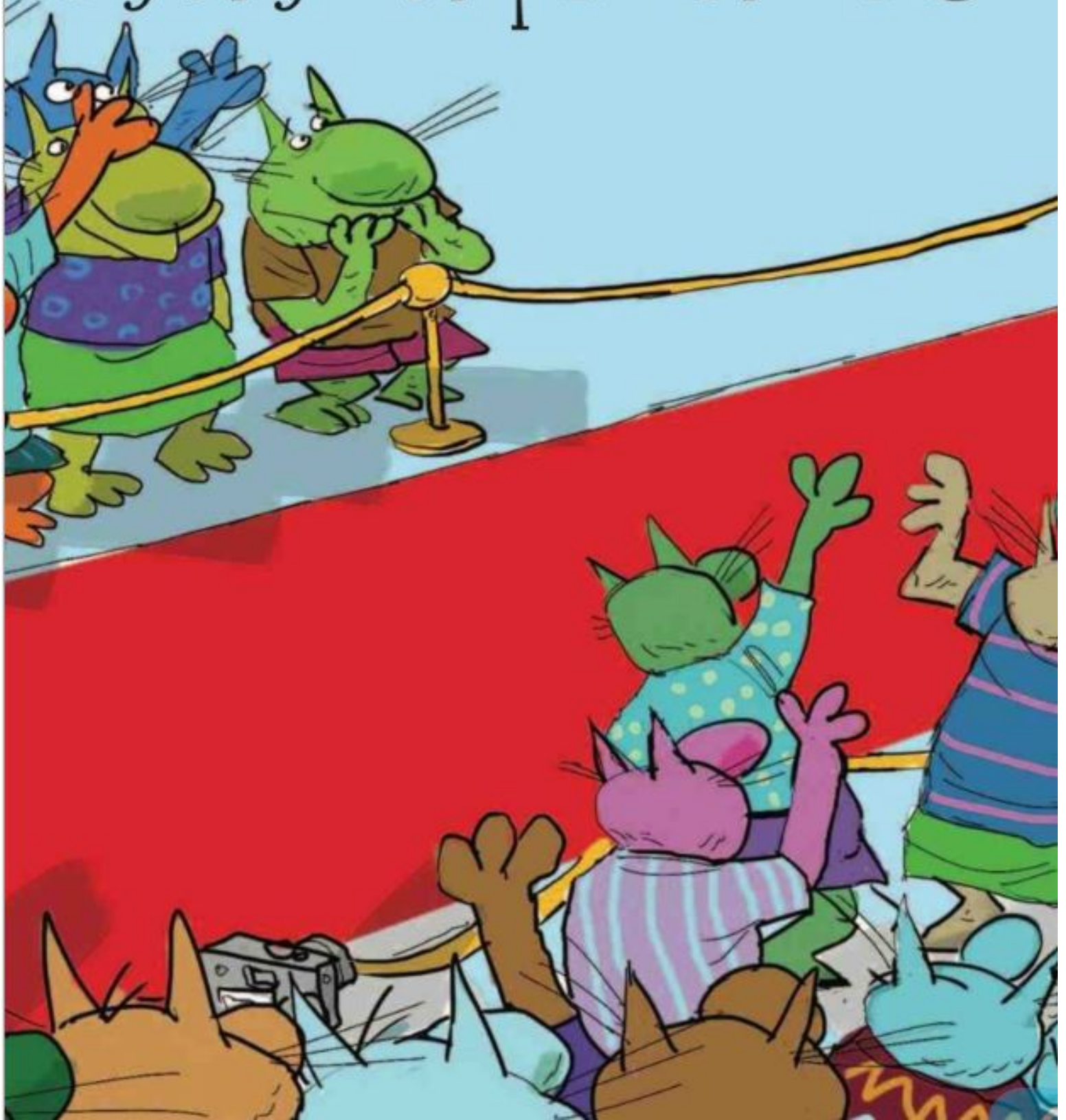


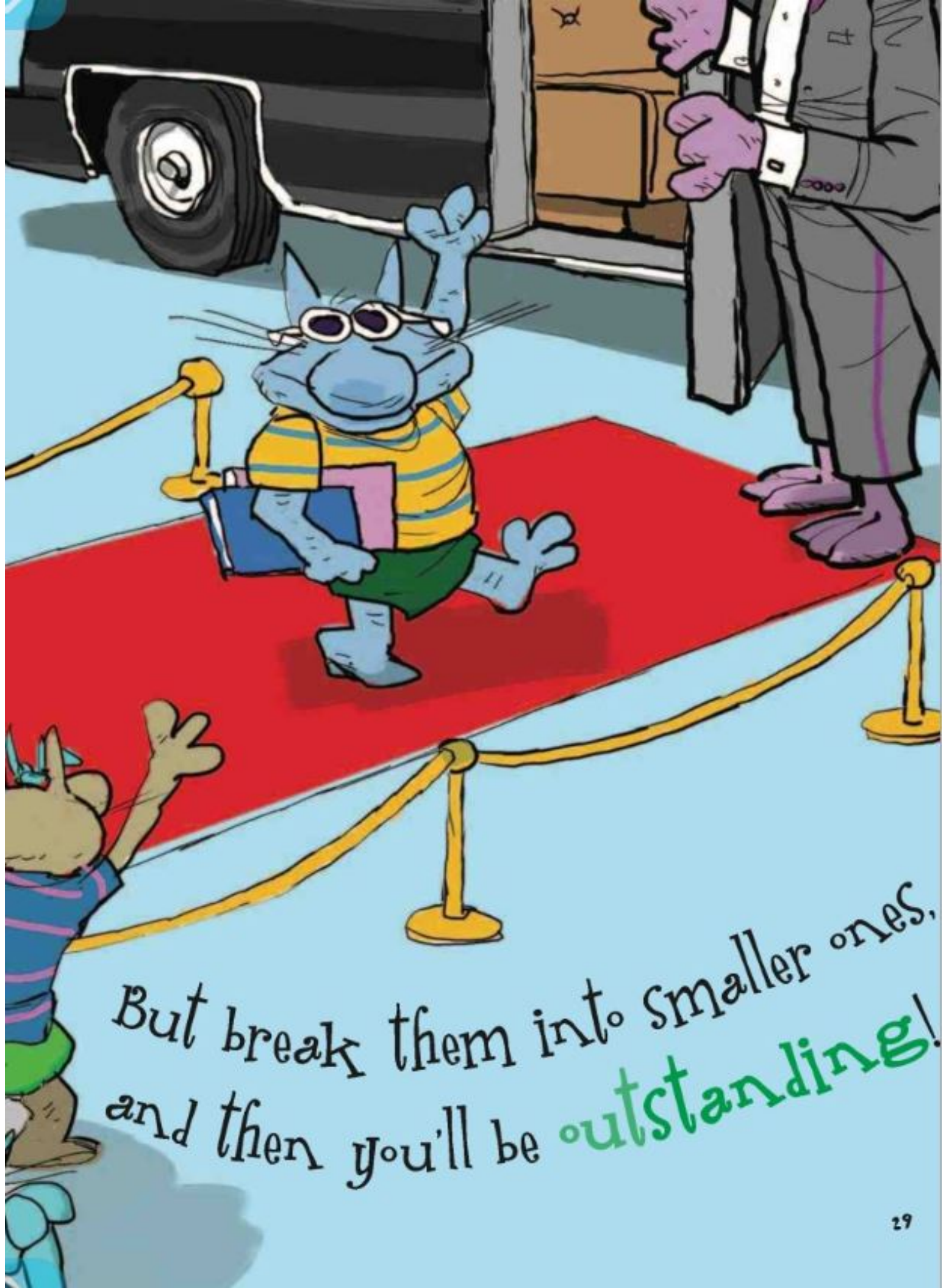
Or "Molly used to **jaywalk**,
but now she **understands**."

And "Brendan *outplayed* *everyone*
in both the marching bands."



When first you see these
compound words,
they may seem quite demanding.





But break them into smaller ones,
and then you'll be **outstanding!**

So what is a compound word?
Do you know?



