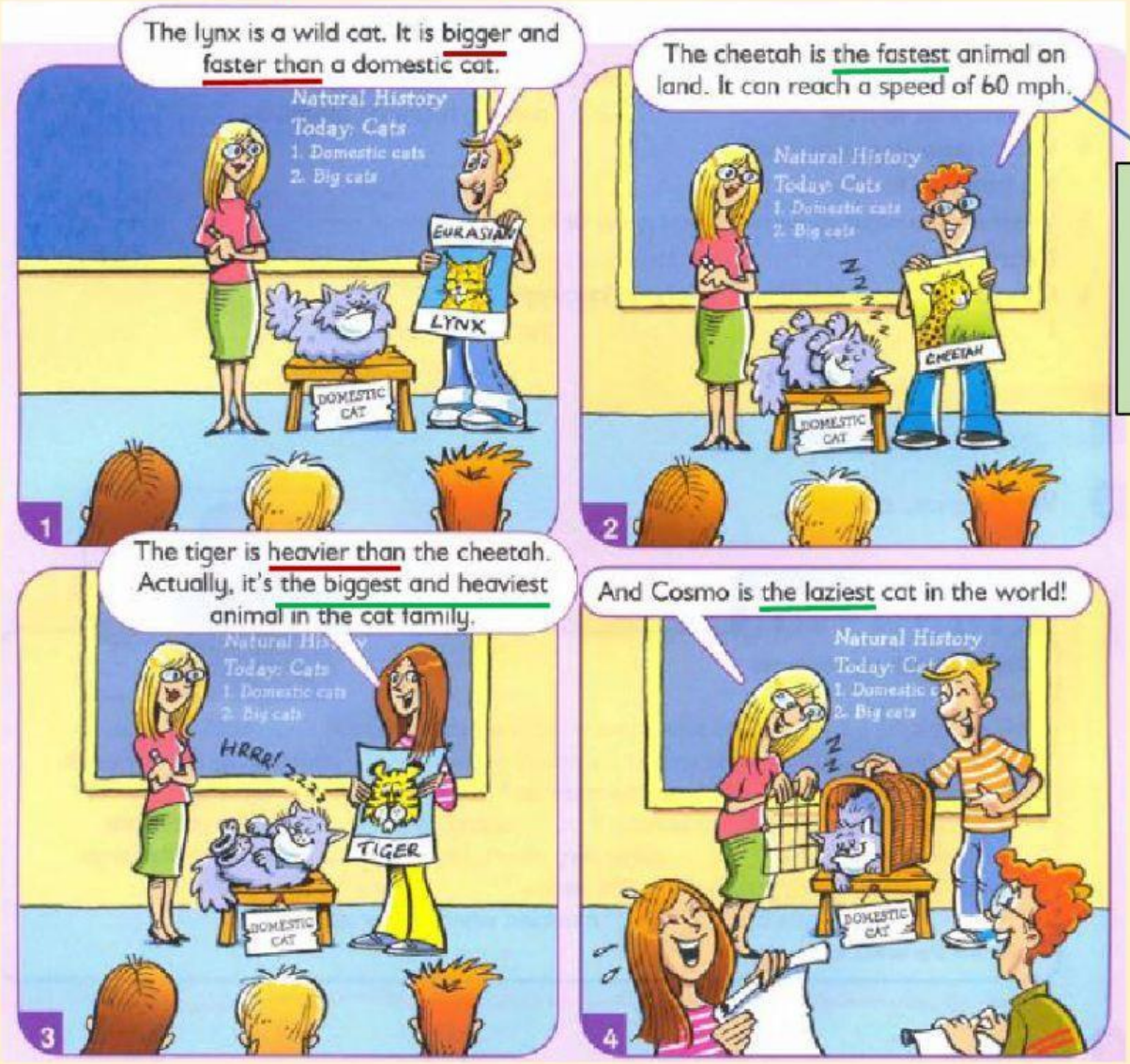
Comparatives and superlatives

Short adjectives

1) **Listen to the story.**

Look at the comparative and superlative adjectives. They are underlined.



60 **mph** = **miles per hour**

= 96 **km/h** (**kilometres per hour**)

2) **Complete the table with comparative and superlative adjectives from the story.**

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
fast	faster (than)	the fastest
big	bigg..... (than)	the bigg.....
heavy	heavier (.....)	..... heaviest
lazy	lazi..... (.....)	..... lazi.....

= when you don't want to work hard or make an effort, you're **lazy**.

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3) Read the information:

Use	Form
We use the **comparative** form of adjectives to compare **two people or things**: *I'm taller than my brother.* 1 2	To form the **comparative** of SHORT **adjectives**, we add **-er (than)**: fast ----> faster (than) clever -----> cleverer (than)

(clever = intelligent)

Use	Form
We use the **superlative** form of adjectives to compare **three or more people or things**: *Tim is the tallest boy in his class.*	To form the **superlative** of SHORT **adjectives**, we use **the + -est**: fast ----> the fastest clever -----> the cleverest

Here, we are comparing Tim with all the boys in his class.

4) Look at the 3 spelling rules to add -er or -est and complete the table:

1 *Adjectives ending in consonant + -y:*

heavy → heavier / the heaviest

Change the y for an i and add -er or -est

2 *Adjectives ending in -e:*

nice → nicer / the nicest

Add only -r or -st

3 *Adjectives ending in vowel + consonant:*

big → bigger / the biggest

Double the last consonant and add -er or -est

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
strong	stronger	the strongest
pretty	.....	.....
ugly	.....	.....
small	.....	.....
fast	.....	.....
large	.....	.....
fat	.....	.....

pretty = attractive

ugly = NOT attractive

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5) Complete with COMPARATIVE adjectives. Follow the example.

Example: Neptune is *smaller than* ..... Jupiter. (small)

a) The Nile River in Egypt is ..... the Mississippi River in the USA. **(long)**

b) Mount Everest is ..... Mount Aconcagua. **(high)**

c) Los Angeles is ..... New York City. **(big)**

d) Silver is ..... gold. **(cheap)**

e) Asia is ..... Europe. **(large)**

cheap = NOT expensive

large = big

6) Complete with SUPERLATIVE adjectives. Follow the example:

Example: *The smallest* ..... bird in the world is only 5.5 cm long. (small)

a) The blue whale is ..... animal in the world. (large)

b) Howler monkeys are ..... land animals. (noisy)

c) ..... snake in the world was a python. It was almost ten metres long. (long)

d) ..... fish in the world is the Indo-Pacific sailfish. (fast)

e) The seahorse is ..... fish. (slow)

f) ..... spider in the world can eat birds! (big)

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7) COMPARATIVE or SUPERLATIVE?

- **Choose the correct option.**
- **Then, write true answers.**

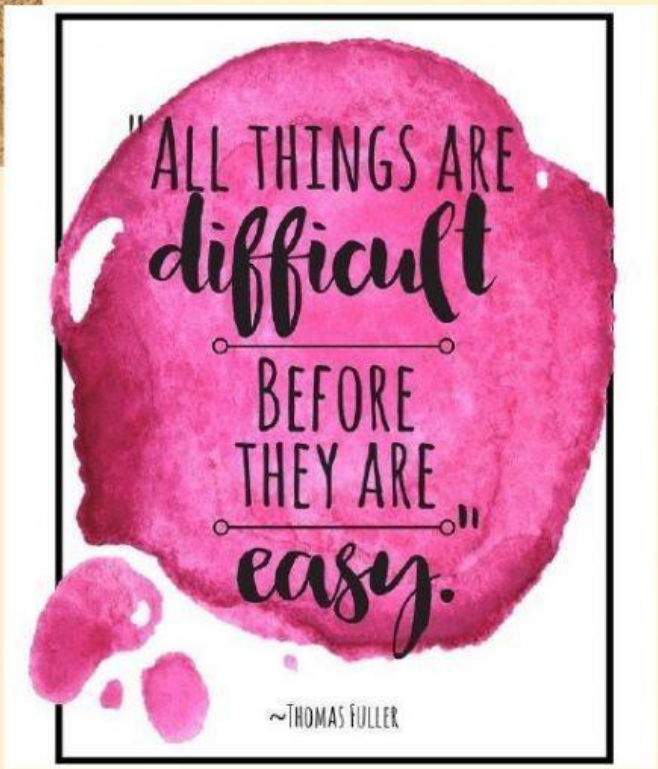
a) Who is **taller** / **the tallest** student in your class?

b) Are you **the youngest** / **younger** than your Spanish teacher?

c) Is Chinese **easier** / **the easiest** than English?

d) Who is **older** / **the oldest** person in your family?

e) Which is **the biggest** / **bigger** room in your house?



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