

You Are the Artist: Make Your Own Cartoons and Comic Book

There are many ways to have fun with cartoons.

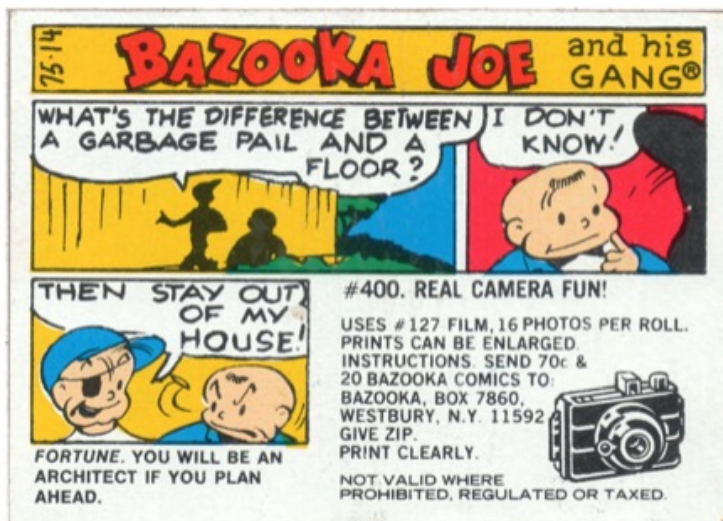
This lesson is about how to create your own "funny paper" cartoon strip or even a whole comic book.

1. Stick Figures

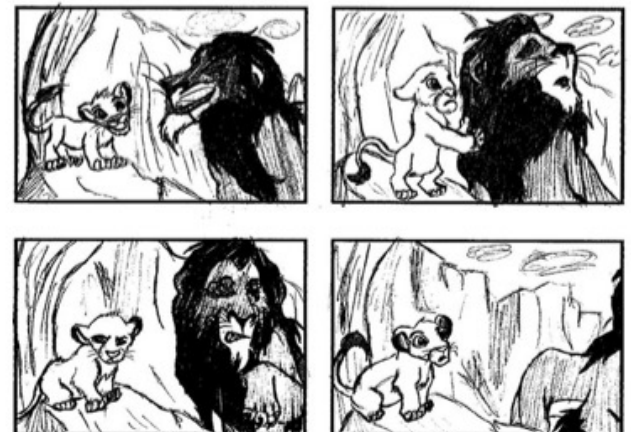
2. Figure Outlines

3. Details and Color

4. The Art of the Comic Book



Drawing is an important part of making fun cartoon strips



The MOST important part is creating a good story. It could be funny. It could be an adventure story. Think about a story you want to tell with pictures and words.

<https://youtu.be/CSFVujdJOgM>



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How to draw Basic Comic Effects #1 - Lettering and Speech Bubbles - Live with Frank Rodgers

<https://youtu.be/skttIN6luEs>



How to Draw Basic Comic Effects #2 - Thinks Bubbles and Symbols - Free Live Illustration Tutorials

This 25 minute tutorial might be helpful for this lesson.

<https://youtu.be/WGBggnM0IF0>



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Using pictures and words to tell story is not new.

There is no one correct way to create a comic strip.

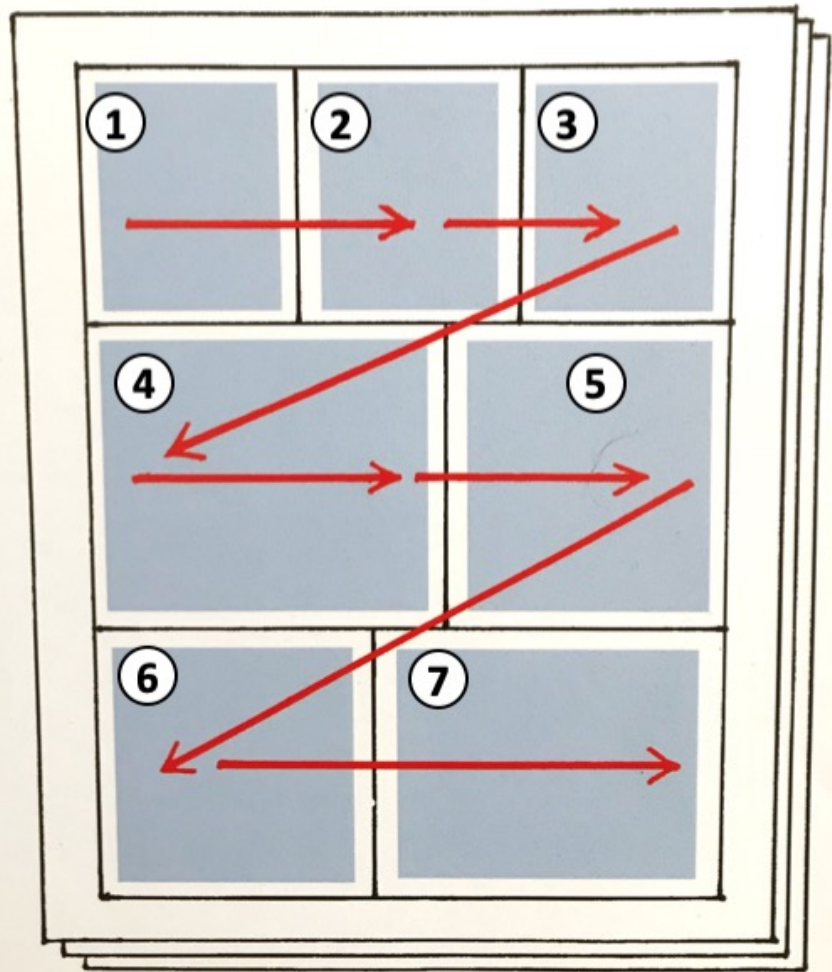
One of the easy ways is to use squares and rectangles. They help frame the pictures.



Some ideas for a single pictures might need a different size frame.

Story Idea Example:

1. I woke up and the sun was shining.
2. I went downstairs ate breakfast.
3. I rode my bike to the playground.
4. There was small dragon on the swings.
5. We had fun together.
6. He followed me home.
7. My Mom fainted when she saw him having lunch with me in the kitchen



You can use this sheet to help create your story. You can decide later if one frame needs to be bigger or smaller.

①	②	③
④	⑤	⑥
⑦	⑧	⑨

Making Jokes: A Step-By-Step Guide

1. Remember something funny that happened. Look for simple things that go wrong. Look for things that strike you as strange or funny. Perhaps start with a topic such as your pet, the school band, or gym class.
2. Take that idea and play with it. Exaggerate it, change it, and add things to it. Think of everything that relates to that subject. Make a long list and include some strange or surprising choices to spice things up.
3. Think of some silly, unexpected situations. Try taking a normal scene involving your subject and reversing something about it. Have fun and play with your ideas. There are no bad ideas here. Write down everything you think of. If you don't want to use your sketchpad to write down your jokes or ideas, carry an inexpensive notebook wherever you go.
4. Take your favorite ideas and write out your cartoons. Write down at least four or five ideas for each joke, and don't give up too easily.
5. Draw the best one. Begin the artistic process of planning, sketching, and inking your cartoon.

Humor Can Be Powerful

Cartoons should be used to make people laugh, tell good stories, or challenge people to think about something differently. You must remember, however, that cartoons should never be used to hurt someone's feelings. Drawing an ugly picture of someone and then calling that picture a cartoon is cowardly and unfair. Cartoonists, like superheroes, must use their powers for good. My own rule is that I don't make fun of anyone who is less powerful than I am. Give that some thought.



How to put words and sounds on your cartoon strip.

There are many ways to make your cartoons tell exciting stories.

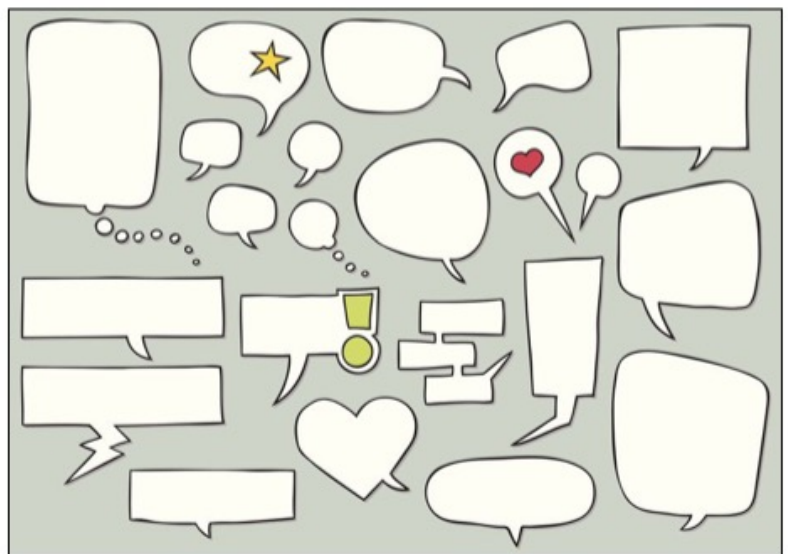
Noises can be made into their own small cartoons.

Words are usually shown in what are called “bubbles” or “balloons”.

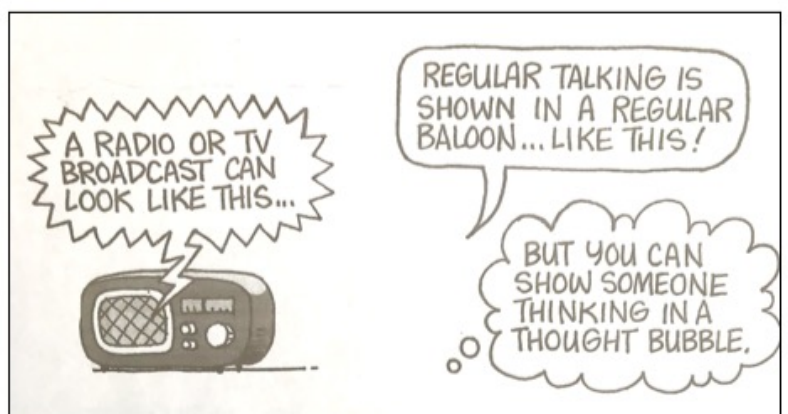


If a cartoon character is thinking something, little bubbles can lead to the larger one for words.

If someone is saying something out loud, a small shape comes out of the word box to the mouth of the character.



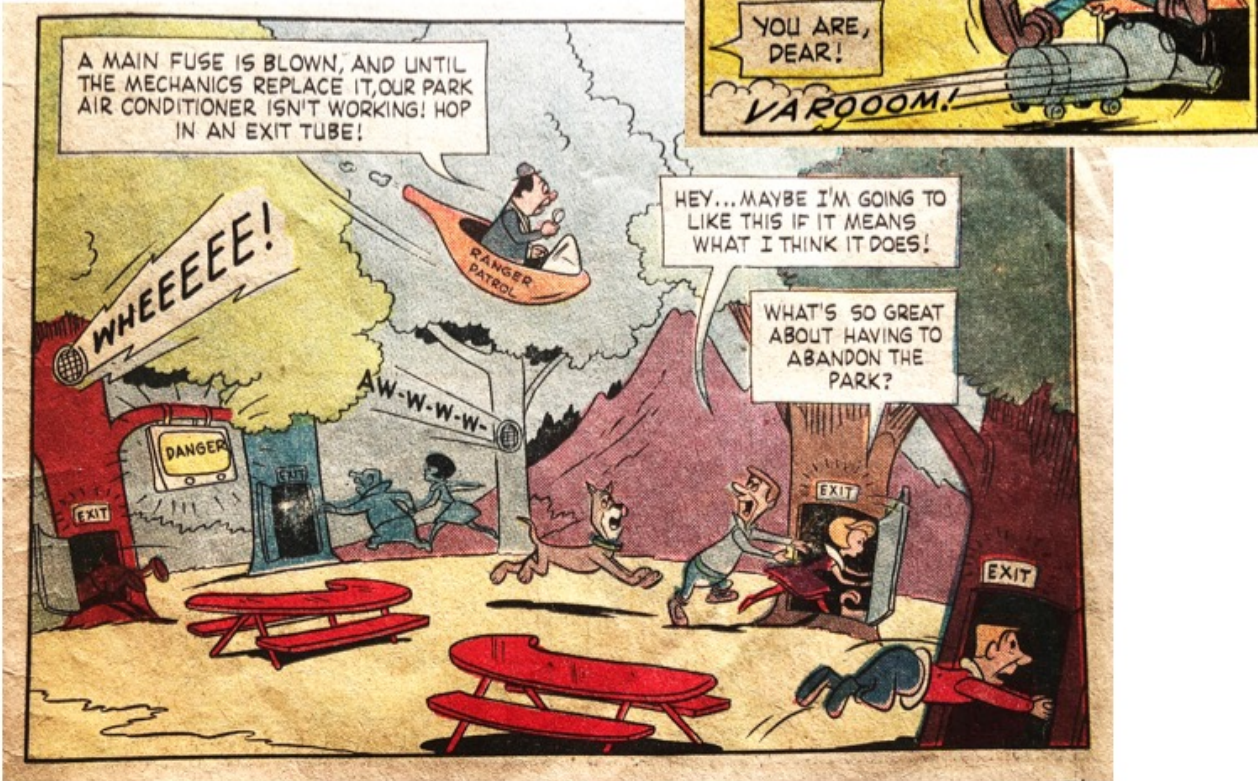
Try using more than one of these ways to add sounds and words to your cartoon.



You can always use a story telling box at the top of a frame.



Examples of showing sounds



Examples of a Comic Book Page

