



Comic Grammar Guide

In the amazing world of comic books, artists bring stories to life in a lot of cool ways! Here are a few storytelling tricks that you won't find anywhere else.



Sound Effects:

BANG! BOOM! POW! Did you hear that? When you're reading a comic book, I bet those wacky words jump off the page. Their size, color, and position say it all! Sound effects can be small and simple, like a soft click of a light being turned on, or they can be dramatic like the oversized *BOOM* of an explosion.

Sheets by Brenna Thummler



Coloring:

Help! The world just went red! What's going on? I think the artist is trying to tell us through the color. In comics, the art does more than tell you what you're seeing. The colors also help you know what you should be feeling. A normal day for a character can suddenly be colored in all red, and then you know it's a big moment.

Wrapped Up No. 4, drawn by Scoot McMahon and colored by Sean Dove



Style Shifts:

Imagine you're six pages into a book, and suddenly, everything is different! How a story is drawn is the artist's "style." Sometimes artists decide that a part of the story is when everything starts to change. Style shifts can also be used for small parts of the story—maybe the character is thinking about their past or maybe it's a dream. Whatever it is, style shifts can show you something new is happening.

The Lost Path by Amélie Fléchaix

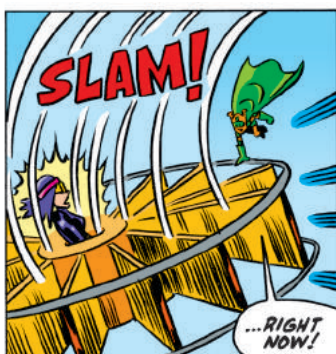


Balloon Designs:

I hope you're listening, because bubbles in comics have a lot to say. One is all spiky ... I bet it's because the person is yelling! The words might get bigger too, almost too big to fit into the bubble at all. But what about a bubble with small letters that look gray instead of black? That feels quieter, doesn't it? It's showing you the character is whispering. Comic books make no noise, but with funky bubble designs, it's pretty easy to forget that you aren't actually hearing what's going on.

The Wormworld Saga Vol. 1 by Daniel Lieske

Action Lines:



Comic book art doesn't move, no matter how long you stare at it. But artists are clever, and they won't let that stop them. Take a look at the example. It doesn't look boring, like someone froze them in place, does it? No way! Look at all those lines shooting out from each character. Those lines are showing off the action, and it almost looks like the characters are moving.

Encounter No. 3, drawn by Chris Giarrusso and colored by Stephen Mayer



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