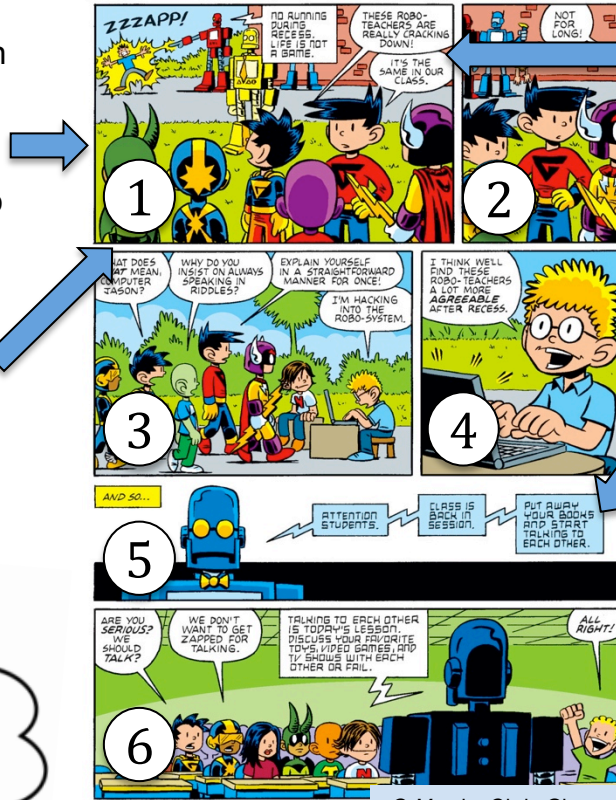


How to Read A Comic

by Tracy Edmunds, M.A. Ed.

Panels are frames that each contain one segment of the action. Panels can be any shape or size. Read the panels from left to right, top to bottom.



Word balloons contain character dialogue. The tail of the bubble points to the speaker. Sometimes different colors, shapes, or fonts are used to show the personality of a character.

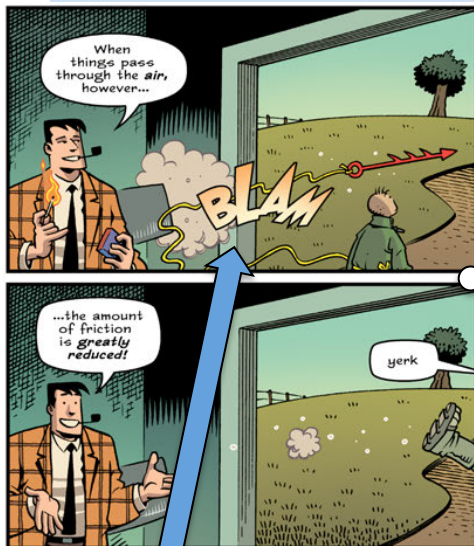
Gutters are the spaces between panels. This is where the reader must imagine the action from panel to panel.

A cloud-like thought bubble means a character is thinking, not speaking.

Slow down! Read both the text and the pictures. Think about what is happening between the panels.

Captions usually contain narration but sometimes dialogue or other text information.

Doctor Sputnik: Man of Science by Roger Langridge



Splash panels are large images that take up most or all of a page. They are often used to establish location or mood.

Bleed is when an image goes all the way to the edge of a page.

What action takes place between these panels?

Sound effects are usually drawn to visually represent the volume and feeling of the sound.



Special Delivery to Shangri-La by Mike Lee & Janet Lee