4-PANEL COMIC STRIP

Setup · Development · Twist · Punchline — the classic yonkoma rhythm.

comicink.ai
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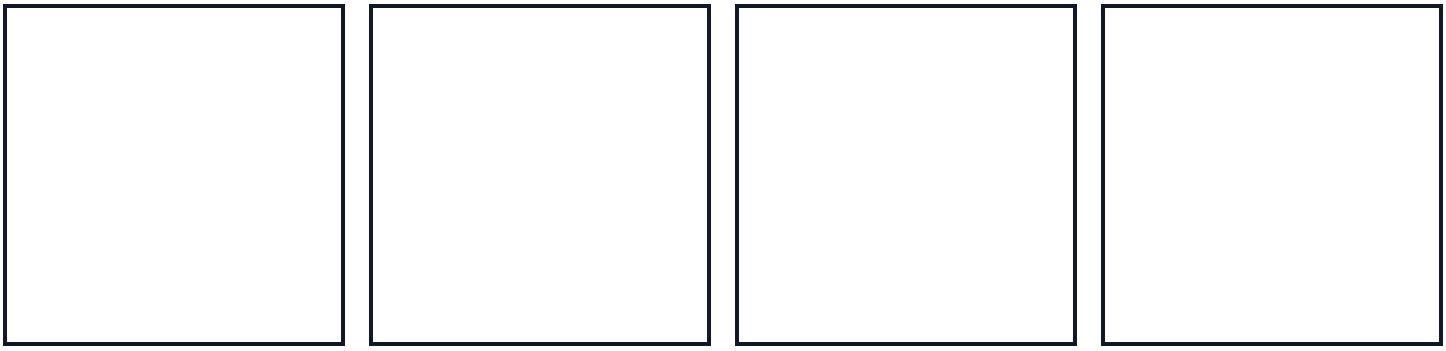


1 · SETUP | 2 · DEVELOPMENT | 3 · TWIST | 4 · PUNCHLINE

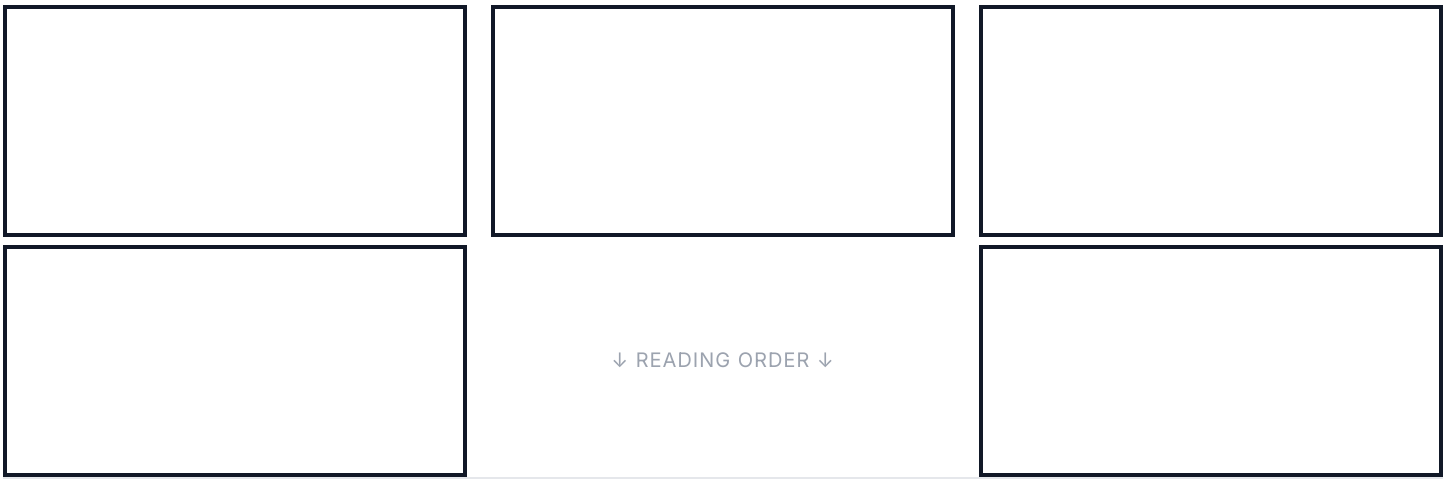
HOW TO USE THE FOUR-BEAT STRUCTURE

1. **Setup.** Establish the situation. Who is on screen, where are they, what is the small premise. Don't over-explain — readers fill in.
2. **Development.** A character makes a choice or reacts. The strip's energy shifts.
3. **Twist.** Something the reader didn't see coming — a reveal, a reversal, a sudden zoom in.
4. **Punchline.** The resolution. Often silent — a face, a glance, a smaller-than-expected reaction.

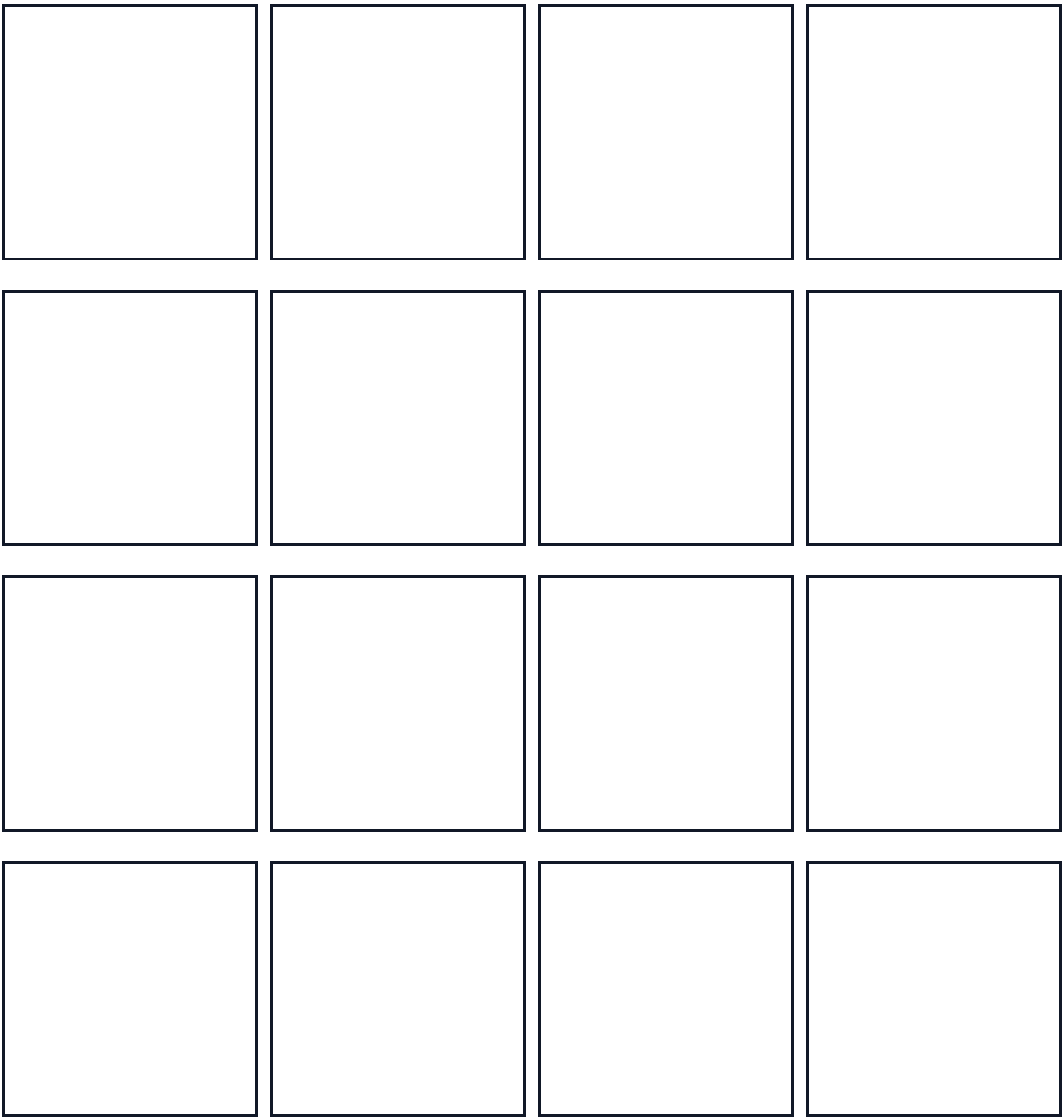
Pro tip. If your strip needs five panels to work, your "twist" probably belongs in panel 3 instead of where you put it. Compression sharpens the joke.

VARIANT — VERTICAL STRIP

Same four beats, stacked. Better for mobile-first webcomics like Webtoons or Instagram carousels.



BLANK — PRACTICE PAGE

Four blank 4-panel strips per page. Print as many as you need.

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