6-PANEL COMIC STRIP — 2 × 3

Two columns, three rows — vertical pacing. Best for character-driven beats.

comicink.ai
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READING ORDER: TOP → BOTTOM, LEFT → RIGHT

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6-PANEL COMIC STRIP — 3 × 2

Three columns, two rows — cinematic pacing. Best for establishing-shot → close-up rhythms.

comicink.ai
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PACING CHEAT SHEET

Six panels of craft, one page.

comicink.ai/quick
Build with AI

2 × 3 VS. 3 × 2 — WHEN TO PICK WHICH

2 × 3 (vertical pacing) reads top-to-bottom in each column. Use it for: conversations, emotional beats, slow reveals. The reader's eye lingers — characters get room to react.

3 × 2 (cinematic pacing) reads left-to-right twice. Use it for: establishing → close-up → reaction → twist. The horizontal flow feels like film cuts.

Same idea, different layout = a meaningfully different strip. Sketch both and pick the one that lands harder.

THE WORDLESS-PANEL RULE

At least one of the six panels should be wordless. Beginner strips overstuff every panel with dialogue, and the rhythm dies.

Wordless panels do work that words can't: they show passage of time, a held silence, a reaction the reader feels for themselves. They also tell the reader where to slow down.

If you can't make any panel wordless, the strip is probably too talky.

DIALOGUE LENGTH PER PANEL

Aim for under 30 words per panel for normal beats, under 50 for dialogue-heavy ones. If a single panel needs more, split it.

Read each panel's dialogue out loud. If it sounds awkward, it reads worse on the page.

WHEN TO BREAK THE GRID

Skip the gutter for one panel — make a "splash" that crosses two panel-widths. Use this for the most important visual moment, not as a stylistic flourish.

One splash per strip, max. Two and the rhythm collapses.

SIX PANELS OF COMMON MISTAKES

1. Overstuffing dialogue.
2. No establishing shot — readers can't place the scene.
3. Same camera angle every panel.
4. Punchline buried in dialogue, not visuals.
5. Reaction shot in panel 4 instead of 5 or 6.
6. No wordless panel anywhere.

FROM STRIP TO COMIC

Once your 6-panel works, expand to a 4-page comic. Free tool at **comicink.ai/quick** — describe the strip, pick an art style, get a finished comic in two minutes.

The 6-panel is the storyboard. The comic is the published version.