

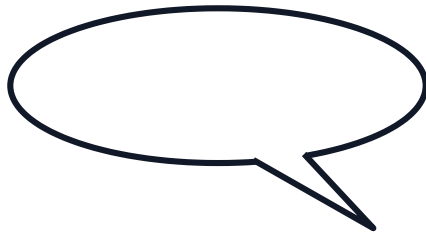
SPEECH BUBBLES – THE SET

Print, cut out or trace. Every common balloon type, at a size you can letter by hand.

comicink.ai
Free template



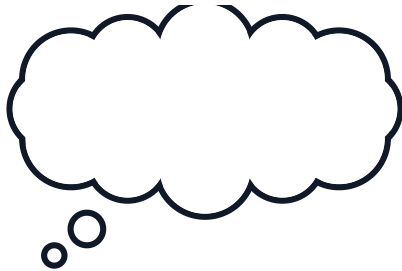
SPEECH
Normal dialogue. Tail points to the mouth.



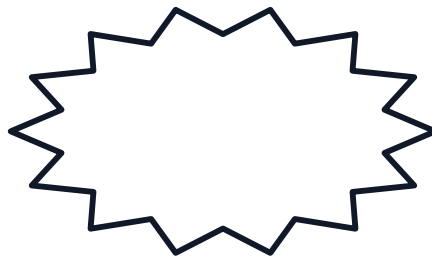
SPEECH (TAIL RIGHT)
Second speaker in the same panel.



BOX BALLOON
Robots, radios, phones, computers.



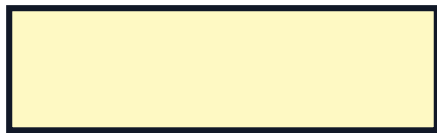
THOUGHT
Inner voice. Bubble trail, not a tail.



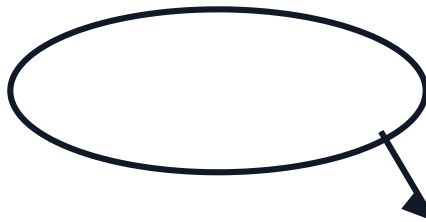
SHOUT / BURST
Yelling, alarms, big sound. Use rarely.



WHISPER
Dashed line. Pair with smaller lettering.



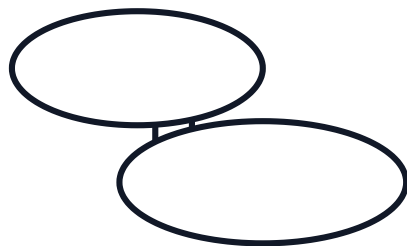
CAPTION
Narration, time and place: "Later..."



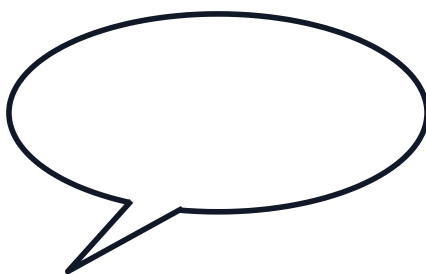
OFF-PANEL
Speaker outside the frame. Tail to the edge.



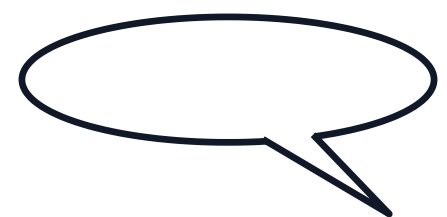
SMALL SPEECH
Short replies: "No." "Wait!"



LINKED BALLOONS
One speaker, two beats. A pause between lines.



LARGE SPEECH
Longer lines. Still keep it under ~25 words.



NARROW SPEECH
Fits tight gaps above a character's head.

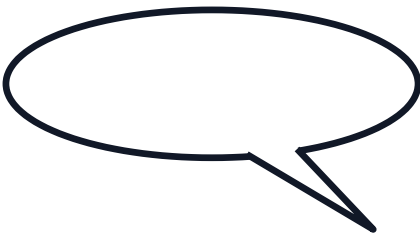
BUBBLES IN A STRIP

Practise placement: letter first, then draw around the words.

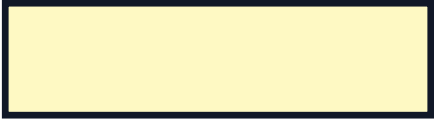
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SPARE SPEECH



SPARE SPEECH



SPARE CAPTION

LETTERING CHEAT SHEET

The rules that make dialogue easy to read.

comicink.ai/ai-comic-generator
Build with AI

READING ORDER

Readers go left to right, top to bottom (right to left for manga). The first speaker's balloon sits highest and furthest left.

If two balloons are level, the left one is read first. Place balloons in the order the lines are said, then compose the art around them.

HOW MUCH FITS

Keep a balloon to about 25 words, and a panel to about 2 or 3 balloons. Past that, the words cover the picture.

Read each line aloud and cut a third. Comics dialogue is shorter than speech.

LETTERING BY HAND

Use all capitals in a steady, simple hand. Rule light pencil guidelines first, about 4 mm apart.

Bold a word for stress, not a whole sentence. Write the words, then draw the balloon around them with an even margin.

TAILS

A tail points at the speaker's mouth, not just their body, and stops short of it.

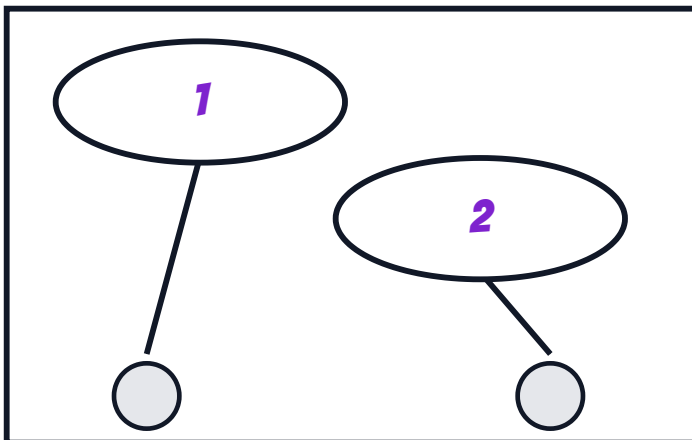
Never cross two tails. If they would cross, swap the balloons or move a speaker.

WHICH BALLOON WHEN

Speech for talk. **Thought** for inner voice (or a caption in modern comics). **Burst** for shouts. **Dashed** for whispers. **Box** for machines and radio. **Caption** for narration and time jumps.

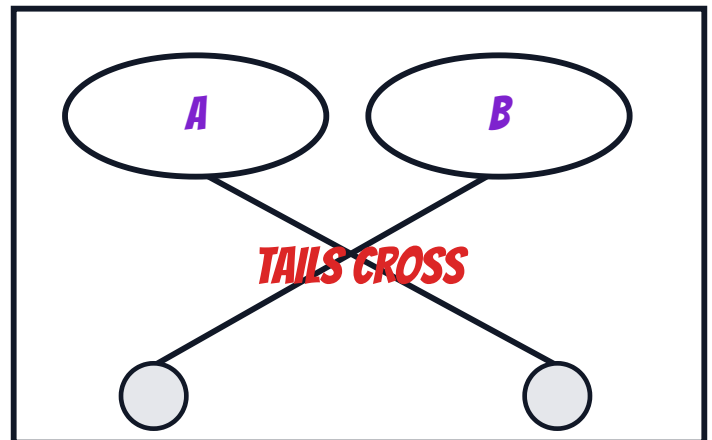
SOUND EFFECTS (SFX)

SFX are drawn into the art, not put in balloons. Make the letters match the sound: jagged for CRACK, rounded for BLOOP, tall and thin for a whistle.



DO: 1 THEN 2, LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM

Whoever speaks first sits top left; the reply sits lower right. Tails never cross.



DON'T: BALLOONS ON THE WRONG SIDE

Each balloon sits over the other speaker, so the tails cross. Swap the balloons.