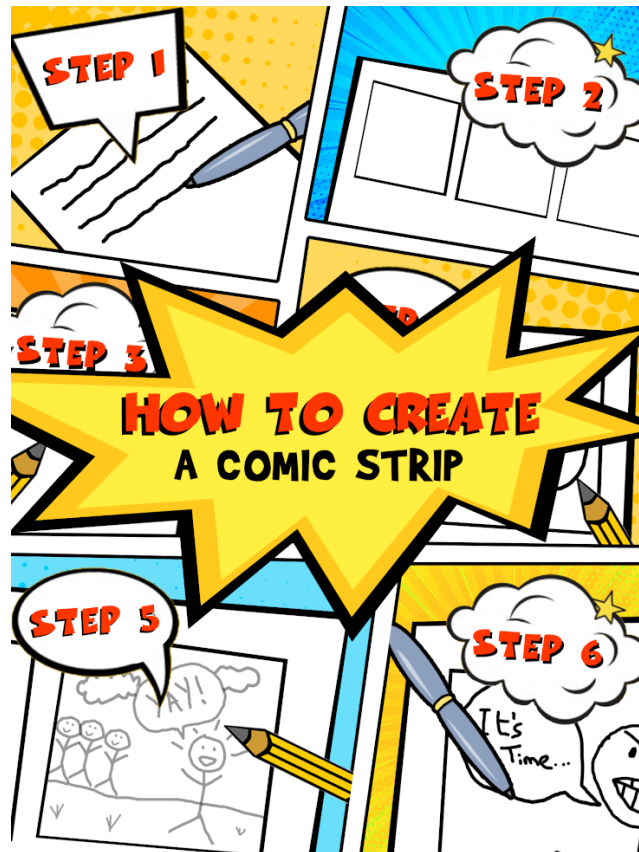


How to Create a Comic Strip in 6 Steps



Everyone loves a good comic, whether you're a comic book geek or just the casual reader of a comic in your local newspaper - Comic Strips are great! While some comic strips just take a few minutes or less to read, don't underestimate the difficulty of creating one! And because May 5th is comic book day, we decided to give you some step-by-step instructions for creating your first ever comic strip. Follow these instructions and you'll be creating awesome comic strips in no time! Here is how to create a comic strip in 6 simple steps.

What is a comic strip?

A comic strip is a sequence of images with a small amount of text in each box. This text is normally inside balloons or written as captions. Comic strips (or comic books) are a form of story-telling, which uses drawings or cartoon characters to tell a story. Most comic strips are created for humour, while some can be serious.

Comic strips are most likely to be seen in newspapers or magazines. While entire comic books or graphic novels can be found at your local library or bookstore. Superman is one of the [best-selling comic books](#) of all time. You might know of other examples of comic strips or books that you've seen or read.

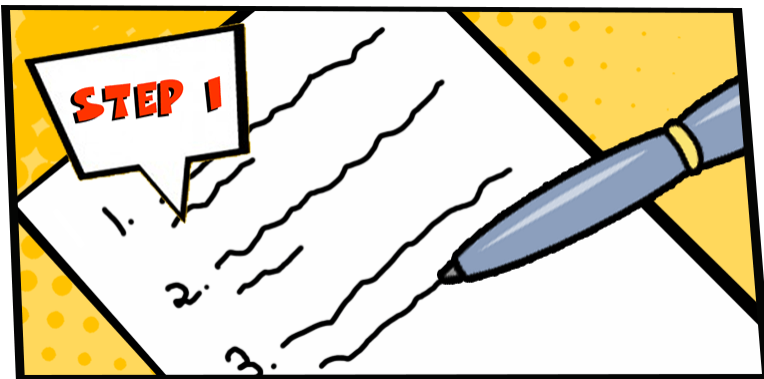
In the professional world, comic strips or comic books are created by cartoonists or professional graphic artists. But today we'll show you **how to create your own comic strip** at home with no experience needed!

How to create a comic strip

As this is your first-ever comic strip we will focus on creating a three-frame comic. But when you become a master at creating short comic strips, you can make yours much longer and filled with way more characters.

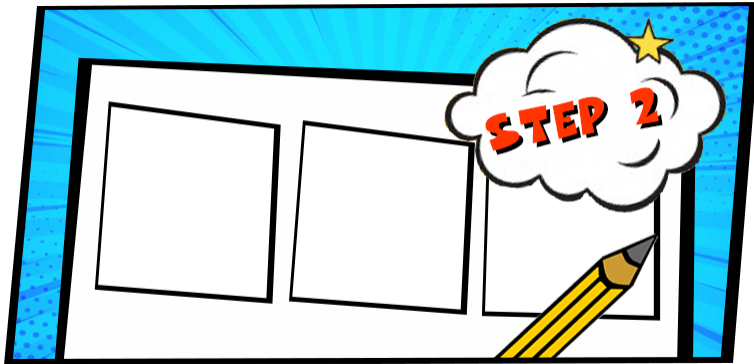
Step 1: Write your ideas for your comic

A comic strip is no different from [writing a short story](#). It still needs a beginning, middle and ending. Because this is a three-frame comic strip, break your story down into 3 parts. Write down your ideas for the characters, settings, expressions and even speech. Make sure each part has some action and that your ending is powerful with an awesome punchline.



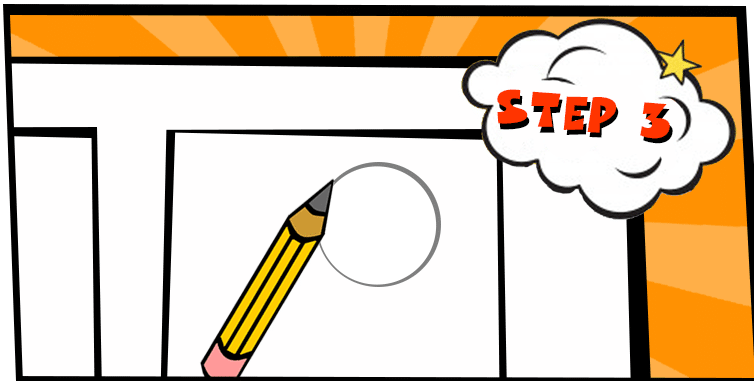
Step 2: Draw the three-frames

On a new piece of plain paper, draw your three frames using a pencil and a ruler. Make sure each frame is equal size. You can even put small light marks on the paper to mark out where the speech bubbles will go. As a bonus tip, you might want to make your frames twice as big as you want them to be, so you don't run out of space.



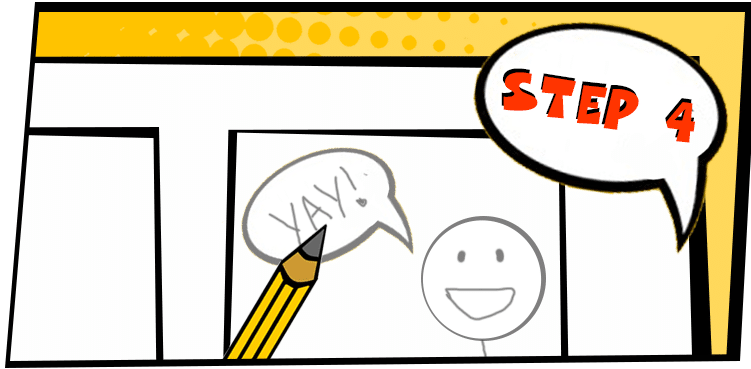
Step 3: Use basic shapes to draw

One of the hardest parts of creating a comic strip is drawing out your characters. We recommend you use basic shapes to draw out your characters. As this is your first comic strip you might even want to use stick figures to keep things easy. Also, sketch in the speech bubbles and any starbursts for sound effects. Oh and don't forget, please use a pencil at this stage, so you can erase any mistakes.



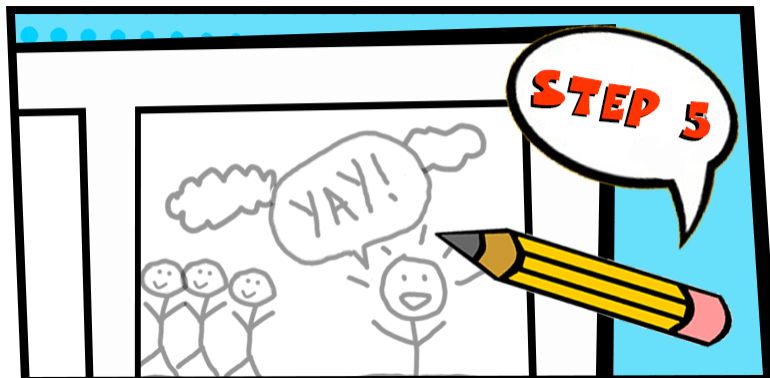
Step 4: Add in the speech and lettering

Now add in the lettering for your speech into your speech bubbles and don't forget to double-check your spelling. Remember the size of your lettering could show whether a character is shouting or whispering. For example, lettering in full capitals shows that your character is shouting.



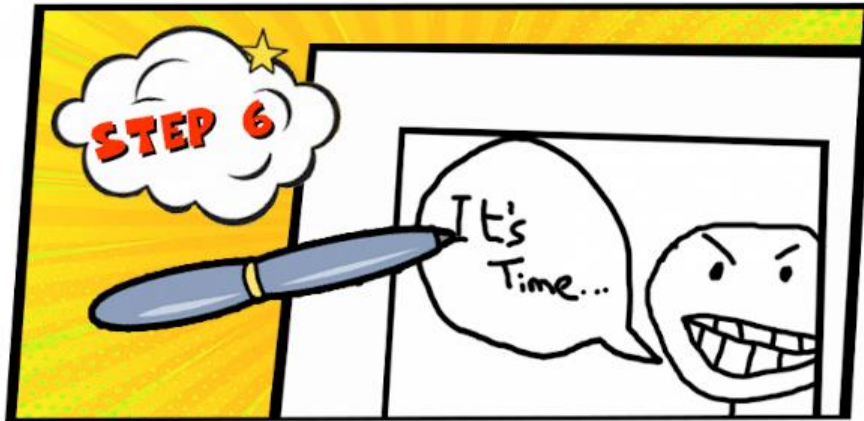
Step 5: Add detail to your cartoon

Now go back to your characters and add any extra details, such as facial expression, movement lines, shadowing on the floor. And also draw in the background for each frame.



Step 6: Go over your comic in pen

Now, you can finally use a felt-tip pen to go over your pencil drawings and rub out any pencil lines. Your first-ever comic strip is now complete - well done! You can leave it as it is or even add some colour.



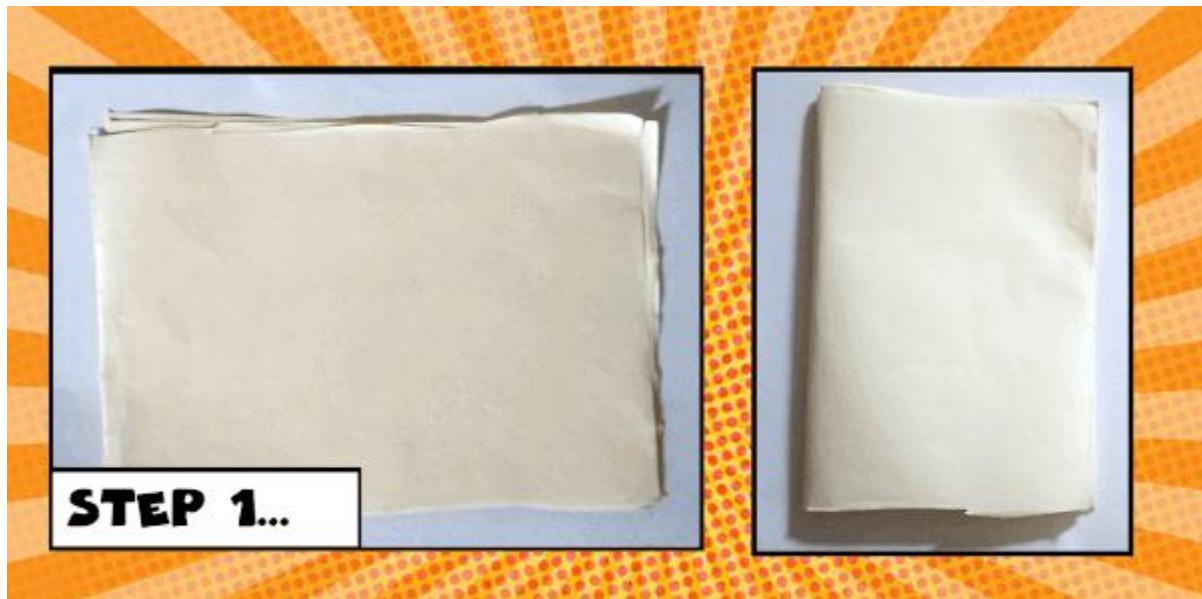
How to make a comic book

A comic book is like a super long comic strip that requires more than one page. The process of creating a comic book is almost similar to creating a comic strip. However, there are a couple of extra steps you need to take to make a comic book.

If you're looking for a readily made comic book or blank comic book templates, see this amazing [blank comic book template](#) for kids (Amazon Affiliate Link):

Here is a super quick step-by-step tutorial on how to make a comic book out of paper:

1. Pile together at least 3 A4 pages. This will give you 12 pages for your comic book. Then fold all of them in half:



2. Staple the folded papers together. This should give an A5 sized booklet. Then fold the area with staples in slightly like in the image below:



3. Fold another A4 paper in half. This paper will be for your comic's cover. We used an A4 piece of card to give our comic book a sturdy cover:

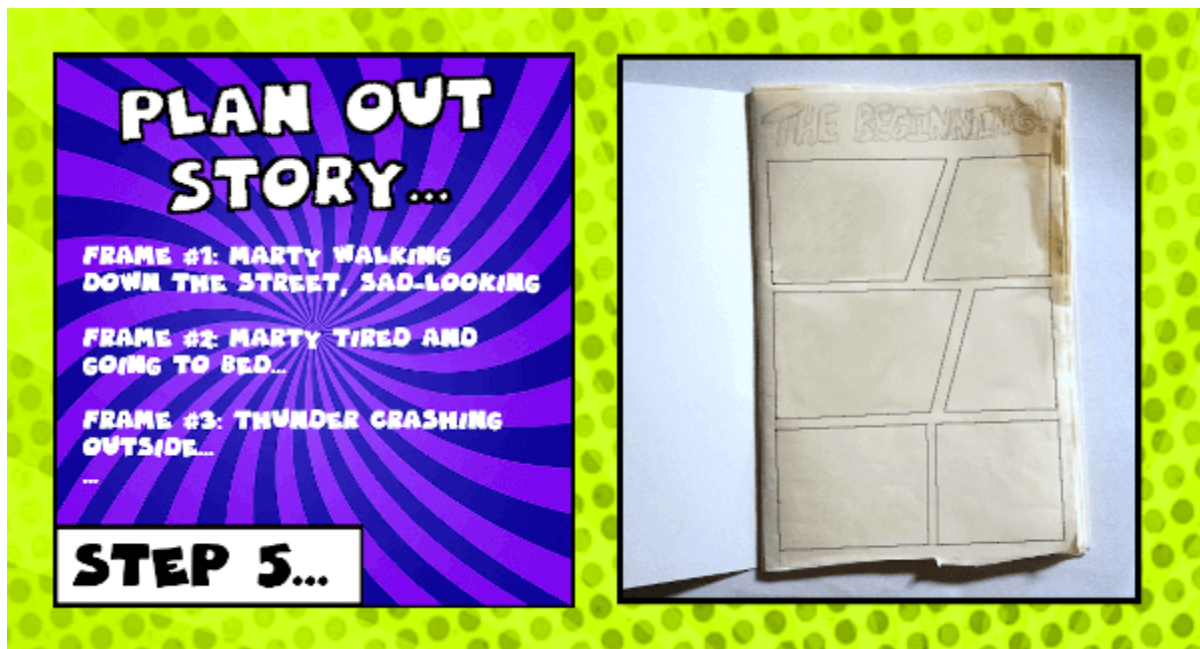


Then apply glue on the tiny folded over part of your booklet - On the side where you can see the staples. Next, stick the cover and booklet together to form your comic book.

4. Sketch out your cover using a pencil. And now the fun part: Outline your pencil drawing with a pen and then colour it in like a coloring book:



5. Plan on your comic on a separate paper. You should ideally plan out each frame. Think about what the characters will say, what the scene might look like and any other small details. For inspiration, take a look at this post on [how to come up with good ideas](#).



Once the planning is done, sketch out your frames and cover over them in black pen.

6. Draw in your frames using a pencil. Remember to include speech bubbles, special effects and facial expressions on your characters. Once happy outline the drawing with a black pen and colour it in using your favourite colours:



Carry on doing the same with the other pages in your comic book until complete.

Hooray! Your comic book is now complete. Now that you have done your first comic - Don't stop now! Create your own comic book collection and amaze your friends with your bedazzling story-telling skills! You could even be the next Stan Lee!

Making a comic book is a great school project which can be applied to any lesson, whether it's art, science or English. Comic books are a great way to encourage creativity in kids and build on their story-telling skills. You can even ask students to create comic books to test their understanding of a complex subject or topic.

How to Draw Comic Strip Characters

One of the hardest parts of creating a comic strip is drawing out the characters. As a beginner to the world of creating comic books, try not to worry too much about your drawing skills. For now, even a simple stick figure will do - In fact, there are many famous comics on the internet drawn entirely using stick figures!

If you want more than just stick figures, you can try out the simple steps below on how to draw your own comic strip characters. For this method, you'll start off using a light pencil to sketch your character and then you'll add in the colour:

1. Start with a simple circle.
2. Draw two circles for the eye and a mouth. And don't forget a tiny curved dot for the nose!
3. Sketch any rough hairstyle. Add in the eyebrows over the hair.
4. Draw triangular-looking rectangle for the body.
5. Roughing sketch in the legs and tiny shoes.
6. Add in your character's arms.
7. Draw in the smaller details. Don't forget to add the tiny hands.
8. Go over your sketch with a black pen.
9. Color in your character
10. Your comic strip character is complete!

Here is a little cheat sheet of all the steps involved in drawing your own comic strip character: By following these simple instructions, you'll be drawing cool comic strip characters in no time!

HOW TO DRAW COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



BY IMAGINE
FOREST



Comic Strip Ideas

Now you know how to create your own comic strip the next step is to start creating more! Here are some fun comic strip ideas to try out:

1. **School Day:** Create a comic about your best/worst day at school.
2. **Travel Comic:** Create a [travel comic](#) about a recent trip or holiday you went on.
3. **Friendship:** Write a comic about your best friend or a friend and give it to them as a gift.
4. **Fairy Tales:** Recreate your favourite [fairytale](#) as a comic strip.
5. **Superhero:** Design your own superhero and write a comic strip about their adventures. You can check out these [superhero writing prompts](#) for inspiration.
6. **Family:** Write a comic strip about a family member and give it to them as a present.
7. **Music:** Write a comic strip based on your favourite song, singer or band.
8. **The Future:** Create a comic strip based on how you will be like in 10 years time.
9. **Anti-bullying:** Write a comic about bullying to help anyone who is being [bullied](#).
10. **Endangered Species:** Raise awareness of an [endangered species](#) through creating a comic strip.

These comic strip ideas are great for school and at home. Why not challenge yourself and create a comic strip for all 10 of the comic strip ideas above! For more inspiration take a look at our post on [coming up with story ideas](#).

Comic Strip Examples

We all need a little inspiration now and then. To inspire your comic strip creation, here are some simple and fun comic stripe examples:



Why not continue the comic strips in these examples or create your own using these characters?

Are you ready to create a comic strip?

Creating comic strips is so much fun. And it's easy too! Just make sure to sketch out your ideas before creating your comic strip and make sure you keep your characters simple (as you may have to draw them many times in different positions.) Now sharpen your pencil and get creating!

What do you think of our step-by-step instructions on how to create a comic strip? Let us know your thoughts in the comments. In the meantime, why not take a look at our [monster flip book activity](#) or learn [how to write your first-ever Haiku](#)?