

The Parts of a Frame

In comics, a frame is a zone defined by an outline. It can also be called a box. Frames can contain a certain number of different elements.

Setting

The setting is at the back of the frame; it establishes where the action is taking place.

Background

Settings can be replaced with backgrounds. Background colors or patterns can create an atmosphere.

Characters

The people in your story are the characters. They go inside the frames and are placed inside the settings.

Speech Bubbles

Characters speak through text that appears in speech bubbles, which can also be called “speech balloons.” Each bubble has a tail. The tail points to the character that is speaking. Speech bubbles.

Captions

A caption is text inside a box that is usually rectangular (as opposed to being inside a speech bubble). Sometimes the contents of the caption reflects the ideas of the narrator, the character who is telling the story. For example, Spiderman’s thoughts are often spelled out in captions.

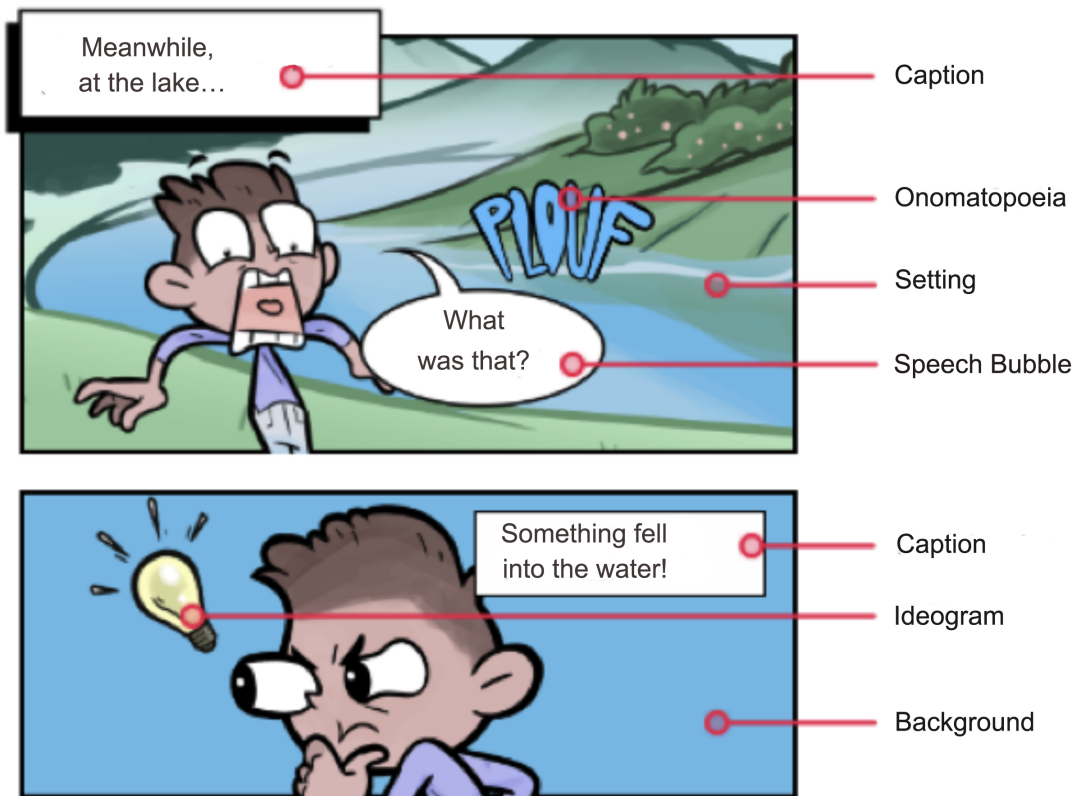
Other times, the caption provides extra information, such as where or when the action is taking place. In that case, the caption is often short and followed by an ellipsis (dot dot dot). For example, “Once upon a time...” or “On a planet far, far away...”

Onomatopoeias

Onomatopoeias are stylized text (i.e. lettering that is different from the rest) that represents noises made by objects, animals, or feelings. “Yuck” is an onomatopoeia that expresses disgust, “Cock-a-doodle-doo!” is a rooster’s cry, and “crack!” is the sound of something breaking.

Ideograms

Ideograms are symbols that represent thoughts or emotions. A light bulb over a character’s head, for instance, shows that the person just had an idea.



[See the different kinds of speech bubbles]

[See how to compose your frames]

[See the different ideograms]