

Comic Script Template

For comics and graphic novels. Replace the grey text, keep the layout. Works in Microsoft Word and Google Docs (File > Open > Upload).

How to use it

- Start every comic page on a new script page (Insert > Page break).
- Head each page PAGE ONE, PAGE TWO and so on, with the panel count.
- Number the panels on every page, and number every lettering item in reading order.
- Keep descriptions to a sentence or two: one moment per panel.
- Speaker names in capitals. Modifiers in brackets: (OP) off panel, (thought), (whisper), (small), (burst).
- Stressed words in bold or underline, never in capitals.
- About 25 words per balloon, 35 to 50 per panel at most.

Before you send it to an artist

- 1 . The page count matches your format and your budget.
- 2 . Every panel shows one moment that can be drawn.
- 3 . No balloon runs much past 25 words, and no page is packed with text.
- 4 . Big reveals sit at the top of left-hand pages.
- 5 . Every character is described once, with a reference sheet if you have one.
- 6 . You've read every line of dialogue out loud.

Character list

NAME (age): one line on how they look and what they want.

NAME (age): ...

SAMPLE PAGE (delete when you start)

PAGE ONE (five panels)

PANEL 1

Wide. A rooftop garden above a laundromat at dusk. Tomato plants in buckets, a string of lights. DEV (11), in an oversized raincoat, kneels beside a cardboard box with holes punched in the lid.

1. **CAPTION:** Every Thursday, the roof is mine.

PANEL 2

Close on the box. Something inside is scratching.

2. **SFX** (small): skritch skritch

PANEL 3

Dev lifts the lid an inch. Behind her, her grandmother NANI (70s) steps through the roof door with two mugs.

3. **NANI:** Dev. What did you bring up here?

4. **DEV:** Nothing!

PANEL 4

Nani raises one eyebrow. Dev hugs the box to her chest.

5. **DEV:** Okay. Not **nothing**.

PANEL 5

The lid starts to lift on its own. Dev and Nani both freeze.

6. **NANI** (whisper): Dev...

7. **DEV** (whisper): He's friendly. Mostly.

PAGE TURN: show what's in the box on page 2, panel 1.

PAGE ONE (_ panels)**PANEL 1**

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

1. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
2. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PANEL 2

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

3. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
4. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PANEL 3

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

5. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
6. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PANEL 4

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

7. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
8. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PANEL 5

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

9. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
10. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PAGE TURN / SPREAD NOTE (optional)

PAGE TWO (_ panels)**PANEL 1**

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

1. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*
2. **CHARACTER:** *Dialogue, about 25 words at most.*

PANEL 2

Where we are (first time only). Who is in the panel, left to right. What happens in this one moment. Shot, if it matters.

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