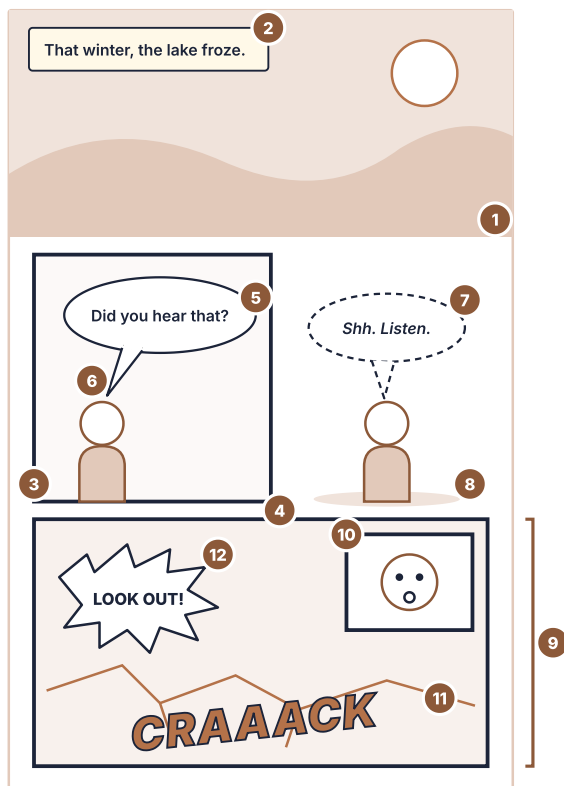


Comic and Graphic Novel *Terms*



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Bleed panel | 2 Caption |
| 3 Border | 4 Gutter |
| 5 Speech balloon | 6 Tail |
| 7 Whisper balloon | 8 Borderless panel |
| 9 Tier | 10 Inset panel |
| 11 Sound effect (SFX) | 12 Burst balloon |

Three rules worth remembering

- Put a reveal on the next left-hand page, so it stays hidden until the page turn.
- Keep text and faces out of the center of a spread.
- Keep balloons and captions inside the safe area.

Page layout

Panel	One framed picture showing a single moment of the story.
Border	The drawn line around a panel.
Gutter	The blank space between panels. In printing, also the inside margin at the binding.
Tier	One horizontal row of panels across the page.
Grid	Panels lined up in straight rows and columns, such as a nine-panel grid.
Splash page	One large panel, usually filling the whole page.
Spread (double-page spread)	One image or layout across two facing pages.
Inset panel	A small panel inside a larger one, often for a close-up.
Borderless panel	A panel with no border.
Bleed panel	Art that runs to the edge of the page.
Page turn	Put a reveal on the next left-hand page so it stays hidden until the turn.
Reading order	Left to right, top to bottom. Manga is traditionally read right to left.

Lettering

Speech balloon	Holds a character's spoken words. Also word balloon or speech bubble.
Tail	The point on a balloon that aims at the speaker.
Thought balloon	Cloud shape with a trail of small bubbles. Many comics use captions instead.
Whisper balloon	Quiet speech, traditionally a dashed outline.
Burst balloon	Jagged edge for shouting, often with bold lettering.
Caption	A box for narration, time and place, or inner voice.
Sound effect (SFX)	A sound word drawn into the art.
Letterer	Places the balloons and captions, and sometimes the sound effects.

Art

Thumbnails	Small, rough sketches to plan each page.
Pencils	The first full drawing of the page, by the penciller.
Inks	The pencils finished in black ink, by the inker.
Flats	Plain base colors that the colorist builds on.
Colors	The final coloring, with shading and lighting, by the colorist.
Screen tone	Dot patterns for gray shading, widely used in manga.

Print

Trim	Where the printer cuts the page.
Bleed	Extra art past the trim, usually 0.125 inch.
Safe area	The zone inside the trim where text and faces are safe from cutting.
Binding area	The center of a spread. Keep text and faces out of it.