

Say it in comics!



Sanna Hukkanen

Sanna Hukkanen &
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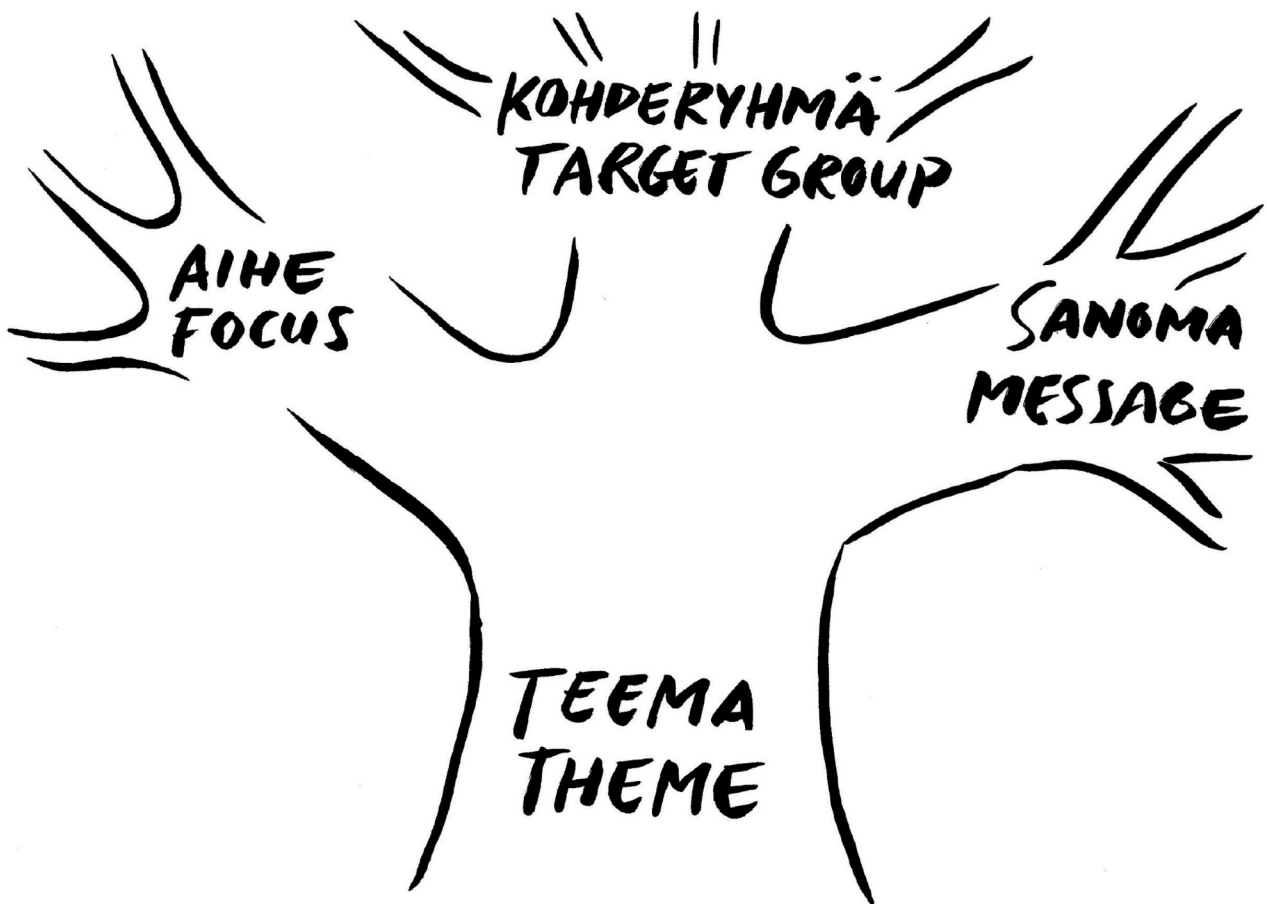
**World Comics Finland
2020**

Why comics?

**COMICS
POWER!**

- Grassroots comics are **drawn stories with a message**
- made by **activists** (not professional artists)
- People who usually have no access to media can get their voices heard.
- Anyone can learn this - a genuine voice!
- Use of **local language**, also visual language and subjects and humor familiar to the community give more credibility. People are interested in opinions and stories from their community. Stories can be also about sensitive subjects.
- **Inexpensive medium**: You only need paper, pens and a story to tell.
- **Low technology: copy machine**. Two A4 papers glued together.
- Images attract: comics (posters) are new, possibly new in surroundings .
- Four-panel format is flexible: ready to print both in paper and online

You don't need to know how to draw to make comics!



What are topical themes in your community?



Leif Packalen

Comics create debate!

EDUCATION FOR ALL

ELIMUKWA WOTE

Mom, I would also like
to go to school like my
brothers.

Ok, I will tell your father.



It is a good idea, but you
know that our daughter
is disabled.

Yes, but she has the
right to study.

Ok, I understand, I will
send her to school.

Thank you, my husband.



After 25 years

Please receive a present,
my parents.

Thank you, daughter.

by Stephan Protas,
CHAWATA (Organisation
of people with physical
disabilities, Mwanza,
Tanzania 2010)

STEPHAN PROTAS
0756 736 431
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MWANZA

Storyboard thumbnails

The storyboard includes what you choose to show in your comic and how. Sketches can be rough, but write all the text necessary.

With the storyboard you can test the readability and the overall clarity of your comics before making the final artwork. Show it to the tutor or a friend.

HINT: Make your storyboard in a thumbnail size! Otherwise there will be too much details and rendering.



Readability feedback questions

Show your script to another participant, do not explain!

Is the **message** understood correctly?

What's the theme?

subject /topic /focus?

target group?

message?

Writing: any errors? Are bubbles in the right reading order?

Image /text balance → is there repetition as in same thing in images and text? Too much text? Too little text?

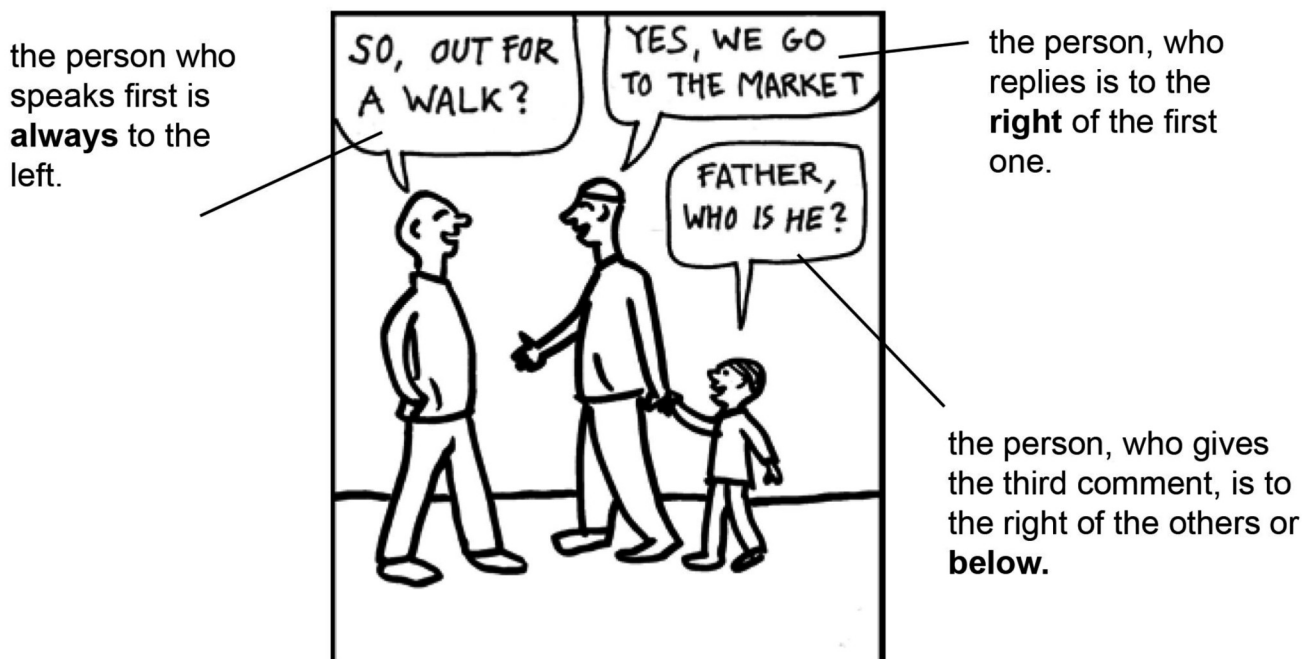
Title /header: does it work? (not a spoiler, too long, attracting to read?)

Steps of making comics

- Idea → message, focus, target group
- Script /storyboard thumbnail
- Pencilling the layout, text first
- Lettering
- Inking
- Corrections
- Feedback
- Publishing /distribution

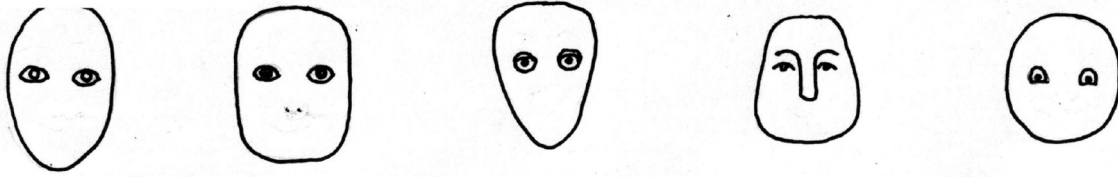
Show don't tell!

Reading order is from **left to right** and from top to bottom.



Expressions

Form of the head



Eyebrows and mouth

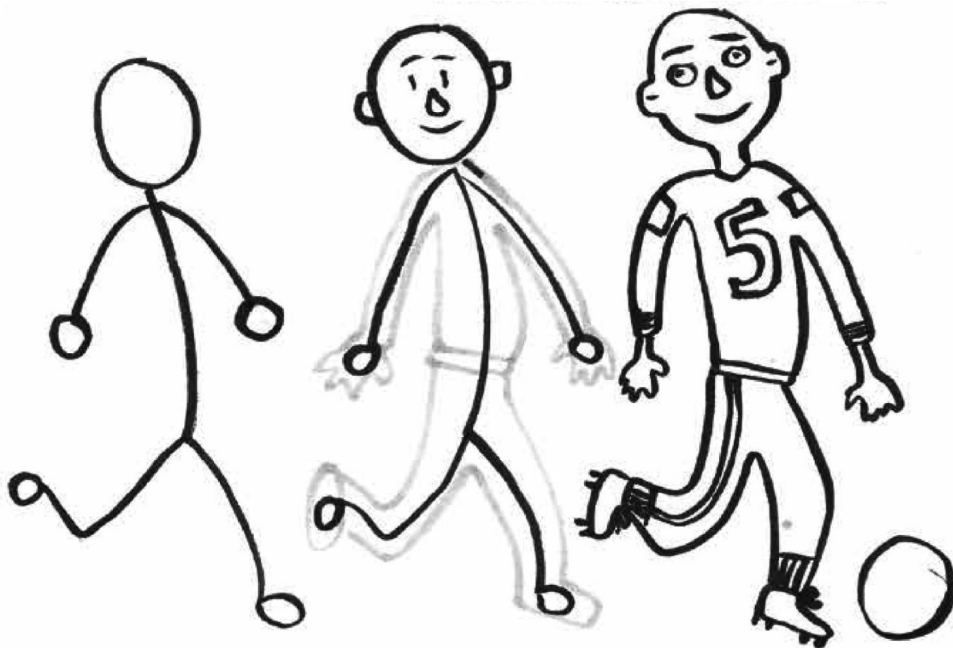


Hair and glasses



Hannele Richert

Drawing character



Warda Ahmed



Narrative text

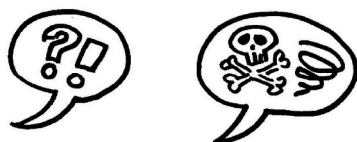
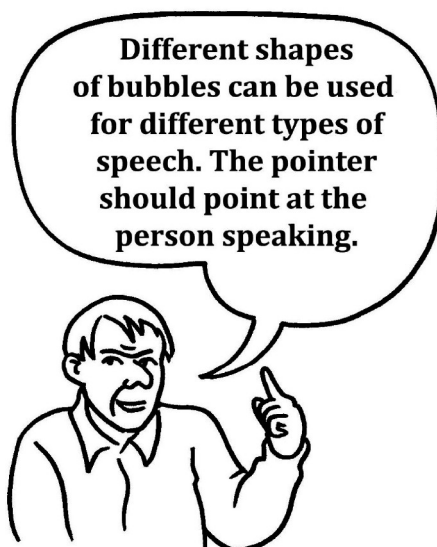
Place the narrative text in the top of the panel, so reader will read it first.

Narrative can be an introduction to the events in the panel. It can describe for example where and when the events take place, like "in the morning", "on the way to Helsinki" or "five years earlier".

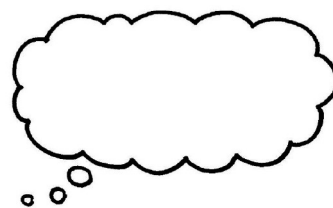
Do not use narrative to explain your story. Use drawings to express as many things as possible!

Notice: comics don't always need any text!

SPEECH BUBBLES



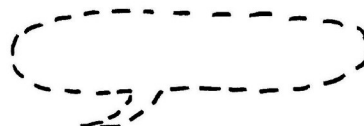
Symbols can be used to express reactions. They also save space!



Thought bubble



Loud or aggressive voice

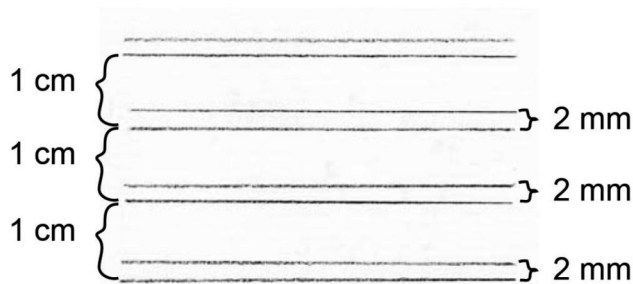
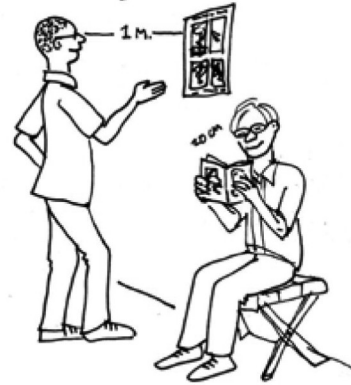


Whisper

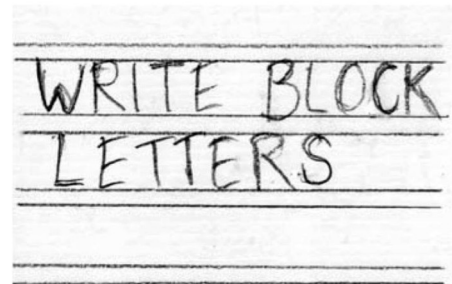
Lettering of speech bubbles

The height of the letters should be at least 1 cm, because posters will be read from a distance of 1 meter.

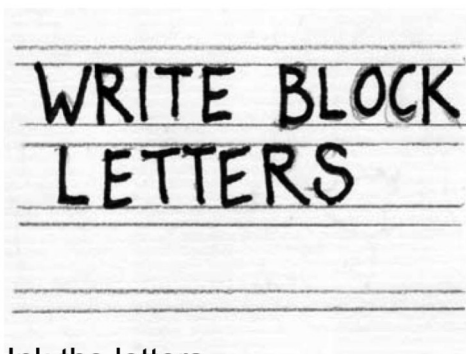
This is also important in case you want to publish your comics in a smaller size in the web or in a newspaper.



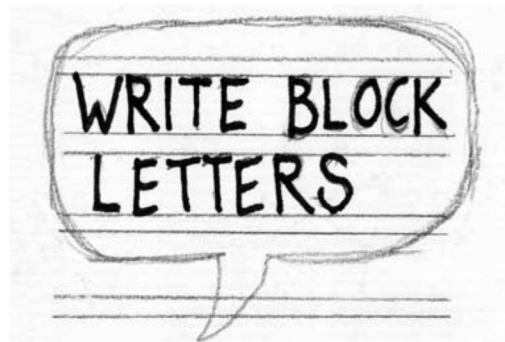
Make pencil guidelines for the text. Draw the lines (lightly) with 1 cm distance and add one more line 2 mm above each line.



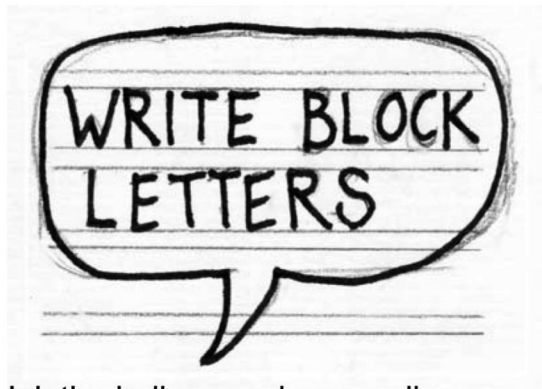
Then sketch in your lettering with pencil and proof-read it.



Ink the letters.



Draw the balloon, leaving a bit of space between the letters and the line.

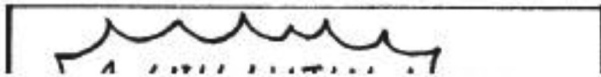


Ink the balloon and erase all pencil traces.



Your lettering is now complete, readable and neat. The space around the text improves readability.

Headers



From Hmingmawii (Amoii) Chaitlang's story about the neighbour's pig. Mizoram 2003



From R. Lalnunpari's story about the drug addict. Mizoram 2003

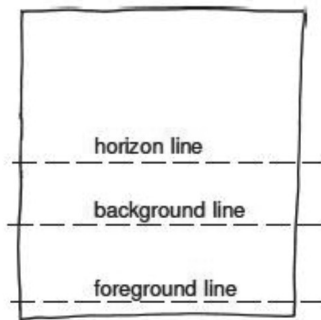
Cropping / Zooming

The author of a comic can decide what should be shown to the reader, and what should be left out. Zooming in and out is common in films.

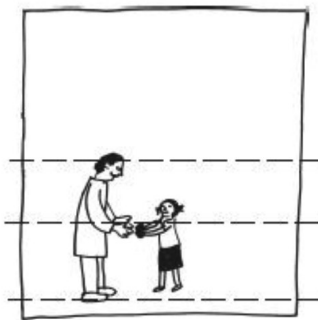


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Adding depth and perspective



Draw three pencil lines to help you place everything



Draw the main characters on the foreground line



Draw background items on the back-ground line



Draw far-off items and a horizon line



Now, remove the pencil lines



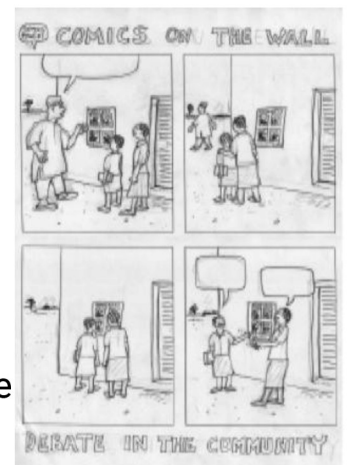
Add a few details, if you like

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Final artwork



1. Sketch the guidelines & texts with pencil
2. Sketch the drawings lightly with pencil
3. Ink the outlines and lettering with thin marker
4. Erase pencil lines carefully
5. Add black areas, detail and texture
6. Get feedback, make corrections
7. Photocopy (or scan 600dpi black&white line drawing tiff) your work
8. Publish!



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Steps of inking



Pencilled texts



Pencilling

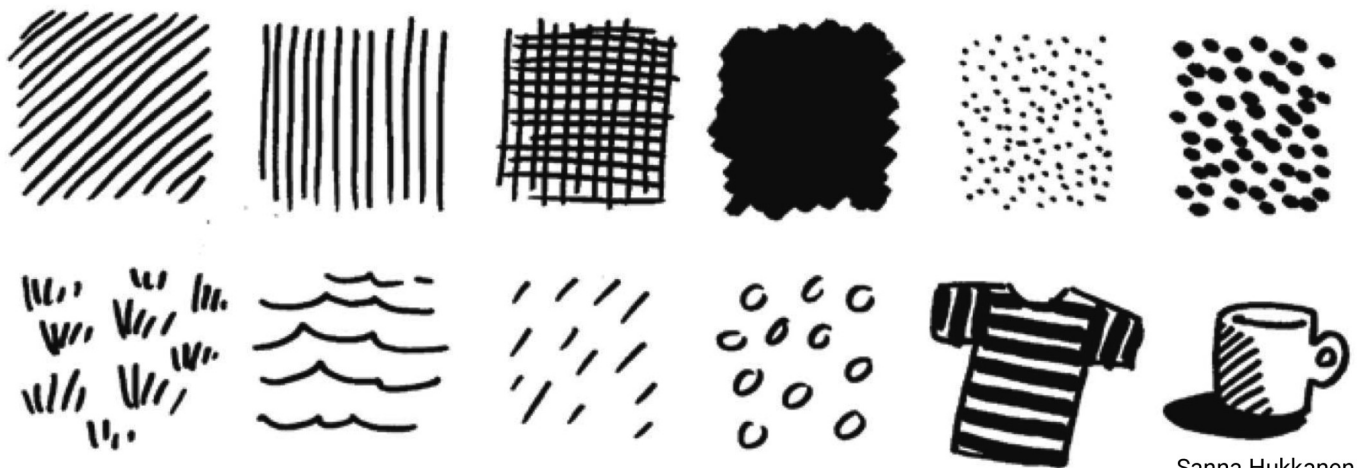


Inked outlines



Add texture,
details and colour

Inking: textures & shading



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Making corrections

When your artwork is ready, go through the readability questions from the storyboard phase again. It is still possible to make corrections!

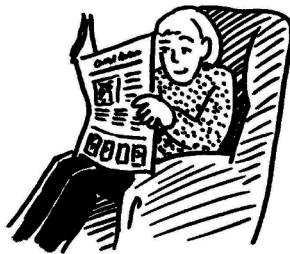
Whiteout /Tippex → covers well, ink might not stick

Gouache (opaque) → can be drawn over easily

White paper sticker labels, cutting away and glueing over → easy to cover bigger things, easy to draw over

Everyone makes mistakes!

Where and how would you distribute your comics?



Sanna Hukkanen



www.worldcomics.fi
www.finnougriccomics.com
www.illustratingmecomics.com
FB: World Comics Finland