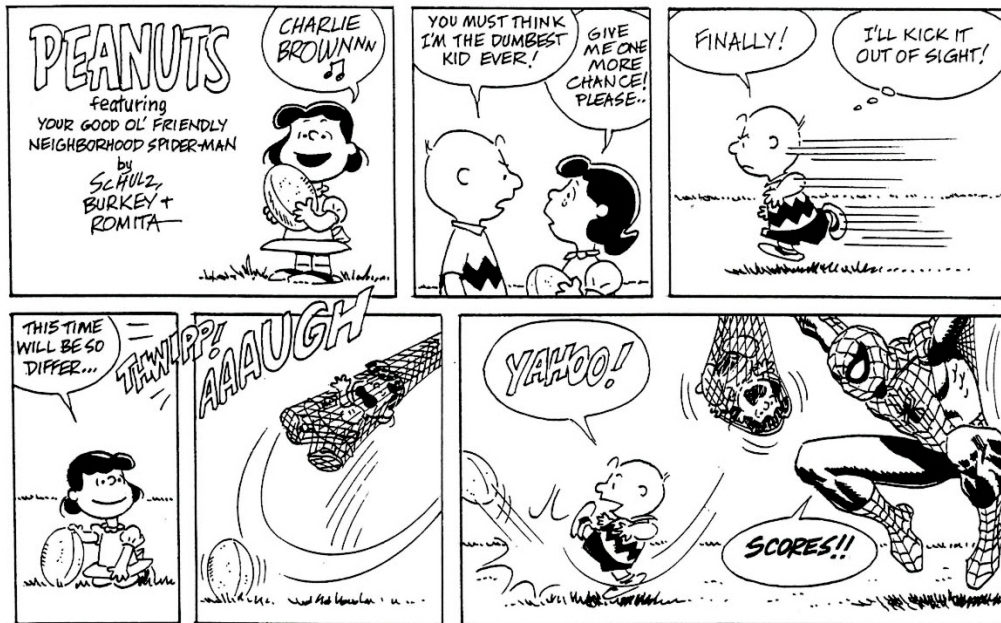


Comics & Cartoons



The Comic Strip



In comics, speech balloons show what people say or think.

American comic strips first appeared in New York City at the end of the 19th century. At that time, a newspaper called the New York World began running a comic strip called “The Yellow Kid,” which many people think was the first comic strip in the United States. “The Yellow Kid” got its name because the main character’s clothes were covered with yellow ink. “The Yellow Kid” had speech balloons that showed the words people spoke. Soon, almost every newspaper printed comics, or funnies, as they are also called.

Today, comic strips, many with speech balloons, are found in newspapers across the country. On Sundays, the color comics are one of the most popular parts of the newspaper. In addition, the Sunday comics are usually larger and more colorful than the daily comics.

Key Notes:

Write another phrase for the term “speech bubble.”
Explain your choice.



Anime is a specific type of comic that originated in Japan.

Anime

In Japan, people of all ages read anime and watch it on TV and in movies. Anime is a style of art and cartoon that was created in Japan in the 1950s. The anime that people read and watch in the United States often features children and imaginary beasts that have huge eyes.

Since anime films and TV shows were first created, their viewers have grown up. Although Japanese viewers still love the anime style of drawing, they now want stories that feature adults. Many anime books, films, and TV shows are still created for children, but now there are animal love stories and sports tales, too. Some anime also features fighting and imaginary worlds. In addition, anime movies are being made of classic Japanese films.

Key Notes:

How has anime changed over the years?



This person is dressed like a science fiction character in a graphic novel.

Graphic Novels

Although graphic novels don't look like novels, they also don't look like comic books. Graphic novels, which look like a mixture of comics and novels, are an art form that blends fiction and art.

Graphic novels look like comic books because they tell stories with drawings and speech balloons. However, they are different from comics because they tell longer stories that are more like those told in novels. Also like novels, they may have many characteristics and a plot with many parts.

Both teens and adults enjoy graphic novels' strong drawings and stories. In addition, graphic novels feature many different subjects. Some graphic novelists write about World War II. Some write love stories or science fiction. Others write stories that make readers laugh. Graphic novels today appeal to a growing number of

Key Notes:

What are graphic novels?



Computer Animation

Before computers, hundreds of artists spent years carefully drawing frame after frame to make an animated film. Every second of film needed 12 to 24 drawings. A five-minute cartoon could have more than 7,000 drawings.

Today, most animated films are drawn on computers. Computer animation can look almost as real as life. The animals seem to move like real animals, even though they can talk. The people look more real, too, even though they can stretch like clay. Some films also combine real people and animals with computer animation.

The film Toy Story, which was first shown in 1995, was the first full-length computer-animated film, and it was very popular. Today, many artists who once drew each frame by hand now create cartoons with computer animation.

Key Notes:

What is computer animation?

Computer animation lets
artists draw
real-looking cartoons.

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