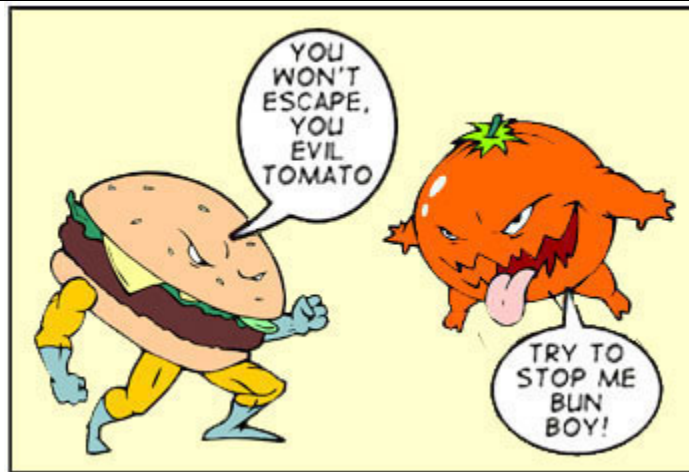


## Comic Vocabulary Definitions and Examples: Text Containers



### Balloons

(AKA speech balloons, bubbles)  
The objects that are used to contain the dialogue that the characters in the comic speak.

Balloons are frequently rounded, but can take many shapes including rectangular. They typically have smooth edges, but can also have jagged or irregular edges.



*DO YOU KNOW THE MUFFIN MAN?*

### Caption

Text that speaks directly to the reader. Frequently, the text appears below the comic panel, but it can be placed in beside or above it as well.



### Emanata

Text or icons that represent what's going on in the character's head.

Examples:

- ? to indicate confusion
- ZZZ to indicate sleeping
- light bulb to indicate an idea
- @\$%#\$ to indicate anger

Emanata are different from motion or speed lines, which indicate that a character is moving.

Comics designed by Traci Gardner. Clipart ©2006 www.clipart.com



### Labels

Text labels written on characters in comics. The label can be the character's name or a more general label that identifies the character as part of a general group.

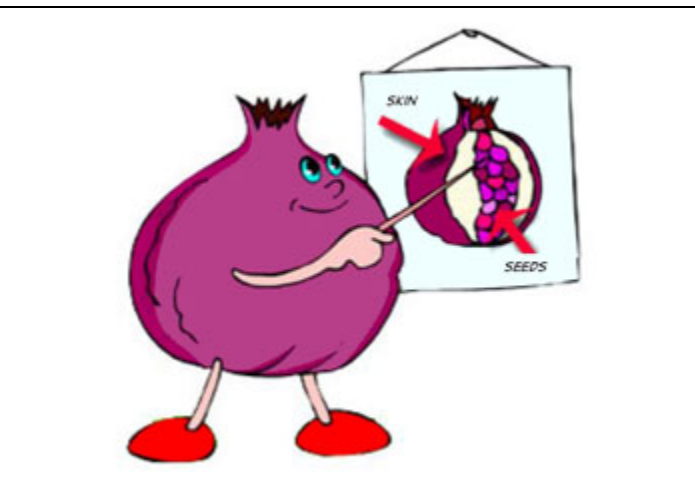
Labels are frequently used in political cartoons to identify the specific public figures who are included in the scene.



### Narratory Blocks

(AKA narrative box, voice-over) Rectangles or squares in which a narrator or a character from the story shares special information with readers.

The box usually narrates something that is happening in the scene or that happened before the scene in the panel.



### Signs

Text labels written on objects in comics. Signs may be used to identify an object or to provide more information that is important to the scene.

The sign can be a familiar object to the reader, like a stop sign; but they can also identify objects that may not be clear to the reader.



### Sound Effect

Words that indicate a sound that accompanies the comic panel.

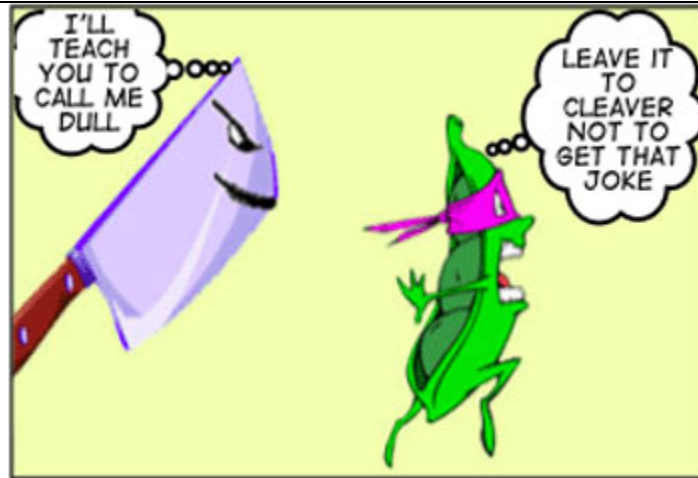
Examples:

BANG

WHAM

POW

BOING



### Thought Balloon

Objects used to contain a character's thoughts.

These text containers are sometimes called thought bubbles because of the trail of little bubbles that connect the thought balloon to the character in the comic.