

UNDERSTANDING COMICS

how to create a comic strip

appendix 5
Onomatopoeias

Onomatopoeias

Animals	Catalan	Spanish	English	Japanese
Donkey	Ihà, ihà / ihò-ihò	¡Hiaaa, hiaaa!	Hee-haw!	
Cow	Buuu	¡Muuu, muuu!	Moo!	Mooooo...
Sheep	Be	¡Beeeee!	Baaa!	Meeeee...
Duck	¡cua, cua, cua!	Cuac!	Quack!	
Horse	Hihihhi / iiii	¡Hiiiiii, hiiiiii, hiiiiii!	Neigh!	Hihin
Hen	Cloc-cloc	¡Cloc, cloc! / co-co-co		
Cockerel/ Rooster	Cocorococ / quequerequec / quiquiriquic	¡Quiquiriquí!	Cock-a-doodle-doo	Kokekokkoo
Cat	Marramau, marramau Mau / mèu / nyau / nyeu	¡Miauu, miauu!	Meow	nyaaa
Dog	Bub-bub / llap-llap / nyip-nyap	¡Guau, guau!	Arf! / Bow-wow! / Woof!	Wan, wan!
Frog	Roc-roc	¡Croac!	Crrrk! (UK)/ Ribbit! (USA)	Kero-Kero
Mouse			Squeak	Chu-chu-chu
Cricket	Cric-cric / ric-ric	¡Cri-cri!		
Insect (fly, bee...)	Zzz	Zzzzzzz		
Lion	Graaa			
Bird	Piu-piu / xeu-xeu / xiu-xiu	¡Pio, pio, pio!	Tweet, tweet!	Piyo, piyo
Serp	Sss		Hiss!	
To make a horse walk	Arre			
To make a horse stop	Això / Xo	Soooo		Doo doo
Pigs		Oinc oinc	Oink! / Hunc! / Whee!	buu
Activities				
When you like something	Mmm	mmm	Mmmm	Aaaaaaa!
Play with water	Xap / Xec / Xip-xap	¡Chap. Chap! / ¡Chop, chop!	Splish, splash, splosh!	Basha, basha! (lower pitch!) Pasha, pasha (higher pitch)

Boiling	Glu-glu	¡Glu-glu-glu!	Glug, glug, glug!	"koto koto" (higher pitch) or "goto goto" (lower pitch)
Asking for silence	Xst, xss, xxt, sss, sst	¡Chist! / ¡Chiss! / ¡Chsss!		
Sleeping	Zzzzz!	Zzz, zzz, zzz	Zzzz	Gaaaa, gaaaa!
Ask for someone's attention	Pss / pst / tst	¡Eh, eh!		
Falling into the water	Paplaf / pluf / patatxap	¡Paf! / ¡Zas!	Splash!	
Falling to the floor	Paf/ patapam / patapum / plof / pataplaf	¡Catapumba!, ¡Pumba! ¡Cataplu! / ¡Plam!		
Eating	Nyam, nyam!	Ñam, ñam, ñam	Munch, munch!/ Crunch!	Kucha, kucha!/ Musha, musha!
Baby crying		¡Bua, bua!	Waaaah!	
Door slamming	Plam		Slam!	Patan
Slapping/ A slap	Plaf	¡Zas! / ¡Paf!	Smek!	
A kiss	Muaaa	¡Chuic, muá!	Smack!	Chuu
Sneezing / A sneeze	Atxem / Atxim / Atxum	¡Achís!	Atchoo!	Kushan! / Kushun!
Heartbeat		Bum, bum	Thump, thump!	Doki, Doki
Clock	Tic-tac	¡Tic-tac, tic-tac!		
Scissors			Snip, snip	Choki, Choki
Menjar	Nyam-nyam	¡Ñam, ñam, ñam!	Much, munch!	
Motor	Rrrr / rum-rum	¡Brrrum, brrrum!	Vroom!	
Clàxon	Mec, mec!	¡Piiii!, ¡piiii!	Beep, beep!	
No agradar	Uec	¡Aj! / ¡Puaj!		
A baby crying	Ue, ue!	¡Buaaaa, buaaaaa!	Waaaa, waaaa!	Waaan, waaan!
A mattress	Nyec, nyec!	¡ñeec, ñeec!		
Laughing	Ha, ha, ha	¡Ja, ja, ja! / ¡Je, je, je! / ¡Ji, ji, ji! / ¡Jo, jo, jo!	Ahaha! / Ha, ha, ha (men) / Ho, ho ho (women)	Ha, ha! / He, he!
Ambulance	Ni-no, ni-no / ninoní, ninoní	¡Niinoo, niinoo! / ¡uuuuh, uuuuh!		
Speaking	Bla, bla, bla / bla-bla-bla	Bla, bla, bla		Pecha, kucha!
A telephone	Ring	¡Riin, riin!	Ring, ring	Riiin, riin!

A doorbell	Ring	¡Rin, rin!	Ding, Ding	
A bell	Ning-nag / Ning-ning	¡Talán, talán! / ¡Tolón, tolón! / ¡Tan, tan!	Ding, dong!	
Knocking on the door	Toc-toc	¡Toc, toc! / ¡Tras, tras! / ¡Pon, pon!	Knock, knock!	
Weapons				
A Cannon	Bum	¡Pum!/ ¡Buuuum!		
A shotgun	Pam-pam / pum-pum / pim-pam	¡Pum!	Blam!	
Swords	Ksss / Xis-xas	¡Chis, chas! / ¡Chischás!		
A gun machine	Ta-ta-ta-ta	¡Ra-ta-tá, ra-ta-tá!		
A gun	Bang / pinyau / pinyeu / tanyau	¡Bang! / ¡Pam, pam!	Blam, blam, blam!	
Musical instruments				
A horn	Mec-mec	¡Moc, moc! / ¡Mec, mec!		
A trumpet	Tararí	¡Tarara! / ¡Tarará! / ¡Tararí! / Tururú! / ¡Turututú!		
A drum	Tampatantam	Ran rataplán/ Tantarán / tantarantán	Toooom!	

Noises birds make in different languages

Dutch: "*Tjilp-Tjilp*"

English: "*tweet*," "*chirp-chirp*."

Finnish: "*Tsirp tsirp*," "*tiu tiu*" (and several more, depending on the species).

French: "*cui-cui*"

German: "*piep*," "*tschilp*," "*zwitscher*" and similar cutesy things, depending on species (cuckoos, for example, say "*Kuckuck*"...)"

Greek: "*tsiou*"

Hebrew: *tsif-tsip*

Japanese: "*pi-pi*"

Norwegian: "*pip pip*", "*kvitre*"

Portuguese: "*piu-piu*"

Spanish: "*pio pio*"

Swedish: "*pip pip*"

Noises cats make in different languages

Catalan: "*meu*"

Chinese: "*mao*"

Danish: "*miav*"

Dutch: "*miauw*"

English: "*meow*"

Finnish: "*miau*"

French: "*miaou*"

German: "*Miau*"

Greek: "*naiou*"

Hebrew: "*Miau*" and sometimes "*Miya*"

Hungarian: "*miau*"

Japanese: "*nyan*", "*nya*", "*n'yao*" or "*myah*"

Korean: "*yaong*" or "*nyaong*"

Norwegian: "*mjau*"

Portuguese: "*miau*"

Spanish: "*miau*"

Swedish: "*mjau*"

Noises cows make in different languages

English: "moo"

Estonian: "mop"

Finnish: "muu," "ammuu"

French: "meug, meugle"

German: "Muh"

Greek: "mu"

Hebrew: moo

Hungarian: "mú"

Japanese: "moh"

Norwegian: "Mø"

Portuguese: "múúú"

Spanish: "muu"

Swedish: "muuu"

Noises dogs make in different languages

Cantonese Chinese: "Wo! Wo!"

Catalan: "*bup bup!*"

Czech: "*haf haf!*"

Dutch: "*waf waf!*" or "*woef woef.*" (The 'waf waf' is for smaller dogs that make a somewhat higher pitched bark, 'woef' is for big dogs. Very small dogs do a 'kef kef'.)

English: "woof," "arf," "bow wow", "yip yip / yap yap" for small rat-dogs too.

Estonian: "*Auh-auh*"

Finnish: "*hau hau!*" or "*vuh vuh!*"

French (from Astérix books. i.e., à la [Idéfix](#) - you know him as [Dogmatix](#)):
"Wouaff! Wouaff!" or "ouah-ouah"

German: "Wau-Wau" (pronounced like "vow") or "Wuff-Wuff".

Hebrew: The canines of Cana'an supposedly go "hav hav!", but I can't think of ever hearing a dog emit anything remotely like this.

Japanese: "wan-wan"

Mandarin (Han) Chinese: "[wang](#) wang!" (note: the ang is pronounced as an "ah" with an "ng", not like "bang" or "fang".)

Korean: "mong mong!"

Lebanese: "Haw-haw"

Nigeria - Calabar area: "wai-wai"

Norwegian: "voff voff"

Polish: "how, how"

Portuguese: "au au"

Russian: "gav gav!"

Spanish: "gau gau"

Spanish (El Salvador): "Guau-Guau"

Spanish (Peru): "gua-gua-gua"

Swedish: "vov vov"

Tamil: "Bou-Bou" (rhymes with How How)

Thai: "hong-hong"

Ukrainian: "Breshe"

Vietnamese: "Gau gau"

Noises pigs make in different languages

Danish: "*øf! øf!*"

Dutch: "*knor knor*"

English: "*oink-oink*"

Finnish: "*röh röh*"

French: "*groin-groin*"

German: "*Grunz, grunz*"

Hungarian: "*röf-röf*"

Japanese: "*bu-bu*"

Norwegian: "*Nøff nøff*"

Portuguese: "*óinc óinc*"

Spanish: "*oink! oink!*"

Swedish: "*nöff nöff*"

Noises roosters make in different languages

English: "*cock-a-doodle-doo*"

Finnish: "*kukkokiekuu*"

French: "*cocorico*"

German: "*kikeriki*"

Japanese: "*kokekoko*"

Portuguese: "*cocoricó*"

Norwegian: "*kykkeliky*"

Spanish: "*quiquiriqui*"

Swedish: "*kuckeliku*"

SOME JAPANESE ONOMATOPOEIAS

Human Motions

- "pero pero" (higher pitch) or "bero-bero" (lower pitch) - licking
- "kucha kucha" (louder, higher pitch) or "musha-musha" (softer, lower pitch) - chewing
- "gero--" or "ge--" - throwing up
- "goku" - swallowing
- "giri giri" - grinding one's teeth
- "pecha kucha" - talking incessantly
- "ha ha" or "he he" - laughter (intonation same as in English)
- "fu fu fu" - polite female laughter
- "keta keta" (higher pitch) or "geta-geta" (lower pitch) - impolite laughter
- "kya--" (higher pitch) or "gya--" (lower pitch) - screaming
- "wa--n wa--n" or "e--n e--n" - crying (loud)
- "gusu" - crying (soft)
- "koso-koso" - sneaking around
- "su-- su--" - breathing softly as you sleep
- "ga-- ga--" - snoring
- "kushun" (softer) or "hakushun" (louder) - sneezing
- "pori pori" (higher pitch) or "bori bori" (lower pitch) - scratching (a person)
- "hena hena" - when one is exhausted and cannot stand

Liquids

- "pito pito" - a faucet slowly leaking droplets of water
- "ja--" - sound of a thin stream of water hitting the water surface below. Ex. running faucet
- "sha--" (higher pitch) or "za--" (lower pitch) - sound of a large amount of water flowing - Ex. heavy rain ("za--") or a shower ("sha--")
- "pasha pasha" (higher pitch) or "basha basha" (lower pitch) - splashing in water
- "toro toro" (higher pitch) or "doro doro" (lower pitch) - a stream of liquid flowing or pouring.

Collision between hard objects

- "kacha kacha" (higher pitch) or "gacha gacha" (lower pitch) - Hard noises made by a collection of small objects - banging into each other. Usually refers to a situation in which a person is responsible for the collisions.
- "kata kata" (higher pitch) or "gata gata" (lower pitch) - Hard noises made by a single larger object - like a house or a table - when they bang into something else (table and floor) or when parts of said object bang into each other (house, car). "kata kata" is the sound made when you type at the keyboard.
- "kan kan" (higher pitch) or "gan gan" (lower pitch) - a sound of something (usually made of metal) hitting something else and possibly making a

dent, but not shattering - ex. the sound made when you hit your car hood with a bat.

- "kon kon" (higher pitch) or "gon gon" (lower pitch) - a sound of something (usually not made of metal) hitting something else and possibly making a dent, but not shattering - ex. knocking on a wooden door.
- "ka--n ka--n" (higher pitch) "go--n go--n" (lower pitch) - church or temple bell ringing.
- "gassha--n" - sound of something shattering upon collision - ex. a piece of glass.
- "kari kari" (higher pitch) or "gari gari" (lower pitch) - annoying sound made by something scraping against something else - ex. a rock against concrete
- "kasa kasa" (higher pitch) or "gasa gasa" - soft sound made by dry objects rubbing against each other - ex. pieces of paper ("kasa kasa")
- "pan" (higher pitch) or "ban" (lower pitch) - something exploding.
Example: a balloon ("pan"), a gun ("ban")
- "poki" (higher pitch) or "boki" (lower pitch) - breaking something long, hard and thin - ex. a pair of chopsticks, bones
- "koro koro" (higher pitch) or "goro goro" (lower pitch) - rolling

Collision between soft objects and hard objects

- "peta peta" - Soft noise made when an adhesive solid material - stickers, stamps - sticks to something else.
- "pecha" (higher pitch) "becha" (lower pitch) - Soft noise made when semi-solid material - ex. apple sauce - hits a solid surface.
- "gucha" - When you smash something - ex. a bug - and the soft material inside comes out. The object may or may not have a hard outer surface.
- "gusa" - hard elongated shape (e.g. an arrow) sticking into a soft object (e.g. a person).

Soft objects moving

- "kunya kunya" - Soft sound made when a flexible shape - ex. a large thin sheet of plastic - bends in a wavy manner.
- "puyo puyo" - Sound used to describe a soft mound with lots of surface tension shakes - ex. a mound of jello.

Weather

- "gara gara" - sound of distant thunder
- "gassha--n" - thunder strikes!

Around the home

- "koto koto" (higher pitch) or "goto goto" (lower pitch) - a pot boiling
- "ri--n ri--n" - a phone ringing
- "chi--n" - microwave's done!

Miscellaneous

- "shi--n" - the sound of silence