

USING COMICS TO TEACH ENGLISH
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All materials for Learning English are universal it is necessary to be able to apply them. Among them are comics. Learning English through comics is very effective. First of all, associations are formed through images, and new words are better stored in our brains. When a character in a comic points to an object and the corresponding word is written next to it, the learner can connect the visual representation with the word's meaning. Second, you can develop your oral language well through comics. The language used in comics is often practical and relevant to everyday situations, making it immediately applicable in real-life conversations. Third, since they can be not only in the form of books but also in electronic form, we can use them anywhere, at any time, it is very convenient. As well, webcomics are readily available on the internet, allowing learners to access a wide variety of content with ease. This accessibility makes it convenient for learners to find material that suits their interests and language proficiency level.

The emotional impact of students on the workplace also has artistic illustrations, visuals, and music. These activation tools allow you to control the attention of schoolchildren, paying special attention to the main points, increasing the productivity of learning in foreign language lessons, and in the process of independent work of students. on the creative self-expression of schoolchildren. [1] One of the advantages of using comics at school is that comics are very interesting for children. Comics are visually appealing and can captivate students' attention, making the learning process more enjoyable. They provide a break from traditional classroom materials and help maintain students' interest in the language. Interest is aroused and reinforced by such educational material, which is new, unknown to students, amazes their imagination, and makes them wonder. Surprise is a strong stimulus of cognition, its primary element. Being surprised, a person seems to be trying to look ahead. He is in a state of waiting for something new. However cognitive interest in educational material cannot be supported all the time only by vivid facts, and its attractiveness cannot be reduced to surprising and striking the imagination. The founder of Russian scientific pedagogy K.D.Ushinsky also wrote that the subject, to become interesting, should only be partly new, and partly familiar. The new and unexpected always appear in the educational material against the background of the already known and familiar. That is why, to maintain cognitive interest, it is important to teach schoolchildren the ability to see the new in the familiar. [2]

If you open comics, there are all these colorful pictures with different conversations and a storyline. Many people think that comics and graphic novels are for children. However, I disagree with this, comics also can be great for adults who read comics and graphic novels. Comics are available at different reading levels, making them suitable for learners of all ages and proficiency levels. Many comics offer insights into the culture, society, and history of English-speaking countries.

They can learn about cultural references, customs, and social issues through comics. The second reason why it is so good for people learning English is that comics often contain dialogues and captions. Comics present language in context, helping students understand the use of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and sentence structure within a narrative. This contextual learning can be more effective than isolated vocabulary. If you read a novel, there are a lot of descriptions and a lot of words, sometimes the author wants to write very poetically, and the language might not be the type of language people usually use. When you read comic books or graphic novels, the language is more about conversation, so you will see a lot of conversation language. You will see language about common expressions people use, slang, and common vocabulary we use when we talk. When you read a novel, you don't get as much of that. [3]

Moreover, students will learn grammar in comics, as well as graphic novels. Analyzing the structure of sentences and dialogue in comics to teach grammar and syntax. Point out examples of verb tenses, idiomatic expressions, and other grammatical features. Comics tell stories, which naturally incorporate past, present, and future tenses. Learners can observe how these tenses are used in the context of a narrative. It's easier to read the grammar or to notice grammar points because sentences in graphic novels and comics are usually shorter. As well as analyzing comics encourages critical thinking skills. Students can dissect the narrative, symbolism, and character development, which helps them become more discerning readers and viewers. [4]

Everyone knows two types of comics, or rather web comics and graphic novels. When comparing webcomics and graphic novels, you need to look at both subjectively. Beginning with graphic novels, the **advantages** are as follows:

- You have a physical, tactile object and you can hold, read and even smell.
- Some publishers go to great lengths to publish comics with great production values – with nice paper, embossing, and more.
- Trade paperbacks and hardcovers look great on your bookshelf.
- You're supporting local comic book retailers.
- Some comics read better in print.

But also disadvantages of graphic novels are

- Takes up physical space you might not have.
- Not as convenient to take with you when you are out and about.
- Cost slightly more than digital (due to production costs).
- Can get damaged.

To be honest, I would recommend **webcomics** more because:

- It's easy to carry a large number of comics with you as they are stored on your device.
- They are generally free on Instagram and require no money to read.
- Webcomics can be read anytime, anywhere, and is very convenient. For example, at recess or on the bus
- Webcomics do not have to wait long because they are published almost every day

I've compiled a list of some of the greatest webcomics available to follow on Instagram. Whether you're looking for something absurd to brighten up your day or you're looking for something too deep to get you thinking about your place in the universe, Instagram is home to some fantastic artists creating some of the most unique and exciting works available. A selection of the best comics on Instagram for beginner level I advise these authors:

- 1)@thegoodadvicecupcake publishes cute cupcakes life comics
- 2)@milkmochebear comics about pleasant stories of little bears
- 3)@dinosandcomics are comics about funny dinosaur stories

If you open comics, there are all these colorful pictures with different conversations and a storyline. So, many people think that comics and graphic novels are for children. This is not true. Many adults read comics and graphic novels. And the reason why they are so good for people learning English is because they have so much conversation in them. So, if you read a novel, there are a lot of descriptions and a lot of words, sometimes the author wants to write very poetically, and the language might not be the type of language people usually use. When you read comic books or graphic novels, the language is more about conversation, so you will see a lot of conversation language. You will see language about common expressions people use, slang, and common vocabulary we use when we talk. When you read a novel, you don't get as much of that. You will also see a lot of grammar in comics, as well as graphic novels. It's easier to read the grammar or to notice grammar points because sentences in graphic novels and comics are usually shorter.

Writing can also become more enjoyable for students as well. Many ESL classes incorporate activities like having the students write their own comics after reading a few. Enjoyment also increases motivation which is one of the most important things for getting a student to be willing to learn something new. Creating comics has been proven to show this enhanced motivation as Ferit Kılıçkaya writes, "it has been observed that comic strip creation has increased learners' motivation while dealing with the task and grammar items". These observations from Kılıçkaya provide a more positive connotation between comics and motivating students to write.

In *Going Graphic* by Stephen Cary there is a chapter all about activities related to creating comics. Creating a comic of their own can be beneficial to reading, writing and conversational skills all while keeping the students engaged and letting them be creative and imaginative. Cary has over 13 activities that all sound useful for all different levels of learning, but I think the most useful activities he shares are: Make-A-Title, Add-A-Panel, Scripting (similar to Fill-It-Up and Missing Panels), Adopt-A-Strip, and Comics from Scratch. The other activities from Cary are all great, but the ones I mentioned could be used at any class level in an effective way. Some of the other activities can only be used in more advanced classes or they are too similar to the activities I have mentioned. [5]

A selection of the best comics on Instagram for the elementary level I advise this author:

- 1)@sarahgraley publishes a mini-comic about a couple of cat lovers and their stories with cats
- 2)@whatsupbeanie publishes comics that are risible life stories of Beanie

3)@theawkwardyeti publishes interesting comics about human organs which are great for the elementary level.

Pre-intermediate :

1)@marko.raising (the story about the friendship of Ned and Jock contains different vocabulary for English language learners at the pre-intermediate level)

2)@lunarbaboon daily funny comics about the father of the family

3)@war.and.peas

Intermediate :

1)@pet_foolery

2)@natanwpylenestrangeplanet

3)@deathandthemaids is a funny comic about a dead girl's everyday afterlife

But if you still prefer to read **printed-out** versions, then I offer you these selections by level.

Elementary :

1) "Copper" by Kazu Kibuishi. Copper and dog are off on a series of adventures through marvelous worlds, powered by Copper's limitless enthusiasm and imagination.

2) "Scary Summer" by R.L.Stine

Pre-Intermediate :

1) "Knights of the lunch table" by Frank Cammuso

2) "The baby-sitters Club" by Ann M. Martin

3) "Amulet" by Kazu Kibuishi

Intermediate :

1)"The Executive Hour" by Tom Hart

2)"Thirteen cats of my childhood" by Jesse Reklow

3)"A street-level view of the Republican National Convention" by Lloyd Dangle

We know that students often forget the meaning of a word they have learned or used. The dictionary is usually absorbed by memorizing or drilling words. In this regard, I conducted a study. That is, the goal was to observe the difference between memorizing a dictionary in the traditional form and memorizing a dictionary through comics. We spent three days memorizing my siblings' vocabulary in various forms. They had the same level of English. We memorized the dictionary in the traditional form for Inzhu, and we memorized it for Rasul through comics and drawings. Of the 15 words that Inzhu memorized, she was able to remember and use only 8 words. Of course, the methodology of teaching vocabulary was monotonous. He was becoming more and more uninterested in memorizing the dictionary every day. However, we found that when using comics, he showed Rasul an interest in comics, as well as increased his vocabulary because images in comics created a good connection with the meaning of words. Of all the 15 words he learned during the day, 14 words remained in his memory and he was able to apply them in practice as well.

Summing up our research, it should be noted that thanks to the comic book, students enrich their vocabulary well, as well as experience changes in their behavior in the learning process. In conclusion, I would like to say that comics are indispensable for learning languages, grammar, new vocabulary, and oral culture among school students and teachers. These are not only useful but also very interesting and fascinating comics that not only lift your mood but also make you

think differently. Comics can be a great way to learn English. The pictures in the comics help you understand the story and context. The words give you the dialogue and details. Together, you get an incredible boost to your English reading comprehension, vocabulary, and more. Also, we can use it not only to learn the language, but we as teachers can teach comics to school children.

References

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