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Comic Life Quick Steps:

- First decide on your curricular intention
- Get your pictures (more on images later)
- Launch Comic Life
- Click and drag over a page template or create your own
- Add pictures to the panels
- Size the pictures and panels with the “handles” (can be tricky)
- Choose a Page Style (not necessary)
- Add Comic Lettering
- Drag and position the Speech bubbles to add dialog, narrative or facts.
- At the file menu: Save your project or export in image file format eg. jpg

Getting Familiar with the Work Area

Comic Life gives you an efficient work area and user interface to create your comics.



1. Menu bar The menu bar contains menus for performing tasks. The menus are organized by topic. For example; the Pages menu contains commands for working with pages.

2. Tool bar The tool bar contains clickable icons for common actions. You can customize the contents to suit your work style

3. Page edit area The main editing area where you'll compose your pages

4. Resource area Provides access to your photos and page templates as well as details on the selected element and the current styles

5. Element well Contains the various comic elements such as balloons, captions and display lettering for titles and sound effects

6. Page organizer Provides an overview of all the pages in your comic and quick access to any particular page. You can also reorder pages here

Select a template for your new page.

There are over 200 templates in categories such as comics from the 40's, 60's and 80's, manga, graphic novels and Euro comics or simply drag panels anywhere on your page edit area.

Adding images.

When you find an image (scanned, downloaded, camera, ect.) you like, you can grab it and drag it into a Panel. You can always just drag it on the page by itself if you want, but a panel will allow you to clip an image so you only see the important bits.



NOTE: Dragging an image onto a pane will put the image into the panel and crop it so the shortest dimension of the image matches the shortest dimension of the panel.

- Adjust the image size
- Adjust the panel size or shape separately from the image size
- **Hint:** when the panel turns yellow, it means that you have selected the image which will allow you to manipulate it.

Apply a Style or Filters to Digital Images (if needed)

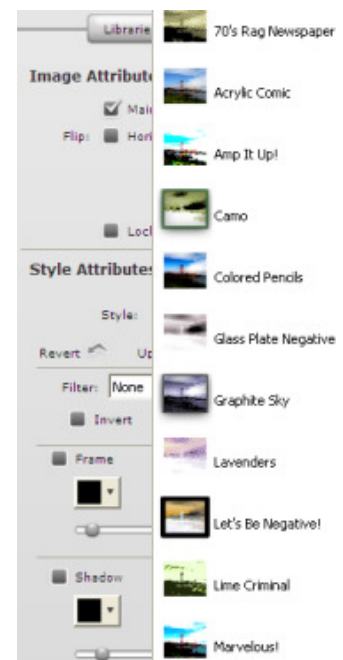
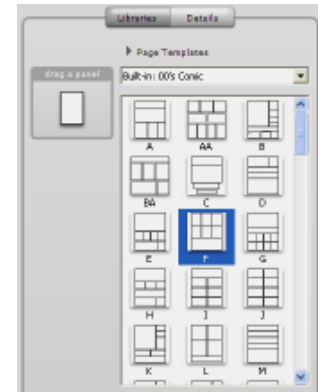
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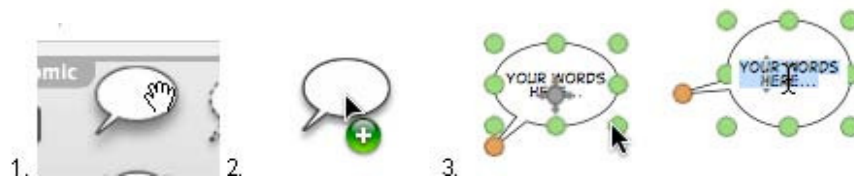
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Speech and thought balloons allow your pictures come alive as your characters use the balloons to give a message.



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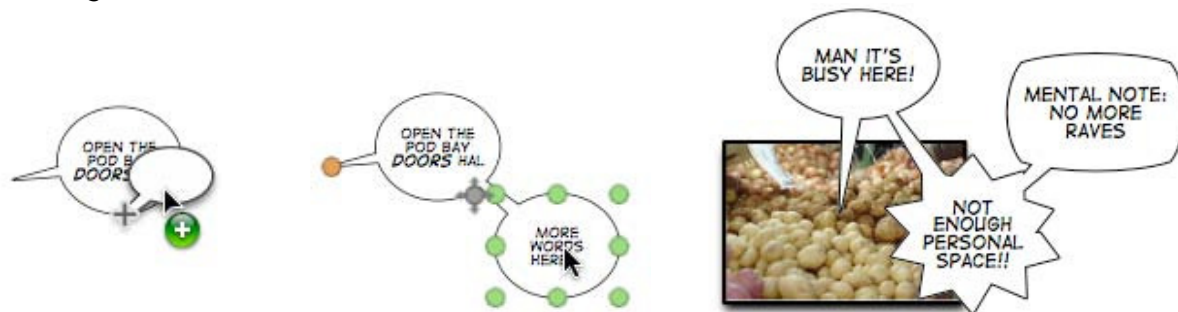




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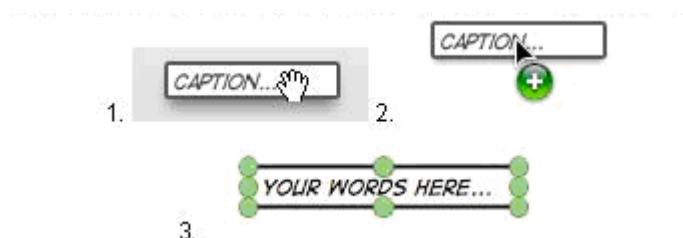
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Working with Captions or Titles

Captions let you introduce an new scene or provide some narrative information for example: "Meanwhile..." or "Suddenly!" or "It was a dark and stormy night...". A caption lets you add whatever descriptive or thought text you might need.

Drag a caption from the element palette and drop it in the appropriate position. They type away.

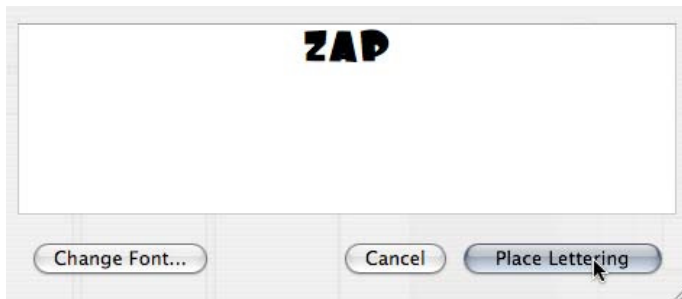


Working with Lettering

Lettering in Comic Life covers two compositional elements: Titles and Sound Effects. Comic titles frequently involve warped lettering (for example the Superman logo) or interesting fills, outlining and shadows. Comic sound effects (for example "POW", "ZAP", "BOING", etc) are always warped and filled with color. Lettering elements let you accomplish both with ease.



- To add Lettering to a page drag a Lettering element from the palette and drop it at the appropriate location.



Publishing and Saving Work

The application lets you publish in a variety of forms which is a major reason for some of the unusual page formats that are supported. You can of course print your comic using the standard print dialog – but you can also export your comic as HTML, JPEG or an AVI movie.

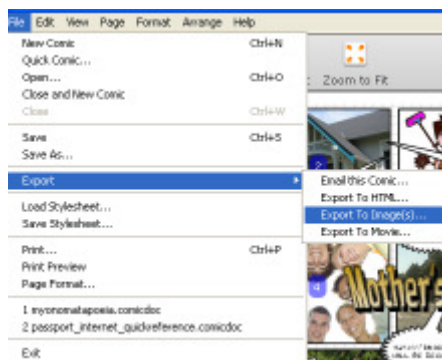
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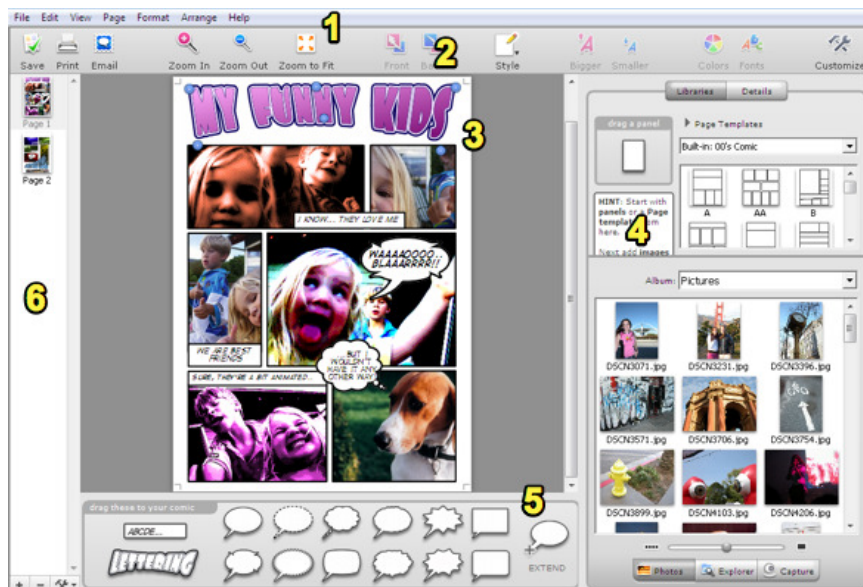
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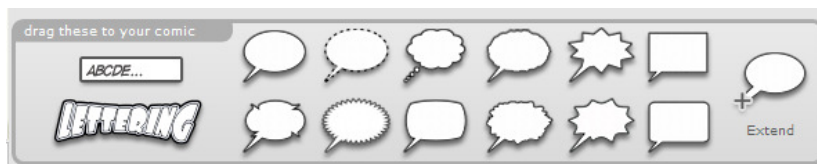
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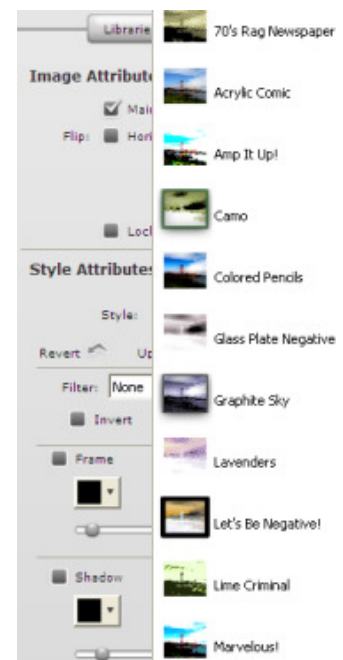
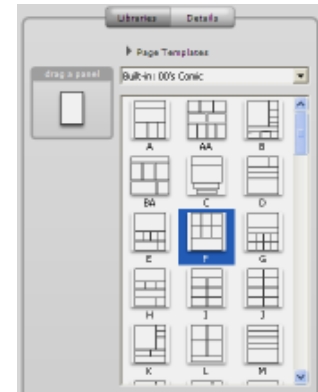
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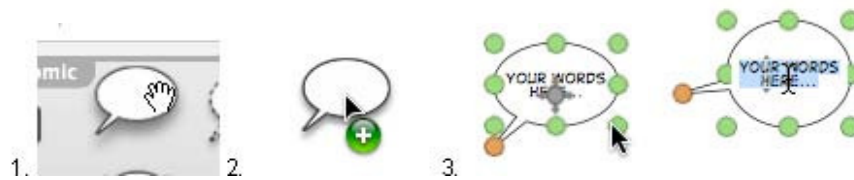
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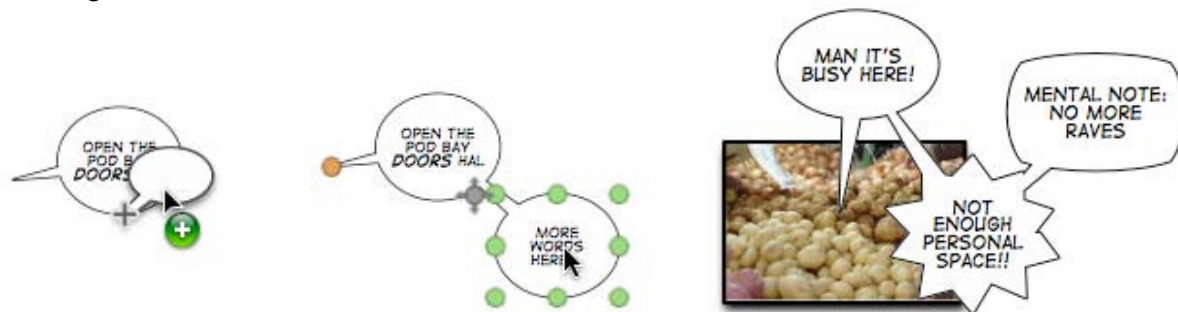




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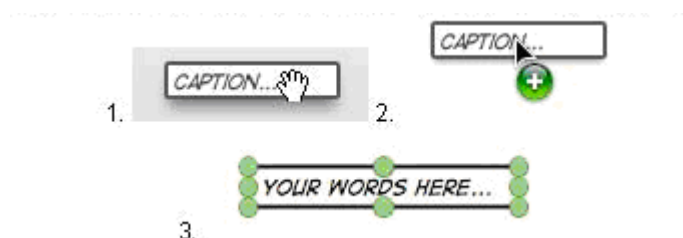
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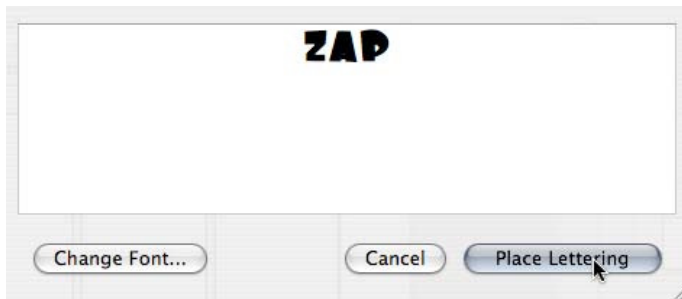


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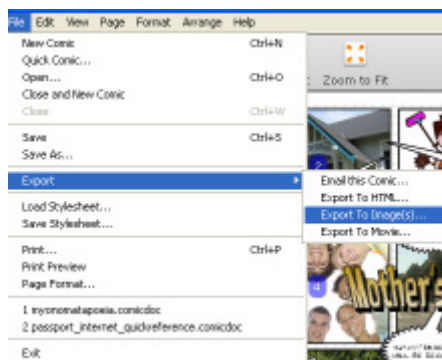
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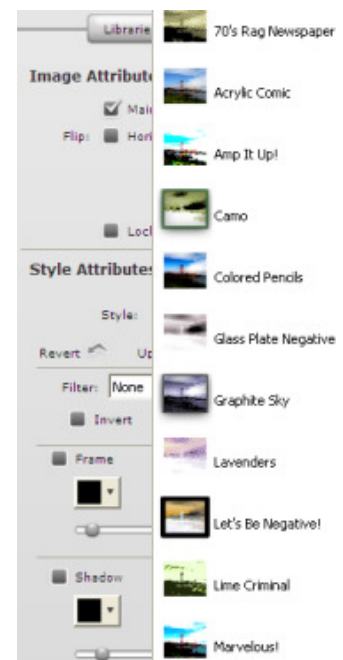
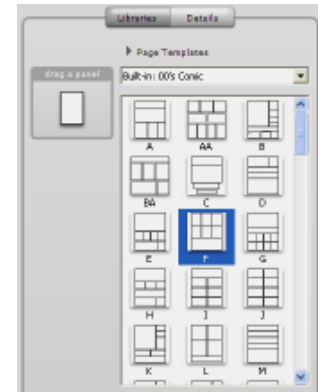
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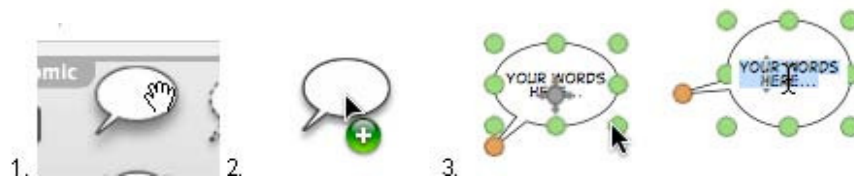
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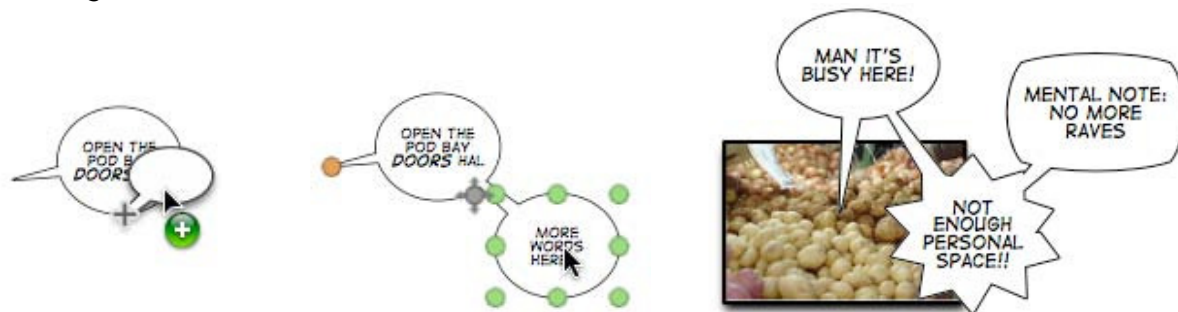




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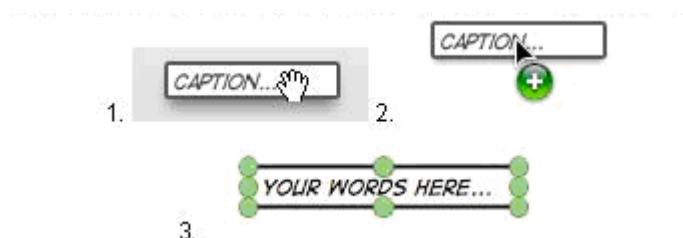
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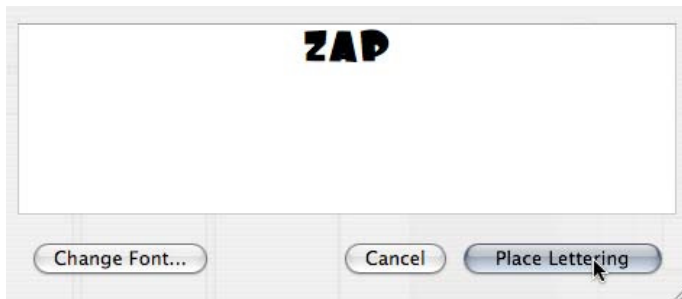


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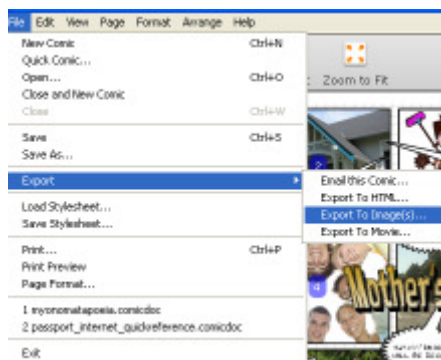
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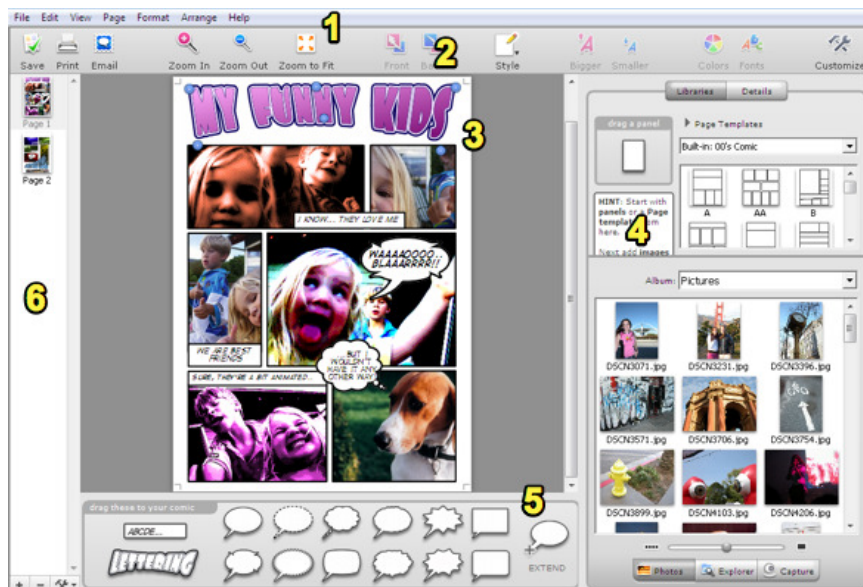
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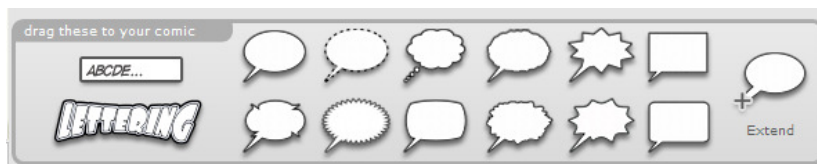
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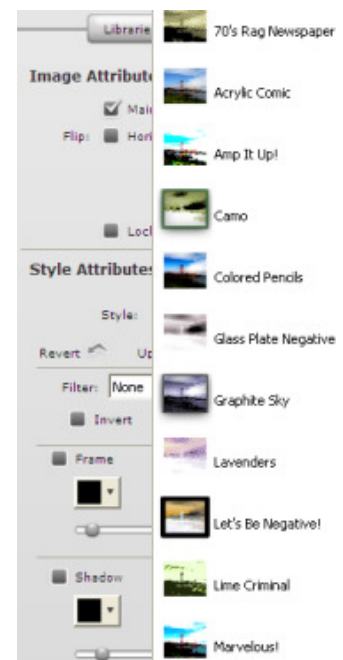
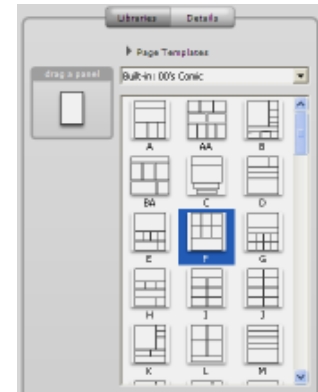
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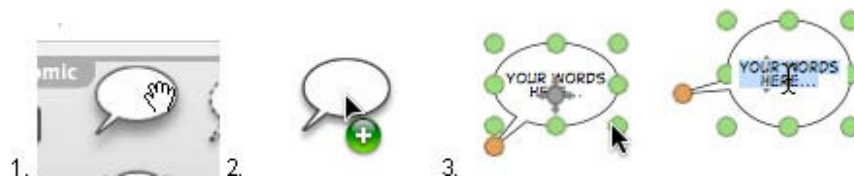
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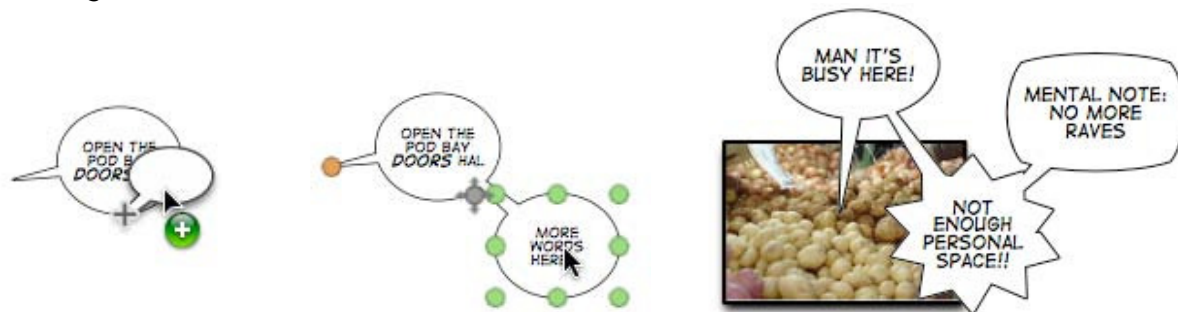




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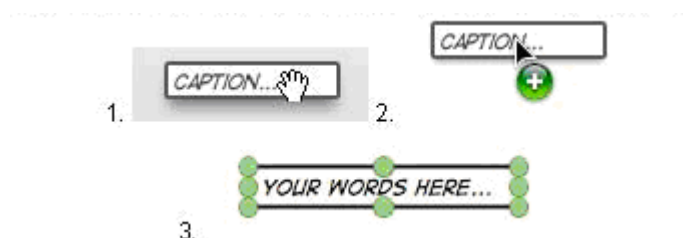
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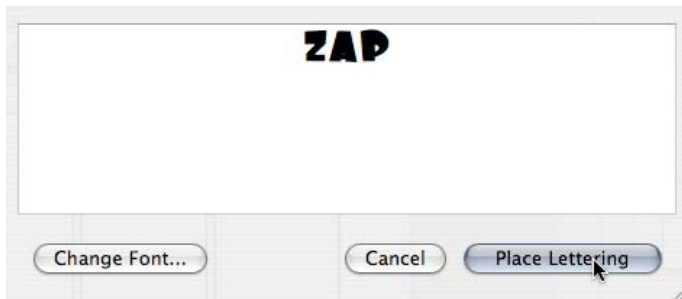


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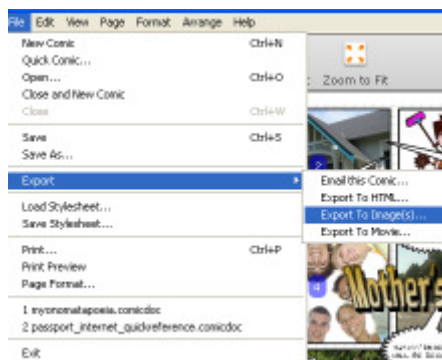
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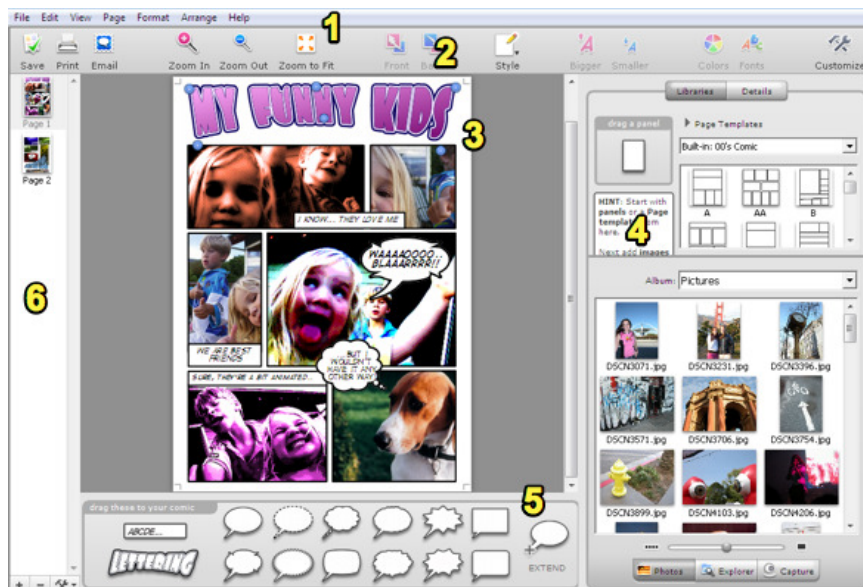
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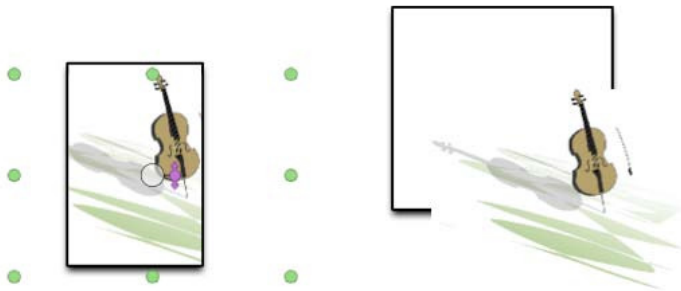
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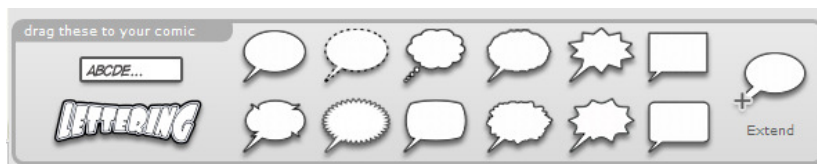
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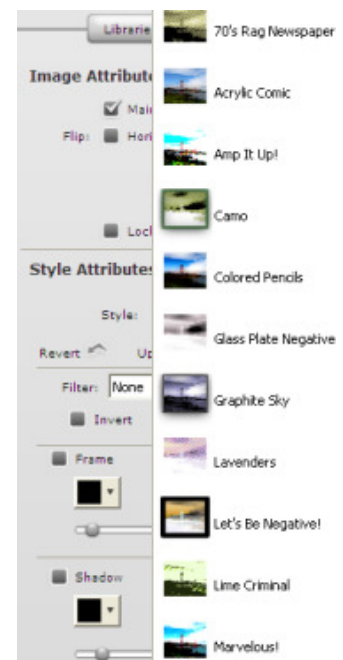
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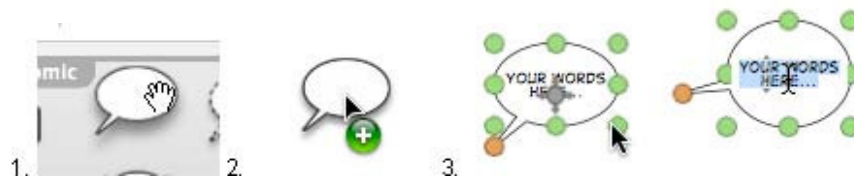
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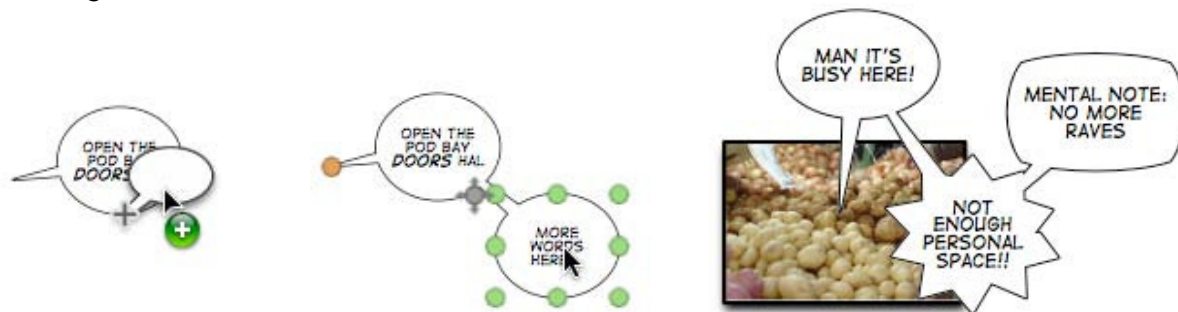




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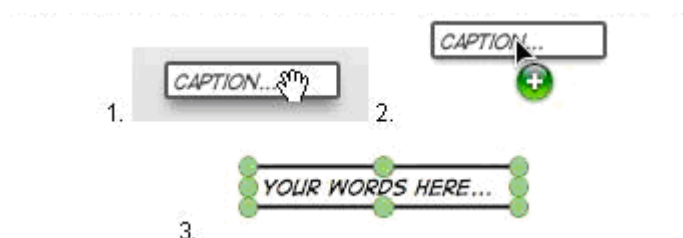
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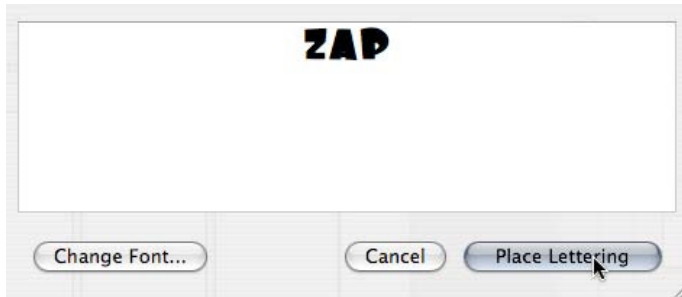


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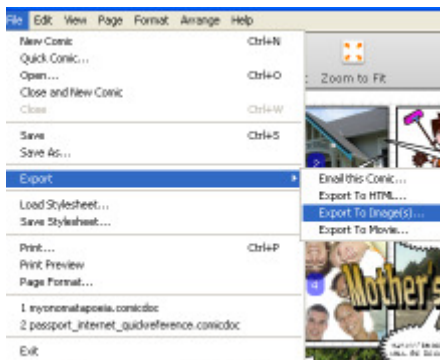
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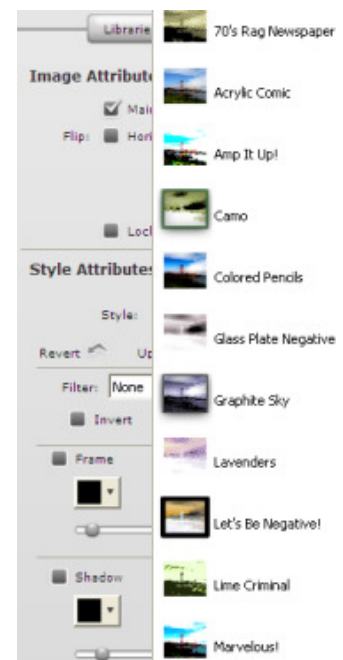
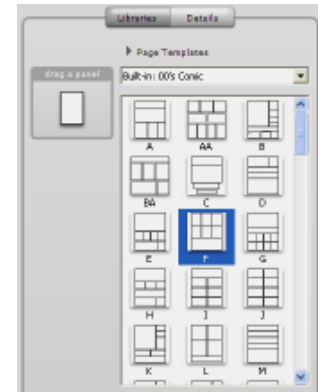
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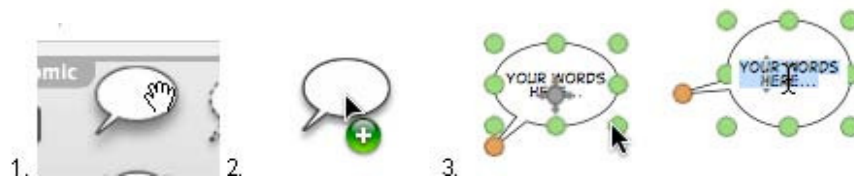
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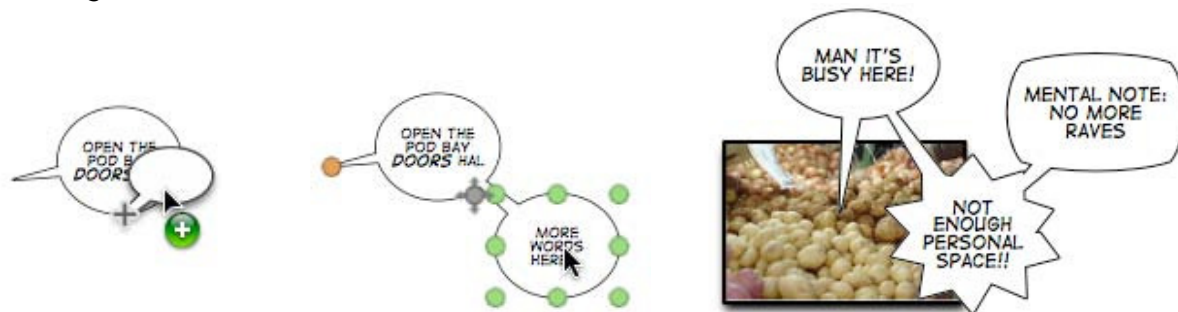




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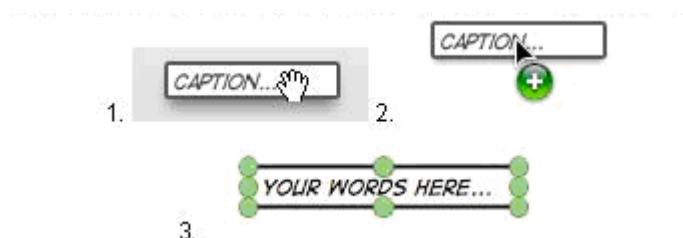
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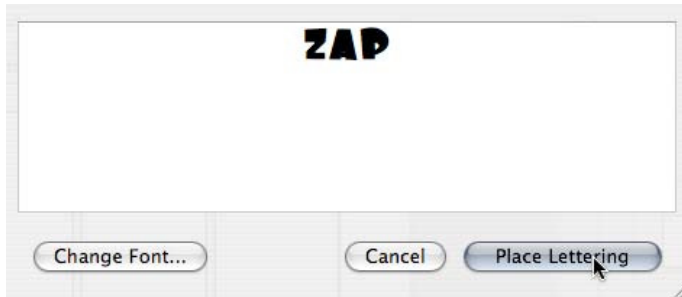


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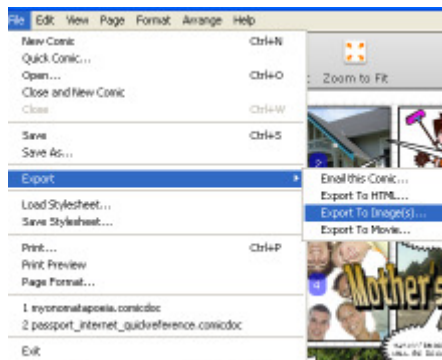
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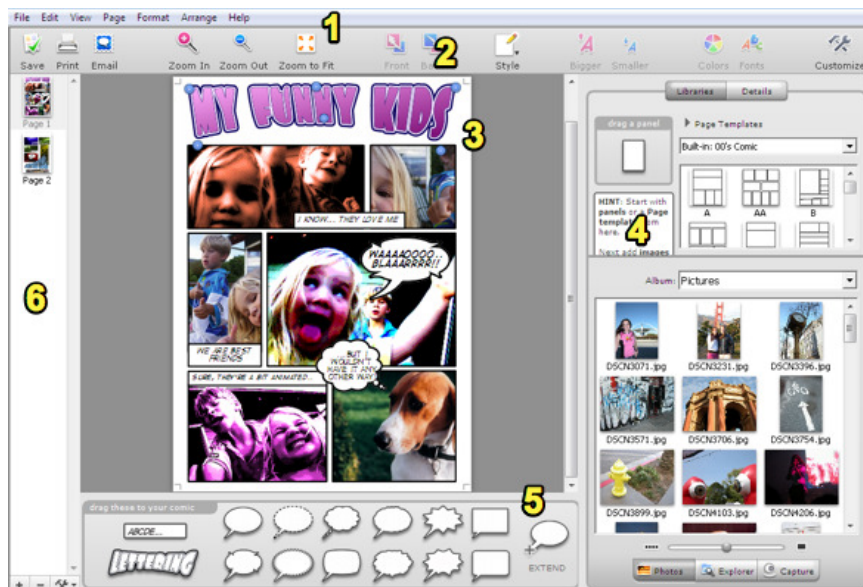
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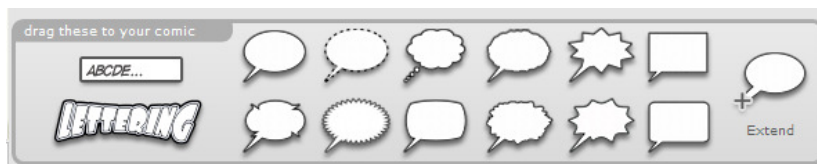
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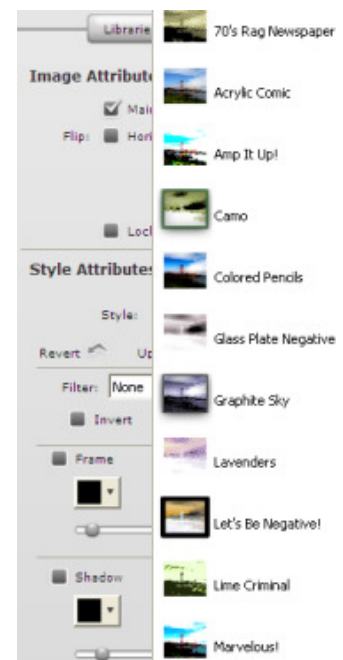
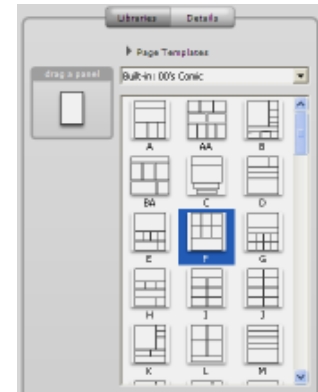
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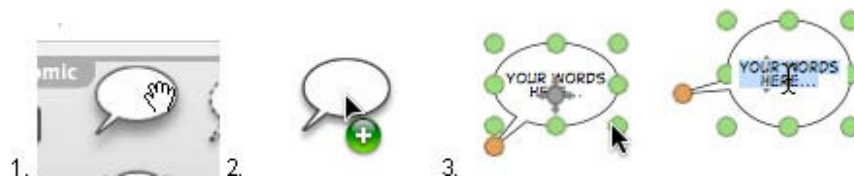
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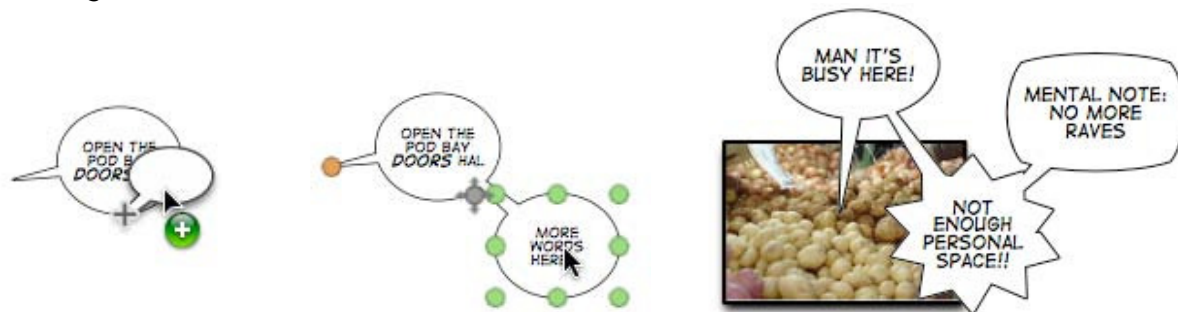




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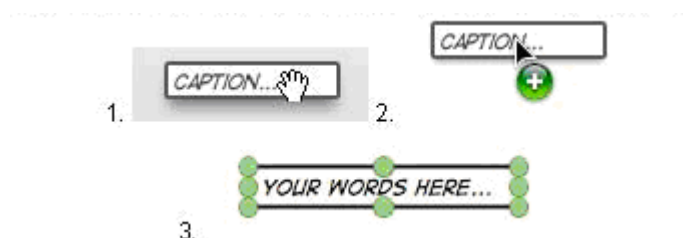
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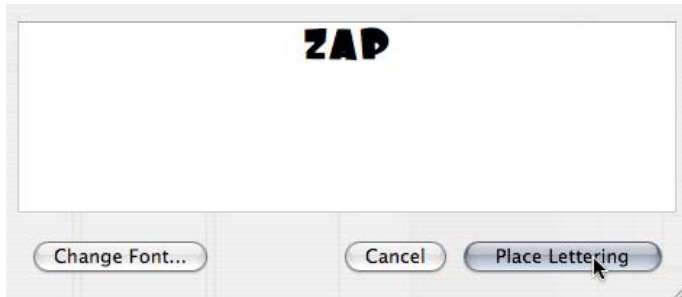


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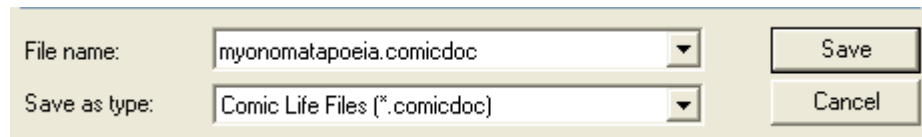


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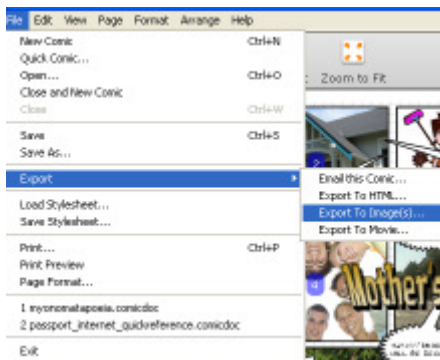
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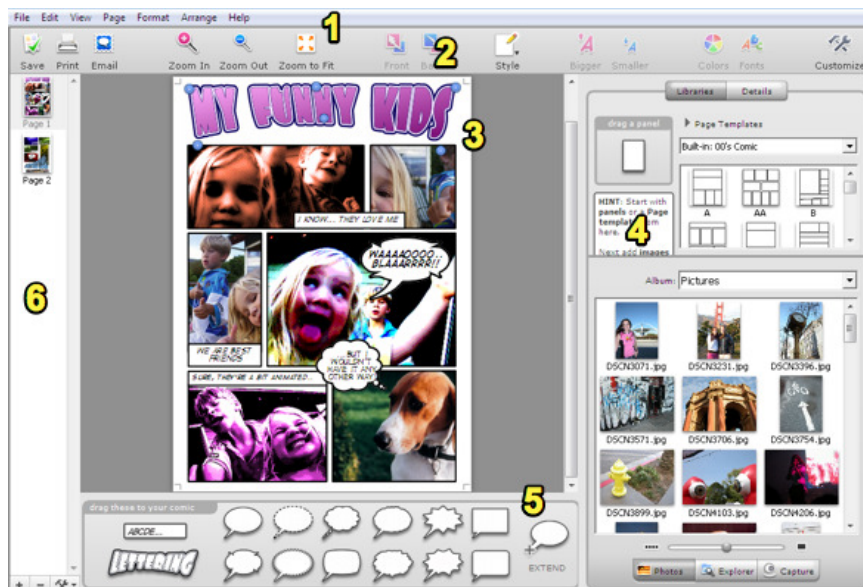
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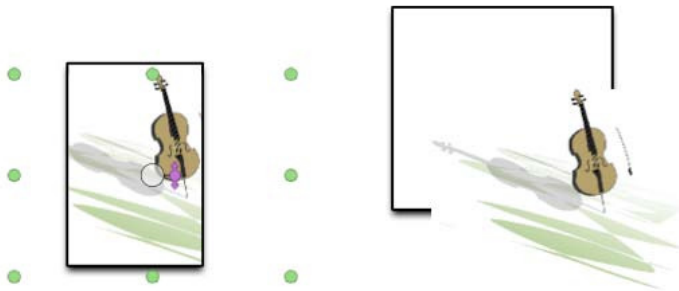
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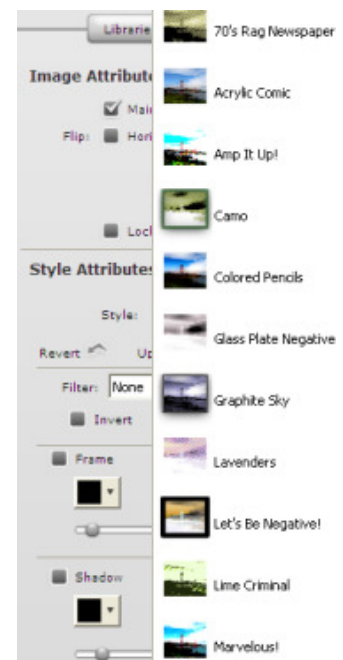
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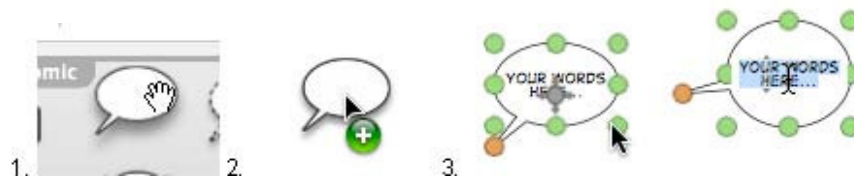
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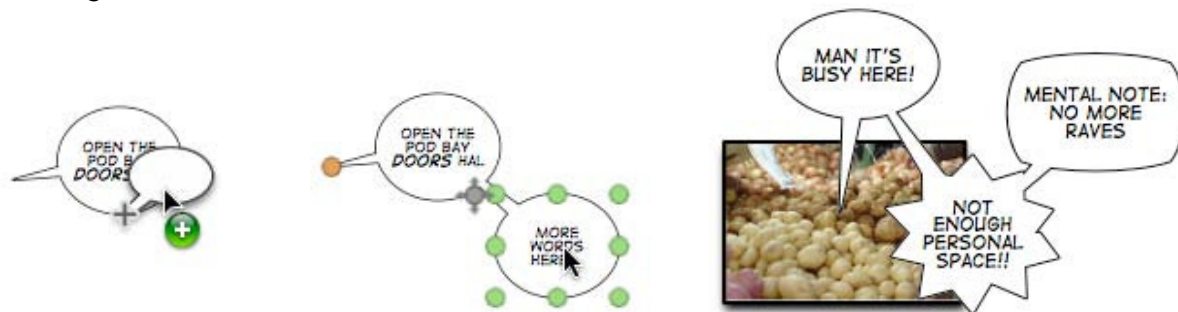




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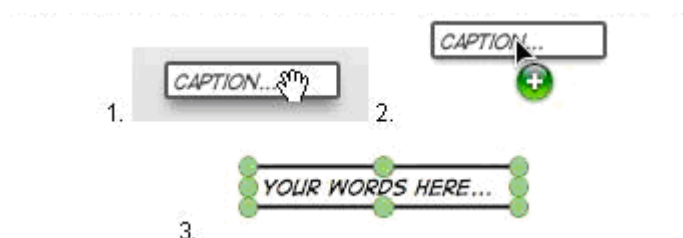
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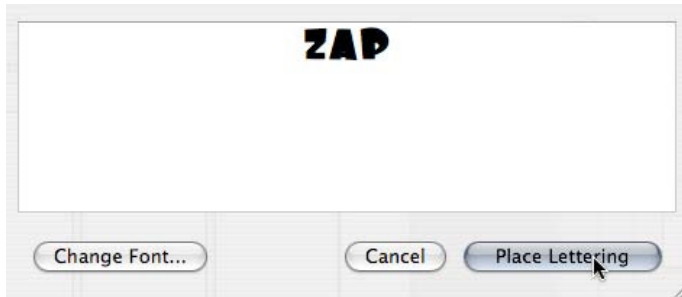


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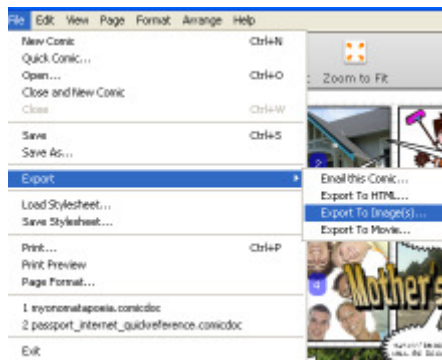
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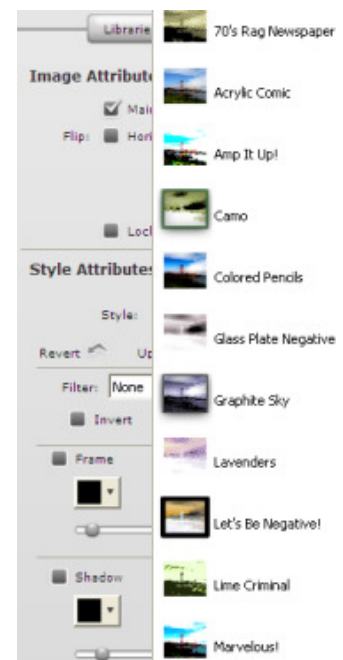
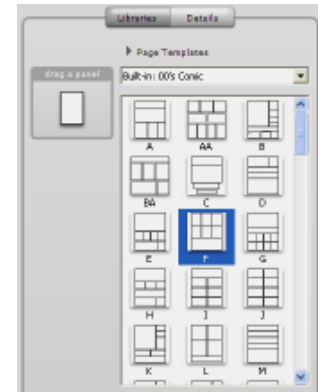
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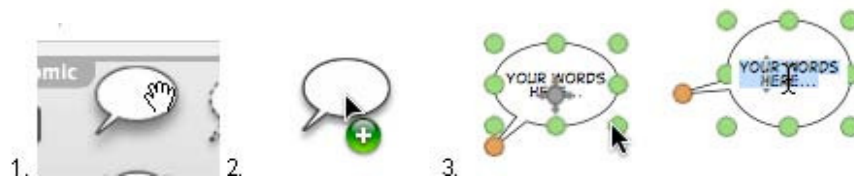
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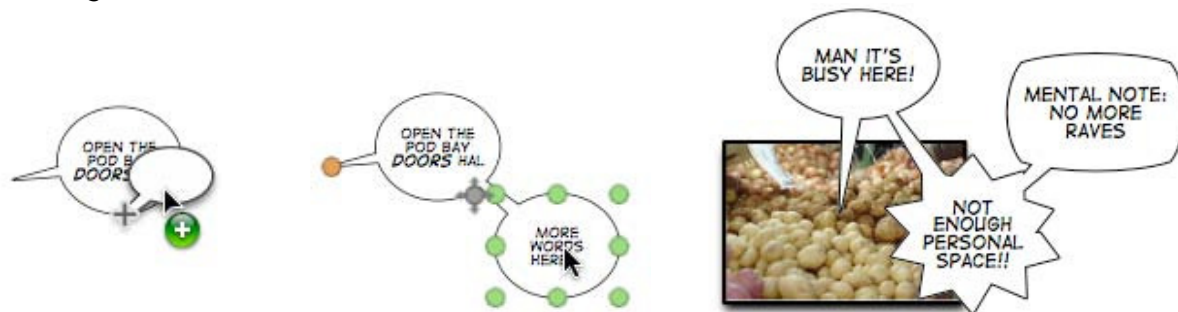




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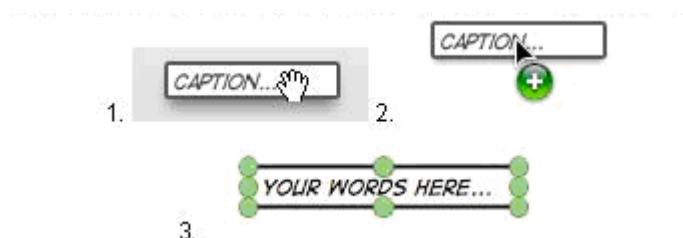
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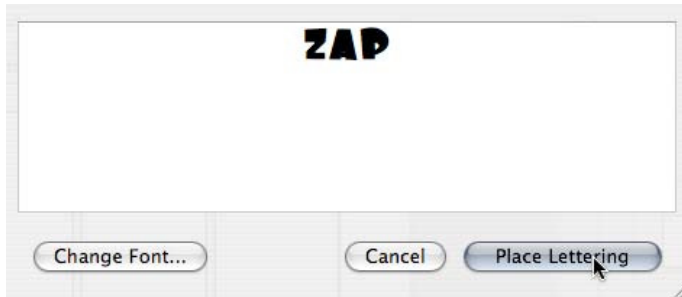


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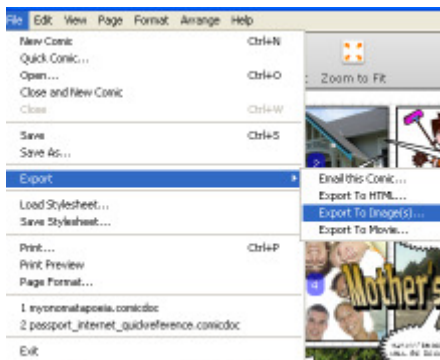
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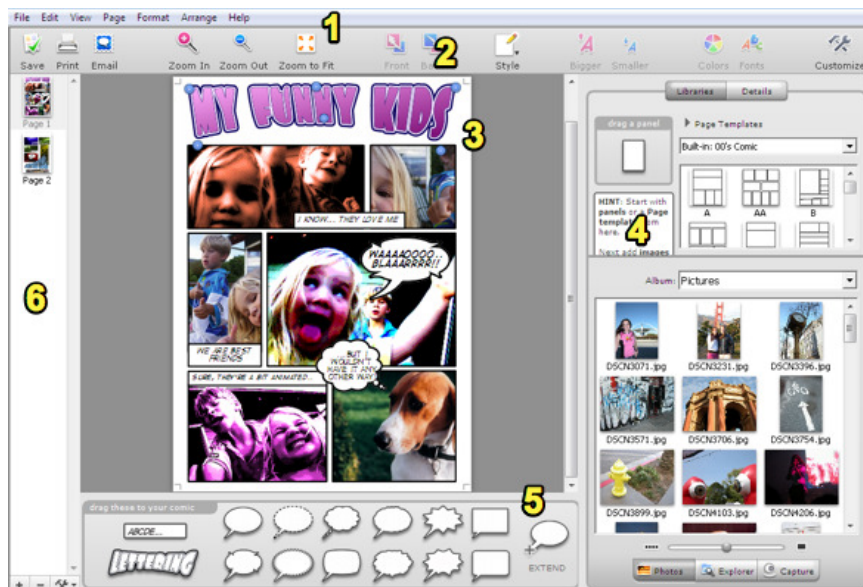
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When you find an image (scanned, downloaded, camera, ect.) you like, you can grab it and drag it into a Panel. You can always just drag it on the page by itself if you want, but a panel will allow you to clip an image so you only see the important bits.



NOTE: Dragging an image onto a pane will put the image into the panel and crop it so the shortest dimension of the image matches the shortest dimension of the panel.

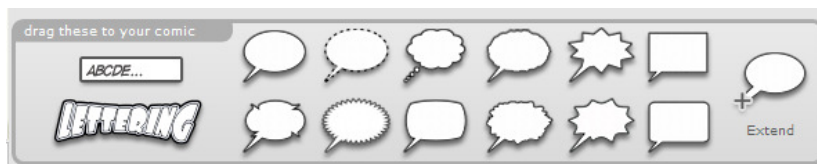
- Adjust the image size
- Adjust the panel size or shape separately from the image size
- **Hint:** when the panel turns yellow, it means that you have selected the image which will allow you to manipulate it.

Apply a Style or Filters to Digital Images (if needed)

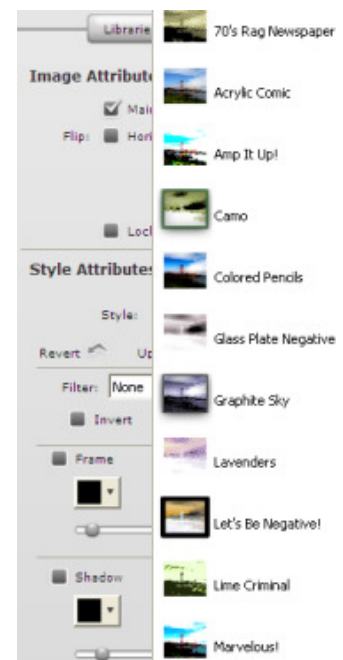
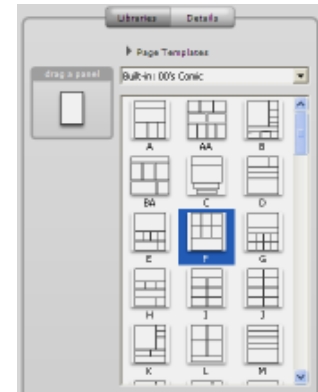
Built-in filters and styles can give a very cool control over how 'comicy' the page looks.

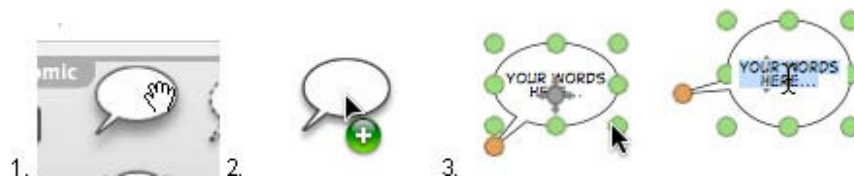
Adding Speech and Thought Balloons.

Speech and thought balloons allow your pictures come alive as your characters use the balloons to give a message.



- To add a balloon simply drag the balloon of your choice on to the page and drop it in the appropriate location:

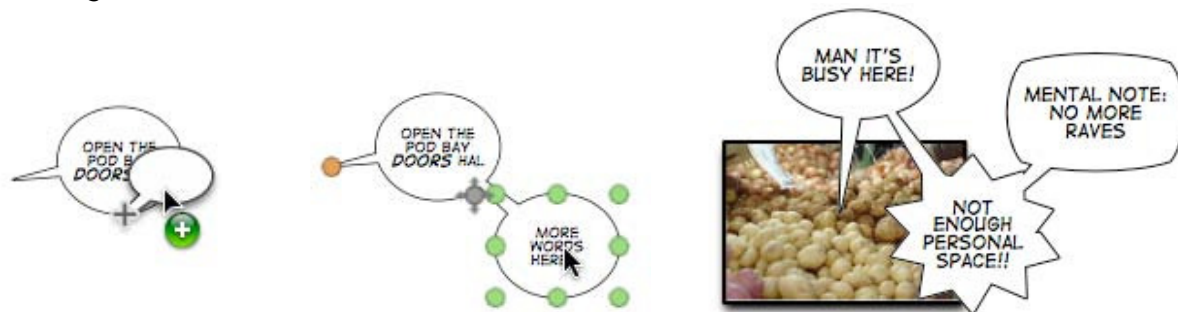




- To edit the text in the balloon simply double-click on the balloon and the text will become editable.
- To resize a balloon select it and drag any of the green resize handles on the perimeter of the balloon.

Adding Additional Balloons

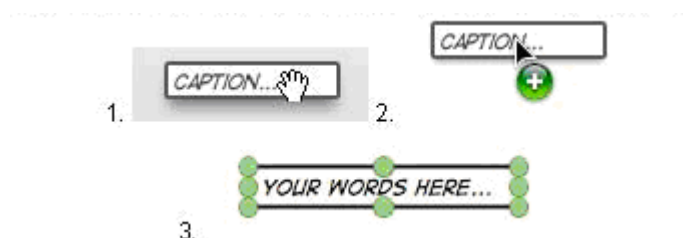
Sometimes you have more text than can comfortably fit in one balloon and need for the text to span multiple balloons. Perhaps the character is pausing for thought before continuing speaking or you need to make a thought fit a particular space. Comic Life lets you do this by adding additional balloons to the speech or thought.



Working with Captions or Titles

Captions let you introduce an new scene or provide some narrative information for example: "Meanwhile..." or "Suddenly!" or "It was a dark and stormy night...". A caption lets you add whatever descriptive or thought text you might need.

Drag a caption from the element palette and drop it in the appropriate position. They type away.

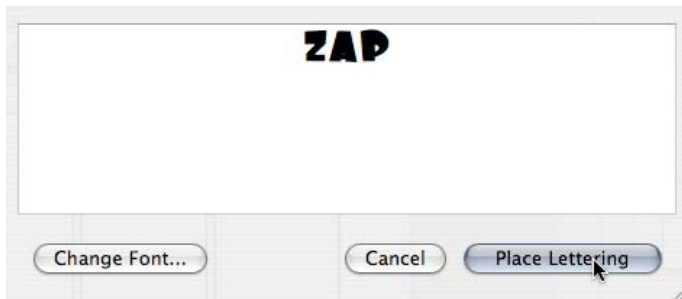


Working with Lettering

Lettering in Comic Life covers two compositional elements: Titles and Sound Effects. Comic titles frequently involve warped lettering (for example the Superman logo) or interesting fills, outlining and shadows. Comic sound effects (for example "POW", "ZAP", "BOING", etc) are always warped and filled with color. Lettering elements let you accomplish both with ease.



- To add Lettering to a page drag a Lettering element from the palette and drop it at the appropriate location.



Publishing and Saving Work

The application lets you publish in a variety of forms which is a major reason for some of the unusual page formats that are supported. You can of course print your comic using the standard print dialog – but you can also export your comic as HTML, JPEG or an AVI movie.

First SAVE YOUR PROJECT WORK

- On the File menu, select Save As, type a definable filename. **Do not remove .comickdoc from the filename.**



Exporting your project into another format.

- On the File menu, select Export, Export to Images.

