

MangaForge – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of MangaForge – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the manga character refuse to smile?

Because the artist kept drawing them with sweat drops -- they were too stressed!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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[How to use this book](#)

[Puns](#)

[Riddles](#)

[Silly Stuff](#)

[Fun Facts](#)

Keep laughing

Keep exploring online

Puns

Why did the manga character refuse to smile?

💡 Because the artist kept drawing them with sweat drops -- they were too stressed!

Why was the speed line so fast?

💡 Because it had places to be and panels to cross!

Why did the chibi character feel small?

💡 Because their head was bigger than their body and they couldn't see past it!

What did the speech bubble say to the thought bubble?

💡 "You're so cloudy -- I always pop right out and say what I mean!"

Why did the panel break up with the gutter?

💡 It said there was too much space between them!

Why are manga eyes so big?

💡 Because they're trying to take in the whole story at once!

What did the inker say to the pencil sketch?

💡 "Don't worry -- I've got you covered."

Why did the screen tone get a job at the bakery?

💡 Because it was great at making everything look dotted!

Why don't manga sound effects ever whisper?

💡 Because BOOM and CRASH don't know how to be quiet!

Why did the manga page feel dizzy?

💡 Because it had to be read right-to-left and it wasn't used to it!

What's a dynamic pose's favorite class?

💡 P.E. -- they love putting motion in every move!

Why did the full-bleed panel refuse to wear a frame?

💡 It said borders were too restricting!

What did the shonen hero say to the shojo hero?

💡 "You bring the feelings, I'll bring the fists -- together we're unstoppable!"

Why was the halftone dot so popular?

 Because it always knew how to blend in!

Why did the speech bubble get in trouble?

 It kept interrupting the panel!

What did the facial expression say after a long day?

 "I'm exhausted -- I've been emoting since panel one!"

Why did the manga artist always carry a ruler?

 Because they needed to draw the line somewhere!

Why did the seinen manga feel old?

 Because it was the most mature one in the bookstore!

What did the sketch say to the eraser?

 "Don't take this personally, but I'm rough around the edges on purpose!"

Why was the motion line so confident?

 Because no matter where it went, it always made an impact!

Riddles

I'm a tiny version of a character with a huge head and a small body. People draw me when they want something extra cute. What am I?

💡 A chibi! Chibis usually have heads about the same size as their bodies.

I appear next to a manga character's head when they're nervous, embarrassed, or stressed. I'm shaped like a teardrop but I'm not from crying. What am I?

💡 A sweat drop! It's a manga symbol for awkwardness or worry.

I'm the space between two panels. Without me, the panels would smush together. What am I?

💡 A gutter! Readers' imaginations fill in what happens in the gutter between scenes.

I'm a panel that stretches all the way to the edge of the page, with no white border around me. What am I?

💡 A full-bleed panel! Artists use me for dramatic moments or to make a scene feel huge.

I'm a Japanese comic book that you read from right to left, with the spine on the right side. What am I?

💡 Manga! That reading direction is part of what makes manga different from American comics.

I'm a pattern of tiny dots used to add shading or texture without color. What am I?

💡 A screen tone! Manga artists use halftone patterns instead of paint or gray ink.

An adult human is usually about 7 to 8 heads tall. A typical manga character is about the same, but a chibi is only about how many heads tall?

💡 About 2 to 3 heads tall! That's what makes them look so cute and squat.

I'm a category of manga aimed at young boys, usually full of action, fights, and friendship. What am I?

💡 Shonen manga! Famous examples include action-adventure series with hero teams.

I'm drawn with lots of streaky lines behind a character to show that they're moving really fast. What am I?

💡 Speed lines! They give the illusion of motion in a still drawing.

I'm the shape of a cloud and I show what a character is thinking, not saying out loud. What am I?

💡 A thought bubble! Speech bubbles have pointed tails, but thought bubbles have little bubbles connecting them to the character's head.

A page has 4 panels. Each panel takes about 5 seconds to read. About how long should it take to read the whole page?

💡 About 20 seconds! Manga artists plan pacing by panel count.

I'm a giant onomatopoeia drawn across a panel -- words like KABOOM or DOKI DOKI. What am I?

💡 A sound effect, or SFX! In manga, SFX is part of the art itself, not just text.

I'm drawn with focused lines all pointing toward one character or object, like rays from a sun. What am I?

💡 An emphasis or impact effect! It makes the focal point feel powerful.

I add fine, parallel lines all going the same direction to create a sense of shadow or texture. What technique am I?

💡 Hatching! Cross-hatching uses two sets of crossing lines for even darker shadows.

I'm the part of a manga character's face that shows whether they're happy, angry, surprised, or sad. Eyebrows and mouth shape are my best tools. What am I?

💡 A facial expression! Manga uses exaggerated expressions to convey emotion clearly.

A character is leaping through the air with one leg kicked out and one arm thrown back. The drawing feels like it's bursting off the page. What kind of pose is this?

💡 A dynamic pose! Dynamic poses use angles and tension to create energy.

I'm a category of manga aimed at young girls, often focused on emotions, relationships, and beautiful character designs. What am I?

💡 Shojo manga! Shojo titles often feature sparkly eyes and flower-pattern backgrounds.

An artist draws a rough version first with light pencil lines, then traces over it cleanly with darker ink. What are these two stages called?

💡 Sketching and inking! The sketch is the planning stage, and inking is the final line art.

When you make panels smaller and stack a bunch on one page, the action feels rushed. When you make one panel huge and full-bleed, the action feels slow and important. Why?

💡 Panel size controls pacing! Big panels equal big moments, small panels equal quick beats.

A character's eyes look bigger than their nose and mouth combined. Their head is also a little oversized for their body. What art style am I describing?

💡 The classic manga / big-eye style! Large eyes help show emotion clearly.

Silly Stuff

A manga character was drawn with a sweat drop so big it filled the whole panel. The artist said "It's symbolic." The character said "I'm drowning." Both were technically correct.

A chibi version of a tall hero stood next to the regular version. The regular version asked, "Why are you cuter than me?" The chibi replied, "Because my head is 90% of my body and you can't argue with proportions."

A new manga reader picked up a book and started on the left page. They were confused for 200 pages. Turns out manga reads right-to-left -- they had been reading the entire story backwards. The ending made way more sense.

An artist drew speed lines so intense behind a walking character that the character broke the sound barrier just standing still. Speed lines are powerful. Use responsibly.

A speech bubble showed up to a panel without an invitation. The character inside the panel said, "Who said you could be here?" The speech bubble replied, "Apparently you did, because I'm coming out of your mouth."

A character was drawn with eyes so big they could see their own future. The future was: more big eyes. Manga prophecy is mostly visual.

A sound effect saying "WHOOSH" was so loud in the panel that the next three panels had to be quiet just to recover. Onomatopoeia takes up real estate.

A manga artist tried to fit 47 panels on one page. The reader needed a magnifying glass and a nap. The lesson: gutters aren't optional -- they're how readers breathe.

A character's pose was so dynamic they accidentally leaped out of the panel and into the gutter. The next panel had to draw them climbing back in. Dynamic poses can go too far.

A screen tone was applied so thickly to a character's hair that the hair became a separate plot point. By chapter three, the hair had its own dialogue.

A shonen hero and a shojo hero met at a crossover cafe. The shonen hero shouted about friendship. The shojo hero cried about it beautifully. Both reactions were valid. Both were drawn perfectly.

An artist forgot to draw the gutters between panels. The reader couldn't tell where one scene ended and the next began. The whole story became one continuous, confusing blur. Whitespace is doing more than you think.

A character was drawn with one sweat drop, one blush mark, one anger vein, AND a hand behind their head all at once. They were "happy-embarrassed-angry-nervous." Manga emotion stacking is real.

An inker traced over a sketch so confidently that the sketch said "Wait, I wasn't ready." The inker replied, "The deadline is now." Sketches don't get second chances when ink is involved.

A full-bleed panel decided it was so important it didn't need a frame. Then a second panel did the same thing. Then a third. Eventually the whole page was full-bleed and nothing felt dramatic anymore. Pacing matters.

Fun Facts

Did you know? The word "manga" comes from two Japanese kanji meaning "whimsical pictures." It was popularized in the 1800s by the famous artist Hokusai, who also painted The Great Wave!

Did you know? Manga is read from right to left, top to bottom. The "front" of a manga book is what would be the "back" of an English book. Many publishers keep the original Japanese layout when translating!

Did you know? Osamu Tezuka, often called the "godfather of manga," helped popularize the big-eyed style in the 1950s. He was inspired by classic animation that emphasized large, expressive eyes!

Did you know? A typical adult human is about 7 to 8 heads tall, but heroic manga characters are often drawn 8 to 9 heads tall to look more dramatic. Chibis are only 2 to 3 heads tall!

Did you know? Before computer screen tones, manga artists hand-applied sticky sheets of dot patterns called "screentone" to their pages. They had to cut and place each one with a craft knife!

Did you know? Japanese sound effects in manga are often onomatopoeia for things that have no sound in real life. "DOKI DOKI" means heartbeat, "SHIIN" means total silence, and "JI-" means staring intensely!

Did you know? Most professional manga is printed in black and white because color printing is much more expensive. Color pages are usually saved for chapter openings or special covers!

Did you know? The four main manga demographic categories are shonen (young boys), shojo (young girls), seinen (adult men), and josei (adult women). They overlap a lot in real readership!

Did you know? A weekly manga artist might draw 15 to 20 pages every single week, plus story planning. That's why they often work with a team of assistants who help with backgrounds, screen tones, and inking!

Did you know? Speed lines aren't just for showing fast motion -- they're also used to focus attention on a character's face, suggest wind, or build emotional intensity in still scenes!

Did you know? In manga, a character's eye design is often a signature. Bigger, rounder eyes usually mean a more emotional or younger character. Sharp, narrow eyes often suggest someone serious, cool, or older!

Did you know? The "gutter" between panels is one of the most powerful tools in comics. Comic theorists describe it as the place where the reader's imagination does the real storytelling!

Did you know? A typical manga sweat drop, called "ase," looks like a single teardrop. There's also the "nervous smile with hand behind head" pose -- a whole emotion expressed without a single word!

Did you know? A full manga story arc is often planned with a structure called "ki-sho-ten-ketsu" -- introduction, development, twist, and conclusion. It's different from the three-act structure used in most American stories!

Did you know? When manga is animated into anime, the animators often choose only the most important panels to bring to motion. A single dramatic full-bleed page might become a 5-second cinematic shot!

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from MangaForge. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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