

## Notes On Lettering

This tutorial is on how to start lettering your [final comic page worksheet](#).

Lettering is a time honored tradition in the comic-making profession. Lettering refers specifically to the parts of the comic that include words on the page. These words can be dialogue, sound effects, and captions (captions are the things that the “narrator” would say if you have one).

Only a few comic artists do lettering by hand as the computer generated method of lettering has really sped up the process of adding words to comics. While lettering on the computer can be good, it takes a truly skilled professional to make lettering within a comic look good. For that reason the worksheets that have been formatted for this project have been designed in a way that will make the lettering process simple and able to do without a computer.

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### 1.

From your pencils draft you should have a word bubble already drawn that will contain your words. It is important, for the readability of your words, for the words to line up. In the next couple of steps we are going to go through the process of creating straight lines for your letters to go on within your word bubble (see the image below).

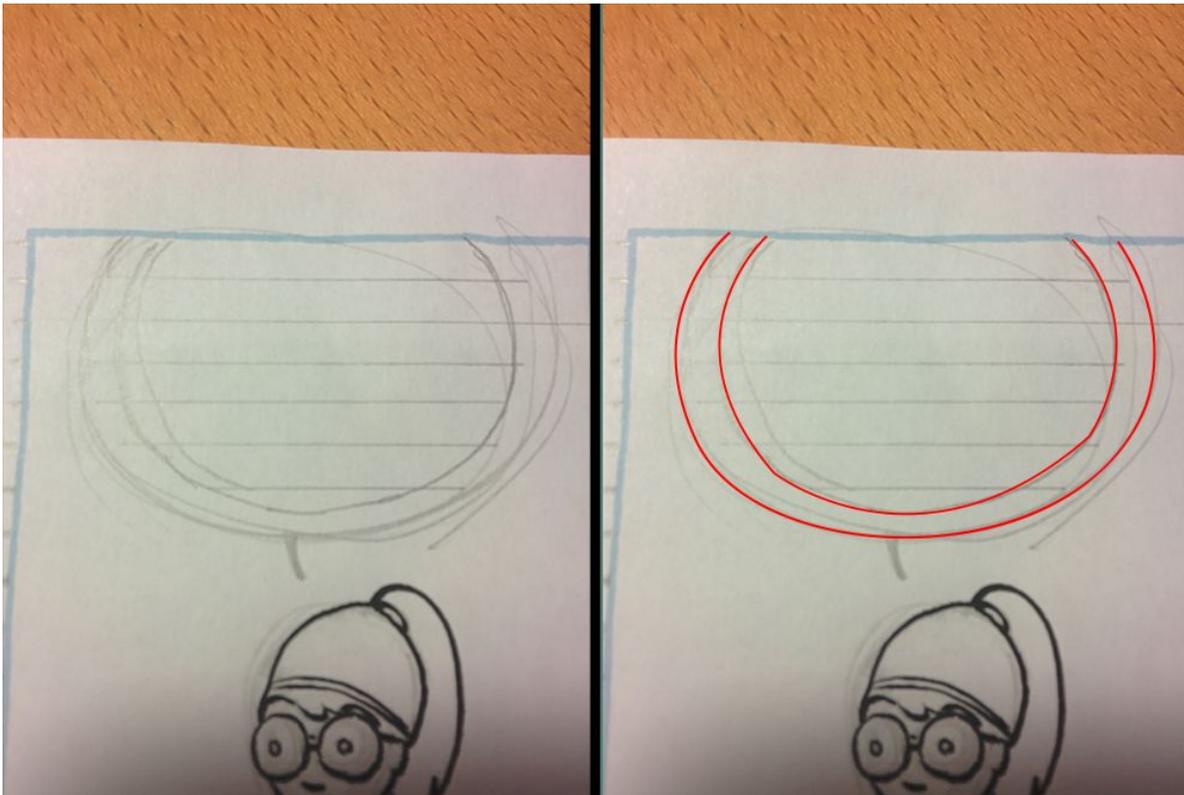


## 2.

Before we draw the lines our letters go on, let's concentrate on making sure we have composed the word bubble correctly. In the image below you can see two lines. The inner word bubble line (the smaller red circle within the word bubble) and the outer word bubble line (where you are going to ink the word bubble around the letters).

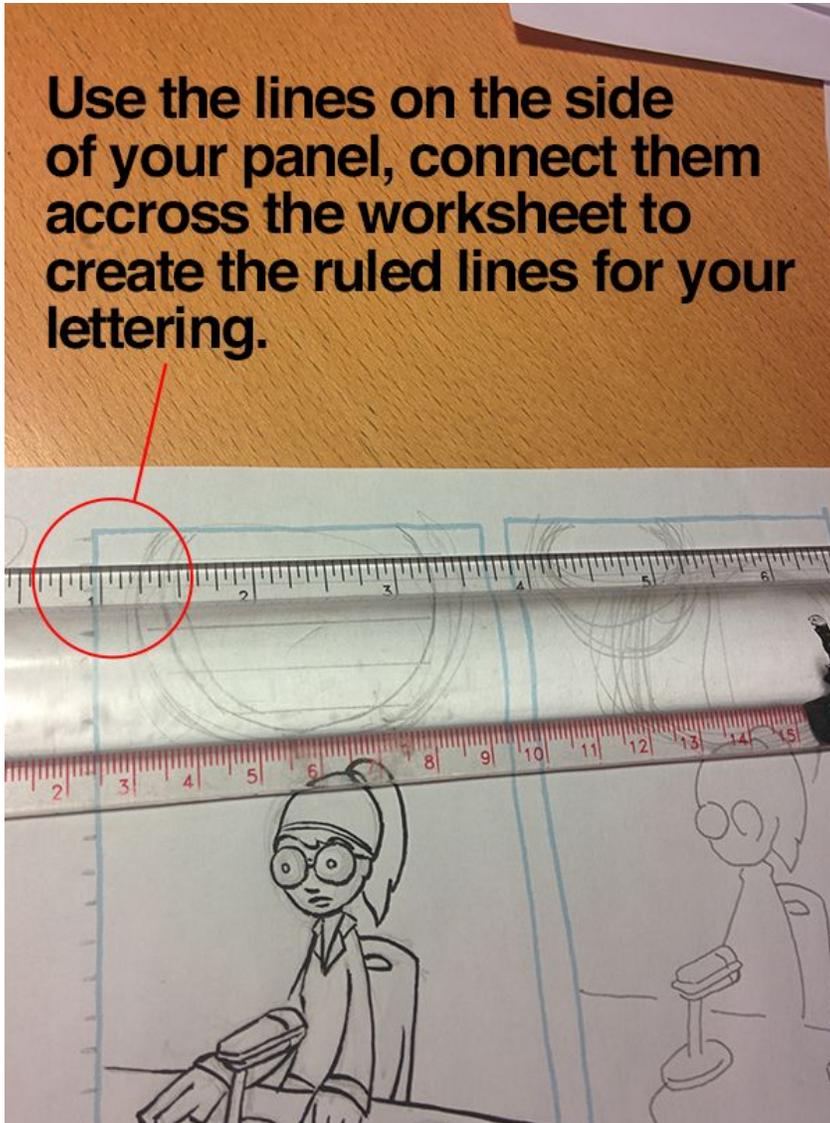
It is important that you give space between the edge of the word bubble and the letters within the word bubble so that your reader can read the words within the bubble accurately. Having the inner and outer word bubbles generated evenly will give space between the words within and the outer line of the bubble itself.

Go ahead and roughly draw the inner and outer word bubbles on your page.



### 3.

You may have noticed little grey lines on the outer edges of your penciling worksheet. Using a ruler connect the lines on either side of the page and draw a line through the word bubbles. This should allow you to see the lines created inside of the word bubbles in step 1 & 2.



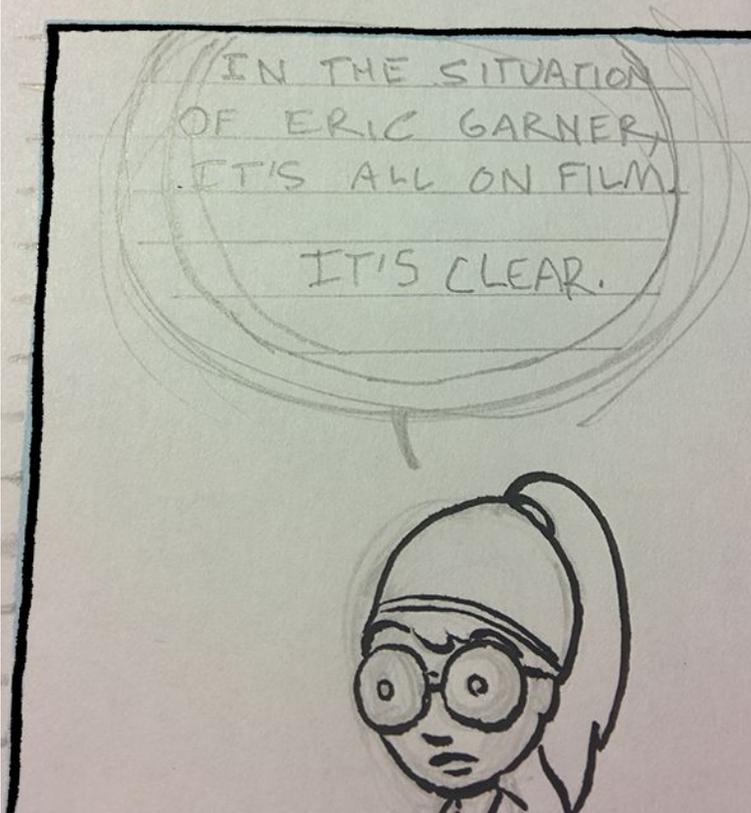
## 4.

When you write the letters in your word bubble you are going to want to make sure that they fill up, to the best of your ability, the space within the inner bubble.

We also recommend that you use all capital letters when penciling in the words. Doing this will allow your audience to read the final page easier. This also helps when the page is shrunk down to fit into the book because the capitalized letters are more likely to stay readable during the page resizing process.

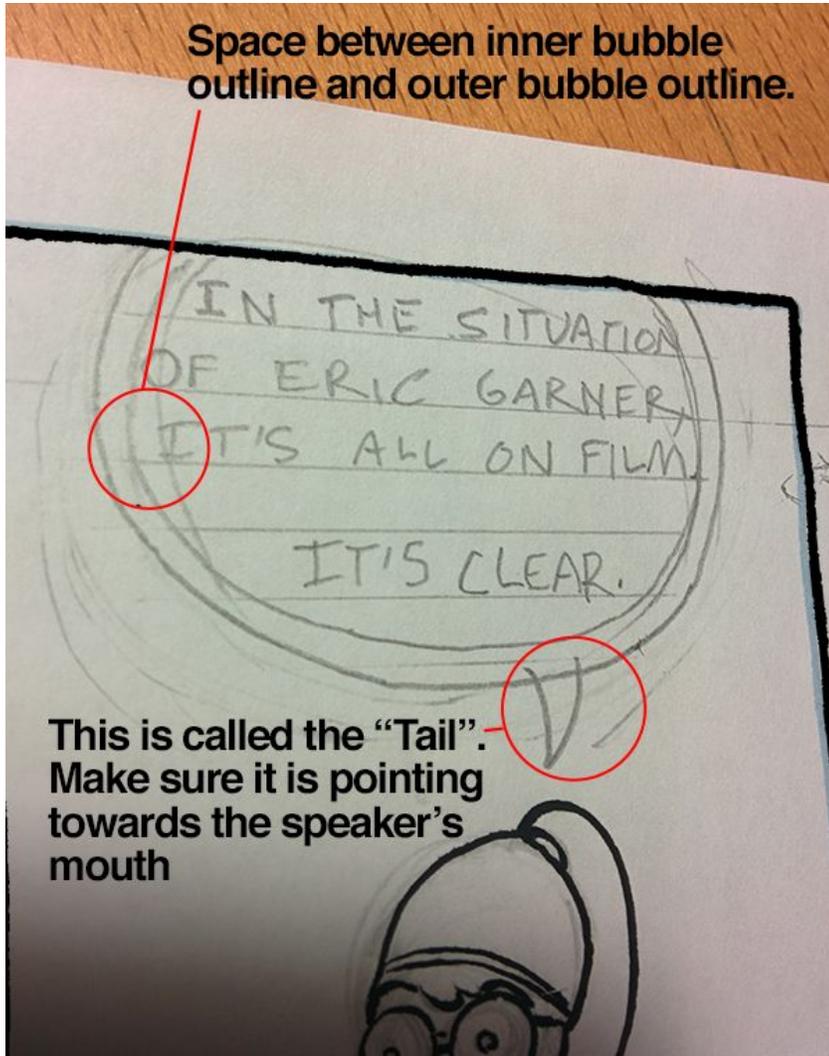
**Afer you have ruled your word bubbles in you can start writing. Make sure to remember:**

- Stay inside the inner bubble outline.
- Don't let the letters touch each other.
- Leave room between the top of the letters and the line above it.



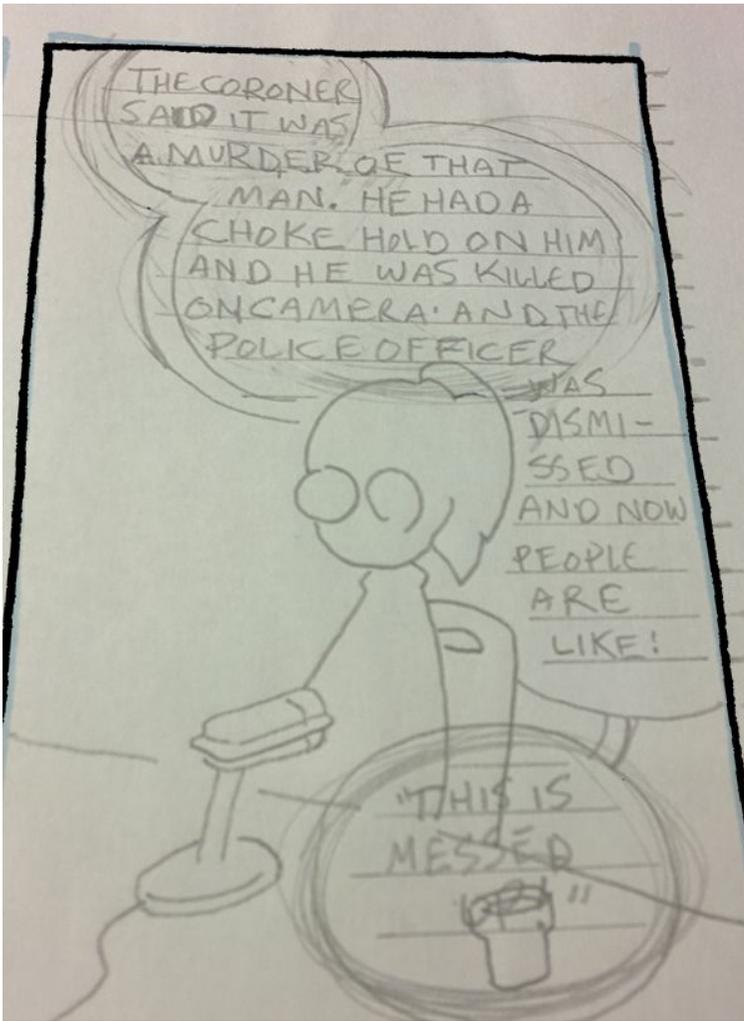
# 5.

You may have noticed in comics how there is a little triangle shape that points to the person talking. This is called the “tail”. To make sure you are drawing your Tails correctly have them pointing generally towards the mouth of the person talking.



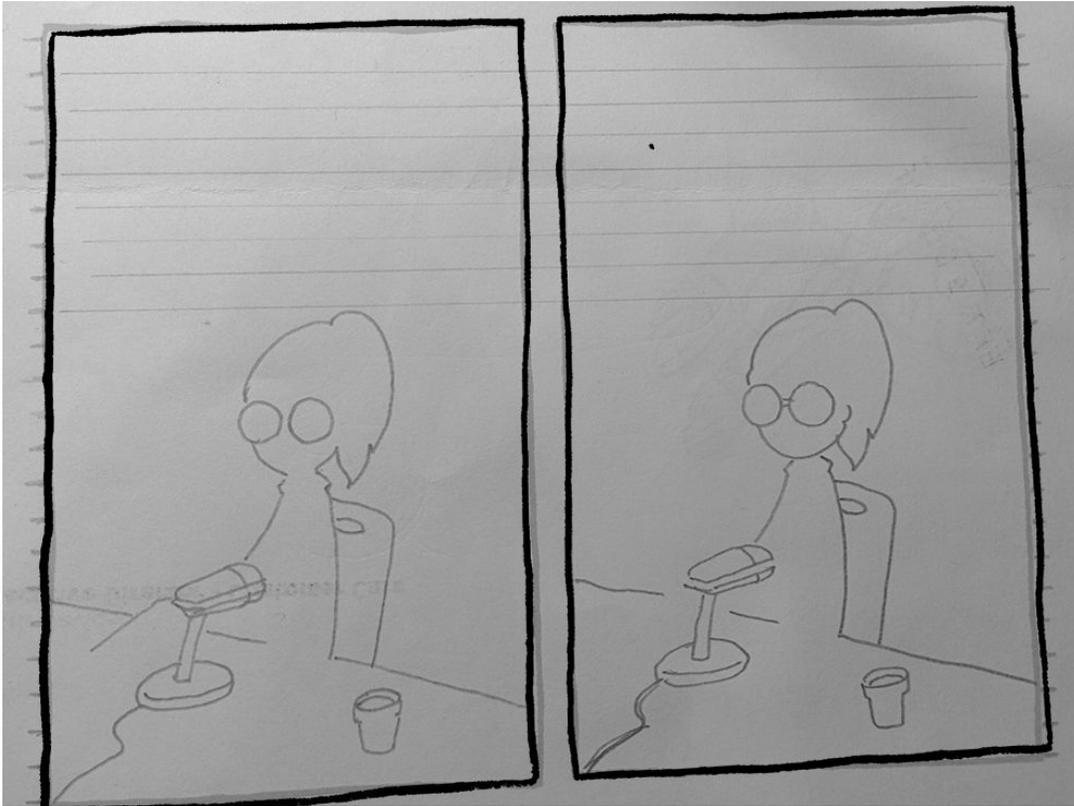
6.

This is what a final panel will look like once lettered.



# 7.

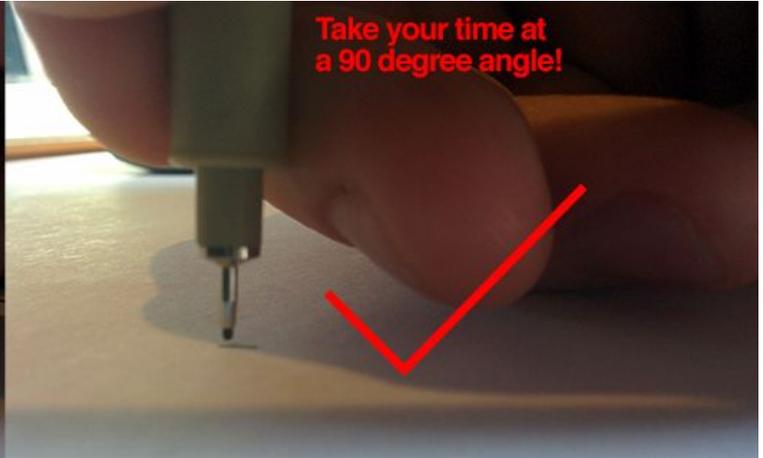
If you want to move quickly you can also draw the lettering lines out in the spaces on the page before you start - this way you can do the lines for two panels at the same time. If you are going to approach the work this way make sure that you are drawing very light pencil lines that you can erase later.



# 8.

## A couple notes on “Inking” your letters

In the next tutorial we are going to focus on Inking your whole comic, but while we are in the lettering tutorial it makes sense to cover inking the letters specifically.



Using the lettering ink pen provided to you by your teacher you are going to start inking in your letters.

First make sure you are holding the pen correctly as displayed in the image above. Holding it incorrectly can result in the lettering lines becoming smudged and incomprehensible.

Another tip is to go 2x slower doing this than you think you should. Because we write words all the time our brain will treat the inking of your comic letters the same way we would write a note to a friend. We need to avoid this. Lettering in comics are actually a lot of little pictures that need to be composed carefully so that our readers can easily understand the comic words presented to them.

**If you go too quickly with your letters you will make mistakes which might result in having to start the page over again from scratch!**

# 9. Completing Your Sheet

And now you have completed the lettering on your comic! The image below is what your group comic should end up looking like with the letters completed. Now you are ready to move on to inking!

