

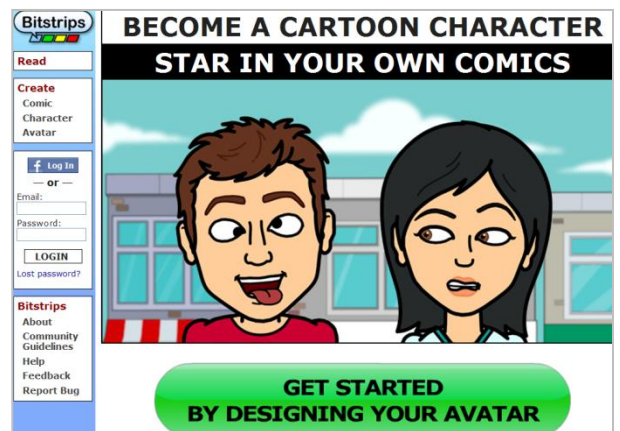
Technology in the Classroom – Bitstrips

Bitstrips is a free online comic strip maker that allows you and your students to create your very own avatar (cartoon character) to include in your own comic strips. Students can save their comic strips and continue working on them later. **Teachers can increase students' interest in English/Language Arts with reading, summary, and vocabulary exercises; or have students work in groups to create exciting history, science or math projects!**

If your students do not have their own email accounts, create a classroom email address for all of the students to use before you open Bitstrips. Students will need the email address to save their comic strips and access them later. To setup a free classroom email account, go to www.gmail.com and click on "Create an Account" at the top right. Choose a name that will be easy for your students use (e.g. mr.smith.homeroom@gmail.com).

I. Getting Started

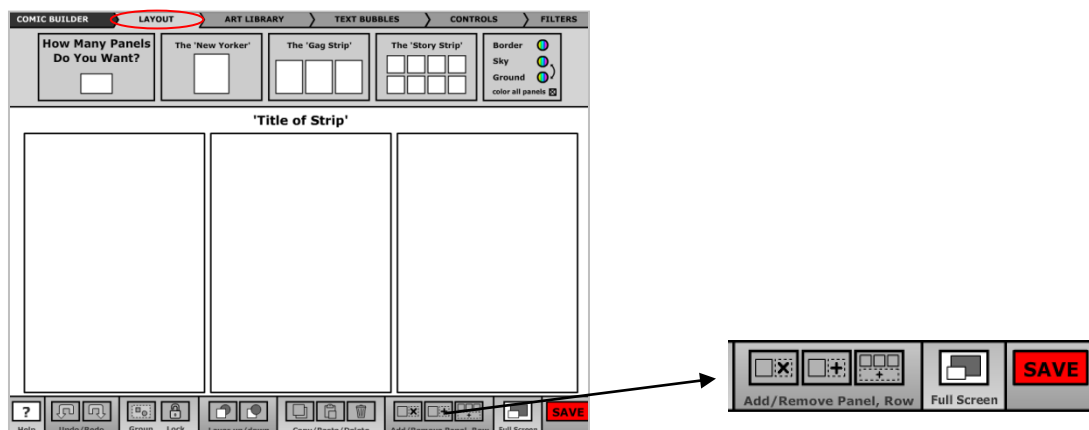
Go to www.bitstrips.com to get started (www.bitstrips.com/pageone also works). If you want your students to create their own avatar, click on the green button, "Get Started By Designing Your Avatar." *Only choose this option if you have enough time for the students to create a character that looks like them.* Otherwise, have them use characters that have already been created. They can always create their own avatar at a later time.



II. Create a Comic

Under the Create tab to the left, click **Comic** to begin making a comic strip. Give your strip a title and choose how many panels you want in your comic.

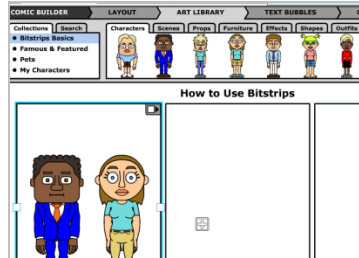
- Layout** – Under the **Layout** tab, type in how many panels you want or choose The New Yorker (1 panel), The Gag Strip (3 panels) or the Story Strip (8 panels)



You can always add a row of panels or delete panels, by using **Add/Remove Panels** button under the panels.

- b. *Art Library* - Click on **Art Library** to begin adding characters and scenes to your panels. The Art Library allows you choose and modify characters, pick scenes, props, furniture, shapes and change characters' outfits.

- *Characters* – Find characters you want to use and drag them into the panel.

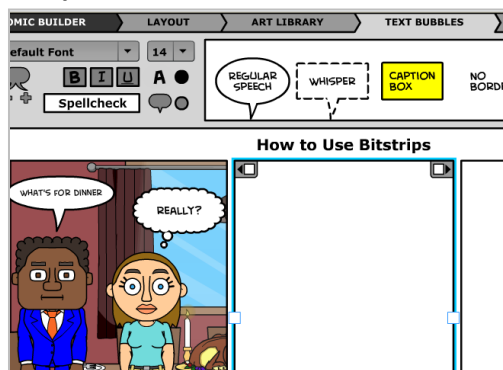


- *Scenes* – Find a scene and drag it into the panel.



- c. *Text Bubbles* – Add text bubbles to make your characters “talk.”

Completed Panel 1



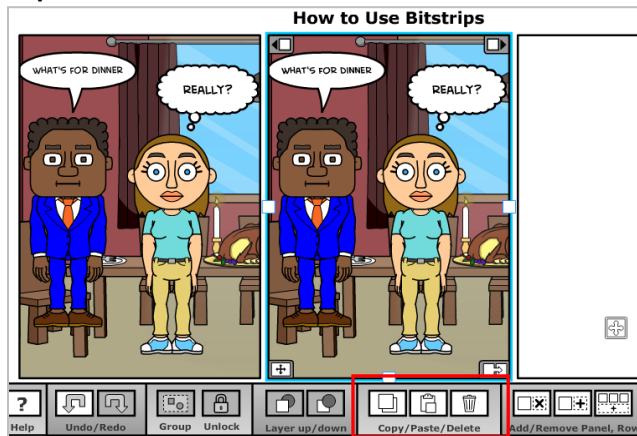
III. Continue Editing Your Comic

- a. To continue with the *same scene* and *same characters* in panel 2:

- Click on panel 1
- Click **Copy** in the task bar beneath your comic panels
- Click on panel 2
- Click **Paste** in the task bar beneath your comic panels

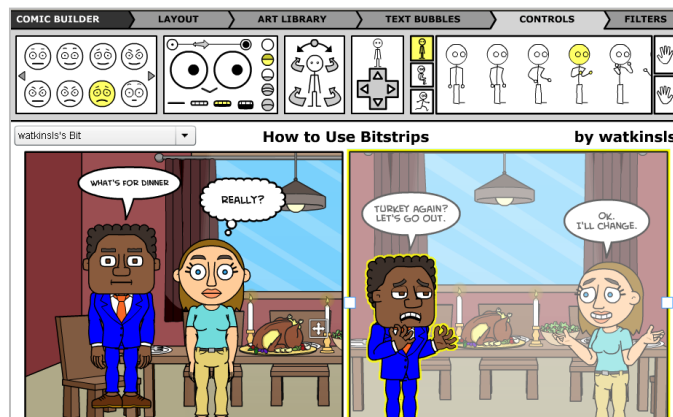


Copied and Pasted Panel



- b. **Controls** – Modify your characters' facial expressions, body language, and poses under the **Controls** tab.

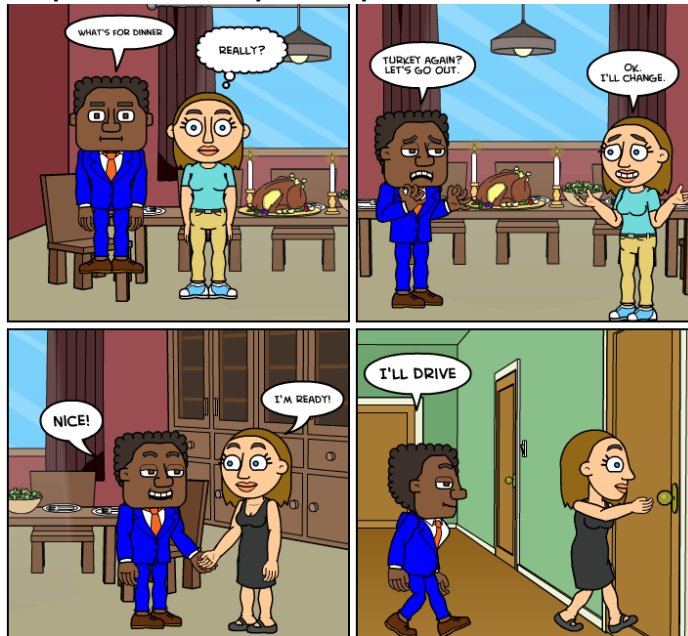
- Double click on a character, and it will be outlined in yellow. In the top task bar, choose a facial expression or body and arm/leg position.
- If you don't see the arm or leg position you want, click on the arm/leg/head and simply move it yourself.



- Continue the process in your other panels. You can change outfits by clicking on **Art Library** → **Outfits**, and dragging the new outfit to a character. To add additional characters, click **Art Library** → **Characters**. To add a new scene to a panel, click **Art Library** → **Scenes**. Click the save button upon completion.



Completed comic strip with 4 panels:



- c. *Sharing Your Comic* – After saving your Bitstrip, you can print it or email it by clicking on the share button. If you email your Bitstrip, you must publish it before others can view it.



IV. Returning to Bitstrips

To return to Bitstrips, go to www.bitstrips.com/pageone. Enter your email address and password. Click on Strips under My Stuff to view or edit comic strips, you've created.

