Text conventions in comics

Conventions are sets of **rules** for what is normally found within a product

Comics use a set of **conventions** (usually)

Your work should usually keep to these **conventions**

Text conventions in comics

Text is used in comics to help tell stories

Text conventions in comics

1. **Typeface**

Comics will almost always use a hand written style of **typeface** (font)

Usually **Comic Sans** is a good choice
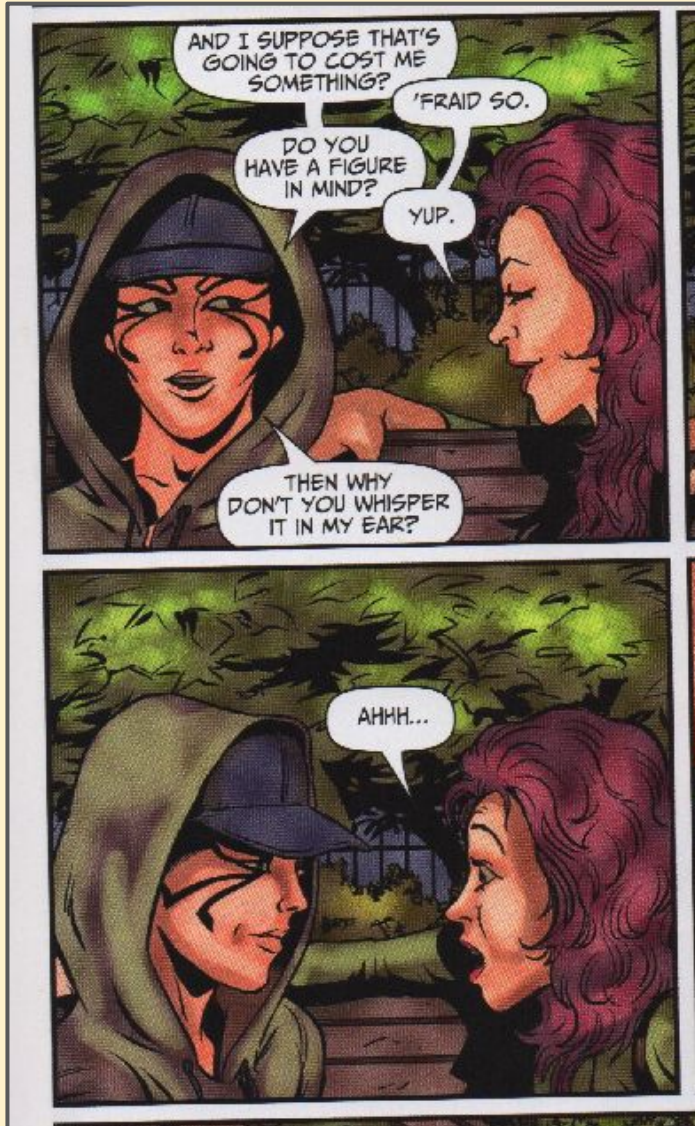
Text conventions in comics

2. Styles

Most comics will use capital letters (**upper case**) for all text

Text is almost always **black**

Text conventions in comics

3. Word balloons

Word balloons show speech. The **tail** shows who is speaking

Text is usually **centred**

Balloons are often **white** with a **black border**. They are usually an **ellipse shape**

Text conventions in comics

Balloon types

Using a **dashed border** shows whispering

A **jagged border** shows shouting

A **thought balloon** is cloud shaped with dots rather than a standard tail to show thinking

Text conventions in comics

4. Narration

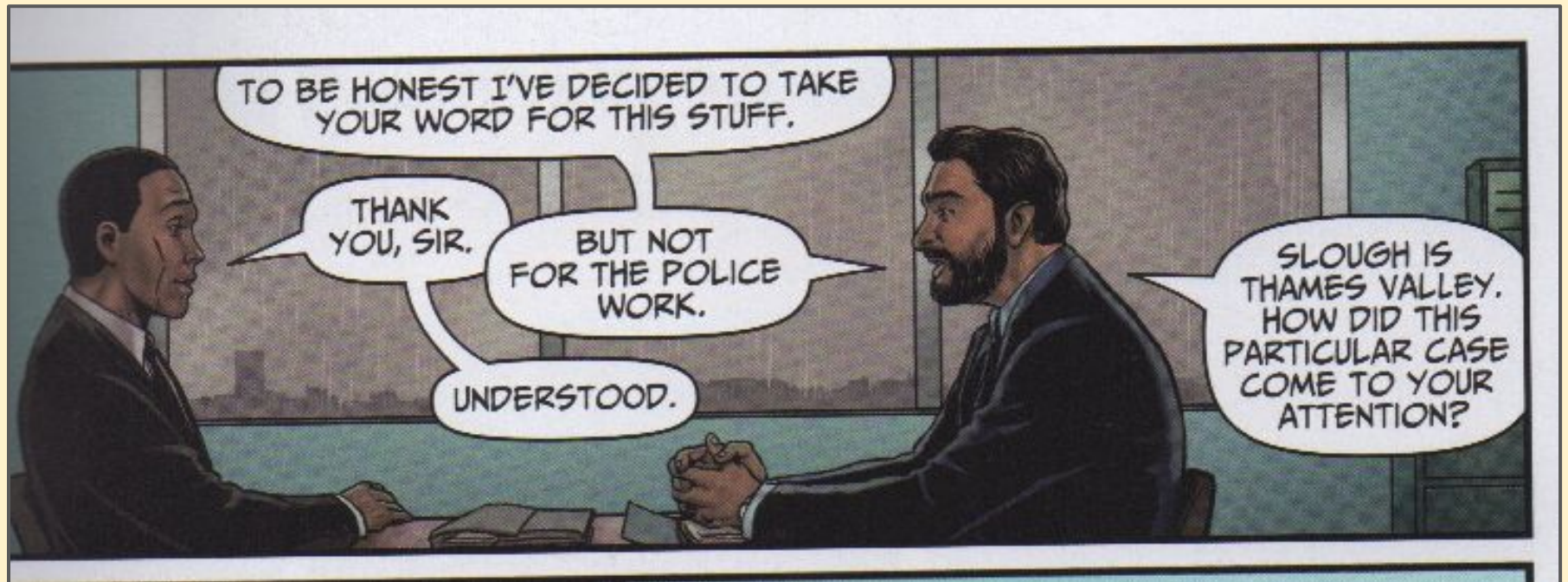Rectangular boxes are used to show **narration** and **captions**

Narration is where a character tells the story without speaking

Captions are also in rectangles

Conventions of comics

Reading order

Text is read from top to bottom and from left to right

Text conventions in comics

Key points:

- Typeface – Comic Sans
- upper case – ALWAYS
- word balloon – shows speech
- narration – tells the story
- caption

Text conventions in comics

The comic book extracts used in these slides have been used at smaller scales for educational purposes only

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