

Introduction to Comic Strip Conversations

Comic strip conversations were created by Carol Gray as an assistive tool to aid social understanding and to visually present a conversation between two or more people. They use drawings such as stick figures, thought or speech bubbles or symbols. A comic strip conversation can act as an aid for a person who would usually struggle to understand the social skills required to hold/ take part in a conversation. They may be used to show what is said in a conversation or abstract concepts in social interactions for example. They may also include colours to represent emotional content such as how a person is feeling. If the person using the comic strip conversation finds it difficult to plan or relay events in order, comic strip boxes may be used instead or you could number the drawings in the order in which they occur. This can also be used for more complex situations.

Why might you use a comic strip conversation?

- To understand things from the autistic persons perspective.
- To plan or prepare for an event that may be causing anxiety: Consider presenting the information in a way which allows for unexpected changes.
- To enable reflection, for example, looking back on a social situation where something may have occurred such as a meltdown and analyse what went wrong.
- To help a person communicate their feelings.
- Communicating via drawing takes away pressure to answer questions verbally.
- To break a conversation down to allow processing time to refer back to for future social situations to help work out possible solutions for a challenging situation.