



There are some profound differences between American comics and manga. The biggest difference - in addition to the fact that Japanese comics are created in Japanese whereas American comics are originally created in English - is that manga are generally read in the reverse order of their American cousins. What American readers think of as the last page of the story is usually the first page. The panels on each manga page are ordered from right to left instead of from left to right, and the writing in them is usually vertical.

Manga are usually (but not always) printed in black and white, as opposed to colour. They are also usually more visual than American comics and contain fewer words. The drawings in manga, however, are usually much simpler than in American comic books.

Manga stories are usually much longer than American comics which are not published in magazines but in paperback or hardback. Japanese manga are often first published in magazines and then come out in paperback. Second, there are also a lot *more* manga in Japan than there are comics in America. In fact, nearly 40% of all magazines and books published in Japan today are said to be manga.

Adapted from an article written by Frederik L. Schodt, to be found on: <http://www.us-japan.org/jsnc/virtualjapan/PopJpn/whatsmanga.htm>

<u>American Comics</u>		<u>Japanese Manga</u>
	(language)	
-	(reading)	-
-		-
	(colours)	
	(words)	
	(drawings)	
	(stories)	
-	(publishing)	-
-		-



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<u>American Comics</u>		<u>Japanese Manga</u>
In English	(language)	In Japanese
- front to back	(reading)	- back to front
- panels left to right		- panels right to left
different colours	(colours)	usually black and white
a lot of dialogue	(words)	fewer words
elaborate/complicated	(drawings)	simpler
shorter	(stories)	longer
- not in magazines	(publishing)	- in magazines
- in paperback or hardback		- in paperback