Retro Comic Book Art in Photoshop
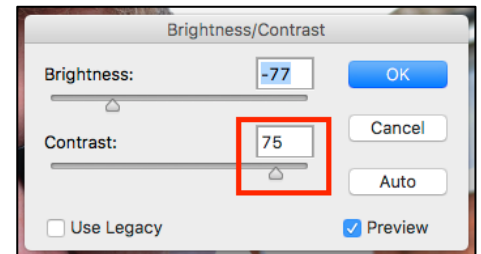
1. Open your image in Photoshop – **File** > **Open**

Adjust the Contrast

First we need to increase the contrast – the dark and the light needs to be stronger

2. **Image** > **Adjustments** > **Brightness/Contrast**

3. Slide the **Contrast slider** most of the way to the
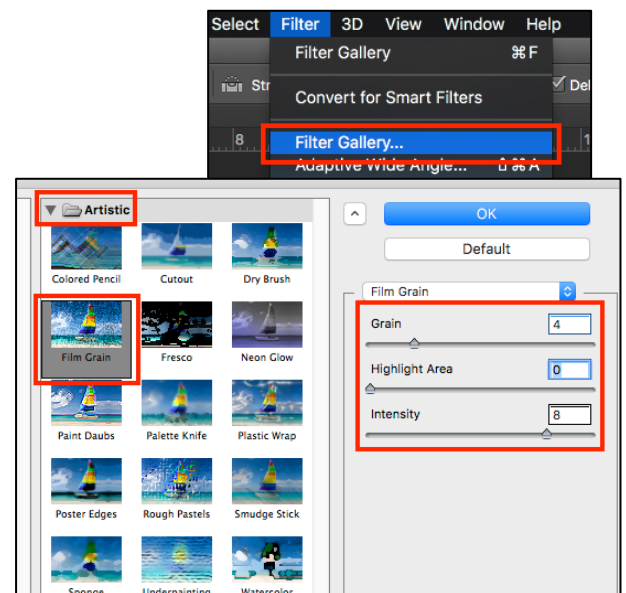
   right (75 or more)

   You might need to slide the Brightness slider to

   the left – but it depends on the image you're

   using. Aim for something with strong sections of dark and light

4. Click **OK**

Add Grain

5. **Filter** > **Filter Gallery**

6. Open the **Artistic section** > choose **Film Grain**

7. You probably want to have the sliders on the right set to **4 0 8** – but experiment
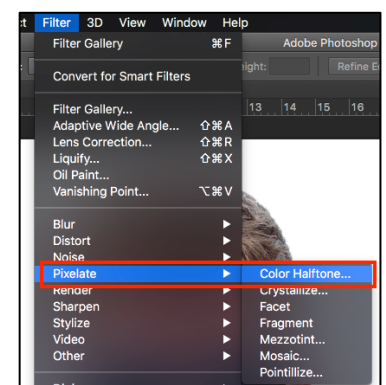
8. Click **OK**

This adds some graininess to the image, making it seem older. It's quite subtle, but it'll show up better after the next section…
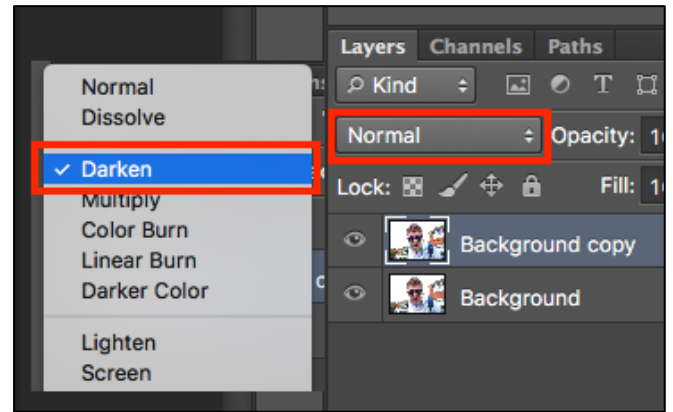
Add Dots

9. **Layer** > **Duplicate Layer** > **OK** (no need to name it)

10. **IMPORTANT:** make sure you're clicked on the new layer

11. **Filter** > **Pixelate** > **Colour halftone** > **OK**

Then blend the layers

12. Use the **drop down box** that says
    Normal above the Background copy
    layer > change the setting to **Darken**
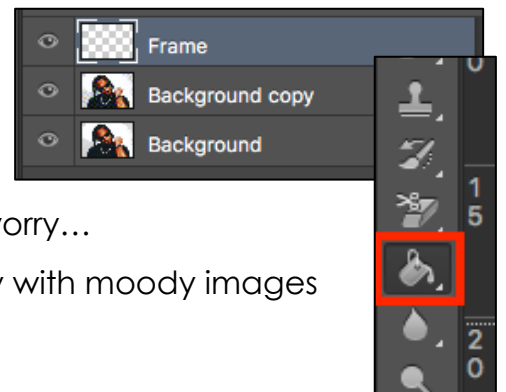   This blends the layers together, adding
    strength to the dots you added

Add a frame

13. **Layer** > **New Layer** > call the layer **Frame**
14. Use the **Paint Bucket tool** (hidden under the
    Gradient tool) on the **left toolbar** to fill the Frame
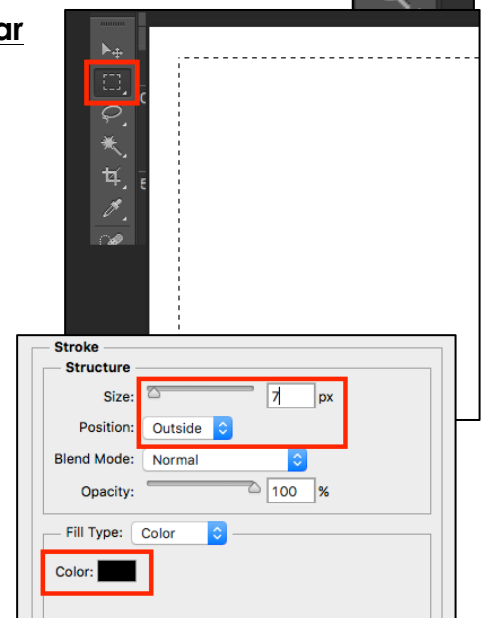   layer **white**. This will cover up your image – don't worry…
    Filling the layer black can work as well – especially with moody images

15. Use the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** on the **left toolbar**
    (the dotted rectangle at the top) > draw a frame a
    little inside the edge of the white block
16. A dotted line will appear. Now press the **Delete key**
    This should cut out the middle section of the white
    layer to create a white frame around your image

17. **Layer** > **Layer Style** > **Stroke** > set the Size to about
    7 and the colour to **black** > **OK**

Merge the layers

Once you think you're done, merge the layers to get everything on a single layer.

18. **Layer** > **Merge Visible**
19. **File** > **Save As** > save your work **WITH A NEW NAME**
20. **File** > **Export** > **Export As** > choose **JPG** from the **top right**

Now you can add speech bubbles and other lettering to your image.