The **Joker** is a fictional [supervillain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supervillain" \o "Supervillain) created by [Bill Finger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Finger), [Bob Kane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Kane), and [Jerry Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Robinson) who first appeared in the debut issue of the [comic book](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_comic_book) [*Batman*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batman_(comic_book)) (April 25, 1940) published by [DC Comics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DC_Comics). Credit for the Joker's creation is disputed; Kane and Robinson claimed responsibility for the Joker's design, while acknowledging Finger's writing contribution. Although the Joker was planned to be killed off during his initial appearance, he was spared by editorial intervention, allowing the character to endure as the archenemy of the superhero [Batman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batman).