

Dragon Ball is a Japanese media franchise created by Akira Toriyama. It began as a manga series serialized in Weekly Shōnen Jump from 1984 to 1995, and it was later adapted into several anime television series, animated films, video games, and merchandise. The franchise is immensely popular both in Japan and internationally, with a significant impact on popular culture.

Here's an overview of the main components of the Dragon Ball franchise:

1. **Dragon Ball Manga (1984-1995):** The original manga series, written and illustrated by Akira Toriyama, follows the adventures of Son Goku, a young martial artist with extraordinary strength, as he sets out on a quest to find the Dragon Balls. These magical orbs, when gathered, grant the summoner one wish. Along the way, Goku encounters various allies and adversaries, participates in martial arts tournaments, and battles powerful foes, including the villainous Emperor Pilaf, the Saiyan prince Vegeta, and the galactic tyrant Frieza.
2. **Dragon Ball Anime Series:** The manga was adapted into several anime series, with "Dragon Ball" (1986-1989), "Dragon Ball Z" (1989-1996), and "Dragon Ball GT" (1996-1997) being the primary installments. "Dragon Ball" follows Goku's childhood adventures, "Dragon Ball Z" continues with Goku's adulthood and focuses on battles against increasingly powerful enemies, and "Dragon Ball GT" explores new storylines beyond the original manga.
3. **Dragon Ball Super (2015-2018):** "Dragon Ball Super" is a sequel series to "Dragon Ball Z," set after the defeat of the villain Majin Buu. It follows Goku and his friends as they encounter powerful new adversaries from across the multiverse, including the God of Destruction Beerus and the multiverse-tournament organizer, Zeno. The series introduces new transformations and power-ups, such as Super Saiyan God and Ultra Instinct.
4. **Dragon Ball Movies:** The franchise has spawned numerous animated films, many of which feature original storylines or retellings of key arcs from the manga and anime series. Some popular movies include "Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods," "Dragon Ball Z: Resurrection 'F'," and "Dragon Ball Super: Broly."
5. **Spin-offs and Merchandise:** Dragon Ball has inspired a wide range of spin-off media, including video games, trading card games, novels, and collectible figures. The franchise's iconic characters, such as Goku, Vegeta, Piccolo, and Bulma, have become cultural icons, and Dragon Ball merchandise is highly sought after by fans worldwide.

Overall, Dragon Ball has had a significant impact on the anime and manga industry, influencing numerous creators and becoming a beloved franchise with a dedicated fanbase.