

# Colour

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1. Advancing colour A strongly saturated warm colour (red, orange, yellow, etc.) which seems to lie in front of the picture plane. The opposite of a retreating colour.
2. Artificial colour The colour an object has received artificially, ex. painting of easter eggs. You paint them yellow for instance which is not its natural colour.
3. Colour contrasts By colour contrasts, we mean the contrast between two adjacent colours (beside each other). Colour contrast is related to differences in chromaticity (wavelength), luminescence (brightness) and saturation (purity).
4. Colour family (Chromaticity) Colours that don't really stand out against each other belong to the same colour family.
5. Colour Perspective Red colours come towards you, while blue seems to recede. This is the effect of the colour perspective or point of view. If red and blue are used beside each other, the combination suggests depth.
6. Colour to colour contrast The most obvious colour contrast is colour to colour contrast. The difference between two different types of colour next to each other.
7. Colour wheel A colour wheel is a logical and easy way to rank colours. The colour wheel shows the primary colours (red, yellow and blue) and secondary colours (green, purple, orange). The order of colours in a colour wheel is almost the same as in a rainbow
8. Complementary contrast Complementary colours stand across each other in the colour wheel. These are red-green, yellow-purple, blue-orange. Use together, they provide the greatest colour contrast. They stand out clearest against each other, and reinforce each other's intensity: Red looks deeper red next to green and vice versa.
9. Cool colours Colours that usually make you think about cold things. Shades of green, shades of blue but also black and white are considered as cool colours.
10. Decorative colour When you use colours purely as decoration.
11. Expressive colours Expression is about communicating your feelings. The use of colour is related to a specific mood or atmosphere, you express yourself in colours.

12. Functional colour In functional use of colour, each colour has a particular function. ex.: Electrical wires, subway routes.
13. Light - Dark contrast Sharp differences between the light and dark colours used, creates a strong effect.
14. Light colour The colour of light. Sunlight is white, but the colour of the sunbeams changes according to the altitude of the sun.
15. Local colour The colour of objects or surfaces as you know them. Grass is green, snow is white a firetruck is red.
16. Luminescence (Brightness) The brightness of a colour is determined by the amount of light the colour reflects. ex.:Light Yellow reflects more light than dark yellow. In short the lighter the colour the more light it reflects
17. Material colour The colour of a material such as stone or metal (gold, copper) its natural colour
18. Natural colour The colour that an object has naturally ex. an chicken egg could be white or brown
19. Optical colour mixing In an optical mix, the colours are not blended out but set side-by-side in tiny points or dots. Because the dots are so small, together they seem like mixed colours. In the late 19th century, artists developed this technique because they thought it would make colours of their paintings more intense and lighter. The optical mix technique led to the creation of pointillism.
20. Pastel colour Pastel colour are unsaturated colours, a lot of white is added to them so them become very light.
21. Primary colours Pure (saturated) red, yellow and blue are the primary colours. All the other colours are mixed from these three primary colours. However, there are many different shades of red, yellow and blue, which are all primary colours.
22. Saturated colours These are pure colours with, they are not mixed with other colours and the colour is at its most colourfulness. ex.: If you would add any more red dye (pigment) to red colour it would not get any redder.
23. Schematic colour Schematic works of art usually apply colour coding: one colour for every type of object. ex.: The trunk of a tree is always brown, the sun is always yellow and water is always blue. You see them in a lot in drawings made by children.
24. Secondary colours Green, Orange and Purple are secondary colours. You get them by mixing two primary colours. ex.: Red + Yellow = Orange, Red + Blue = Purple, Yellow + Blue = Green
25. Symbolic colours Symbolic colours have a deep meaning. That meaning is not

universal, but varies by culture. Institutions and political parties like using symbolic colours in their logos (think of the Green party). ex.: Red: Love, passion, vitality, danger. Black: darkness, mourning, death, threat

26. Tertiary colours  
Wine red, khaki and army green are tertiary colours. You get them either by mixing three primary colours, or by taking a primary colour and adding a little black or grey to the mix. Tertiary colours are unsaturated (un-pure) colours.
27. Unsaturated colours  
Unsaturated colours are browns, dark green or dark blue etc. They are mixed with other colours and that makes them un-pure
28. Warm - Cold contrast  
Orange, reds and yellows are warm colours, blues, greens, black and white are cool colour. Used next to each other the warm colours seem to stand out more and seem to push the cool colour further to the background.
29. Warm colours  
Colours that usually make you think about warm things. Reds, Yellows, Oranges, and very bright green (but only if a lot of yellow is mixed in)