
Terminology

Additive system	A color mixing system in which combinations of different wavelengths of light create visual sensations of color
Afterimage	Occurs after staring at an area of intense color for a certain amount of time and then quickly glancing away toward a white surface, where the complementary color seems to appear
Analogous colors	A color scheme that combines several hues located next to each other on the color wheel
Chroma	See Intensity
Chromatic	Relating to the hue or saturation of color
Color discord	A perception of dissonance in a color relationship
Color harmony	Any one of a number of color relationships based on groupings within the color wheel. See also Analogous colors, Color triad and Complementary
Color symbolism	Employing color to signify human character traits or concepts
Color triad	Three colors equidistant on the color wheel
Color Wheel	An arrangement of colors based on the sequence of hues in the visible spectrum
Complementary	A color scheme incorporating opposite hues on the color wheel. Complementary colors accentuate each other in juxtaposition and neutralize each other in mixture
Cool color	A color closer to blue on the color wheel
Emotional color	A subjective approach to color use to elicit an emotional response in the viewer
Fauve	A French term meaning "wild beast" and descriptive of an artistic style characterized by the use of bright and intense expressionistic color schemes
Heightened Color	Intensifying and exaggerating the visual reference of color
Hue	A property of color defined by distinctions within the visual spectrum or color wheel. "Red," "blue," "yellow," and "green" are examples of hue names
Impressionism	An artistic style that sought to re-create the artists perception of the changing quality of light and color in nature
Intensity	The saturation of hue perceived in a color
Local color	The identifying color perceived in ordinary daylight
Opaque	A surface impenetrable by light
Optical mixture	Color mixture created by the eye as small bits of color are perceived to blend and form a mixture

Pointillism	A system of color mixing (used in painting and drawing) based on the juxtaposition of small bits of pure color. Also called divisionism (see Optical mixture)
Primary colors	The three colors from which all other colors theoretically can be mixed. The primaries of pigments are traditionally presented as red, yellow, and blue whereas the primaries of light are red, blue, and green
Saturation	See Intensity
Secondary color	A mixture of any two primary colors
Shade	A hue mixed with black
Simultaneous contrast	The effect created by two complementary colors seen in juxtaposition. Each color seems more intense in this context
Spectrum	The range of visible color created when white light is passed through a prism
Tertiary color	A mixture of a primary and an adjacent secondary color
Tint	A hue mixed with white
Triad	A color scheme involving three equally spaced colors on the color wheel
Warm color	A color closer to the yellow-to-red side of the color wheel