

Colour Theory—Tertiary Colours and other theory



Tertiary Colours

You create **Tertiary Colours** by mixing a primary colours and a secondary colour together, e.g.

Red + Orange = Red-Orange
 Red + Violet = Red-Violet
 Yellow + Green = Yellow-Green

Tertiary colours don't have real names, but are described by the Primary and Secondary colour that make them up (primary colour first).

Harmony

Colours close to each other on the Colour Wheel are said to be in **Harmony**. Colours in harmony tend to be **Relaxing** and **Easy on the Eye**. When selecting colours in harmony for answering questions, you can go two segments to either side of the colour you have to pick a harmony colour for, eg:

Harmony with Green—answer could be Blue, Blue-Green, Yellow or Yellow-Green.



Contrast

Colours on the **opposite** side of the colour wheel are classed as being **Contrasting Colours**. Using contrasting colours makes things more eye-catching and stand out. Again, contrasting colours can be selected from the colour wheel two segments either side of the colour you have to find a contrasting colour for, eg, a contrasting colour for Red, could be Yellow, Green or Blue, plus the tertiary colours in between.

Warm and Advancing Colours

Red, Yellow and Orange are classed as **Warm** colours. They give a feeling of warmth. They are also classed as **Advancing** colours, and in a graphic picture would be used for the main focus of the image, eg. A **red car**. They are called advancing as they appear to come closer to you.



Cool and Receding Colours

Blue, Green and Violet are classed as **Cool** and **Receding** colours. They give a feeling of coldness and appear to be further away—think how green fields and blue sky look far away. Receding colours are normally used for the background of a graphic image. That way the main focus of the image takes prominence, and the background does not distract.