# Irvine Royal Academy—Technical Department S3/S4 Graphic Communication 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).

### <u>Harmony</u>

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.





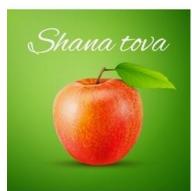
#### <u>Contrast</u>

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.