

Space

by Sophia



WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the space element and see a few examples of it in practice. Specifically, this lesson will look at:

1. Defining Space

Space surrounds form and any other positive elements. Therefore, space is typically understood by negative spaces.

Take a look at the shape below, which is a silhouette of a statue.



Black and white denote the negative and positive space. All the black surrounding the white is a negative space, while the white silhouette is a positive element or form.

Space isn't just necessarily an empty or secondary area; it's just in the background and can be considered a format by which we frame a design.



TERM TO KNOW

Space

The surrounding of form and any other positive elements.

2. Framing

Space can be used in **framing**, which are the edges of a visual design work. This variable lays the foundation of the designer's composition.

Framing changes the space, which directly affects the design as a whole, sometimes quite drastically. Thus, space and spatial relationships are very important in design.



TERM TO KNOW

Framing

Edges of a visual design work; invariably lays the foundation of the designer's composition.

3. Figure/Ground

The **figure/ground** consists of two layers: form in the foreground, and space in the background. This allows the viewer to perceive depth.

Space is considered the ground in this relationship, so the figure is either the form or the positive element in the design.

As you can see in the example of full value below, there's a very clear separation between the figure and the ground elements.



In this case, there's no question which area is the positive space and which is the negative space.



TERM TO KNOW

Figure/Ground

Consists of two layers: form in the foreground, and space in the background; allows the viewer to see perceived depth.



SUMMARY

This lesson focused on **defining space** as the surrounding of form and other positive elements, and the format by which we create a design. You also learned that **framing** constitutes the edges surrounding a piece, and **figure/ground** consists of two layers: the foreground and the background.

Keep up the learning and have a great day!



TERMS TO KNOW

Figure/Ground

Consists of two layers: form in the foreground, and space in the background; allows the viewer to see perceived depth.

Framing

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Space

The surrounding of form and any other positive elements.