

# Tints, Tones, and Shades

by Sophia



## WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about tints, tones, and shades, and their role in visual communications. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

## 1. Tint

In the subtractive color system, a **tint** is a hue plus white, which lightens the value of a color.

Below is an example of tint.



You have two hues, with the base colors up top, which get lighter as you add more and more white.



### TERM TO KNOW

#### Tint

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus white, which lightens the value of a color.

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## 2. Tone

In the subtractive color system, a **tone** is a hue plus gray, which mutes the color.

Below is an image example of tone.



As you add gray, it starts to mute the colors. The colors begin to lose their vibrancy as they progress toward that gray.



#### TERM TO KNOW

##### **Tone**

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus gray, which mutes the color.

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## 3. Shade

In the subtractive color system, a **shade** is a hue plus black, which darkens the value of a color.

Below is an image example of a shade.



In this image, as you add black to the base colors, they get darker.



#### TERM TO KNOW

##### **Shade**

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus black, which darkens the value of a color.

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## 4. Other Color Schemes

The other important color schemes are **monochromatic** and **achromatic**, the latter of which includes a grayscale.

Monochromatic is a color scheme based on just one hue plus its tints and shades.

When there's no discernible hue, this is called **achromatic**. At this point, the color is really just going through a scale of white to black, like a **grayscale**. A grayscale is a multi-step arrangement of swatches of achromatic grays. Each step in a grayscale represents an even progression in value from black to white.

It's worth noting that both of these color schemes can be used across professions like photography and video games as well.



#### TERMS TO KNOW

##### **Monochromatic**

A color scheme based on just one hue plus its tints and shades.

##### **Achromatic**

Having no discernible hue.

##### **Grayscale**

A multi-step arrangement of swatches of achromatic grays; each step in a grayscale represents an even progression in value from white to black.



#### SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned the difference between adding white, gray, and black to indicate **tint**, **tone**, and **shade**. You also learned about two **other color schemes**: monochromatic and achromatic.

Keep up the learning and have a great day!

Source: SOURCE: THIS WORK IS ADAPTED FROM SOPHIA AUTHOR MARIO E. HERNANDEZ



#### TERMS TO KNOW

##### **Achromatic**

Having no discernible hue.

##### **Grayscale**

A multi-step arrangement of swatches of achromatic grays; each step in a grayscale represents an even progression in value from white to black.

##### **Monochromatic**

A color scheme based on just one hue plus its tints and shades.

##### **Shade**

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus black, which darkens the value of a color.

##### **Tint**

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus white, which lightens the value of a color.

##### **Tone**

In the subtractive color system, a hue plus gray, which mutes the color.

