Art for Beginners

An Introduction to
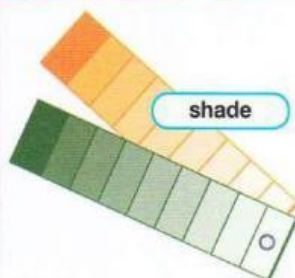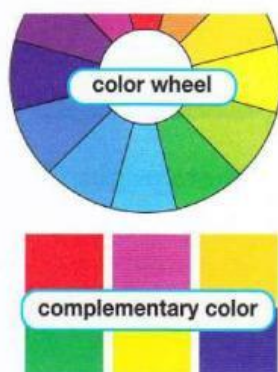
Color

Section II:

The three **primary colors** are red, yellow, and blue. You can combine these colors to create **secondary colors**. Adjust the amounts of each **pigment** to create more **hues** in between. Each hue appears in a variety of **shades**.

A **color wheel** shows the full **spectrum** of colors. It helps you determine how different colors interact. It shows simple combinations of **complementary colors** for beginner artists.

Once you understand colors, you are ready to use them. Ask yourself what level of **intensity** you need. Do you want a soft, **dull** yellow? Or would you prefer a bright, **vibrant** red? The possibilities are truly endless.

color wheel

complementary color

shade

spectrum

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What are the primary colors?

2 What is a complementary color for red?

Reading

2 Read the textbook chapter. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ Blue is one of the primary colors.

2 __ Combining two shades creates a pigment.

3 __ Complementary colors are shown on the color wheel.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words or phrases (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

1 __ dull   4 __ intensity

2 __ vibrant   5 __ color wheel

3 __ complementary color

A a circular chart that shows different colors

B how strong something is

C strong or bright

D a hue that does not contain the same primary colors as another hue

E not strong or bright

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word or phrase best fits each blank.

1 primary colors / secondary colors

A Red and yellow are _____ .

B Green and orange are _____ .

2 shade / hue

A The painter mixed two different colors to create a new _____ .

B Add more black to make a darker _____ .

3 pigment / spectrum

A The art student bought a chart that showed the whole _____ of colors.

B The artist ran out of the red _____ so she used violet instead.

5 🎧 **Listen and read the textbook chapter again. Why is a color wheel useful?**

Listening

6 🎧 **Listen to a conversation between two designers. Choose the correct answers.**

1   What is the main idea of the conversation?
   A   mixing pigments to create a new shade
   B   deciding on the color scheme for a project
   C   comparing the qualities of different hues
   D   disagreeing about the intensity of a color

2   What color is the book cover?
   A   green   C   purple
   B   yellow   D   blue

7 🎧 **Listen again and complete the conversation.**

Designer 1:	I'm not happy with the colors on this new book cover.
Designer 2:	Here, let me take a look. **1** _____ _____ , something's off.
Designer 1:	Do you think I should use green **2** _____ _____ _____ ?
Designer 2:	No, I think the color is fine. But the **3** _____ might just be too dull.
Designer 1:	Hmm. I see what you mean. So you think it should be **4** _____ _____ ?
Designer 2:	It's worth a try. And maybe add a **5** _____ _____ to make it more interesting.
Designer 1:	Oh, that's a good idea. What should I use?
Designer 2:	How about a **6** _____ _____ of purple? That's a complementary color for yellow.

Speaking

8 **With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.**

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I'm not happy with ...
I think the ... is fine.
So you think I should ...?

Student A: You are a designer. Talk to Student B about:
*   colors in your project
*   what doesn't look right
*   his or her suggestions

Student B: You are a designer. Talk to Student A about colors in his or her project.

Writing

9 **Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the project update sheet.**

Project Updates

Use this form to record changes to your project.

Job: _____

Color changes: _____

Why changes were made: _____

_____

_____

_____