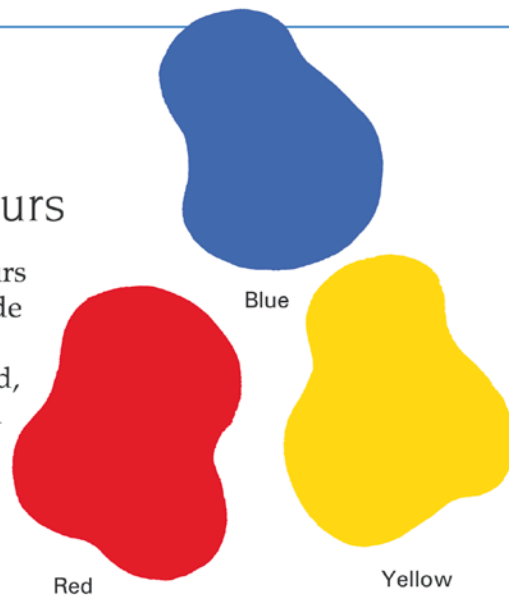


# About colours

Which colours go well together? Why do some colours appear to jump out of a painting and some seem to blend in with the colours around them. These pages show how different combinations of colours alter the way a painting looks.

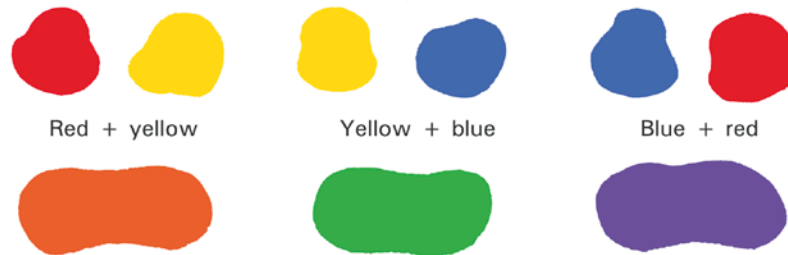
## Primary colours

There are three colours which cannot be made by mixing other colours. These are red, yellow and blue, and they are known as primary colours.



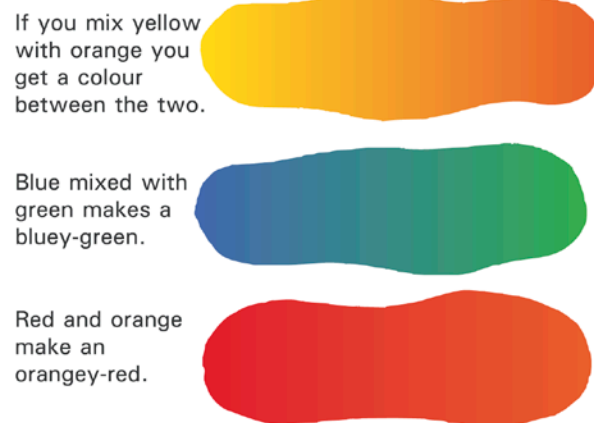
## Secondary colours

If you mix each of the primary colours with another one, you get orange, green and purple. These are known as secondary colours.



## More colours

You can get more colours by mixing a primary with a secondary colour. These mixes are shown on the outside ring of the colour circle.

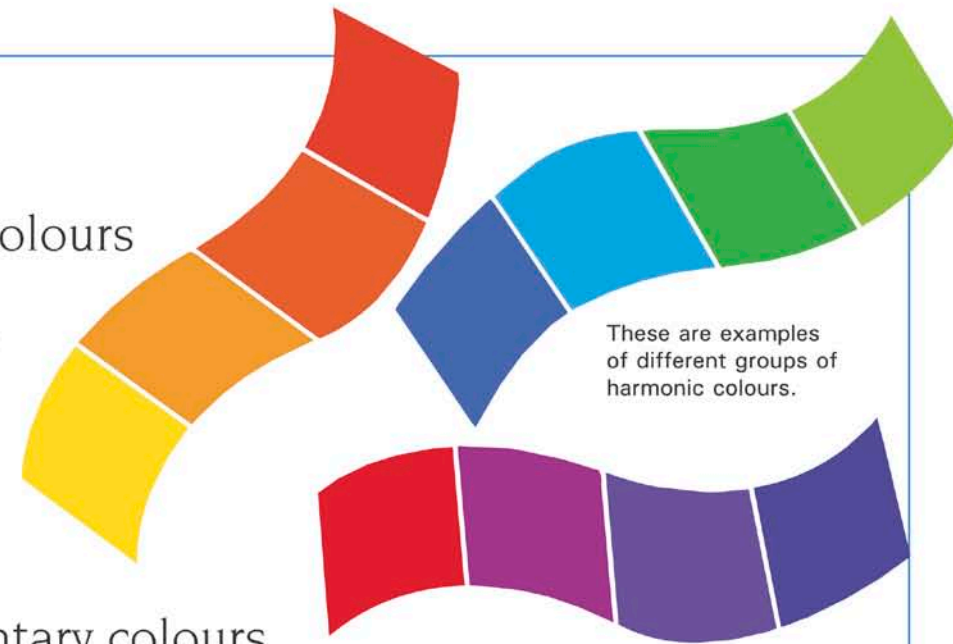


The secondary colours are in the middle ring of the colour circle.

The primary colours are in the centre of the colour circle.

## Harmonic colours

Harmonic colours are those which lie near each other on the outside ring of the colour circle, such as blue, light blue, green and light green.

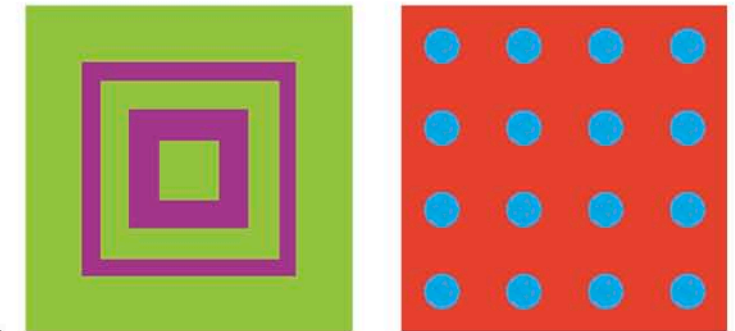


These are examples of different groups of harmonic colours.

## Complementary colours

The colours which lie diagonally opposite each other in the colour circle are called complementary colours. They have most contrast when they are painted next to each other.

When you paint complementary colours next to each other they 'buzz' and make your eyes bounce.



## Warm and cool colours

Some colours give the feeling of warmth or coldness and are actually known as warm or cool colours. Warm colours look brighter and stand out more in a picture than cool colours.



The cool colours used in this picture give it a cold, icy feeling.

