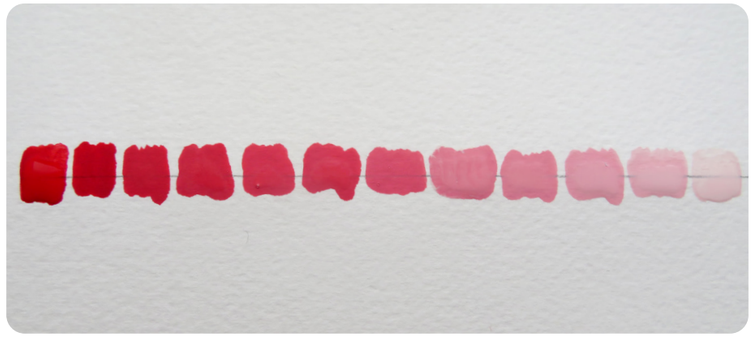
Colour in Landscapes

Tints

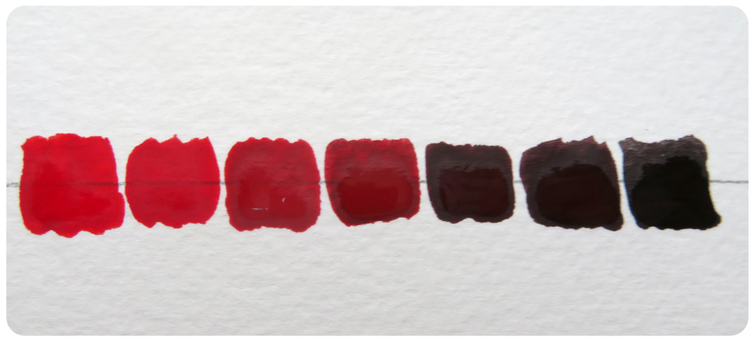
A tint is a colour mixed with white. The more white paint that is added to the original colour, the lighter the tint. A tint can range from slightly lighter than the original colour to almost white. When mixing a tint, begin with the pure colour and add white paint a tiny bit at a time.



tints of red

Shades

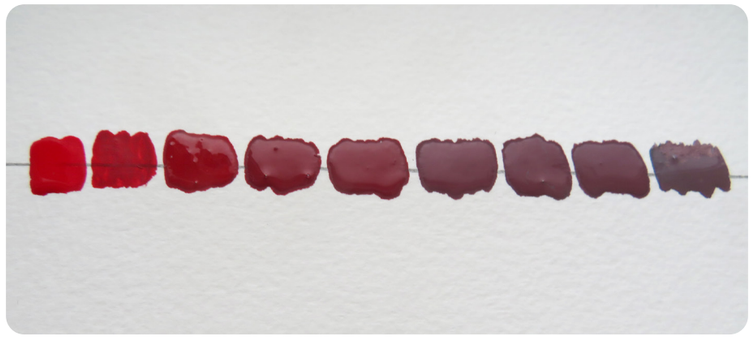
A shade is a colour mixed with black. The more black paint that is added to the original colour, the darker the shade. A shade can range from slightly darker than the original colour to nearly black. When mixing a shade, begin with the pure colour and add black paint a tiny bit at a time.



shades of red

Tones

A tone is a colour mixed with grey. Tones are less vibrant than the original colour. Using a tonal colour in a painting balances other intense colours and bright hues. When mixing a tone, begin with the pure colour and add grey paint a tiny bit at a time.



tones of red

Tints in landscapes

In this painting by Pierre Auguste Renoir, a bright, soft colour palette is used with lots of tints to emphasise the effect of light.

The Piazza San Marco by Pierre Auguste Renoir, 1881

Shades in landscapes

In this painting by Peter Graham, shades of green and orange are used to give the impression of wandering shadows.

Wandering Shadows
by Peter Graham, 1878

Tones in landscapes

In this painting by Robert Spencer, tones of blue, brown and orange are used to reflect the gritty reality of an industrial mill town.

The Evangelist by Robert Spencer, 1919

Glossary

colour palette	The range of colours used in an artwork.
landscape	The human and physical features that you can see when you look across an area of land.

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