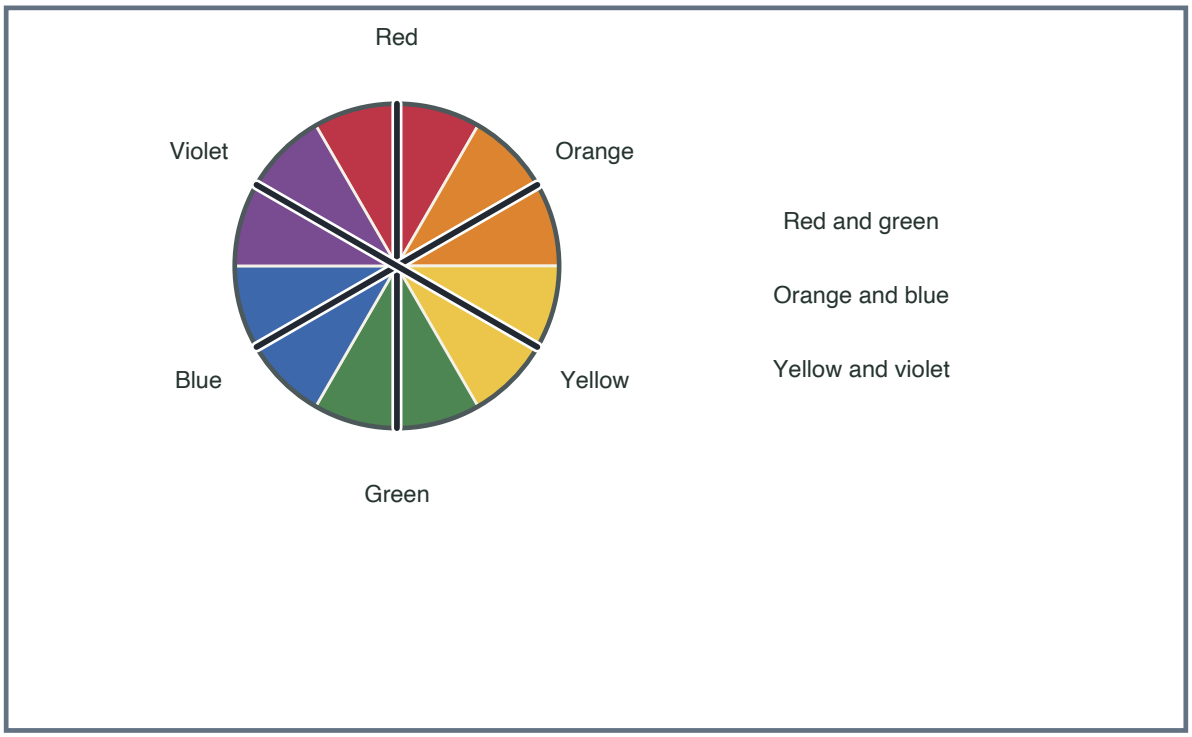
Draw with Complementary Colors

Original prompt

Task 1: Opposite-hue matching. On a simple color wheel you draw yourself, mark three pairs of opposite hues and write the pair names beside them.



Answer

A correct response marks three diameters across the wheel, for example red–green, blue–orange, and yellow–violet, and labels each pair. The pairs must be directly opposite on the wheel the learner drew.

Reasoning

The task checks that the learner can locate the opposite relationship on a wheel rather than memorize a list.

Check

Each marked pair should lie on a single straight line through the center of the wheel, and the two labels should name hues that look as different as possible.

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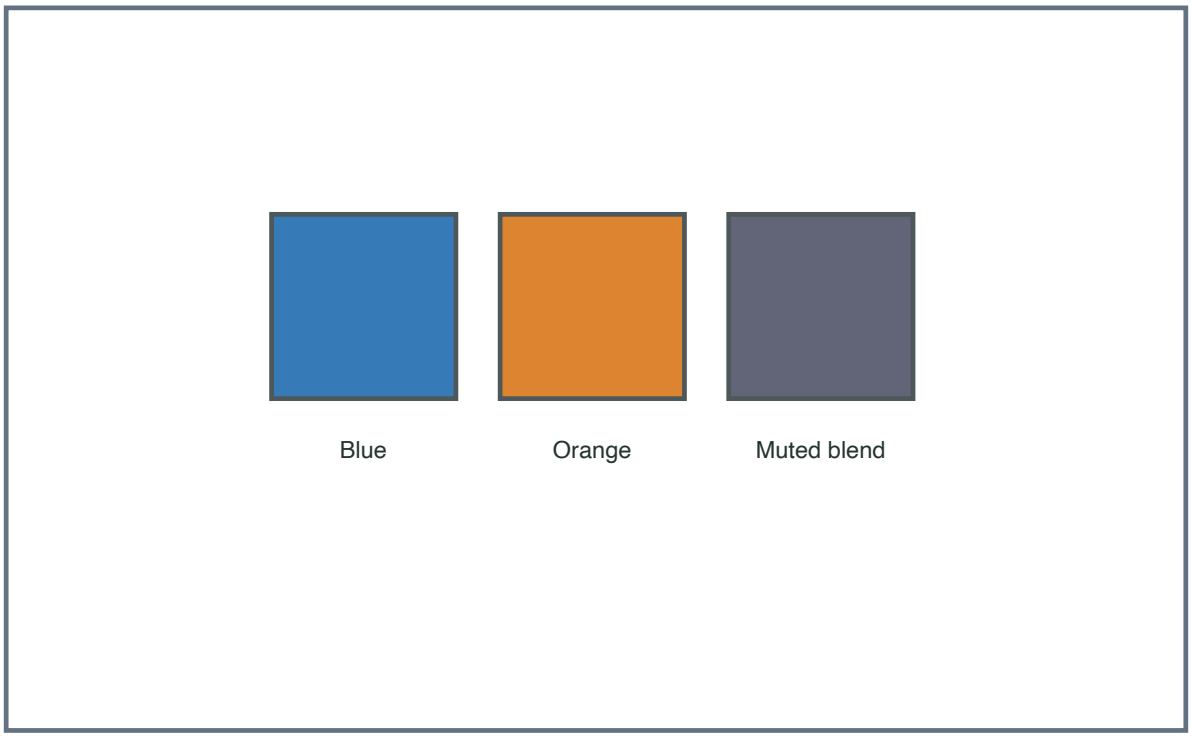
Answer | Task 2 of 4 | A4

Original prompt

Task 2: Build a three-patch plate for one pair. Draw two adjacent patches of the two hues and a third patch where they are blended or layered, then label the pair.



Answer

The sample plate starts with a clear blue patch, then a clear orange patch, then a duller blue-grey patch. Label the first two by name and the third as the muted blend. Your actual mixture can vary with the materials.

Reasoning

The blended patch demonstrates neutralization, which is the practical use of complements in shading.

Check

Compare all three patches at once. The blend should look less vivid than the two clean patches. If it resembles one of the clean hues, build up the second hue in small amounts.

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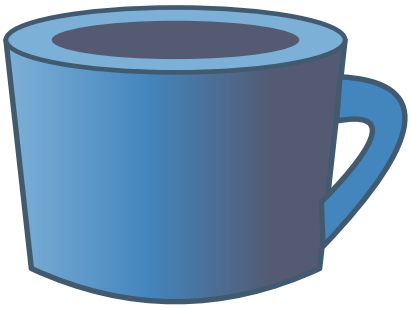
Task 3: Reference-guided redrawing. Using your plate from Task 2, redraw a simple object (for example a leaf or a cup) in one hue of the pair, then shade the shadow side with the complement.



Blue cup with muted blue-grey shadow

Answer

The model redrawing is a blue cup. Keep its lit front and rim clearly blue. Add a subdued, darker blue-grey to the right shadow side. Compare it with the blue-orange blend on the sample plate.

Reasoning

This transfers the plate into an actual drawing and tests whether the complement is used in the right place and amount.

Check

The shadow should still read as the local hue, only duller and darker; the lit side should remain clean and unmixed.

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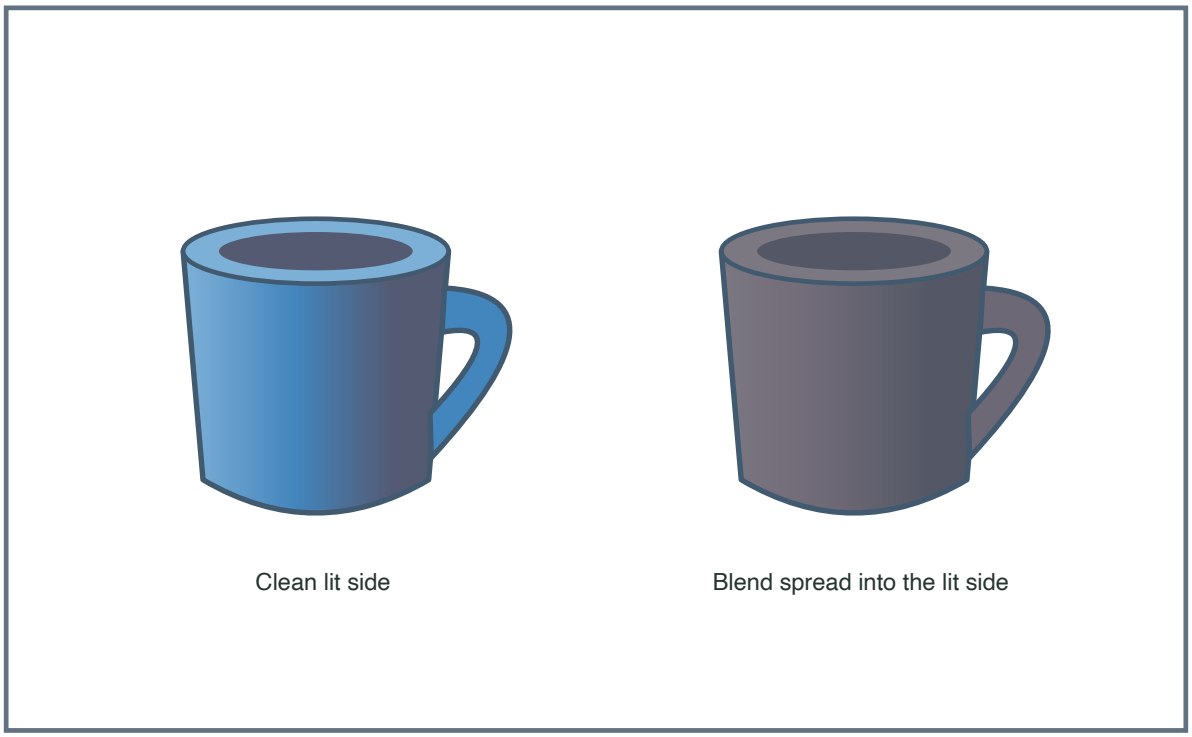
Task 4: Visual QA. Compare two of your own drawings that use complementary shading and write two short observations about which one reads more clearly and why.



Answer

First, the left cup has a clear blue rim and lit side, with the muted color restricted to its shadow. Second, the right cup's rim and lit side are greyer because the blend reaches into them. The left cup reads more clearly because the difference between its lit and shaded sides remains visible.

Reasoning

The task builds the habit of checking a drawing against the complementary-color principle rather than only producing marks.

Check

Each observation should point to a visible area of the drawing and connect it to either contrast or neutralization.