



Monochrome

This is the simplest of the schemes as it works with just one colour. Once you have chosen a single colour, differentiate between your categories by selecting a lighter or darker shade. The benefit of using a monochromatic scheme is that there is little limit to the number of shades you can use.

When to use it

Great if you want to ensure that the colour-impaired will see it.



Analogous

Choose one colour and select two colours that fall on either side of it. An analogous colour scheme can be difficult for some people to see, as there is no great discrepancy between the colours.

When to use it

Excellent for heat maps, as well as for illustrating gradual differences between data.



Complementary

Choose two colours that are diametrically opposite to each other on the wheel – maybe yellow and purple, or green and red, or blue and orange.

When to use it

Contrasting colours like this provide striking ways to depict comparisons between two values, and are commonly used when highlighting distinct categories.