All the colours of the rainbow

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each precise colour term with its meaning.

1 hue	____	a unwanted overall colour affecting an image
2 shade	____	b designed so meaning is not dependent on colour perception
3 tint	____	c basic colour family, such as red or green
4 saturation	____	d resistant to fading or running when washed
5 colour cast	____	e version of a colour made lighter
6 colour-coded	____	f darkness or particular variation of a colour
7 colour-fast	____	g organised by colours representing categories
8 colour-blind friendly	____	h intensity or purity of a colour

2 Complete the precise colour collocations.

blind | cast | coded | fast | hue | saturation | shade | tint

1 select a warmer _____

2 choose a darker _____

3 add a pale _____

4 reduce colour _____

5 correct a yellow colour _____

6 use a colour-_____ system

7 buy colour-_____ fabric

8 design a colour-_____ friendly chart

3 Choose the most precise term.

1 Red and green are different *hues / saturations*.

2 Adding darkness creates a *shade / tint*.

3 A lighter version is a *tint / colour cast*.

4 A strong pure colour has high *saturation / colour-fastness*.

5 An unwanted blue effect is a *colour cast / hue label*.

6 Categories marked by colours are *colour-coded / colour-fast*.

7 Fabric that keeps its colour is *colour-fast / colour-blind*.

8 An accessible chart is *colour-blind friendly / highly saturated only*.

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4 Complete the accessibility review with terms from the box.

colour-blind friendly | **colour cast** | **colour-coded** | **colour-fast** | **hue** | **saturation** | **shade** | **tint**

The map used a **1** _____ system, but several categories differed only by **2** _____. That made them hard to distinguish for some users. Designers added patterns and labels to create a more **3** _____ version. They reduced the **4** _____ of background areas and selected a darker **5** _____ for text. A pale **6** _____ marked secondary zones. Printed proofs revealed a yellow **7** _____. Finally, tests confirmed that the chosen inks were **8** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Colour plus another signal

A dashboard may look clear to its designer yet become ambiguous when viewed on a different screen, printed in grey or seen by someone with a colour-vision difference. Robust design never asks colour to carry meaning alone. Labels, patterns, position and shape provide redundant cues. Designers should test realistic conditions rather than assume that a vivid palette guarantees clarity. Accessibility usually improves communication for everyone, not only for a named group.

1 When may a dashboard become ambiguous? _____

2 Should colour carry meaning alone? _____

3 Name three redundant cues. _____

4 What should designers test? _____

5 Does a vivid palette guarantee clarity? _____

6 Who benefits from accessible design? _____

6 Rewrite using the analytical term in capitals.

1 The photograph has an unwanted blue appearance. **CAST** _

2 The categories are organised by colour. **CODED** _____

3 The cloth keeps its colour after washing. **FAST** _____

4 The chart works for different colour perception. **FRIENDLY** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** accessibility review of a map, chart, sign system or interface that uses colour.

[ ] Use at least eight analytical terms. [ ] Examine redundant cues and contrast. [ ] Recommend realistic testing.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Precise colour terms

1 **c** 2 **f** 3 **e** 4 **h** 5 **a** 6 **g** 7 **d** 8 **b**

2 Colour collocations

1 **hue** 2 **shade** 3 **tint** 4 **saturation** 5 **cast** 6 **coded** 7 **fast** 8 **blind**

3 Precise terms

1 **hues** 2 **shade** 3 **tint** 4 **saturation**
5 **colour cast** 6 **colour-coded** 7 **colour-fast** 8 **colour-blind friendly**

4 Accessibility review

1 **colour-coded** 2 **hue** 3 **colour-blind friendly** 4 **saturation** 5 **shade** 6 **tint** 7 **colour cast** 8 **colour-fast**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 On other screens, in grey or with colour-vision differences. 2 No. 3 Labels, patterns, position, shape.
4 Realistic conditions. 5 No. 6 Everyone.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The photograph has a blue colour **cast**. 2 The categories are colour-**coded**.
3 The cloth is colour-**fast**. 4 The chart is colour-blind **friendly**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check terminology, accessibility and testing recommendations.