Hues

Tints

Tones

Shades

Tints, Tones & Shades

Until now we've only looked at pure colours, also known as hues.

Adding white, grey or black to the hues (colours) on the colour wheel will alter the lightness or darkness of the hue creating tints, tones and shades of the hues.

Add white to create tints, add grey to create tones and add black to create shades.

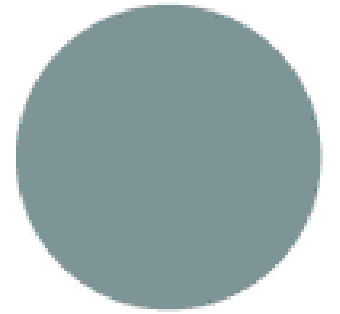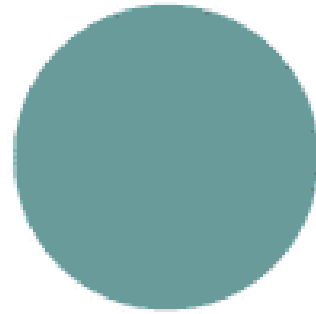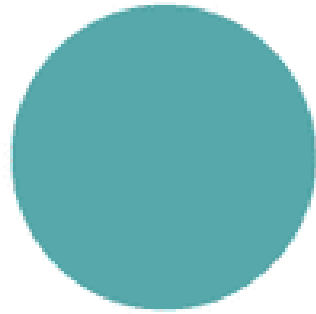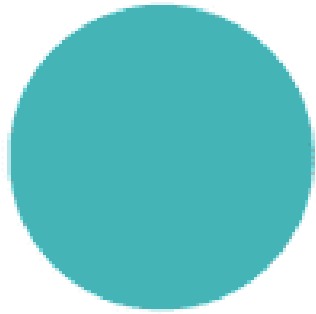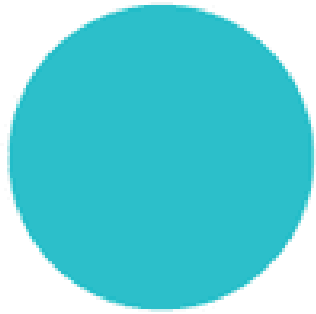The amount of white, grey or black added will determine the final lightness or darkness of the colour created.

SHADES
base color + black
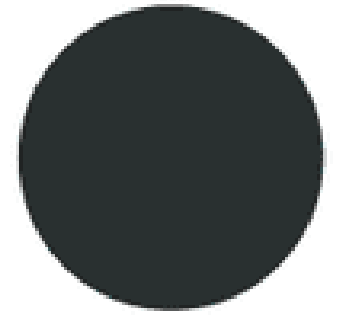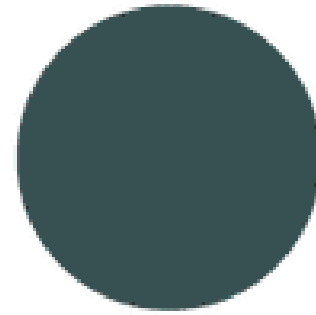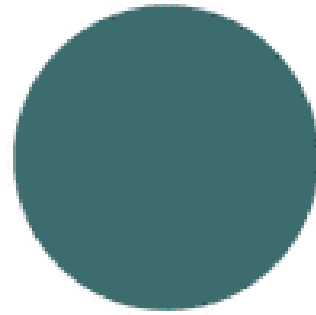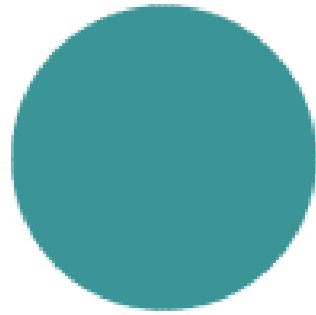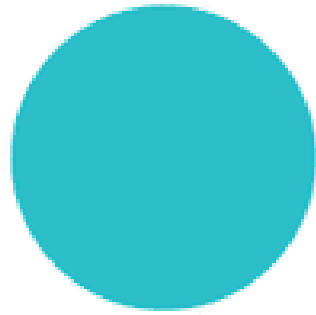
TONES
base color + gray
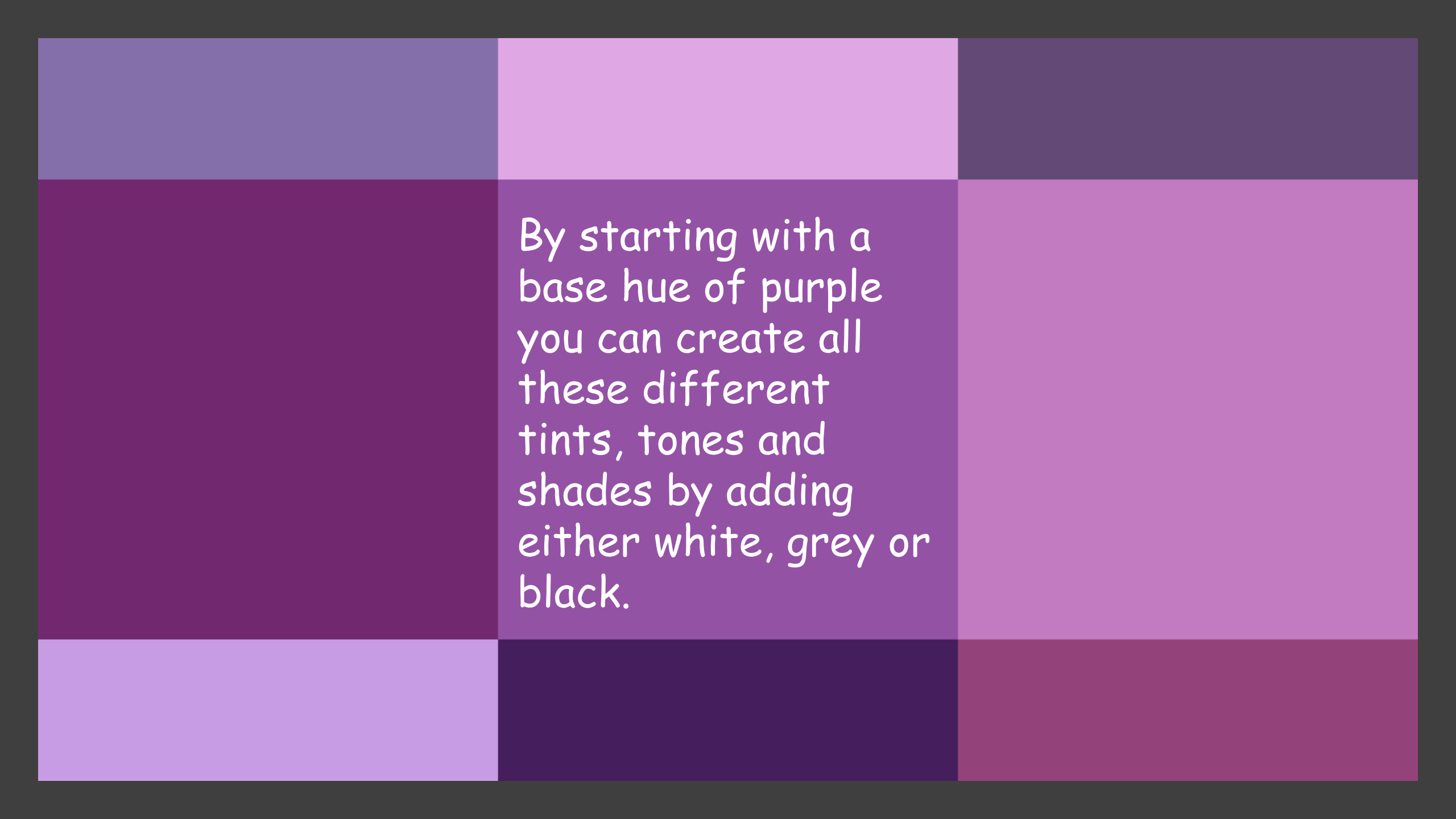
TINTS
base color + white
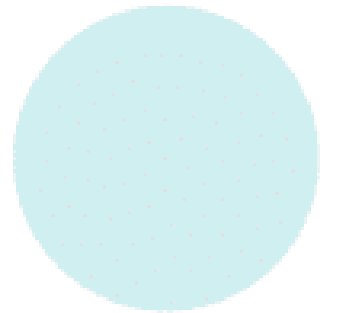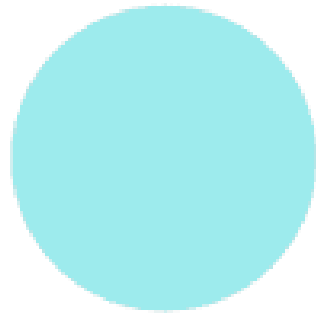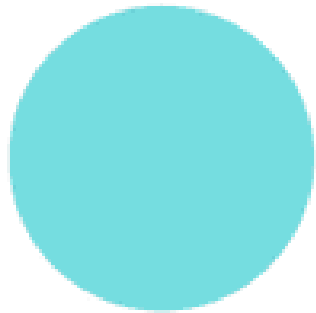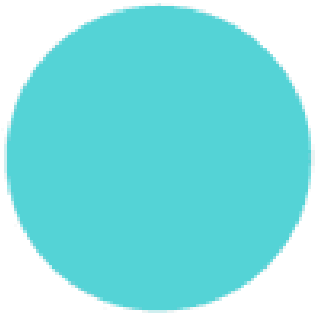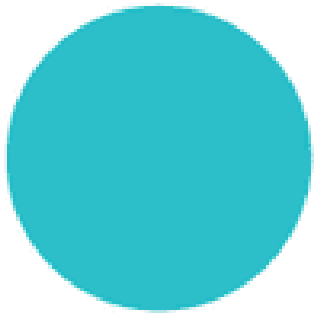
This is why life gets so complicated when you try to choose a colour to paint your bedroom. By adding different amounts of white, grey and **black** to a colour we can create endless colours to choose from.

By starting with a base hue of purple you can create all these different tints, tones and shades by adding either white, grey or black.

Here are two examples of artwork where only the base colour, white, grey and black have been used.
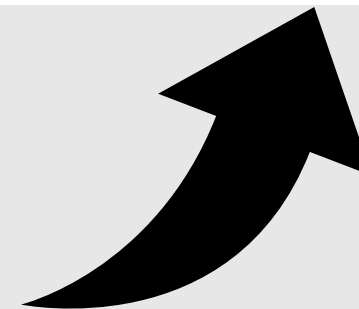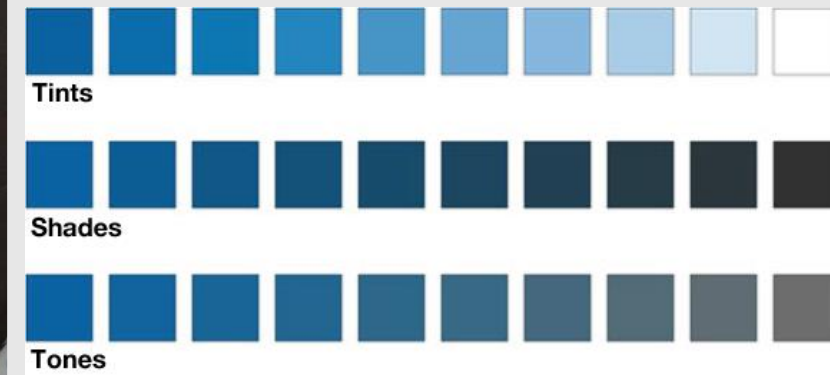
RED:
BLUE:
YELLOW:

← TINT   HÛE   SHADE →   TONE

Tints

Shades

Tones

Now it's your turn.
Choose a base hue (colour) and create your own tint scale by adding a little bit of white, then a bit more, then a bit more…you get the idea. Try to create at least five different tints using only your colour and white.

Next try to use the same technique to create a tone scale and again to create a shade scale. (Still using your original colour) See how many different colours you can create.

Water colours or acrylic paints will work well…you decide. Have fun!