

ART 2030 - Terminology

Most of these terms are associated with Photoshop. However, several of the terms are related to the computer and computer graphics in general. You should familiarize yourself with these terms and be prepared to demonstrate a knowledge of their meaning and application on a written exam.

Background color - The color applied when Photoshop's Eraser tool is used, the canvas size is enlarged, or a selection is moved on the Background of an image.

Bitmap - In Photoshop, Bitmap is also a one-channel mode consisting of only black and white pixels.

Burn - To darken an area of an image.

CMYK - (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black) The four ink colors used in process printing.

Color separation - The production of a separate printing plate for each ink color that will be used to print an image. Four plates are used in process color separation, one each for Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black.

Continuous-tone image - An image, such as a photograph, in which there are gradual transitions between shades or colors.

Crop - To trim away part of an image.

Dodge - To bleach (lighten) an area of an image.

DPI - (dots per inch) a unit that is used to measure the resolution of a printer or imagesetter.

EPS - (Encapsulated PostScript) An image file format that contains PostScript code and, in the case of Photoshop, an optional PICT or TIFF image for screen display. EPS is a commonly used format for moving files from one application to another and also for color separation.

Foreground color - The color that is applied when a painting tool is used, type is created, or the stroke command is applied.

Gradient fill - In Photoshop, a graduated blend between the Foreground and Background colors that is produced using the Gradient tool.

Grayscale - An image that contains black, white, and up to 256 shades of gray, but no color.

Hue - The wavelength of light of a pure color that gives a color its name — such as red or blue — independent of its saturation or brightness.

JPEG compression - (Joint Photographic Experts Group) A compression method in Photoshop that shrinks a file's storage size, but which can also cause image degradation as a result of data loss. Commonly used file format for photographic images displayed on the web or internet.

Mode - A method for specifying how color information is to be interpreted. An image can be converted to a different image mode (RGB to CMYK, for example). A blending mode can be chosen for a tool or a layer to control how it affects underlying pixels.

Opacity - The density of a color or shade, ranging from transparent to opaque. In Photoshop, you can choose an opacity for a tool or a layer.

Path - A shape that is comprised of straight and/or curved segments that are joined by anchor points.

Pixels - (image elements) The individual dots that are used to display an image on a computer monitor.

PPI - (pixels per inch) The unit that is used to measure the resolution of a bitmapped image.

Process color - Inks that are used to print an image from four separate plates, one each for Cyan (C), Magenta (M), Yellow (Y), and Black (K). In combination, they produce an illusion of an even wider range of colors.

Resolution - The fineness of detail of a digital image (measured in pixels per inch), a monitor (measured in pixels per inch – usually 72 ppi), a printer (measured in dots per inch), or a halftone screen (measured in lines per inch).

RGB - Red, Green, and Blue transmitted light are used to project color on a computer monitor.

Saturation - The purity of a color, independent of its hue and brightness. The more gray a color contains, the lower is its saturation.

Scan - To digitize a slide, a photograph, or other artwork on a scanner using scanning software so that it can be displayed and edited on a computer.

Selection - An area of an image that is isolated so it can be modified while the rest of the image is protected.

Spot color - A custom mixed ink color used in printing. A separate plate is used to print each spot color. Pantone is a commonly used spot color matching system.

TIFF - (Tagged Image File Format) A common file format that is used for saving a bitmapped image, such as a scan. A TIFF image can be color separated and can contain color management profiles.

Tolerance - The range of pixels within which a tool operates, such as the range of shades or colors the Magic Wand tool selects or the Paint Bucket tool fills.

Vector - (Object-Oriented) Vector files are a collection of geometric shapes – lines, vectors, and color information, or fills. Graphics created using most drawing software packages are vector, or object-oriented, files.