

Visual thinking | Contrasts

Point

Small | Large
Solid | Outlined, empty
Negative | Positive
Precise | Diffuse, vague, blurred
Virtual | Actual
2-dimensional | 3-dimensional
Wide | Narrow
Minute | Vast
Angular | Circular
Connected | Separated
Moving | Still
Concave | Convex
Raised | Recessed
Light | Heavy
Simple | Complex, compound
Mechanical | Natural, organic

Line

Straight | Curved
Regular, even | Fluctuating, jerky
Precise, sharp | Diffuse, blurred
Continuous | Broken
Virtual, imaginary | Actual, real
Direct, controlled | Meandering, random, accidental
Narrow | Wide
1-directional | Winding, vermicular
Long | Short
Ruled | Freehand
Mechanical | Natural, organic
Raised | Recessed, incised
Thick | Thin
Connected | Disconnected, separated
Paralleling | Oblique, perpendicular
Even | Tapering
Smooth | Rough
Positive | Negative

Plane

Rectilinear | Curvilinear
Straight | Curved
Convex | Concave
Flat | Warped, curved, bent
Solid | Empty, outlined, perforated
Edge | Surface
Surface | Front, back, inside, outside, between, around
Opaque | Transparent, translucent
Large, thick, wide | Small, thin, narrow
Textured | Smooth
Paralleling | Oblique, perpendicular
Adjacent | Interpenetrating
Flat | Raised, recessed
Moving | Still
Clear, sharp | Cloudy, diffuse

Volume

Solid, closed, full | Open, empty
Angular | Linear, curved
Opaque | Transparent
Still | Moving in whole or part
Mass | Void
Positive | Negative
Defined by contour | Defined by axis lines
Enclosed | Open

Size

Long, tall | Short
High | Low
Thick | Thin, shallow
Wide | Narrow
Large | Small
Vast, enormous | Minute, microscopic
Expanding | Contracting
Enlargin | Diminishing
Changing | Unchanging
In human scale | Beyond human scale
Similar | Different, varied
Regular, even | Irregular, uneven
Reduced | Blown-up, enlarged

Normal | Exaggerated
Uniform | Gradated

Shape

Straight | Curved
Angular | Circular
Straight or curved | Straight and curved
Simple | Complex
Symmetrical | Asymmetrical
Geometric | Biomorphhic
Crystalline | Cellular
Formed from within | Formed from without
Whole, total | Subtracted from, added to
Closed | Open
Positive | Negative
Actual | Virtual
Single | Combined

Number

Single | Double, triple, repeated
Part, unit | Whole, total
Few | Many, myriad
One | Group, mass, cluster
Simple | Compound
Equal | Unequal
Odd | Even
Primary | Secondary
Fraction | Whole, multiple

Density

Close | Spread out
Thick, solid | Thin
Compact | Loose
Massed | Separated
Concentrated | Diluted
Cluttered | Spacious
Localized | Scattered
Clustered | Isolated, dispersed
Compressed | Expanded
Uniform | Gradated

Interval (space)

Small | Large
Short | Long
Close | Distant
Equispaced | Graded
Regular, ordered | Irregular
Progressive | Random
Connected | Disconnected
Near, adjacent | Far away, far apart

Interval (time)

Frequent, periodic | Infrequent, seldom
Regular | Irregular

Position

Vertical | Horizontal
Perpendicular | Parallel, at an angle
Left, left side | Right, right side
Front, in front of | Back, behind
Center | Periphery, edge, circumference
Inside, within | Outside, without
On, over, above | Below, under, between, around, among
Near, close, nearby, adjacent | Far, distant
Raised, protruding | Recessed, incised
Isolated | Entangled, intermeshing, interweaving
Still, stationary | Moving, changing
Hanging, suspended | Supported
Joined, linked, attached | Detached, held by intermediary
Remote | Connections
Symmetrical | Asymmetrical
Aligned | Displaced, nonaligned
Center | Ends, extremities, corners

Movement and space (size)

Large | Small
Sweeping | Tight, rigid, cramped
Long, stretched | Short, compressed
Hovering | Extended
Straight | Curved, rotating, encircling
Direct | Winding, undulating, rolling, twisting

Zigzagging | Spiraling, circling, serpentine
Restricted | Meandering, random, uncertain
Simple | Complicated, compound

Movement and space (direction)

Upward | Downward
Rising, lifting, floating | Lowering, dropping
Horizontal | Vertical
Parallel | At an angle
Forward | Backward, sideways, reversed, swaying
Right | Left
North | South
East | West
Toward a center, inward | Away from center, outward
Concentric | Radiating
Centripetal | Centrifugal
Contracting, compressing | Expanding, stretching
One-directional | Multidirectional
Around, rotating | Up, down, through
Expelling, repelling | Absorbing, attracting
Opening | Closing
Converging | Diverging, shifting, veering
Bouncing | Thrusting, sliding
Clockwise | Counterclockwise
Advancing | Receding
Revolving, rotating | Pendular, rocking
Falling, plunging | Rising, sliding
Vertical, horizontal | Lateral, oblique

Movement and time (rate)

Slow, ponderous | Fast, swift, racing
Speeding | Crawling
Smooth, flowing | Jerky, leaping
Regular | Irregular, fluctuating
Even | Uneven, syncopated
Rhythmic | Random, accidental, unexpected
Active | Inactive
Starting | Stopping, continuing
Pulsing, stirring | Vibrating, shaking, jiggling
Changing | Unchanging, repeating
Controlled, ordered | Uncontrolled, chaotic

Continuous | Discontinuous
Energetic, intense | Languorous
Uniform | Increasing, decreasing, changing
Visible | Too fast to see, too slow to see
Within a short time, briefly | Over a long time, extended
Continuous | Discontinuous, interrupted, arrested
Lasting, enduring | Immediate, instantaneous, temporary
Perpetual, incessant | Fleeting, brief
Prolonged, drawn out, delayed | Stopped short, sudden
Continuing to completion | Incomplete, fugitive
Accelerated | Decelerated, reduced, ceased
Constant, during a phase | Changing, erratic
Often, many | Seldom, few
Regular | Irregular
In a ration | Random