



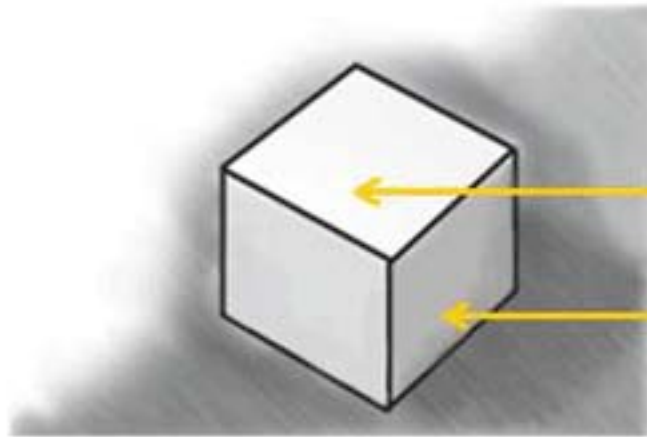
## LIGHT

(noun) [lahyt] | [līt]



## WHAT IS LIGHT?

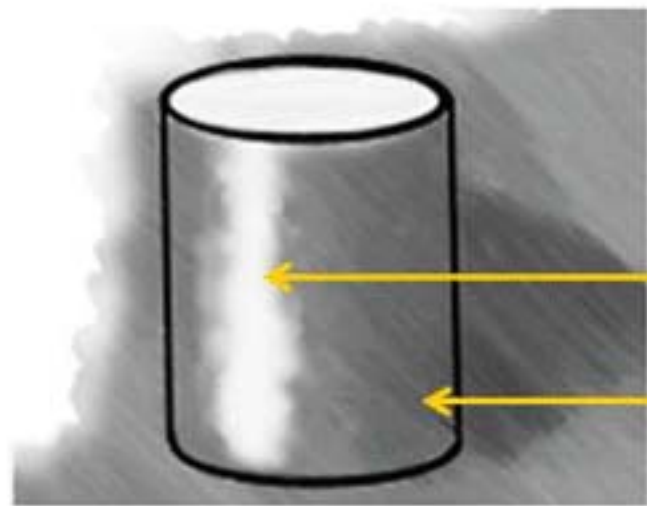
- Light is the energy that illuminates our world and enables us to see three-dimensional forms in space. We do not actually see light, but rather the effects of light.
- The way light falls on and is reflected from a surface creates areas of light, shade, and shadow, giving us perceptual clues about its three-dimensional qualities.
- Tonal value is the graphic equivalent of shade and shadow and can only indicate light by describing its absence. In rendering the resulting patterns of light and dark shapes, we invest a form with mass and volume and create a sense of spatial depth.



When light strikes an object, it creates a light side, a shaded side, and a cast shadow. Within this light-dark pattern, we can recognize the following elements:

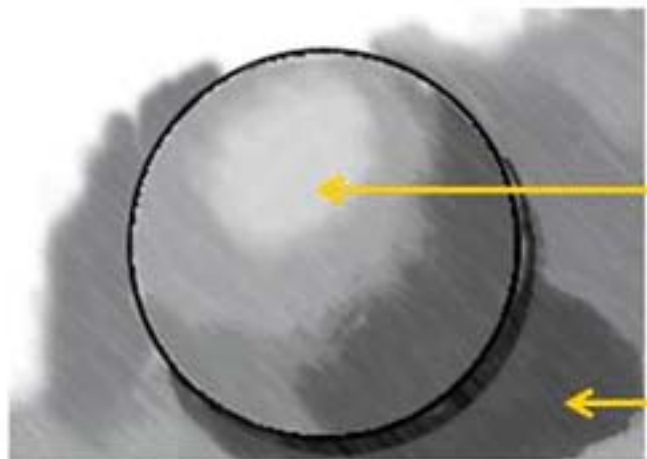
Light values occur on any surface turned toward the light source.

Tonal values shift as a surface turns away from the light source, with intermediate values occurring on surfaces which are tangent to the direction of the light rays.



Highlights appear as luminous spots on smooth surfaces that directly face or mirror the light source.

Shade refers to the comparatively dark values of surfaces turned away from the light source.



Areas of reflected light—light cast back from a nearby surface—lighten the tonal value of a portion of a shaded surface of a shadow.

Shadows are the dark values cast by an object or part of an object upon a surface that would otherwise be illuminated by the light source.

## SEEING LIGHT

- Light makes form visible by illuminating surfaces and textures.
- The principal reasons for using light and dark values are to enhance our perception of form, differentiate one form from another, articulate spatial relationships, and to convey a sense of depth.



