

ALIQVOT ADIECTIVA AD COLORES PERTINENTIA¹

incolor incolōris, colorless (also achroos)

albus, -a, -um, *dead-white, colorless*

pallidus, -a, -um, *pale, pallid*

lūridus, -a, -um, *sallow, wan, ghastly*

versicolor versicolōris, multicolored, variegated

multicolor multicolōris, *multicolored, variegated*

discolor discolōris, *multicolored, variegated; jarringly or clashingly variegated*

varius, -a, -um, *having at least two or more contrasting colors (also variātus or variegātus)*

bicolor bicolōris, *two-colored; black-and-white*

maculōsus, -a, -um, *blotchy, spotted; veined, marbled*

clārus, -a, -um, clear (both of color and sound, etc.); light

pellūcidus, -a, -um, *transparent (also diaphanus)*

hyalinus, -a, -um, *clear as glass, glassy, clear and greenish (also vitreus or vitricus)*

aqueus, -a, -um, *clear as water, aqueous*

crystallinus, -a, -um, *crystalline, clear as ice*

albus, -a, -um, white

niveus, -a, -um, *snow-white*

candidus, -a, -um, *bright white, radiant white, bleached white* > candidissimus

alabastrinus, -a, -um, *alabaster-white*

marmoreus, -a, -um, *marble-white*

līlāceus, -a, -um, *lily-white (also līlācinus)*

eburneus, -a, -um, *ivory white*

lacteus, -a, -um, *milk(y) white; bluish white (also lacticolor)*

crētāceus, -a, -um, *chalk-white, dull white, greyish white (also calcāreus or gypseus)*

albicāns (or subalbus, -a, -um), *whitish, off-white; cream-colored*

albidus, -a, -um, *whitish, dirty-white (also albidulus, albineus, exalbidus)*

dealbātus, -a, -um, *whitened (on a darker ground)*

argillāceus, -a, -um, *(yellowish) clayey-white*

albēscēns, -entis, *verging toward white (from some other color)*

āter ātra ātrum, (pure, lusterless) black; sable; dark; gloomy

anthracinus, -a, -um, *coal-black; black verging on blue*

pullus, -a, -um, *dark, dusky, dull black (also pullātus, which also means “dressed in dark or soiled clothes of mourning, penitence, etc.”)*

piceus, -a, -um, *pitch-black, earthy black, black with a hint of brown*

¹ The ancients, especially the Greeks but also the Romans, gave much more weight to saturation or intensity (“saturitās”) than to hue (“chrōma”). Thus, since we focus much more on hue, it seems necessary that we view Latin color vocabulary in a somewhat different way in order to express our modern perceptions of color. Therefore colors are categorized here primarily according to hue. To clarify that color and not substance is meant, it is sometimes good to use the adjective together with the word *color* in a descriptive ablative or genitive, as in *stramineo colore* (“straw-colored” and not “made of straw”) or *plumbei coloris* (“lead-colored”). Adjectives in *-color* are frequently invented, as *caelicolor* (“sky-colored, sky-blue”). Also endings like *-āceus* and *-eus* are often added to noun roots to create color adjectives.

Memnonius, -a, -um, *Moorish-black (also Aethiopicus)*
fūlīgineus, -a, -um, *sooty, soot-colored (also fūlīginōsus)*

niger nigra nigrum, (reflective or shiny) black

coracinus, -a, -um, *raven-black, black with a strong lustre*
nigellus, -a, -um, *blackish*
nigrēscēns, *blackish grey (also nigricāns)*

argenteus, -a, -um, silver(y)

glaucus, -a, -um, *(light) grey; bright, gleaming; sparkling (See also under viridis.)*
platineus, -a, -um, *platinum-colored*

cinereus, -a, -um, (ashen) grey

cinerāceus, -a, -um, *ash-greyish (lighter than cinereus)*
cānus, -a, -um, *light grey; hoary > cānī = grey hair (also incānus)*
cānēscēns, cānēscētis, *somewhat hoary*
plumbeus, -a, -um, *lead-colored*
chalybeus, -a, -um, *steel-grey*
fūmeus, -a, -um, *smokey-colored (also fūmōsus)*
mūrīnus, -a, -um, *mouse-colored, brownish grey, tope*

fuscus, -a, -um, dark; dim; swarthy, blackish; (dark) brown

furvus, -a, -um, *dark, dusky; gloomy; swarthy*
fuscissimus, -a, -um, *very dark brown; very dim*
suffuscus, -a, -um, *light brown, dull brown*
avellānāceus, -a, -um, *hazel*

ferrūgineus, -a, -um, rusty brown; reddish brown

rōbīginōsus, -a, -um, *rust-colored*
cinnamōmeus, -a, -um, *cinnamon*
cinnabarinus, -a, -um, *cinnabar, orange-brown*
rūfēscēns, -entis, *reddish, ruddy (the color of lighter red hair)*
russeus, -a, -um, *russet (also russātus, -a, -um)*
laterīcius, -a, -um, *brick-red*
testāceus, -a, -um, *brick- or tile-colored*
rūfus, -a, -um, *“red” (the color of deep red hair)*
castaneus, -a, -um, *chestnut; maroon*
badius, -a, -um, *chestnut-brown (only of horses)*
spādīx, spādīcis, *date-brown, chestnut brown*
hēpaticus, -a, -um, *liver-colored; dark brownish red*

lūteus, -a, -um, orange; orange-yellow, “Tuscan gold”; (darker) yellow

aurantius, -a, -um, *orange*
lūteolus, -a, -um, *light orange, orange-yellow*
croceus, -a, -um, *saffron-colored, orange-yellow*
vitellīnus, -a, -um, *egg-yolk yellow*

aureus, -a, -um, golden, gold (Also chrŷseus. Can describe hair.)

silāceus, -a, -um, *ochre*
rubrīcōsus, -a, -um, *ochre; honey gold; reddish gold*
sūcinācius, -a, -um, *amber (also sūcineus and ēlectricus)*
topazius, -a, -um, *topaz*
melleus, -a, -um, *honey-colored*

cērinus, -a, -um, *beeswax-yellow, dull yellow mixed with reddish brown*

flāvidus, -a, -um, *golden-yellow; yellowish; beige*

fulvus, -a, -um, *yellow-brown, golden, tawny (lion color)*

cervīnus, -a, -um, *darker tawny, golden brown (deer color)*

flāvus, -a, -um, (lighter) yellow; blond

citreus, -a, -um, *lemon-yellow (also citrinus)*

sulphureus, -a, -um, *sulphur, light but vivid yellow*

byssinus, -a, -um, *flaxen; the yellow of raw silk*

strāmineus, -a, -um, *straw-colored, light but bright yellow, the color of certain blond woods*

sufflāvus, -a, -um, *pale yellow (also flavēscēns)*

helveolus, -a, -um, *rich pale yellow (the color of some wines) (also helvolus)*

gilvus, -a, -um, *dull greyish or brownish yellow*

līvidus, -a, -um, *livid, leaden or greenish yellow; also the colors of all contusions: blackish, bluish, leaden, greyish*

rāvus, -a, -um, *yellow-grey, greyish yellow (sometimes used to describe the eyes of certain animals)*

rutilus, -a, -um, fire-red, hot orange (also rutilāns)

coccineus, -a, -um, *scarlet*

flammeus, -a, -um, *flame-colored, fire-red, vivid scarlet (also igneus)*

miniātus/miniātulus, -a, -um, *vermillion, slightly yellowish-scarlet*

ruber rubra rubrum, red

pūniceus, -a, -um, *pure red, "lipstick-red" (also phoeniceus)*

sanguineus, -a, -um, *(dark) blood-red; brownish red (the color of dried blood)*

īnfrāruber, -a, -um, *infrared (Modern Latin)*

roseus, -a, -um, rose-colored; (rich) pink

rosāceus, -a, -um, *pink, light pink*

rubicundus, -a, -um, *ruddy; pinkish*

rubidus, -a, -um, *suffused with red, blush-red (also rubeus); reddish, dark-red*

carnōsus, -a, -um, *"flesh-colored" (also carneus and incarnātus)*

colōrēs inter rubrum et caeruleum sed magis in rubrum vergentēs (i.e., reddish "purples"):

purpureus, -a, -um, *crimson; (reddish) purple; (purplish) red (deeply saturated) (also Tyrius, ostrīnus, and blatteus. All these words are often translated as "purple" in English but actually signify a crimson perhaps tinged with blue.)*

porphyrēticus, -a, -um, *purple-red*

tyrianthinus, -a, -um, *violet-crimson, bluish crimson*

amethystinus, -a, -um, *amethyst, reddish purple (also amethysteus)*

hyacinthinus, -a, -um, *hyacinth, deep lilac*

malvīnus/malvāceus, -a, -um, *mauve (various shades of pale lavender and orchid)*

orchidāceus, -a, -um, *orchid (Late Latin)*

viridis, -e, (light) green (the color of new leaves)

flāvovirēns, -entis, *vivid yellowish green (also Late Latin cartūsiānus, i.e., chartreuse; for pale greenish yellow perhaps chlōrus, from Greek)*

thalassinus, -a, -um, *light sea-green*

muscāceus, -a, -um, *moss-green, pale green*

prasinus, -a, -um, leek-green, dark green (also porrāceus)

smaragdinus, -a, -um, *emerald-green*

herbāceus, -a, -um, *grass-green (also rarely herbeus and grāmineus)*

olīvāceus, -a, -um, *olive-green, dull medium green*

ātrovirēns, -entis, -a, -um, *very dark, blackish green (also nigrovirēns if shinier)*

callāinus, -a, -um, teal, blue-green

aerūginōseus, -a, -um, *verdigris-green, bluish deep green (On iron, however, this can refer to rust color.)*

aquamarīnus, -a, -um, *aquamarine (Later Latin)*

aquāticus, -a, -um, *aqua*

venetus, -a, -um, *deepest blue-green; deep greenish blue*

lapidis lazulī (color), *lapis, lighter teal (Later Latin; also lazulinus)*

turcicus, -a, -um, *turquoise, light greenish blue (Late Latin; also turcōsus and turcoīsinus)*

glaucus, -a, -um, *(pale) sea-green, dull bluish green (See also under argenteus. This originally Greek word seems to refer more to paleness or, sometimes, brightness rather than to one specific hue. It can also signify a pale or dull yellow.)*

caesius, -a, -um, light blue, sky-blue; blue-grey

cobaltinus, -a, -um, *cobalt, pale blue*

caelestis, -is, -e, *(lighter) sky-blue (also caelicolor)*

caeruleus, -a, -um, (deeper) blue, true blue

cūmātilis/cŷmātilis, -e, *sea-blue, the color of ocean waves*

cŷaneus, -a, -um, *dark blue, deep-sea blue, Prussian blue*

venetus, -a, -um, *deepest green-blue; deep blue-green*

cŷanāter, -tra, -trum, *blue-black*

colōrēs inter rubrum et caeruleum sed magis in caeruleum vergentēs (i.e., bluish “purples”)

lavandulāceus, -a, -um, *lavender, light pinkish purple*

violāceus, -a, -um, *(dark) violet; (bluish) purple*

vīnāceus, -a, -um, *grape-colored, (blue-)purple (also vīnicolor)*

īanthinus, -a, -um, *violet-blue; blue-violet*

indicus, -a, -um, *dark slightly purplish blue, indigo*

ātroviolāceus, -a, -um, *blackish purple*

ultrāviolāceus, -a, -um, *ultraviolet (Modern Latin)*