

GLOSSARY FOR PERSPECTIVE VOCABULARY

Angle of Inclination: The **angle** between a line and the x-axis. This **angle** is always between 0° and 180° , and is measured counterclockwise from the part of the x-axis to the right of the line. Note: All horizontal lines have **angle of inclination** 0° Also, the slope of a line is given by the tangent of the **angle of inclination**.

Auxiliary Vanishing Point: That point toward which receding parallel lines appear to converge for secondary elements of an object or a scene, such as a ramp or a pitched roof.

Birds Eye View: A 3-point perspective in which the viewer is high above the object looking downward and the form appears smaller at its base than its top.

Center of Vision: A point in the distance, at the horizon, directly in front of the viewer.

Centerline: A real or imaginary line through the center of something, especially one following an axis of symmetry.

Central Vanishing Point: A point in the picture plane that is the intersection of the projections of a set of parallel lines in space onto the picture plane.

Concentric: Of or denoting circles, arcs, or other shapes that share the same center, the larger often completely surrounding the smaller.

Cone of Vision: The area we see before distortion begins to affect our vision, coming out from the viewer at 60° .

Converge: To come together towards a single vanishing point.

Diagonal: A straight line joining two opposite corners of a square, rectangle, or other straight-sided shape.

Diagonal Vanishing Point: A diagonal point where parallel lines appear to meet in the distance.

Diminution: Refers to the apparent size of objects and how they become smaller when the distance between the object moves further away from the viewer/artist.

Down Shot: An elevated view from a high angle.

Dutch Angle: A type of camera shot where the camera is tilted off to one side so the shot is composed with vertical lines at the angle to the side of the frame.

Ellipse: A circle in perspective.

Eye Level: The vantage point of the spectator, also referred to as the horizon line.

Foreground: The part of a view that is nearest to the observer, especially in a picture or photograph.

Foreshortening: The apparent reduction in the length or width of a subject due to the angle from which it is viewed.

Ground Plane: The theoretical horizontal plane receding from the picture plane to the horizon line.

Horizon Line: Also known as the “Eye Level Line”. This line is drawn across the page and represents the eye level of the viewer. The height of the horizon line changes depending on the viewer’s height. This changes the view of the subject.

Horizon Plane: A horizontal line across the picture. It’s placement defines the viewer’s eye level.

Left Vanishing Point: The spot on the horizon line to which the receding parallel lines diminish. In two-point perspective, the left side has its own vanishing point.

Line of Sight: An imaginary line traveling from the eye of the spectator to infinity.

Major Axis of Ellipse: The longest distance across the ellipse.

Minor Axis of Ellipse: The short distance across the ellipse.

One-Point Perspective: A type of linear perspective where the sides of the object that are facing the viewer are parallel to the picture plane and the parallel lines that recede from the viewer converge to a single vanishing point.

Orthogonal Lines: Imaginary or lightly drawn guidelines in a perspective drawing. They are usually the parallel lines that converge on to the horizon line.

Overlapping: A technique used to create depth on a 2-D surface by placing one form over another. Overlay. A transparent sheet of paper that allows the viewer of a design to reference a drawing below it.

Parallel: Two or more lines that are the same distance from one another.

Perpendicular: Lines that are right angles, 90 degrees to each other.

Perspective: A technique of depicting volumes and spatial relationships on a flat surface.

Perspective Grid: A network of lines drawn to represent the perspective of a systematic network of lines on the ground or X-Y-Z planes

Picture Plane: An imaginary transparent plane that is between the viewer and the subject.

Right Vanishing Point: The spot on the horizon line to which the receding parallel lines diminish. In two-point perspective, the right side has its own vanishing point.

Rise: The total height from the floor to the top of the last step.

Run: The total length of all the steps projected on the ground plane.

Station Point: One of the two variables that control view in a drawing. This refers to a stationary point on the ground from which the viewer/artist observes the scene.

Three-Point Perspective: A type of linear perspective where the sides of the object that are facing the viewer are at an angle to the picture plane and the parallel lines that recede from the viewer converge to three vanishing points.

Two -Point Perspective: A type of linear perspective where the sides of the object that are facing the viewer are at an angle to the picture plane and the parallel lines that recede from the viewer converge to two vanishing points.

Upshot: Seen from ground level or from the lowest level upwards.

Vanishing Point: Imaginary points on the horizon line in 1 pt. and 2 pt. perspective. Receding lines converge to these points.

X-Y-Z Plane: A three-dimensional structure. The x-axis and y-axis represent the first two dimensions; the z-axis, the third dimension. In a graphic image, the x and y denote width and height; the z denotes depth.

Zenith: A point located at the top end of an imaginary line that is perpendicular to the ground plane, as if such a line were coming straight out from the center of the Earth, past its surface and up.