

HIGHLIGHTS

A highlight is a spot on the surface of an object closest to the source of light and is an extremely important part in making your artwork look realistic. Highlights give life to your subject and draw the viewer's eye.

The shape of the highlight is formed by the surface and curve of the object. It is brightest toward the center. The edges could be blurry or well defined, it just depends on the object's surface. The closer the object is to the source of light, the brighter the highlight will be. If the surface of the object is shiny, the highlight will appear even brighter. When an object is farther away from the light source or the object has a dull surface, the highlight will be less bright.

Highlights are rarely pure white. They contain hints of the color around them. Pure white should be saved for the brightest highlights.

To learn about highlights, put an object on a table in a dark room and shine a flashlight on it. Move the flashlight around and see where the light hits the object. Where is the highlight?