

Pencil Grades

- The core (middle) of a pencil is made up of 2 components (parts): graphite and clay.
- The more clay there is in a pencil the harder it will feel to draw with and this will produce a lighter line.
- The more graphite there is in a pencil the softer it will feel to draw with and this will produce a darker line.
- To show this pencils are given their own grade.
- In our set of 12 sketching pencils the grade goes from 4H to 6B.
- B – softer pencil (darker)
The B graded pencils have more graphite so will make a bolder, darker line and so will be easier to smudge. Mainly used for shading and to give something depth.
- H – harder pencil (lighter)
The H graded pencils have more clay so will make a lighter finer line, so these are used more for sketching or drawing an outline. The lines you get from these are much more accurate.
- The numbers on the pencils represent the scale, so how much it is. So 4B is darker than a 2B and 4H is lighter than a 2H.
- HB and F are in the middle and are more like an everyday pencil that you would use in school for writing and general drawing. F means it can be sharpened to a fine point.