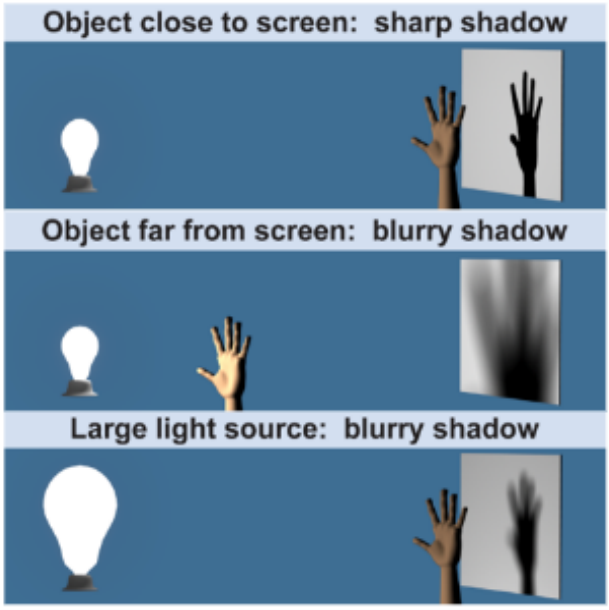
Shadows vary

Objects close to the screen form sharp shadows.

Object far from the screen form blurry shadows.

Objects in front of large light sources form blurry shadows.



Light sources and shadows

There are many sources of light but the biggest one is our SUN! Have you noticed how easy it is to see shadows outdoors on a bright sunny day? And how in contrast, shadows tend to be soft and harder to see on cloudy days? This is because shadows are sharper when the light source is intense and focussed.

The angle at which a light strikes an object also affects the size and shape of its shadow.

An object blocks more light when the light is at a lower angle (side on) making longer shadows;

when the light source is at a higher angle (overhead) the shadows are shorter.

You can see this for yourself if you stand outside at mid-day when the sun is high in the sky. Notice the size and shape of your shadow. Now stand outside in the same place in the late afternoon when the sun appears on the horizon.

The lower the sun, the longer the shadow

Because the sun is lower in the sky during the winter, shadows at a given particular time of day are longer in the winter than in the summer. And contrarily, because the sun is higher in the summer, you have more short shadows during the day.