

Gestalt Principles

Psychology

How the visual system groups elements into objects.

The main grouping principles.

Principle	We group by
Proximity	Nearness
Similarity	Shared appearance
Continuity	Smooth continuation
Closure	Filling gaps to complete a shape
Common fate	Moving together
Figure-ground	Separating object from background
Prägnanz	The simplest interpretation

These are why a dashed line reads as a line, and why proximity in a layout signals relatedness more strongly than a border does.