Practical Guide for Painting:

A Basic Guide for Namibian Learners

Personal details

Name : _____

Grade : _____

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1. The Importance of Painting

Painting is not just about adding color to a surface—it is an essential skill that allows people to protect materials, decorate spaces, and express creativity. It helps:

- Make homes and objects look beautiful.
- Protect walls, wood, and metal from damage.
- Create a positive and colorful environment.
- Encourage artistic skills and imagination.

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2. Selecting the Right Paint

Different surfaces need different types of paint. Here are some common types:

- **Water-based paint** (like acrylic or latex): Dries quickly and is easy to clean.
- **Oil-based paint**: Takes longer to dry but lasts longer and gives a shiny finish.
- **Enamel paint**: Used for metal and wood because it is durable and smooth.
- **Primer**: A special paint used before the actual paint to help it stick better.

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3. Calculating How Much Paint You Need

Before painting, calculate how much paint is required:

- Measure the height and width of the surface.
- Multiply the height by the width to get the total area (in square meters or feet).
- Check the paint can for coverage details (e.g., 1 liter covers about 10 square meters).
- Keep in mind that although the product information states how much paint covers, you must know the exact size of the surface you want to paint.
- Always buy a little extra in case of mistakes.

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4. Tools Needed for Painting

Having the right tools makes painting easier and neater. Common tools include:

- **Paintbrushes** (for small areas and edges)
- **Rollers** (for large walls and ceilings)
- **Paint tray** (to hold paint for rollers)
- **Painter's tape** (to protect edges and corners)
- **Drop cloths or old newspapers** (to protect floors)
- **Sandpaper** (for smoothing surfaces)
- **Putty knife and filler** (for filling cracks)

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5. Using a Primer

A primer is an important first step before painting:

- **Why use a primer?** It helps the paint adhere better, lasts longer, and provides a smooth base.
- **How to apply a primer:**
    1. Clean the surface thoroughly.
    2. Stir the primer well before applying.
    3. Use a brush for corners and edges and a roller for large areas.
    4. Allow it to dry completely before painting.

6. Methods of Paint Application

Different paints require different application methods:

- **Brush application**: Best for small areas, edges, and detailed work.
- **Roller application**: Ideal for large walls and ceilings, giving even coverage.
- **Spray painting**: Used for smooth and quick coverage, especially on metal and furniture.
- **Dabbing or sponge painting**: Creates textures and special effects.

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7. Safety Tips for Painting

Painting can be fun but requires safety precautions:

- **Wear protective clothing** – Old clothes, gloves, and a mask can prevent stains and inhalation of fumes.
- **Use a ladder carefully** – Ensure it is stable, and always have someone nearby when working at heights.
- **Ventilate the area** – Open windows and doors to avoid breathing in strong paint fumes.
- **Avoid direct skin contact with paint** – Some paints contain chemicals that can irritate the skin.
- **Store paints properly** – Keep them away from children and in a cool, dry place
- **Tool cleaning** - Once finished, please ensure that you immediately clean all tools in accordance to the manufacturer's instruction**.**

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8. Preparing the Wall for Painting

Preparation is key to a smooth finish:

1. **Clean the wall** – Remove dust, dirt, and grease.
2. **Fill any cracks or holes** – Use wall filler and smooth it out.
3. **Sand the surface** – Makes the wall even and helps paint stick.
4. **Apply primer** – Helps the paint last longer and look better.

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9. Painting on Metal

Painting on metal requires extra care to prevent rust:

1. **Clean the metal** – Remove dirt and rust with sandpaper or a wire brush.
2. **Apply a metal primer** – This helps the paint stick and prevents rust.
3. **Use enamel or oil-based paint** – These are durable and weather-resistant.
4. **Apply thin coats** – Let each layer dry before adding another.

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10. Painting on Wood

Wood absorbs paint differently than walls. Follow these steps:

1. **Sand the wood** – Smooth out rough areas.
2. **Apply a primer** – Helps the paint go on evenly.
3. **Use wood paint** – Acrylic or oil-based paint works best.
4. **Apply multiple coats** – Let each coat dry before adding the next.
5. **Seal with varnish** (optional) – Protects the paint from scratches.

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11. Multiple Choice Memory Quiz

1. Why is painting important?
a) Only to make things colorful
b) To protect surfaces and add beauty
c) To cover mistakes
d) To waste paint

2. What type of paint is best for metal?
a) Water-based paint
b) Oil-based or enamel paint
c) Wall primer
d) Chalk paint

3. What tool is best for painting large areas?
a) Paintbrush
b) Roller
c) Sandpaper
d) Putty knife

4. What is the purpose of a primer?
a) To make paint look shinier
b) To help paint stick and last longer
c) To change the paint color
d) To clean the surface

5. What should you do before painting wood?
a) Apply varnish immediately
b) Ignore sanding
c) Sand the surface and apply primer
d) Paint directly without preparation

Conclusion

Painting is a fun and useful skill that allows you to be creative while improving and protecting surfaces. With the right materials, preparation, and techniques, anyone can paint like a pro!