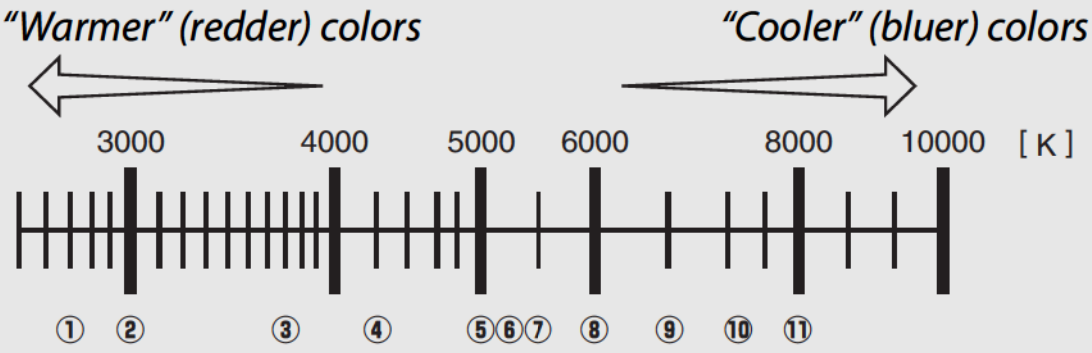
Color Temperature

The perceived color of a light source varies with the viewer and other conditions. Color temperature is an objective measure of the color of a light source, defined with reference to the temperature to which an object would have to be heated to radiate light in the same wavelengths. While light sources with a color temperature in the neighborhood of 5000–5500 K appear white, light sources with a lower color temperature, such as incandescent light bulbs, appear slightly yellow or red. Light sources with a higher color temperature appear tinged with blue.



①	(sodium-vapor lamps): 2700 K
②	(incandescent)/(warm-white fluorescent.): 3000 K
③	(white fluorescent): 3700 K
④	(cool-white fluorescent): 4200 K
⑤	(day white fluorescent): 5000 K
⑥	(direct sunlight): 5200 K
⑦	(flash): 5400 K
⑧	(cloudy): 6000 K
⑨	(daylight fluorescent): 6500 K
⑩	(high temp. mercury-vapor): 7200 K
⑪	(shade): 8000 K

Note: All figures are approximate.

Bracketing

For information on automatically varying white balance settings over a series of shots, see page 148.