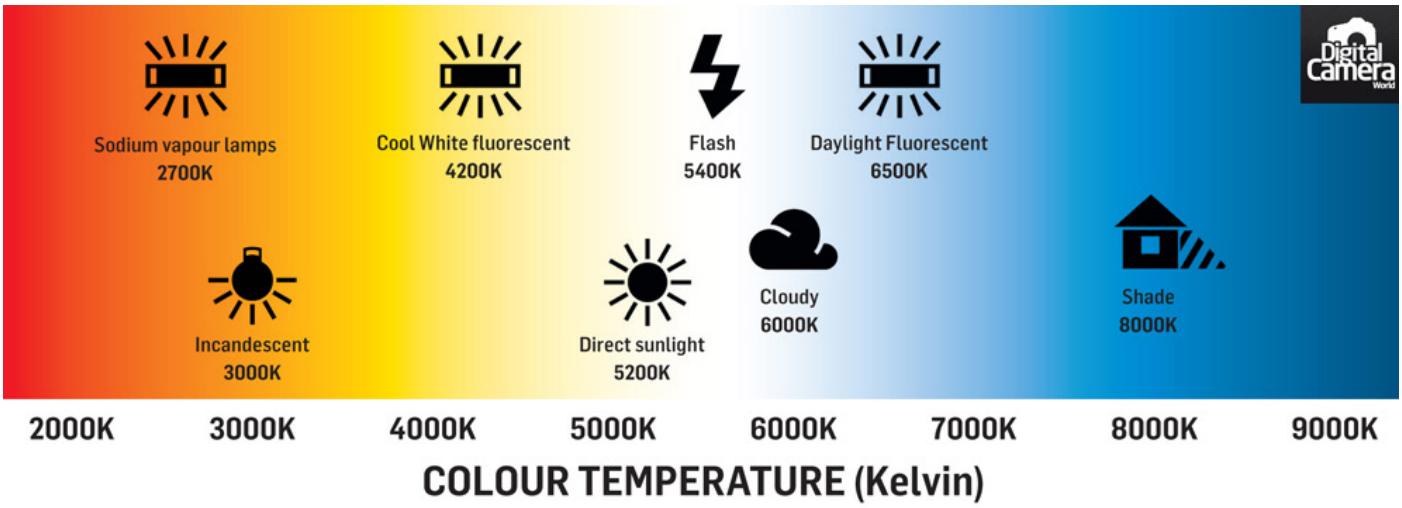
WHITE BALANCE

The White Balance setting you choose will change the colour balance in your pictures, making it warmer or cooler depending on how the light you're shooting in affects objects and surroundings.

Using Auto White Balance is the simple option, but your camera's White Balance presets give you more control over colour.

You Tube Video on White Balance https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgV3_51XQKE

Colour Temperature Scale (Kelvin)



WHITE BALANCE

The colour of the light will affect the colours in your photographs. You probably won't notice this with the naked eye because our minds adapt very quickly to perceive the colour of the light as neutral, even when it's not.

The camera is less forgiving, and records colours exactly as they are. That's why pictures taken under household lighting have an orange colour cast, and pictures taken at dusk or dawn have a cold, blue look.

Digital cameras have 'White Balance' controls to correct these colour shifts. This adjustment happens when the camera processes and saves your pictures.

For example, if you take a picture under incandescent lighting, the camera can reduce the amount of orange in the colours and boost the blue to produce more neutral colours.

Auto or presets?
You can leave the camera to work out the White Balance automatically. Auto White Balance systems in cameras are constantly being improved, and the results you get now are certainly much better they were in the early days.

Even so, they're not foolproof. Auto White Balance may fail to correct certain kinds of lighting strongly enough.

This often happens with artificial lighting, which may still produce a warm colour cast even with auto White Balance switched on.

You may find that the auto White Balance corrects colour casts when you don't want it to. This can happen with sunsets or landscapes, where the colour of the light is an integral part of the picture.

This is why most DSLRs come with White Balance 'presets'. These are tuned to provide a fixed correction for common lighting scenarios. The camera relies on you to choose the right setting for the scene.

This involves more effort than using the auto White Balance option, but it puts you back in control and does give better results.