



Linguaspectrum Typescript

English colour idioms

Idioms are expressions that are natural to native English speakers.

They are very confusing for non-native English speakers.

They're confusing because idioms don't mean what the words say.

You cannot literally translate English idioms into another language.

The origin of many English idioms is a grey area.

This video marks a red-letter day for all students of English.

If you've been feeling blue because idioms have left you browned off, you will be tickled pink by this video.

Don't be yellow when it comes to learning English colour idioms.

I'm giving you the green light to understand them.

Video lessons like this come around once in a blue moon.

I can tell you about English colour idioms until I'm blue in the face, but you have to make an effort to remember them.

So get the grey matter going and watch the rest of this video.

You will soon be able to do the EXTRAS with flying colours.

Your friends will be green with envy.

There are no red herrings in this video; it's black and white and should be read all over.

Did you notice that I've used a lot of colour idioms already?

Now I'm going to explain to you what they mean.

The colours we're going to look at in this video are:

Black

Blue

Brown

Green

Grey

Red

Silver

White

Yellow

Let's start with Black.

If you're in the black, you have some money.

If you're in the red, you owe money.

Whether you're in the black or in the red, your bank will tell you in black-and-white.

Black and white means written down and official.

There are no grey areas when it comes to banking.

Everything is black-and-white.

Go to see your bank manager when you are in the red and he will give you a black look.

This shows that he is angry with you.

He probably thinks you're the black sheep of your family.

A black sheep is a failure or disgrace.

Sheep are normally white.

Wool comes from sheep.

A sheep that is black cannot produce good wool.

A black sheep is not as valuable as a white sheep for a farmer.

If you're a bit of a black sheep and you ask for a loan, the bank manager might blackball you.

This means that he will vote against you and exclude you from his borrowers.

He might even blacklist you.

If you're blacklisted, you won't get a loan from anyone.

Being blacklisted can make you blue!

But banks want you to be in debt.

As Publilius Syrus said, "Debt is the slavery of the free."

So banks blacklist people once in a blue moon.

When there is a lot of dust in the atmosphere, the moon can look blue.

This doesn't happen very often.

Unlike the moon, the sky is often blue.

Something that falls out of the sky arrives without any warning.

A huge bill can come out of the blue.

It can push you out of the black and into the red.

A huge bill can leave you feeling blue, unless you're a toucan or a pelican.

Toucans and pelicans have huge bills, but they seem to be happy enough with them.

Some parrots are blue.

Some parrots can talk.

But you'll be blue in the face before you can get a parrot to recite Shakespeare.

If you're blue in the face, and you're not a parrot, you've reached the end of your patience.

If you're a doctor, reaching the end of your patients would be something of a red-letter day.

Really important and notable days are marked in red on a calendar.

Sometimes the doctor's patients are in pain. These patients can scream blue murder.

The doctor has to be patient with these patients even when they are making a lot of horrible noise and annoying everyone.

Even so, the most patient of doctors can be brownd off by too many impatient patients.

When I was young my brother joined the military.

I wanted to be a soldier very much and was green with envy.

So, even though I was young, my parents gave me the green light to join the Royal Air Force.

I joined when I was sixteen.

I was a green recruit, although my uniform was blue.

New shoots on trees and plants are green and I was young and inexperienced, like a new shoot.

And because I was green they taught me to shoot.

Now I was a green soldier in a blue uniform, but I didn't have green fingers.

Many people do have green fingers, but you won't notice them unless you go to their gardens.

We've already agreed that plants are green.

People who touch plants a lot end up with some of the green on their fingers.

To have green fingers means that you are very good at gardening.

Today I'm not green.

I've grown up and I've gone from green to grey.

I'm always confused whether to spell grey grey or gray.

For me this is a grey area.

Apparently my brain is grey, too.

I haven't looked for a while, so I can't be sure.

What I can be sure about is that if I say use your grey matter, I mean use your brain.

You must be tickled pink by these new idioms.

I'm tickled pink that you're watching this video. Thank you very much.

As well as being tickled pink, you can also be in the pink.

I'm in the pink. I'm in perfect condition even though I'm grey.

I asked my wife, "Will you still love me when I'm old and grey?"

She said, "Of course I do."

I thought that was a sweet thing to say.

Of course I see the world through rose-coloured spectacles.

At least I don't have to deal with a lot of red tape now that I'm an English teacher.

I hate bureaucratic rules and regulations.

When I was a policeman, all the red tape used to make me see red.

I would rather be out catching criminals red handed than dealing with the red tape.

When you're caught committing a crime we say you are caught red handed.

If you've committed a murder, you'll have blood on your hands.

But most of the time the police don't catch criminals red handed.

Often you have to deal with a lot of red herrings before you solve a crime.

A red herring is a piece of misinformation.

On Saturday nights the police have to deal with people painting the town red.

Painting the town red means having a good time.

From my experiences as a police officer I think the origin of this idiom is simple.

Drunken people fall over a lot or get in fights and often end up bleeding in the street.

Anyone out painting the town red, who isn't bleeding, might nevertheless meet a few scarlet women.

A scarlet woman is a sinful woman, especially a prostitute.

There's a lot of new language here, isn't there?

You must be getting tired.

Don't worry. Every cloud has a silver lining.

This means that every difficult situation has a good side to it.

We say this to encourage people who are having trouble coping with something.

We're almost done now.

That's a little white lie.

There are still several idioms to go.

Normally I'm whiter than white and would never tell a lie.

I told a white lie just to be polite and to keep you happy.

Did you turn as white as a sheet when I said there were more idioms to come?

Come on! Don't be yellow.

To be yellow, to have a yellow streak or to be yellow-bellied, means that you are afraid of something.

Colour idioms shouldn't make you yellow.

Show your true colours!

Show your true colours and everyone will see what you are really like.

Nail your colours to the mast and never stop improving your English.

In naval battles your colours were your ship's flags. If you took them down, you surrendered.

If you nailed them to the mast so that they could not be taken down, you were saying you were never going to surrender.

So never give up.

Learn these colour idioms and you'll easily be able to do the EXTRAS.

In fact, you'll do them with flying colours.