

Idioms and phrases in English with colors

IDIOMS AND PHRASES	MEANINGS
A blue-eyed boy	A critical description of a boy or young man who is always chosen for special favours by someone in a position of superior authority.
A bolt from the blue	When unexpected bad news is received
A golden handshake	A significant amount of money that is paid to a retiring manager or administrator, or to a laid-off worker.
A golden opportunity	An opportunity that may never come up again.
A grey area	Something that is not clearly defined, and there is still a debate about whether it is "black or white" in one way or another.
A highly coloured report	Refers to a report that is exaggerated or has a biased opinion.
A red flag	A signal indicating that something is not working properly or is not working properly
A white lie	A "small" lie or a "harmless" lie told in order to be polite and avoid hurting someone's feelings, or doing something that is not seriously wrong.
A yellow streak	Someone who has cowardice in his character
As white as a sheet	When someone is in a state of great fear or anxiety
Beet red	Also used to describe dark red, usually the colour of a face (beet derivative).
Black and blue	Used to describe something that is seriously wounded
Black as a skillet	Used to describe something very dirty, black with dirt.
Black as night	In a very dark place, when it is difficult to see anything.
Black eye	A bruise near the eye
Black market	A term used to refer to places where goods are purchased and sold illegally for profit.
Black out	This means either obscuring by turning off or obscuring the lights or losing consciousness.
Black sheep	Used to describe a person who is the "weird person" in a group, and who does not integrate with others around her. It could also be used to talk about a person who is a shame or embarrassment to his or her group.
Black tie event/affair	A formal event where male guests wear black bow ties with tuxedos or evening jackets.
Blackball someone	Exclude or ostracize someone socially, reject them.

Blacklist someone	Put someone's name on a list if they break rules and prohibit them from participating again.
Blackmail someone	Extorting or taking money from someone by using their secrets against them and threatening to reveal them to others.
Blood red	Used to describe the dark red color of something
Blue blood	Used to describe someone from a noble, aristocratic or rich family.
Blue collar	Used to describe men used as workers or factory workers.
Blue in the face	Try very hard to win someone's agreement, but usually without success.
Blue pencil	To censor something, or limit the information that is shared
Blue ribbon	To be of superior quality or distinction, the best of a group
Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth	born into a rich family
Browned off	Being bored or bored with someone or something
Catch someone red-handed	Catching someone committing a crime or doing something wrong that they shouldn't be doing.
Chase rainbows	When someone tries to get or achieve something that is difficult or impossible
Dyed-in-the-wool	Used to describe someone or something that is permanent (such as wool that is dyed a certain color).
Feel blue	When a person seems or feels depressed or dissatisfied
Golden boy	Term given to a young man idolized for great skill, usually in sport.
Grass is always greener on the other side	Used to describe a distant place, and better than, where you are now, or the situation of another person who is very different from yours.
Green belt	An area of fields and trees around a city
Green thumb/green finger	Used to describe someone with a talent for gardening, with the ability to grow plants.
Green with envy	Used to describe someone who is extremely jealous, full of envy
In someone's black books	To be in disgrace or disgrace with someone.
In the black	Meaning successful or profitable
Local colour	Allows to describe the traditional characteristics of a place that give it its own character.
Men/boys in blue	Used to describe the police, because of the color of their uniforms.
Off colour	When someone is not feeling at his best, is very sick or uncomfortable
Once in a blue moon	Occur extremely rarely, or only once in a lifetime.

Out of the blue	Appearing out of nowhere without any warning, occurring suddenly or randomly by surprise
Paint the town red	To go out and have a good time at a party.
Pitch black	Another term for somewhere that is very dark, and you are unable to see anything.
Pot calling the kettle black (shorten version: pot kettle black)	It is used when the person who hypocritically criticizes or accuses someone else is as guilty as the person he or she is criticizing or accusing.
Put something down in black and white	Write or have written something on paper for confirmation or proof.
Raise a white flag	This indicates that we have accepted the defeat and surrendered to the other party.
Red herring	An unimportant subject that misleads everyone and distracts attention from the main subject.
Red hot	Something new and exciting, creating a lot of demand
Red in the face	Become embarrassed
Red tape	A term used to refer to bureaucratic delays, excessive formalities and attention to rules and regulations, which often result in injustice to the ordinary citizen.
Red-carpet treatment	(Similar to the one above) To receive special or royal treatment, and to be received with a great and warm welcome.
Red-eye	A trip that leaves late at night and arrives early in the morning.
Red-letter day	A memorable day due to an important event
Roll out the red carpet	Welcome a person with great respect and give them a warm and welcoming welcome.
Sail under false colours	Pretend to be something you're not
See someone's true colours	Understand a person's real character, often for the first time.
See the colour of someone's money	To prove that someone has enough money for something
Talk a blue streak	When someone talks a lot and very quickly
The silver screen	A term for cinema
To be colourless	Used to describe someone who lacks personality, and who is really boring
To be given something on a silver plate/platter	When something is offered to someone with all my heart (in a metaphorical sense)
To be green	Used to describe someone who is immature or inexperienced.
To be in the red	To have an overdraft, be in debt to your bank or owe money to a financial institution

To be kept in the dark	Keeping someone's secret, protecting the truth
To be out of the red	To be free from debt
To be shown the red card	This stems from football terminology, and means being fired from your work.
To give/lend colour to	To help make a story or explanation more credible and easier to believe, or to accompany something
To look through rose-coloured/tinted spectacles/glasses	When someone sees things in a way that is too flattering or optimistic.
To paint in bright/dark colours	Describe something flattering (bright) or unflattering (dark)
To see red	Reacting with uncontrollable rage against someone or something
To see the red light	Recognize the approaching danger. The red light is referred to as
To show one's true colours	Reveal your true nature
White as a ghost	someone who is very pale because of pain, fear, shock or disease.
White collar	A term used to refer to office workers who traditionally wear a white white-collar shirt.
White elephant	A term used to describe unnecessary possession, something that is useless.
Whitewash something	To conceal or conceal wrongdoing or wrongdoing
With flying colours	Complete something with a lot of distinction and excellent results.
Yellow-bellied	Someone who is considered a coward or extremely shy