

Colour

Which do you prefer: black and white or colour photographs? Why? Or black and white or colour movies? A grey PC or a colourful Macintosh computer?

Colour is a very powerful factor in how we behave and see things. Red fruit is ripe (or dangerous), blue meat is off and yellow and black insects sting people. Grey offices make us sleepy and bored, red carpets and natural wood desks, cream walls and green plants make us feel positive and motivated. In documents red means action is needed, greens and blues are friendly (and more and more official documents are in these colours in Britain). Deep blue is intellectual while pure white might even seem unfriendly.

Blue and Indigo: cerebral, efficient and accurate.

Red: active and stimulating, friendly and strong

Yellow: fun and uplifting, optimistic and creative.

Green: reassuring, balanced and restful

Orange: enjoyment

Purple: quality

A: Do you agree or disagree with the information given in the text? Why?

Is it an oversimplification or a reference to a wide-spread stereotype?

B: Match the colour idioms with the definitions.

1. Out of the blue	a) illegal trade in goods or foreign currency
2. Black look	b) too much bureaucracy
3. Once in a blue moon	c) wasting your energy on doing something useless
4. White lie	d) a special, happy and important day that you will always remember
5. Caught red-handed	e) to have no money left in your bank account
6. In black and white	f) very rarely
7. Until you are blue in the face	g) to be unhappy
8. The black market	h) a lie told not to hurt person's feelings
9. A red rag to the bull	i) business activity and income which people do not record in order to avoid paying tax on it
10. A red-letter day	j) in written form
11. White collar	k) something extremely irritating
12. Red tape	l) an angry look
13. Black economy	m) unexpectedly
14. To be in the red	n) relating to people who work in offices, doing work that needs mental rather than physical effort:
15. To feel blue	o) caught on the act of doing something. forbidden

C: Do you know?

What could the expression The Blue Curtain or The Blue Wall of Silence mean in the connection with police work?

Have you ever come across the phenomenon?

Is it connected only with the police work?

Can this phenomenon be found in other areas of life?

Colour

Teacher's notes

Procedure:

1. To create the right atmosphere for the class the teacher could switch on a nice and calming piece of music. While the music is playing the teacher should fix clouds of different colours to the wall.

2. Possible questions to lead into the topic:

What do you usually do when you are exhausted/irritated/calm/...

What colours surround you in your everyday life?

Give three examples of colours arousing different emotions in you?

What colour car do you drive?

What colour clothes do you prefer?

Don't allow students to copy their peers choices- encourage creativity!

3. Students read the text.
4. Task A -Open answers
5. Task B Matching exercise Key

Out of the blue –unexpectedly

Black look- an angry look

Once in a blue moon- very rarely

White lie – a lie told not to hurt person's feelings

Caught red-handed- caught on the act of doing something forbidden

In black and white – in a written form

Until you are blue in the face- wasting your energy on doing something useless

The black market- illegal trade in goods or foreign currency

A red rag to the bull- something extremely irritating

A red-letter day- a special, happy and important day that you will always remember

White collar- relating to people who work in offices, doing work that needs mental rather than physical effort:

Red tape- too much bureaucracy

Black economy - business activity and income which people do not record in order to avoid paying tax on it

To be in the red –to have no money left in your bank account

To feel blue- to be unhappy

6. Task C

The expression The Blue Curtain or The Blue Wall of Silence is used to describe the situation in which the police officers only trust other police officers and do not aid in the investigation of wrongdoing by other officers.

7. Pair work

Every student is given a card with a noun or a colour on it. The sts have to find another part of the expression moving around in the classroom. The T should check the results until they are in proper pairs. They have to explain the expression they have got and use it in their own professional context.

Colour

Key

red carpet: meeting important people

green light: a permission to do something

yellow card: warning in football

silver lining: pleasant aspect of something something unpleasant

ivory tower: without connection to real life

black sheep: someone in your family who is not respectable

Alternative:

Every pair can be given a set of cards. After matching them successfully every pair chooses one expression to fulfil the following task.

8. Follow-up or homework activities (oral or written)

You know the expression “ I feel blue”, meaning “ I am in a sSad mood or unhappy” or “think in black and white” meaning “having a simplified outlook, concentrating on good and bad only, ignoring half-tones”. As we all know mood will always affect our judgement and behaviour. Why shouldn't we (especially the police) allow this to happen?

Think of examples from your (professional) life, when not managing your feelings resulted in a failure.

What should one do not to repeat the mistake?

Discuss these ideas with your partner and make notes for writing an essay.

9. Additional possible task

Find any colour horoscope. Compare the information it gives (about you and the characters of the people you know very well) with the situation in real life.

Colour

red	carpet
green	light
yellow	card
silver	lining
ivory	tower
black	sheep
white	horse
pink	elephant
blue	blood