COLOUR IDIOMS : LEVEL ADVANCED 

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| Colour Idioms | Meaning |
| Whitewash something | To cover up or gloss over faults or wrongdoings |
| Raise a white flag | This indicates that one has accepted defeat and surrenders to the other party |
| As white as a sheet | When someone is in a state of great fear or anxiety |
| Born with a silver spoon in one’s mouth | born into a rich family |
| Roll out the red carpet/ Red-carpet treatment | To greet a person with great respect |
| Paint the town red | To go out and have a really good time at a party |
| Red tape | bureaucratic delay |
| To see red | To react with uncontrollable rage |
| Red-letter day | A day that is memorable because of some important event |
| Red in the face | To become embarrassed |
| Catch someone red-handed | To catch someone in the act of committing a crime |
| Red herring | An unimportant matter that misleads everyone and draws attention away from the main subject |
| A red flag | A signal that something is not working properly |
| To be in the red | To have an overdraft, be in debt to your bank, or owe an institution some money |
| To be shown the red card | means to be dismissed from your job |
| Pink Slip | A termination notice received from a job |
| See pink elephants | When someone sees things that are not really there, because they are in their imagination |
| Tickled pink | To be very pleased, thrilled or delighted about something |
| Golden boy | a young man idolised for a great skill, usually in sport |
| A golden handshake | A large sum of money that is paid to a retiring manager |
| A golden opportunity | An opportunity that may never present itself again |
| A grey area | Something that is not clearly defined |
| Green thumb/green finger | Used to describe someone with a talent for gardening |
| Grass is always greener on the other side | Used to describe a place that is far away, and better than, where you are now, or another person’s situation that is very different from your own |
| Give someone the green light / get the green light | When someone receives, or is given, permission to go ahead with something |
| Green with envy | Used to describe someone who is extremely jealous, full of envy |
| To be green | Used to describe someone who is immature, or inexperienced |
| To be kept in the dark | Keeping a secret from someone, shielding the truth |
| With flying colours | To complete something with great distinction, and excellent results |
| Chase rainbows | When someone tries to get or achieve something that is difficult or impossible |
| See someone’s true colours | To understand someone’s actual character, often for the first time |
| Off colour | When someone is not feeling their best, quite ill or uneasy |
| To be colourless | Used to describe someone who lacks personality, and is really boring |
| Browned off | To be bored or annoyed with someone or something |
| Blue collar | Used to describe men used as labourers, or factory workers |
| Men/boys in blue | Used to describe the police |
| Once in a blue moon | To occur extremely rarely, or only once in a lifetime |
| Blue in the face | To try really hard to win someone’s agreement, but usually end unsuccessfully |
| Feel blue | When someone looks or feels depressed or discontented |
| Blue ribbon | To be of superior quality or distinction, the best of a group |
| A bolt from the blue | When some unexpected bad news is received |
| A blue-eyed boy | A critical description of a boy or young man who is always picked for special favours by someone in a position of higher authority. |
| Out of the blue | to happen quite suddenly or randomly by surprise |
| In the black | successful or profitable |
| Black sheep | a person who is the ‘odd one out’ of a group |
| Black tie event/affair | A formal event |
| Blackmail someone | To extort or take money from someone by using their secrets against them |
| Pot calling the kettle black (shorten version: pot kettle black) | This is used when the person who hypocritically criticises or accuses someone else is as guilty as the person he or she criticises or accuses |
| Black market | places where goods are illegally bought and sold |
| Black as a skillet | something that is very dirty, black with dirt |
| Black out | to lose consciousness |
| Black and blue | badly bruised |
| Black as night | Somewhere very dark, when it is hard to see anything |
| Put something down in black and white | To write or have something written down on paper for confirmation or evidence |