



## Idioms with colours

1. **yellow-bellied** = extremely timid, cowardly
2. **as white as a sheet** = very scared
3. **white as a ghost** = very pale because of fear, shock or illness
4. **white lie** = an innocent lie to protect another person's feelings
5. **a white-collar worker** = a professional or office worker who wears a shirt with a white collar
6. **in the red** = in debt
7. **beet red** = dark red (usually to describe face)
8. **red tape** = official or bureaucratic tasks
9. **catch red handed** = catch someone in the act of doing something wrong or illegal
10. **see red** = be very angry
11. **to be shown the red card** = to be dismissed from your job.
12. **roll out the red carpet** = treat someone like royalty
13. **paint the town red** = go out and party and have a good time
14. **a redneck** = an ignorant, insensitive person
15. **as red as a cherry/ as red as a poppy** = bright red
16. **as red as blood/ as red as a ruby** = deep red
17. **in the pink (of condition)** = in very good health
18. **pink slip** = a termination notice from a job
19. **see pink elephants** = to see things which are not really there because they are only in your imagination
20. **to be green** = inexperienced, immature
21. **the green light** = permission
22. **green with envy** = very jealous
23. **green thumb** = be skillful in the garden
24. **green belt** = an area of fields and trees around a town
25. **to appear/happen out of the blue** = arrive unexpectedly, usually after a long absence.
  2. to happen very suddenly and unexpectedly
26. **to blue pencil something** = to censor something.
27. **a bolt from the blue** = unexpected bad news

28. **blue in the face** = to make a huge but vain effort to win a person's agreement
29. **once in a blue moon** = very rarely
30. **blue-eyed boy** = is someone's favourite
31. **have the blues** = be sad or depressed
32. **black and blue** = bruised and beaten
33. **to look / feel blue** = to look / feel depressed
34. **to be browned off** = to be bored, annoyed at something, out of patience
35. **a golden boy** = a young man idolized for a great skill, usually in sport.
36. **golden opportunity** = the perfect chance, a great opportunity that might never come again
37. **a golden handshake** = a large sum of money paid to a retiring manager or director, or to a redundant worker.
38. **born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** = born into a rich family
39. **the silver screen** = the cinema
40. **silver lining** = A *silver lining* refers to the good or pleasant side-effects of an unpleasant situation, a metaphor for optimism
41. **(as)black as a skillet/ as black as night / as black as a stack of black cats/ as black as pitch/ as black as coal** = very black
42. **in (someone's) black books** = to be in disgrace or in disfavor with someone
43. **black sheep** = the odd or bad member of the group
44. **in the black** = successful or profitable
45. **black out** = faint, to lose consciousness, to darken by putting out or dimming electric lights
46. **black and white** = straight forward, very clear
47. **off colour** = *sb who* looks or feels ill.
48. **with flying colours** = with distinction, with great or total success
49. **show one's true colours** = reveals their real nature, with their qualities and/or weaknesses
50. **a grey area** = something which is not definite

