



*Colour
my
Words*

COLOUR MY WORDS

How colour adds meaning to our language

Introduction

The words we use to describe colours are not only for naming and identification purposes. Colour terms are often employed as part of our spoken and written language, either literally or figuratively, to evoke imagery and add depth or meaning to our words.

A sizeable body of phrases employing colour terms exists in English. Idioms, along with features such as slang, euphemisms, clichés and adages all add to the rich tapestry of our speech and writing. Idioms are expressions where the figurative meaning of the words in the phrase is completely different to their literal meaning. Estimates suggest that there are over 25,000 idioms in English, creating a significant body of expressions that are difficult to translate and are often only fully appreciated by native speakers.

Among the idioms that contain colour terms, a visual cue can often be found in the origin of the phrase. The expressions “red tape” and “red letter days” were once literal descriptions. Three hundred years ago, government or official documents were held together with red ribbon and in the thirteenth century, monks wrote important dates on their calendars in red ink, to stand out against the other days, which were black.

Nowadays, phrases such as these and many others are far removed from their original meaning. However, by retaining the use of colour terms, phrases like ‘blue in the face’ evoke a very colourful, mental image. While others like ‘streets paved with gold’, have a poetry to them that ‘streets paved with five pound notes’ never could.

This book explores the range of phrases that feature colour terms and looks at the associations with different colours. Some colours carry a very narrow range of connotations, while others have a whole host of meanings and associated phrases.

This secondary usage elevates colour terms beyond their basic role of identification or description. It is an indication of how much they are used in our language and how many expressions are dependant on them for meaning. The phrases here are a testament to how a colour can influence our understanding of language and culture.

This body of phrases is by no means exhaustive, especially given how quickly language can evolve and change, but it does aim to demonstrate how widely used colour terms are in everyday expressions.

This research would not have been possible without the wealth of information in Ian Paterson's *The Dictionary of Colour and Seeing Red or Tickled Pink* by Christine Ammer. A full list of source material can be found at the end of the book.



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Associated with sweetness, pink is a favoured colour for packaging confectionery. It is also associated with the innocence of young girls and thus a favourite colour for little girls' bedrooms and clothing. Pink is known to have short-term calming effects and is often the colour of walls in prison holding cells, particularly in America. Shocking hot pinks offer a feeling of youth, fun, excitement, and wild abandon. Vibrant, voluptuous pinks, however, offer a more sophisticated appeal, and magenta and fuchsia are perceived as sensual and theatrical. Lighter pinks offer a sense of romanticism and healthy optimism. The colour also used in the phrases 'seeing pink elephants', 'being tickled pink' and 'being in the pink'.

IN THE PINK

This phrase originally came from the English fox hunting tradition where a rider was not granted the right to don the scarlet coloured jackets, called "pinks", until he demonstrated superior horsemanship and service to the hunt. Being "in the pink" meant the rider had reached the pinnacle of achievement in the hunt. The use of the phrase "in the pink" evolved to be used more broadly to mean "the very pinnacle of" something, but not necessarily the hunt during the 18th century. This meaning of the phrase is seen in literature beginning in the mid-1700s and continuing throughout the 19th century. It isn't until the early 20th century that we see the phrase being used with its current associations.

It is unclear how it translated into a phrase that is now specifically health-related, but possibly, as it came into use among those not familiar with the hunt, it was thought that "pink" referred to the rosy glow of the complexion that is indicative of good health.

Pink

Hunting pinks

Traditional jackets worn for fox hunting

In the pink, to be

In perfect health

Little pink pill

A slang name for a placebo, commonly a sugar pill used in medical trials

Moss pink

A type of flower also known as creeping Phlox

Paint the town pink, to

See also 'to paint the town red', a lively and usually drunken night out

Parlour pink

Associated with Communism or a left wing leaning

Pink

An American pop singer

Pink, a

A type of flower from the genus Dianthus

Pink, a

Someone with left wing sympathies

Pink, to

To pierce or to perforate

Pink out, to

To cut fabric with pinking shears so that the edges do not fray

Pink champagne

Champagne produced from rose wine or Champagne mixed with red wine

Pink coat

Traditional jackets worn for fox hunting

Pink elephants, to see

Hallucinations brought on by heavy drinking

Pink Fairies

An English psychedelic rock band

Pink Floyd

An English progressive rock band

Pink for a girl, blue for a boy

A saying indicating gender colour associations

Pink gin

An alcoholic drink of gin mixed with grenadine

Pink in the face, to turn

To turn pink in the face from exertion or emotion

Pink lady

A type of apple

Pink lady, a

A cocktail made with gin, grenadine, egg white, lemon juice and cream

Pink lady

During the 1960s it referred to a barbiturate

Pink lady

Volunteer hospital aides

Pink Ladies, The

The female companions of the T-Birds in the film and musical Grease

Pink of perfection, the

Embodying the very best

Pink Panther, The

A comedy film series from the 1960s

Pink Panther, The

A detective cartoon character that appears in the title sequence to The Pink Panther film series

Pink pound

The purchasing power of gay men

Pink ribbon

A symbol of the fight against breast cancer

Pink slip, a

Obsolete, a female undergarment

Pink slip, to

An American expression meaning to sack someone

Pink Spiders

An American pop punk band

Pink tea

Obsolete, an American term for a formal tea party

Pink toothbrush

A 1930's advertising slogan for a toothpaste claimed to prevent bleeding gums

Pink-collar worker

Job roles that are typically fulfilled by women

Pinked

When the edges of something are notched or perforated

Pinkeye

Common term for conjunctivitis

Pinkeye

A type of potato with pink buds

Pinkie

The fifth and smallest finger on a human hand

Pinking shears

Scissors that are used to cut a zigzag edge in fabric to prevent it from fraying

Pinko

Communist sympathiser

Receive a pink slip, to

An American expression meaning to be sacked from your job

Rose tinted glasses, to see the world through

Having an optimistic view of the world

Rosé wine

A type of pink-coloured wine produced using a number of different methods

Rose-cheeked

Blushing or in good health

Rose-lipped

Young and healthy

Rosy

Optimistic

Rosy outlook, to have a

Having a positive view on a situation

Rosy-fingered dawn, a

A sunrise

Strike me pink!

Expression of astonishment or indignation

Very pink of, The

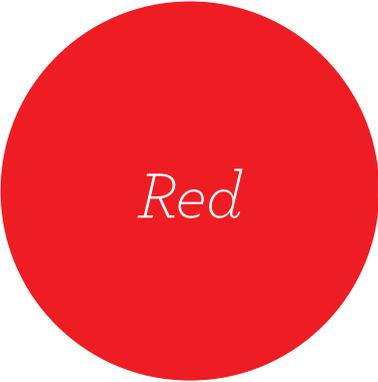
The very best of

Tickled pink, to be

Very pleased

Turn pink, to

To co-operate with law enforcement authorities and provide information about accomplices in order to reduce one's sentence



Red

Behaviourally, red stimulates appetite and energy levels, raises blood pressure and makes a person feel hot. It is the first colour the eye sees in the morning and the first colour a child relates to. It is frequently used for buttons and switches to command attention. Red is often associated with squares, as in red-checked tablecloths, passion and spicy foods. It is a highly emotive colour, evocative of love and lust and associated with impulsiveness, courage, revolution and anger. Playing off our instinctual responses, red is virtually impossible to ignore. It's aggressive, provocative, exciting, seductive, dynamic, and sexy. When red tones are deepened to burgundy they are viewed as rich, refined, expensive, and authoritative. Red appears in many sayings: 'seeing red', 'red-blooded', 'red alert', 'caught red-handed' and 'red tape'.

RED TAPE

While the term seems abstract now, in the beginning, red tape was literally that: red tape. Before the days of binder clips and file folders, court and government clerks needed a way to keep documents together. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, and possibly even earlier, official documents in many countries were folded and bound with red cloth, ribbon, or tape to keep them secure. Even at the Vatican, documents were bound with red cloth.

The US Federal Court used bright red cotton ribbon to bind official documents from 1790 to 1915. The cotton ribbon was wide, braided, and soft so it wouldn't damage the paper like other types of ribbon or rope.

Court documents were stored in wooden boxes, with all of a day's paperwork folded and taped together. If someone wanted to find a court document, they would have to go through the box until they found the bundle for the day in question. Then they had to slice through the red cotton tape to view the papers. When they were finished, more red tape was used to bundle the documents again and replace them in the box.

The process was time consuming, especially if the exact date of the paperwork in question wasn't known. The clerk might spend hours, if not days, going through boxes and cutting red tape on scores of document bundles before finding the right one.

Today's government works with computers, but the process for handling information often seems as slow and cumbersome as the old method of boxes and tape. Every election brings talk of trimming governmental red tape, but measures to do so might just create even more red tape headaches.

Red

Another redskin bit the dust

A phrase which used to be used when a cowboy shot a Native American Indian

Beaten like a red-headed stepchild, to be

To be badly beaten

Better a red face than a black heart

A proverb meaning it is better to be embarrassed than to be a cruel person

Better dead than Red

It is better to be dead than be a Communist

Better red than dead

Anti-nuclear slogan referring to the American-Soviet arms race, meaning it would be better to let the Soviets win than there to be nuclear war

Bleed red ink, to

When a company is losing a lot of money

Blood red

Red like the colour of blood

Bloody Red Shoes

An English punk duo

Captain Scarlet

A popular children's television series from the 1960s created by Gerry Anderson

Catch someone red-handed, to

To catch someone doing something wrong

Crimson tide

A woman's period

Crimson Tide

A 1995 submarine film directed by Tony Scott

Crimson tide

A cocktail of vodka and pomegranate juice

Curse you, Red Baron

A line used by Snoopy in the cartoon strip by Charles M Schultz

Dago red

Cheap or poor quality red wine

Down the little red lane

Down someone's throat

Dyeing scarlet

Obsolete, heavy drinking

Ears are red

When someone is talking about you

Eric the Red

A Norse explorer who colonised Greenland

Get the red light, to

To be prevented from doing something

Go red, to

To blush

Harvard Crimson, the

The daily student newspaper of Harvard University

Harvard Crimson, the

The athletics teams for Harvard University

In the red, to be

To have financial accounts that are in debt, or to be in debt

Infrared light

Light waves in the electromagnetic spectrum that are longer than visible red light

Lady in Red

A well know song by Chris de Burgh

Left red-faced, to be

To blush from embarrassment from a mistake

Little Red Riding Hood

The main character in the well-known French fairy tale

King Crimson

An English rock band

Maroon 5

An American rock band

Not have a red cent, to

To have no money, not even a penny

Out of the red, to be

Out of debt

Paint the town red, to

To have a lively and usually drunken night out

Put your money on black or red, to

To gamble on a colour in roulette

Red, a

A Communist or Communist sympathiser

Red alert, to be on

The highest level of alert in preparation for an attack or disaster

Red and the black, the

The gambling game of roulette

Red Army

The Bolshevik army or later the Communist army of the Soviet Union

Red as a beetroot, to go as

To blush from embarrassment

Red as a cherry, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a poppy, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as blood, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a carnation, a

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a cock's comb, a

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a fox, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a geranium, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a lobster, as

A simile that describes something as being red, often refers to sunburn

Red as a peony, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as a rose, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as an apple, as

A simile that describes something as being red

Red as any glede, as

Obsolete, a simile that describes something as being red

Red as current wine, as

Obsolete, a simile that describes something as being red

Red badge, a

A symbol of courage

Red badge of courage, a

A war wound

Red Badge of Courage, the

A novel by Stephen Crane from 1895 about the American Civil War

Red ball express

A fast freight train

Red Baron

Manfred von Richthofen, the German WWI fighter pilot credited with more air combat victories than any other pilot

Red blood cells

Cells in the blood stream that carry oxygen to organs and tissue

Red brick

Used to describe buildings built with a ceramic brick, that is reddish in colour

Red Brick University

A group of 6 universities in England who achieved university status before WWI

Red Brigade, the

A radical Italian terrorist group

Red card, to get a

To be sent off the pitch for foul play in certain sports

Red card, to get a

A sign of misconduct

Red carpet treatment, to get the

To get very special treatment

Red cheeks

A sign of good health

Red China

A reference to the People's Republic of China being Communist

Red Cross, the

A charity providing first aid and emergency medical care and aid in response to humanitarian and natural disasters

Red Cross Knight, the

St George, the patron saint of England

Red devil

A type of barbiturate with the trade name Seconal

Red devil, a

Personification of the devil

Red Devils, the

The nickname for Manchester United Football Club

Red dog

Early nineteenth century term for an American bank note

Red dog

A worthless private bank during the mid 1800s in America

Red dog

A gambling card game played with poker chips

Red dog

An American Football play

Red dwarf

A type of small star with a low surface temperature

Red Dwarf

A popular BBC sci-fi comedy series from the 1990s

Red eyes

Eyes that are blood-shot from crying, alcohol or irritation

Red faces

Embarrassed people

Red flag

A symbol of battle or revolution

Red flag

A symbol of international socialism

Red flag something, to

To prevent or halt something

Red flannel

A material commonly worn by labourers in the mid-nineteenth century America

Red fox

A type of fox with reddish-brown fur, found across the northern hemisphere

Red giant

A type of large, gaseous planet, for example Jupiter

Red Guard, the

A group of militant Chinese Communists

Red Harvest

A Norwegian metal band

Red hat

Signifies the rank of Cardinal

Red head, a

Someone who has red or ginger hair

Red herring, a

A diversion away from something of significance

Red herring fallacy

A valid argument but one that does not address the case in point

Red herring prospectus

An initial offering on a new stock or bond

Red hot

Very hot

Red hot

Exciting or popular

Red Hot Chilli Peppers

An American rock band

Red hot poker

A tool used to arrange hot coals, with the tip often becoming very hot

Red hot poker

A type of flowering plant found in South Africa

Red House Painters

An American alternative rock group

Red in the face, to be

To blush from exertion or embarrassment

Red in the gills as a turkey-cock, to go as

To be incredibly angry

Red in tooth and claw

The violence of the natural world and the blood often shed for survival

Red Indian

Refers to a native North American Indian

Red ink

Debt

Red ink

Cheap or poor quality red wine

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, The

An American rock band

Red Krayola

Formerly The Red Crayola, an American psychedelic rock band

Red letter days

An important event, special day or day of religious significance

Red light

The stop signal used on traffic lights

Red light district

An area of a town or city where prostitutes work

Red lips

A sign of good health

Red lorry, yellow lorry

A well know tongue twister

Red meat

Meat that is red when raw, including beef, lamb and pork

Red men

Offensive, a Native North American Indian

Red Menace

The threat of widespread Communism

Red mist

Rage

Red nose

Implies drunkenness

Red nose

Coarseness or lack of refinement in a person

Red onion

A variety of onion with a dark red skin

Red pencil, to

To censor or correct something

Red pepper

A ripe bell or capsicum pepper

Red pepper

Ripe peppercorns

Red rag

Something that infuriates or provokes

Red rag to a bull, like a

Something done to deliberately rile someone

Red, Red Wine

A song by UB40

Red Republic, the

The French Second Republic

Red Republican

The Republicans in the French Revolution

Red ribbon

A common symbol of HIV/AIDS support and awareness

Red ribbon

An award given to second place in a competition

Red rover

A game played by school children

Red sails in the sunset

A woman's period

Red sails in the sunset

A popular 1930s song by Jimmy Kennedy and Will Grosz

Red sails in the sunset

Australian slang term for over-sentimentality

Red scare

The fear of Communist takeover in the West

Red Sea

The body of water that lies between Africa and the Arab peninsula

Red shift

When light waves radiating from a star shift to red due to travelling a long distance

Red Shirts

Italian revolutionaries from the nineteenth century

Red Shirts

Injured college football players who stay at high school for an extra year to practise with but not play on a varsity team

Red sky at night shepherd's delight Red sky in the morning shepherds warning

A well know proverb indicating a fair weather day after a red sunset or wet day after a red sunrise

Red snow

When a harmless type of red coloured algae grows on top of snow, often found in Arctic and Alpine regions

Red Sox

A professional baseball team from Boston

Red state, a

A state whose population predominantly votes Republican in US Presidential elections

Red tape

Excessive bureaucracy

Red tide

Large numbers of a type of poisonous, red-coloured algae, common in the Gulf of Mexico

Red tops

Tabloid newspapers

Red water

British equivalent of red tide, cause by large numbers of red algae

Red, white and blue

Often used to refer to the flag of the United States of America, the Stars and Stripes

Red with anger, to be

To be so angry that your face turns red

Red-baiting

The harassment of known or suspected Communists in the early to mid-twentieth century

Red-blooded

Vigorous or virile

Red-blooded American, a

Someone, possibly with Conservative views, who is very proud of American traditions and enjoys partaking in them,

Red-blooded male, a

A very virile and sexually active man

Red-bone, a

A term mainly used in Southern US states, particularly Louisiana to refer to someone who is ethnically a mix of three different races

Red-eye

Raw whiskey

Red-eye, the

A colloquialism for an overnight long haul flight

Red-eyed

To have red eyes from crying, alcohol or irritation

Red-flannel hash

A variety of hash made with corned-beef, potatoes and cooked beetroot

Red-green colour blindness

The most common type of colour-blindness when colours red and or green are not seen correctly

Red-headed

Nineteenth century slang for impetuous

Red-hot mama

Used to refer to the female singers who sung with small jazz groups in the first half of the twentieth century

Red-hot mama

An exciting woman

Redcap

An American railway porter

Redcap

A British military policeman

Redcoats

The British Army

Redcoats

Entertainers and staff of Butlins holiday resorts

Redlining

To exclude certain group of people from access to financial products

Redneck

Usually refers to poor, white Americans or someone with crude or racist views

Redneck

Nineteenth century term for Presbyterians in Arkansas

Redskins, the

The Washington DC National Football League team

Reds under the bed

An obsession with the threat of Communist takeover

Redskin

Offensive, refers to a Native North American Indian

Roll out the red carpet, to

To put down a red carpet for VIPs

Roll out the red carpet, to

To give someone special treatment

Roses are red violets are blue

A well-known poem or type of poem known as doggerel

Ruby red

To describe the colour of something as red, like rubies

Ruby slippers

The slippers worn by Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz

Ruby slippers

A valuable feature overlooked by the owner or user

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

A fictional reindeer that features in a popular Christmas song and originally a book by Robert L. May

Run a red light, to

To not stop driving when a traffic light shows red

Scarlet fever

A contagious disease that can be fatal

Scarlet fever

Obsolete, to love the British army or a man in uniform

Scarlet Letter, The

A novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Scarlet Pimpernel, the

A novel by Baroness Orczy, also the name of the main character

Scarlet with rage

So angry that one's face turns red

Scarlet woman

A prostitute

See the red light, to

To recognise approaching danger or obstacle

See red, to

To be very angry

Simply Red

An English soul band

Thin red line, the

The Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War

Thin red line, the

The unpopular form of Russian communism

Thin red line, the

The fire service

Thin red line of heroes, the

An understaffed military unit who has managed to hold firm

Three Colours Red

A British rock band from the 1990s

Three Colours: Red

The third film in the French Three Colours trilogy, directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski

Vendetta Red

An American alternative rock band

Vex Red

An English hard rock band

William the Red

William the II of England (1056-1100)

A solid orange circle is centered on a white background. The word "Orange" is written in a white, cursive font inside the circle.

Orange

AGENT ORANGE

During the Vietnam War, the US Air Force used a powerful herbicide, which was known as Agent Orange to clear areas of jungle in South Vietnam which offered cover to the guerrilla fighters and provided land for farming. Agent Orange was one of a number of herbicides used as part of Operation Ranch Hand, which also included Agent Blue and Agent White. They were created by Monsanto Corporation and Dow Chemical for the US Department of Defence and code named after the coloured stripe on their containers. Of all the chemicals used Agent Orange was remembered for being the most powerful, toxic and damaging. It has since caused thousands of birth defects and medical conditions in Vietnam and contaminated vast areas of land.

Orange

Agent Orange

A powerful herbicide that was used by the American military in the Vietnam War against the South Vietnamese

Agent Orange

An American punk band from Orange County

Clockwork orange, a

A person lacking individuality because of institutional conditioning

Clockwork Orange

The 1971 film by Stanley Kubrick

Future's bright, the future's orange, the

The advertising slogan for UK mobile phone service provider Orange

House of Orange, The

The Dutch Royal Family

Just peachy

Everything is great

Loyal Orange Institution

An organisation set up in Northern Ireland to defend Protestantism

Orange

A UK mobile phone and broadband service provider

Orange blossom

A flower of the orange tree, often used for weddings

Orange blossom

A cocktail made with orange juice, gin and ice

Orange bowl

An American college football game held in Florida

Orange bowl

The shell used as a shade for an opium lamp

Orange County

A county in the state of California, USA

Orange Crush

A song by REM

Orange Free State

One of the provinces of South Africa

Orange Goblin

An English metal band

Orange juice

The juice of the orange fruit

Orange pekoe tea

A type of black tea

Orange River

A river in South Africa the runs along the boundary of Orange Free State

Orange stick

A tool used in manicures to push back the nail cuticle

Orange tree, an

The tree that produces the orange fruit

Orangeade

A juice made from orange juice, water and sugar

Orangemen

The name given to members of the Loyal Orange Institution in Northern Ireland

Orangery, an

A greenhouse used for growing oranges in colder climates

Peaches and cream complexion

Describes woman with a fair complexion, often with freckles and red hair

Pretty as a peach

A phrase use to describe an attractive young woman or child

Queer as a clockwork orange, as

A cockney expression from the 1950s, referring to homosexuals

Squeeze an orange, to

Extracting all the profit out of something or someone and then discarding it

Suck an orange, to

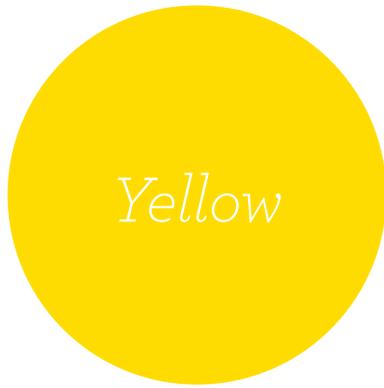
Extracting all the profit out of something or someone and then discarding it

Tangerine Dream

A German electronic music group

William of Orange

The English king William III who was married to Queen Mary



YELLOW JOURNALISM

Today “yellow journalism” means irresponsible, exaggerated, lurid, and even slanderous reporting, a definition that hasn’t strayed far from the original meaning.

The term “yellow journalism” has an original and unique origin. This phrase has lately been replaced by terms such as “tabloid reporting” and “infotainment” since broadcast, cable, and internet news sources have become more viewed than newspapers. Still, yellow journalism is considered a very derogatory term.

Yellow journalism stems from the late 1800s through the early 1900s when two newspaper owners tried to outdo each other with their front page spreads, all in pursuit of the highest circulation total. In those days, all news came from the newspaper, since there was no other way of getting such information. If a journalist decided to stretch the truth a bit, there was no one to dispute his facts. In this fertile soil sprouted yellow journalism.

Yellow

All he touches turns to gold

Someone who has good fortune or seems to make money easily

All that glitters is not gold

Something that is flashy is not always valuable

Amber light

Proceed with caution

Big Yellow Taxi

A song by Joni Mitchell

Black gold

Oil

Blonde bombshell

A very glamorous, blonde-haired woman

Can't cut the mustard

Someone who is unable to deal with difficult situations

Comedy Gold

A joke that is very funny or unintentionally funny

Cream

A British rock group from the 1960s

Double yellow lines

A British road marking to indicate car-parking restrictions

Follow the yellow brick road, to

Follow your own path or journey to get to your goal

Follow the yellow brick road, to

To discover the ultimate truth

Fool's gold

The mineral iron pyrite, with resembles gold in colour

Gold, to say someone is

To say someone is wonderful

Gold digger

A person who is only interested in someone for their wealth

Gold dust, like

Describing something that is very difficult to get hold of

Gold mine of information, a

Someone or something that is a valuable resource of information or is very knowledgeable

Gold mine, sitting on a

Describing someone who is in control of something with a lot of potential value

Gold standard, the

The highest quality

Gold standard, the

A monetary system where a unit of money is worth a fixed amount of gold in weight

Gold star, a

An award or praise earned for good behaviour or effort

Gold-rush

A sudden opportunity to make money

Goldbrick, a

Someone, particularly a soldier who avoids their responsibilities, or is idle

Goldbrick, to

To trick, cheat or deceive

Golden boy

A young man who is very successful at an early age

Golden calf, the

A golden image of a calf, worshipped by the Israelites

Golden girl

A Marvel Comics character from the 1940s

Golden handcuffs

Financial incentives to prevent an employee from leaving a company

Golden handshake

A significant severance package that is included in a term of employment

Golden hello

A bonus offered to employees who join a company from a rival

Golden oldies

Classic hit songs that are still played today

Golden oldies

Old age pensioners

Golden opportunity, to have a

To have a very good chance of achieving something

Golden parachute

Conditions in a contract of employment, which entitle the employee to certain benefits if the contract is terminated

Golden ratio, the

A mathematical ratio approximately equal to 1.61803398874989

Golden rectangle, a

A rectangle believed to have particularly pleasing proportions, which are based on the golden ratio

Golden Rule, a

A very important rule, that needs to be remembered

Golden Rule, The

A moral principal that states that you should treat others as you wish to be treated

Golden section, the

A mathematical constant also know as the golden ratio

Golden touch

A song by the band Razorlight

Golden touch, to have a

Someone who is able to make a lot of money from everything that they do

Goldfinger

The third film in the James Bond series

Goldfinger

An American punk rock band

Goldfrapp

An English electronic music act

Good as gold, as

Well behaved

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road

A song by Elton John

Heart of gold, a

Describing someone who is very kind and generous

Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini

A song by Paul Vance and Lee Pockriss

Ivory tower, from an

An institution where academics study subjects removed from the practical concerns of everyday life

Keen as mustard, as

Very enthusiastic

Kill the goose that laid the golden egg, to

To destroy something that makes you money or profit

Lemon Jelly

A British electronic music group

Lemonheads, the

An American alternative rock group

Mellow yellow

Relaxed or laid back

Mellow Yellow

A song by Donovan

Pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, the

An imaginary reward

Red lorry, yellow lorry

A well know tongue twister

Silence is golden

Quiet is preferable to speaking

Solid gold

The best of the best

Streets paved with gold

Originally referring to London, a place with a lot of wealth

Strike gold, to

To become rich

Strike gold, to

To win a gold medal

Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree

A song by Tony Orlando from 1973

Worship the golden calf, to

To worship money and pursue material wealth

Worth its weight in gold

Very valuable or useful

Yellow alert, to be on

A state of readiness or preparedness for an emergency or disaster

Yellow as a guinea, as

A simile to describe something as looking yellow, like a guinea, as

Yellow as a kite's foot, as

A simile to describe something as looking yellow, as

Yellow as a marigold, as

A simile to describe something as looking yellow, as

Yellow as gold, as

A simile to describe something as looking yellow like gold, as

Yellow as wax, as

A simile to describe something as looking yellow, as

Yellow bellied

Cowardly

Yellow Book, The

A quarterly magazine published in Britain in the 1890s, which featured the writing of Oscar Wilde

Yellow boy, a

A guinea

Yellow brick road, the

The name given to the road in the feature film adaptation of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Yellow card, to be shown a

To receive a warning

Yellow card, to be shown a

A to be cautioned for foul play in football

Yellow dog, a

A mongrel dog

Yellow dog, a

A cowardly or worthless person

Yellow dog, a

Someone who opposed trade unions in America in the nineteenth century

Yellow dog Democrat, a

An American saying referring to someone who will always vote Democrat

Yellow Emperor, the

The first emperor of China Huang Ti

Yellow fever

An infectious, tropical disease

Yellow fever

Gold prospecting in nineteenth century Australia

Yellow flag

A flag flown on a ship to indicate that there were no infectious diseases aboard

Yellow flu

An American colloquialism describing student absenteeism as a protest against compulsory school bussing to increase racial integration in the 1970s

Yellow hair

Golden or blond hair

Yellow hat

An ancient mark of being Jewish

Yellow jack

A flag flown on a ship to indicate that there were no infectious diseases aboard

Yellow jacket, a

American slang for a wasp or hornet

Yellow journalism

Unscrupulous newspaper journalism

Yellow Kid

A character from The World newspaper's cartoon strip from the late nineteenth century

Yellow line

A line painted on the side of a stretch of road that has parking restrictions, or down the centre of a road to indicate no overtaking, or to stay in lane

Yellow Pages, the

British telephone directory

Yellow pepper

A bell pepper in the process of ripening

Yellow peril

Offensive, a term referring to the fear in Western countries of the dominance of Asian populations

Yellow press

Newspapers that publish sensationalist articles

Yellow rain

Vast amounts of pollen from a plant or tree

Yellow ribbon

Used as a sign of support for American soldiers, particularly those fighting in Gulf Wars

Yellow ribbon

Signifies remembrance

Yellow River

A major river in China

Yellow Sea, the

The body of water that lies between China and the Korean peninsula

Yellow sickness

An American name for Yellow Fever

Yellow skin

Jaundiced or old skin

Yellow Star of Davis, the

The mark Jews were forced to wear during the reign of the Nazi party, now associated with the Holocaust

Yellow stockings, to wear

Obsolete, to be jealous

Yellow streak, to have a

To have a cowardly nature

Yellow Submarine

A song by the Beatles

Yellow traffic light

Get ready to proceed

Yellow with age

Old or aging

Yellow-bellied sapsucker, the

A type of woodpecker found in North America

Yellow-dog contract

A nineteenth century agreement that an employee would not join a labour union

Yellow-livered, to be

To be cowardly

Yellowback

A type of cheap book, backed in yellow board available in the late nineteenth century in America

Yellowbelly

Eighteenth century slang for someone born in the Lincolnshire or Norfolk fens

Yellowcard

An American pop punk band

Yellowed

Aged

Yellowfin tuna

A type of tuna fish

Yellowfish

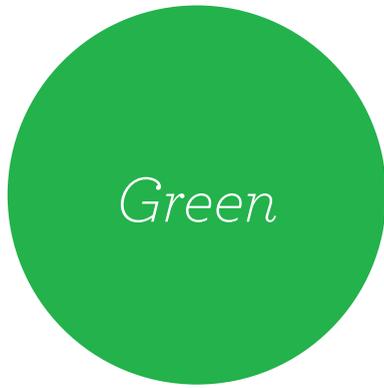
Offensive, illegal Chinese immigrants

Yellowjackets

An American smooth jazz quartet

You'll wonder where yellow went

An advertising jingle for toothpaste from the 1950s



Instinctively, green evokes a sense of relaxation, comfort and quietness. It is an undemanding colour, neither too hot nor too cold. It is the easiest colour for the eye to see, and therefore the most restful. Green is the colour of concentration and relaxation. It is associated with nature, spring, new growth, new beginnings, the smell of the outdoors, fresh scents, renewal and rounded triangular shapes. It is also used to signify that something is safe. Deep greens and emerald greens are elegant, safe, and secure, conjuring images of money and prestige. However yellow-greens can often be associated with illness. Many phrases are associated with the colour green: 'green-fingered', 'green around the gills' and 'green with envy'.

GREEN WITH ENVY

"It turned Brer Merlin green with envy and spite, which was a great satisfaction to me." A Connecticut Yankee by Mark Twain

'Green with envy' was a colourful term used long before Mark Twain wrote these words about jealousy in the late-1800s. Today, the saying means that one is envious or covetous of someone or something. If one is "bitten by the green-eyed monster," it's thought they are consumed with jealousy. With envy being one of the deadly sins, there's been a lot written about it since the beginning of time.

If you go back a few hundred years to the 16th and 17th centuries, great authors such as Shakespeare and Chaucer wrote of characters who were green with envy.

Shakespeare uses green to describe jealousy at least three times in his works. In Othello, Iago refers to the 'green-eyed monster.' In Anthony and Cleopatra, Shakespeare wrote of the 'green sickness,' meaning jealousy. And in Merchant of Venice, he used the term 'green-eyed jealousy.'

Green

A hedge between keeps friendship green

A proverb saying your friendship will last if you and your friend respect each other's privacy

Al Green

An American gospel singer

As sure as God made little green apples

Absolutely certain

Blue and green should never be seen without a colour in between

A saying about clothing, meaning that blue and green will only work together if mixed with another colour

Bottle-green

Something dark green in colour

Bowling green

The pitch used to play lawn bowls

Cold as Greenland, as

A very cold climate, like Greenland

Colourless green ideas sleep furiously

A sentence constructed by Noam Chomsky that is grammatically correct but has no meaning

Eat your greens

Eat your vegetables

Emerald Isle, The

Ireland

Enjoy a green old age, to

Longevity of life or someone who is aging well

Evergreen

A type of tree that does not lose its leaves in winter

Evergreen

A song by Barbra Streisand

Evergreen

A song released by Westlife and covered by Will Young

Get the green light, to

To get permission or approval for something

Give a girl a green gown, to

To take a girl's virginity

Give the green light, to

To give someone permission to proceed with something

Going green

To become more environmentally friendly

Grass is greener on the other side, the

What you don't have always appears to be better than what you do have

Green

Immature

Green

Unripe

Green

Something that it doesn't harm the environment

Green and pleasant land

The English countryside

Green apples

Varieties of apple with green skin even when ripe

Green around the gills, to look

To look sick

Green as a bottle, as

Obsolete, a simile to describe something as being green

Green as emerald, as

A simile to describe something as being green

Green as grass, as

A simile to describe something as being green

Green as grass, to be as

To be inexperienced

Green as sap, as

Obsolete, a simile to describe something as being green

Green as young potatoes, as

Obsolete, a simile to describe something as being green

Green belt

An area of countryside around an urban area that has planning restrictions to protect it

Green beans

A type of long, narrow edible bean

Green Berets, the

A nickname for the British Commandos

Green Berets, the

A nickname for the American Special Forces

Green card

A card that gives foreigners permission to work legally in the United States

Green card

A card used in Britain in the 1950s to show that motorists had third-party insurance

Green cheese

Inferior cheese, cheese made from skimmed milk or cheese mixed with green herbs

Green corn

Young ears of corn

Green Erin

Poetic name for the Republic of Ireland

Green fingers, to have

Good at growing plants

Green goods

Obsolete American term for counterfeit money

Green Grow the Rushes, Ho!

Popular folk song

Green hand, a

Inexperienced sailor

Green Jelly

An American comedy rock band

Green lists

List of political figures who are in support of sustainability and environmental issues

Green man, the

The traffic light signal to pedestrians to cross the road safely

Green Mile, The

A prison film directed by Frank Darabont and starring Tom Hanks

Green mile, to walk the

To be heading towards something that is inevitable

Green Mountain Boys

A group of men who fought against Britain in the American War of Independence and lived within the area of Green Mountain in Vermont

Green Mountain State

A nickname for the state of Vermont

Green Mountains, the

A mountain range in the state of Vermont that are wooded to their peaks

Green onion

A spring onion or salad onion

Green Paper

An initial proposal document published by the government about specific areas of policy

Green Party, the

A UK political party with an environmentally friendly agenda

Green pastures

A better place, sometimes refers to paradise

Green pepper

An unripe pepper which can be eaten cooked or raw

Green peril

The bright green French liqueur Absinthe

Green power

The influence of environmental lobbyists

Green Revolution, the

The introduction of high-yielding crops varieties into Asia in the 1960s

Green room

An area where actors or performers sit before they go on stage or set

Green rushes

A sign of welcome for someone who has been away for a long time

Green salad

A salad mainly made lettuce and other green leaves

Green sickness

A severe and often fatal form of jaundice

Green sickness

A sixteenth century term for a mild form of anaemia

Green sickness

Jealousy

Green shoots of recovery, the

A sign of new growth after a difficult period, particularly in reference to the economy

Green stuff

American slang for money

Green tea

Tea made from the leaves of the *Camellia sinensis*, with minimal oxidation

Green thumb

To be good at growing plants

Green turtle

A type of turtle with a green shell

Green with envy, to be

To be very envious

Green wood

Recently cut wood that has not been dried and is slow to burn if lit

Green-eyed, to be

To be jealous

Green-eyed monster, the

Jealousy

Greenback Labour party

An American political party in the late 1800s

Greenbacks

American dollar bills

Green Day

An American punk rock band

Greener pastures, to move to

To change your circumstances for a better position

Greenery

Vegetation

Greenflies

A type of aphid

Greenfies

American slang for obsessive fans of major-league baseball players

Greengage, a

A type of plum that is green even when ripe

Greengrocer, a

A retailer of fruit and vegetables

Greenhorn, a

Someone who is a beginner or novice

Greenhornes, The

An American garage rock band

Greenhouse, a

A glass enclosure for growing plants

Greenhouse effect, the

Refers to the warming of the earth due to heat from the sun being reflected back by gases in the atmosphere

Greenhouse gases

A group of gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect when release into the atmosphere

Greenie, a

An Australian term for someone who is environmentally conscious

Greening

A seventeenth century name for a variety of pear

Greenland

The large landmass that sits in the Arctic Circle, which is an autonomous country of the Kingdom of Denmark

Greenmail

Buying a large number of shares in a company to threaten a takeover, forcing the owners to buy the shares back at a higher price

Greenpeace

A charity that fights for environmental and conservation issues

Greens

Vegetables, particularly leafy green ones

Greensleeves

Obsolete, an unfaithful woman

Greensleeves

A ballad first published in 1580

Greens, the

Members of the environmental movement or the Green Party

Greenstick fracture, a

A type of minor fracture when a bone breaks on one side but only bends on the other

Greentapping

Donating money to a charity as part of an everyday transaction, for example through a percentage of a credit card payment

Greenwash

The practise of making something appear more environmentally friendly than it is

Greenwood

A forest or wood that is in full leaf

Greenwood

The habitat of outlaws

In the green, to be

To be on the stage

In the limelight, to be

To be the centre of attention

Lincoln Green

A type of green cloth, said to be worn by Robin Hood

Little green men

A metaphor for aliens

Look a bit green, to

To look unwell

On the green, to be

To be close to a successful outcome

Not to be as green as one is cabbage looking, to be

To be more intelligent than one looks

Peter Green

An English blues guitarist, founder of Fleetwood Mac and the Peter Green Splinter Group

Put more green into something, to

To invest more money into something

Putting green

The area of a golf course around each hole

Read the green, to

To assess the condition and surface of the course when playing golf

Red-green colour blindness

The most common type of colour-blindness when colours red and or green are not seen correctly

Rub of the green, the

The luck of the draw

Sea green

A description of something that is blue-green

See green in someone's eye, to

To detect gullibility in someone

Steal the limelight, to

To make yourself the centre of attention

The moon is made of green cheese, to make someone believe

To convince someone of something that is absurd or impossible

Things are starting to green up around here

The arrival of spring

Turn green, to

To become ill

Village green

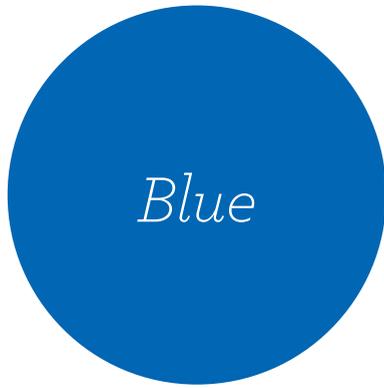
A publicly owned area, usually covered in grass, in the centre of a village, for public use and events

Vivian Green

An American R&B soul singer, songwriter and pianist

Wearing of the Green, The

An eighteenth century patriotic Irish ballad



Blue is the most popular favourite colour. Physically, viewing blue will help to lower blood pressure, as it is calming, restful, soothing, and tranquil. Non-threatening, blue is reliable, dependable, committed, and trustworthy. It is also associated with longevity. Blue is often chosen for its sense of coolness. It is the colour of water and sky. Navy blues suggest authority and credibility, brilliant blues are dramatic and dynamic, and light blues are playful. Blue is associated with salty tastes, a compensation for sweet and musty smells, and is associated with circle shapes. Blue appears in many phrases: 'once in a blue moon', 'blue funk', and 'blue blood'.

BLUE BLOOD

The term “blue blood” came to be associated with the aristocracy simply because it was not uncommon in earlier times for European nobility to have skin that appeared to have a blue cast. The bluish (or sometimes greenish) discolouration of their skin was often caused by a condition known as Argyria.

Argyria is the result of ingested silver particles that are not able to pass through the body. Historically, this was caused by particles from silver eating utensils being swallowed along with food or silver being taken for medicinal purposes. Aristocrats were originally the ones who could afford medicine and who enjoyed the daily privilege of eating off of silver plates, drinking from silver vessels, and, as the saying goes, being born with “a silver spoon in their mouth.” Thus, Argyria was a condition that was more common among the upper class.

During this same period in history, having pale skin “untouched by the sun” was a mark of status among the wealthy who did not have to labour outdoors. Argyria would have certainly been more noticeable among individuals with untanned skin. However, it is also thought that the term may have come about simply because veins were more noticeable among those with pale complexions, even if they weren’t plagued by this condition.

Blue

Agent Blue

A herbicide spray that was used by American forces in the Vietnam War along with Agent Orange

Alice Blue

A shade of light blue President Theodore Roosevelt's daughter Alice made that popular

Aqua

A Danish/Norwegian pop band

Aqualung

An English singer-songwriter

Baby blues

Postnatal depression, a form of depression that can affect women who have just had a baby

Beat someone black and blue, to

To beat someone until they are badly bruised

Between the devil and the deep blue sea

A situation where either outcome is not good

Black and blue

To do something vigorously

Black and blue, to be

To be badly bruised

Black Tape for a Blue Girl

An American darkwave band

Blue

An English boy band

Blue

Sadness

Blue

Indecent

Blue

Politically conservative

Blue

A song by Joni Mitchell

Blue

Drunk

Blue, a

An award earned for competing in sports at the highest level at university

Blue, the

The sky

Blue, to

To spend lots of money

Blue, to

To treat clothes with blueing as part of washing laundry

Blue and green should never be seen without a colour in between

A saying about clothing, meaning that blue and green will only work together if mixed with

Blue as a larkspur, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue as a razor, as

Very drunk

Blue as a violet, as

A simile to describe something as blue, like a violet flower

Blue as an indigo bag, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue as an old maid, as

Very moral uptight and prudish

Blue as blazes, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue as brimstone, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue as steel, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue as the sky, as

A simile to describe something as blue

Blue baby, a

A baby born with congenital cyanosis

Blue balls

A condition where a man's testicles ache from excess blood flow

Blue blood, to be of

Born into nobility or a royal family

Blue Bonnets, the

A slang term for UN peacekeeping troops

Blue book, a

The book used to keep official reports of Parliament

Blue book, a

A blank booklet used in American schools for writing examinations

Blue Book, a

An official book listing the current value of used cars

Blue bottle, a

A policeman

Blue cheese

Cheese that has Penicillium cultures added to it, making it veined with blue mould

Blue Chip Company, a

A company with a national reputation for quality and reliability

Blue Christmas

A song by Elvis Presley

Blue comedy, a

Comedy that is based on indecent jokes

Blue cross sale, a

A store sale where the labels of discounted items are marked with a blue cross

Blue day, a

A clear and sunny day

Blue devil, the

Melancholy

Blue fish, a

A marine game fish

Blue fish, a

A shark

Blue flag

A common type of iris

Blue flag

A signal used in motorsport indicating slower cars are being lapped by the leaders and to let the car pass

Blue flag, someone has hoisted the

That someone has gone into a trade, particularly as a butcher or fishmonger

Blue funk, to be in a

To be in a state of anxiety or depression

Blue gown, a

A prostitute

Blue in the face, to be

To be exhausted from effort or exertion

Blue jacket

A sailor wearing a naval uniform

Blue jay, a

A type of bird with blue feathers native to North America

Blue jeans

Trousers made from denim and traditionally dyed blue

Blue joke, a

An indecent or obscene joke

Blue language

Foul or obscene language

Blue laws

Laws enforcing church rulings on Sundays and other days of religious significance

Blue Man Group, the

A theatrical and musical stage show act

Blue Monday

The name of a song by the band New Order

Blue Monday

The Monday before the beginning of Lent

Blue Monday

Can refer to the start of the working week

Blue Moon

A popular song written in 1934, and covered by Elvis Presley

Blue moon, a

The third full moon in a season with four full moons

Blue movie, a

A pornographic film

Blue murder

An outcry, or great noise

Blue Nile, the

A tributary of the River Nile, which runs through Ethiopia and Sudan

Blue Nile, the

A Scottish alternative band

Blue note, a

A half flattened note

Blue October

An American rock band

Blue on blue

Friendly fire, soldiers killed in war by their own or allied forces

Blue Oyster Cult

An American rock band

Blue pencil something, to

To make editorial corrections

Blue Peter

A long running children's television programme produced by the BBC

Blue Peter, a

A flag used as a signal that the ship is about to set sail

Blue Peter, to hoist the

To leave

Blue plate special, a

A special priced meal at a restaurant

Blue ribbon

Superior quality or a sign of excellence

Blue ribbon, a

A bruise

Blue ribbon, to be adorned with the

To be made knight of the garter

Blue Rodeo

A Canadian country pop band

Blue sky

Fine weather

Blue state, a

A state whose population votes for the Democrat candidate in a US presidential election

Blue steak

A very, very rare steak which is still red inside

Blue streak, a

Something very quick and vivid, like lightning

Blue Suede Shoes

A song by Carl Perkins, covered by Elvis Presley

Blue whale, a

A type of large whale

Blue with cold, to be

To be extremely cold, possibly creating a blue tinge to lips and fingers

Blue wonder, a

A fanciful story

Blue-collar worker, a

A job role that is low skilled or involves manual labour

Blue-eyed

Equated with beauty and goodness

Blue-eyed boy

Innocent or ingenious

Blue-eyed boy, to be a

The favourite, or connotation of favouritism

Blue-eyed maid

Minerva the Roman goddess of wisdom

Blue-haired lady, a

An older middle-class woman

Blue-haired lady, a

An older woman who uses a blue rinse to take any yellow tinges out of grey-hair.

Blue-sky laws

Laws preventing the trade of worthless stocks

Blue-sky thinking

Opening-minded thoughts or ideas that are not limited by current thinking or reality

Bluebeard, a

A man who has murdered one or more of his wives

Blueberry, a

A type of edible berry that is dark blue in colour when ripe

Bluebird, a

A type of songbird with blue feathers

Bluebird of happiness, the

Refers to the bluebird being a symbol of happiness

Bluebonnet

The traditional version of a Scottish Tam o'shanter hat

Bluebonnet

A refers to a number of species of lupine

Bluebonnet

A type of Australian parrot

Bluebottle

A type of fly with a blue, iridescent body

Bluebottle

A colloquial term for a cornflower

Bluebottle

A colloquial term for anyone in uniform

Bluecoats

Entertainers and staff who worked at Pontins holiday camps

Bluefin tuna

A variety of tuna that is highly prized

Bluegrass

Poa Pratensis, a variety of blue-green grass, found particularly in the US state of Kentucky

Bluegrass music

A genre of music characterised by a fast beat

Bluegrass State

The state of Kentucky

Bluenose

A type of potato native to Nova Scotia

Bluenose

Nineteenth century term for someone from Nova Scotia

Bluenose

Someone who is very prudish and puritanical

Blueprint, a

A type of technical drawing often used by architects and engineers

Blues, to have the

Depression

Blues, The

A type of music that originated in the African-American communities in southern states in America

Blues Brothers, The

An American blues and soul band

Blues Brothers, The

A film directed by John Landis

Bluestocking, a

A sexist insult meaning a woman who prefers intellectual subjects to traditionally female interests

Bluet

A type of plant

Bluet

Refers to a type of damselfly

Bluetail Fly

A blackface minstrel song originating in American in the 1840s

Bluetones, The

A British indie rock band

Bolt from the blue, a

Something that appears out of nowhere

Boys in blue, the

The police, or police officers

Burn blue, to

A pale flame that burns without any red in it

Burn with a low blue flame, to

To be quietly and intensely angry

Burn with a low blue flame, to

To be very drunk

Cambridge Light Blue

The colour worn by Cambridge University rowing and sports teams

Dark blue, a

An Oxford man or Harrow boy

Deep Blue Something

An American rock band

Don't It Make Your Brown Eyes Blue

A song by Crystal Gayle

Enough blue sky to make a sailor's trousers

When the sun comes out through the clouds, sometimes indicates a fine morning will mean a sunny afternoon

Ever-loving blue-eyed world

That the world is essentially a good place

Feel blue, to

Feeling sad, depressed or melancholy

Feel blue, to

Having a hangover

Get away with blue murder, to

To get away with doing something bad

Got the blues

Feeling sad or depressed

Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes

An American soul and du-wop group from the 1970s

Having a blue

An Australian phrase for having a fight

Hot as blue blazes, as

Something that is extremely hot

Indigo, to be

To be depressed

Indigo Girls

An American folk music duo

Into the blue

Into the distance or the unknown

Jelly Roll Blues

One of the earliest published blues that is still played

Light blue, a

A Cambridge man or Eton boy

Light the blue touch paper and retire, to

To get things started

Like blue blazes

Used to mean 'extremely'

Little boy blue

A character from a well-know nursery rhyme

Look blue, to

To look sad or depressed

Look blue, to

Obsolete, to look fearful

Make a blue, to

An Australian phrase for making a mistake

Memphis blues

One of the earliest published blues that is still played

Mood Indigo

A song by Duke Ellington

Mood indigo, to be in

To be incredibly depressed

Moody Blues, The

An English rock band

Old blue, an

Someone who has taken part in Oxford and Cambridge university sports, especially the annual boat race

Once in a blue moon, to happen

Something that happens extremely rarely

Out of the blue, to come

Something that occurs unexpectedly

Oxford Blue

The dark shade of blue worn by Oxford University's rowing and sports teams

Oxford Blues, The

The Royal Horse Guards

Pink for a girl, blue for a boy

A saying indicating gender colour associations

Ragged blue line, the

The Union forces in the American Civil War

Red, white and blue

Often used to refer to the flag of the United States of America, the Stars and Stripes

Rhapsody in blue

A jazz composition written by George Gershwin

Roses are red violets are blue

A well-known poem or type of poem known as doggerel

Run around like a blue arsed fly, to

To run around trying to finish work when you are busy

Screaming Blue Messiahs, The

An English rock band

Screaming blue murder, to

Scream and shout loudly and violently

Screwed, blued, and tattooed

Drunk

Screwed, blued, and tattooed

To get a bad deal on something or be taken advantage of

Sing the blues, to

To sing blues music or songs

Something borrowed, something blue

A rhyme to tell what brides to wear to bring them good luck

Talk a blue streak, to

To speak at length, very quickly

Tangled up in blue, to be

A well-known song by Bob Dylan

Thin blue line, the

A slang term for the police force

Thin Blue Line, The

A British sitcom shown in the 1990s

Thin Blue Line, The

A documentary film made in 1988 by Errol Morris

There's clear blue water between the two

A clear leader, often used to describe a the popularity of political parties in opinion polls

Three Colours: Blue

The first film in the French Three Colours trilogy, directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski

True as Coventry blue

A reference to the fact that the best blue fabrics were dyed in Coventry

True blue, to be a

To be a loyal friend or loyal to a cause

True blue will never stain

A noble heart will never disgrace itself

Turn blue, to

To have difficulty breathing

Turn the air blue, to

To swear and curse excessively

Turning blue

Someone who has become a permanent employee of Microsoft

Vanish into the blue, to

To disappear into thin air

Wild blue yonder, the

Blue sky

Working blue

Sexual innuendo or obscene comedy

Yale Blue

The colour used by Yale University



Purple

Purple is also a colour that can also help to lower blood pressure, suppress appetite, quell internal dialogue and calm overactive glands. It exhibits the characteristics of both red and blue, but it is a difficult colour to live with for long periods. Purple's strongest associations are toward floral scents, luxury, royalty and religion. It can also be associated with New Age philosophies, the spiritual, mystical and indulgence. Deep purple is regal and majestic, suggesting higher value. Lavender suggests sweet tastes and floral scents, and its connotations are sentimental and genteel. Oval or free-form shapes best represent the spirit of this colour. The colour purple is seen in a number of phrases such as 'purple prose' and 'born to the purple'.

BORN TO THE PURPLE

Born to the purple means someone who is born into royalty, nobility or someone who has inherited wealth. The term originally came from the phrase 'born in the purple'. In the Byzantine Empire the empress of the ruling family always gave birth in a special chamber or apartment. Traditionally the walls of the room were lined with porphyry, a hard igneous rock. Imperial porphyry which is reddish-purple in colour and was considered valuable and was quarried from a single site in Egypt. However rather than being porphyry born, in Greek, porphyry and purple mean the same, so the phrase became born to the purple.

Purple is also associated with royalty because the dye originally used for purple robes came from the gland of a particular type of sea snail found in the Mediterranean. Collecting it and extracting it was an expensive and time consuming process, resulting in a cloth that only royalty could afford.

Purple

Born to the purple, to be

Born into nobility and with inherited wealth

Colour Purple, The

A novel by Alice Walker, which has been adapted into a film and musical of the same name

Deep Purple

A British rock band popular in the 1970s

Go through a purple patch, to

A long and elaborate passage of writing at odds with the rest of the text

Go through a purple patch, to

To go through a period of very high achievement

Lavender rays

The name previously used to refer to wavelengths of light shorter than violet light, now known as ultraviolet light

Lay it out in lavender, to

To scold someone severely

Mauve decade

A period in the 1890s when the colour mauve was popular and widely used for clothing

New Riders of the Purple Sage

An American country rock band

Porphyry-born

See also 'born to the purple', born into nobility and with inherited wealth

Purple admiral

A species of butterfly

Purple airway

A route designated for aircraft carrying members of the Royal Family

Purple as a plum, as

A simile used to describe something as being purple

Purple cow, a

Something that is unusual or very eye-catching

Purple haze

A usually drug induced sense of confusion, typically from taking LSD or cannabis

Purple Haze

A song by The Jimi Hendrix Experience

Purple haze

A strain of marijuana

Purple heart

The wood of a tree from the genus Copaifera

Purple heart, a

A medal awarded to American soldiers injured in battle

Purple heart, a

A slang term for the drug Drinamyl a type of amphetamine

Purple in the face, to be

An earlier version of red in the face, meaning flushed from anger, emotion or physical exertion

Purple mounted majesties

A poetic phrase used to refer to distant mountains, which features in a patriotic American song

Purple passion

A type of houseplant

Purple passion

Obsolete, to show intensity

Purple prose

A literary term used to describe excessive exaggeration in a text

Purple Rain

An album and single by the recording artist Prince

Purple sage

A variety of sage with a purple tinged leaf

Purple speech

Language that uses profanity or obscenities

Purple with rage, to be

Incredibly angry

Raised to the purple

A priest that has been promoted to the rank of cardinal

Shrinking violet

Used to describe someone who is shy

Ultraviolet

Light waves that are shorter than the light spectrum visible to humans



Brown

Traditionally associated with warmth and comfort, brown speaks of solidity, reliability, substance, stability, approachability and the comforts of home. It's considered durable, wholesome, and organic. It is a colour with strong, positive food associations: brown bread, brown rice, brown sugar. Brown can suggest rustic, unbleached, natural and homemade. However it has negative associations with dirt and dullness. Expensive coffees and luscious chocolates have elevated brown to a new sophisticated stature filled with rich espresso colours, sensual tastes, and polished brown leathers. The colour brown is used in such phrases as 'to be in brown study' and 'to do it up brown'.

BROWNOUT

The most common usage of this term comes from the electric grid's inability to supply enough power. When the power supplied by your local utility is less than usual (say, 88%) brownout conditions are triggered. This is different than a blackout, which occurs when there is no power at all. In a brownout, also called a power sag, there is some power being transmitted, but not enough to meet demand.

Typically, a brownout will occur during periods of peak demand, such as in the middle of the summer when businesses and homes are all running air conditioners and coolers. If there is an accident that damages power lines, some areas might have partial power or flickering power instead of a total blackout.

In any case, brownouts are extremely dangerous for computers and other electrical devices, with the low available voltage causing such electronics to overheat as they try to run. Fluorescent lights will flicker and incandescent lights will glow much dimmer than usual.

Brown

Black and tan

A kind of terrier with a black back and a brown-coloured face

Black and tan

Slang for a drink that combines ale and stout

Black and Tans

A British force that combined the Royal Irish Constabulary to help control the Sinn Fein rebellion in Northern Ireland in the 1920s

Boston Brown Bread

A particular type of brown bread that is steamed not baked and originated in Boston, USA

Bobby Brown

An American R&B singer

Brown, to

A way of cooking meat in a frying pan to seal the flavour in

Brown and serve

A type of bread roll that is par-baked and frozen and then baked fully when needed

Brown as a berry, as

To have skin that is well tanned by the sun

Brown as a nut, as

A simile used to describe something as being brown

Brown as chestnut, as

A simile used to describe something as being brown

Brown as coffee, as

Uncommon, a simile used to describe something as being brown

Brown as leather, as

A simile used to describe something as being brown

Brown as mahogany, as

A simile used to describe something as being brown

Brown bag, to

To bring a homemade lunch to work

Brown bear

A type of large bear with brown fur found in North America and northern Europe and Asia

Brown belt

An intermediate level of skill in martial arts

Brown Bess

A name used for a type of musket by the British Army in the eighteenth century

Brown betty

A pudding made with apples, nutmeg and cinnamon

Brown Bill

Obsolete, the nickname for a weapon called a halberd, similar to an axe, used by soldiers

Brown Bomber, the

The nickname of the famous heavyweight black boxer Joe Louis

Brown bread

Bread made with wholemeal flour

Brown cow

18th century name for a barrel or beer

Brown field site

A plot of land that was previously used for industrial or commercial premises

Brown goods

Consumer appliances that used to have brown casing, for example television sets

Brown paper

Cheap, generic paper for wrapping parcels that is usually brown in colour

Brown rice

Rice that has not had the outer layer of bran removed

Brown Shirt

A slang name for members of the Nazi Party used in England in the 1930s

Brown study, to be in

To be deep in thought

Brown sugar

Unrefined cane sugar

Brown Sugar

A song by The Rolling Stones

Brown Swiss

A type of dairy cow that originated in Switzerland and has a predominantly brown coat

Brown thrasher

A type of bird found in eastern parts of North America. It is the state bird of Georgia

Brown trout

A type of trout native to Europe that has yellow-brown scales

Brown-bagger

Someone who brings his or her own homemade lunch to work

Brown-eyed girl

The title of a popular song by Van Morrison

Brown-nose, to

To try to curry favour with someone

Brown-noser

Someone who tries to curry favour with others

Browned

Tanned skin

Browned

Meat that has been partially cooked to seal in flavour

Browned off, to be

Angry or annoyed with something or someone

Brownie, a

A type of American cake, normally chocolate flavoured with nuts and cut into squares.

Brownie, a

An early type of personal camera, first produced by Kodak in 1902

Brownie, a

A type of goblin

Brownie, a

A division of the Girl Guides for younger girls aged 7-9

Brownie points

Credit earned for doing something good

Brownout

Used in America and Australia to describe a partial blackout during WWII

Brownout

A loss of electrical power supply in America

Brownstone

A type of stone often used as building material, widely used to build houses in American cities such as Boston and New York in the nineteenth century

Brownstone

A house built from brownstone

Chris Brown

An American rapper and R&B singer

Do it up brown, to

To do something thoroughly

Do someone brown, to

To trick or deceive someone

Don't It Make Your Brown Eyes Blue

A song by Crystal Gayle

How now brown cow

A phrase used to teach pronunciation

James Brown

An American soul singer and songwriter

Little brown ones

A phrase used by George Bush during his election campaign in 1988 in reference to his half-Mexican grandchildren

Maxine Brown

An American soul and R&B singer

Nut-brown

A simile used to describe something as being brown.

Plain brown wrapper

Implies concealment of pornographic or obscene material



Black

In Western cultures black is traditionally associated with death and mourning, however it is also used as a sophisticated and elegant colour. Black is perceived as impenetrable, powerful, dignified and dramatic. It can also be formal, aloof intimidating and mysterious. Black appears to weigh more than other colours, offering special appeal to equipment for which weight implies durability. However wearing it is supposed to make you look slimmer. There are also many negative connotations of black: 'blackballed', 'black listed', 'black sheep', 'the black market' and 'blackmail'.

BLACKMAIL

Unrelated to postage or letters, blackmail is Scottish in origin. In the sixteenth century farmers and landowners made extra payments clan chieftains for protection from pillaging and plunder. It was also a payment made by the Scots and English who lived on the border as protection from raid by the Border Reivers. The payment was usually made in grain, cattle or other goods rather than one made with silver (white) money. Mail is an old Scottish word meaning rent or tribute. The extra payments were taken, less than willingly from the farmers, usually with the threat of punishment. The payments were deemed illegal 'black' payments in contrast to the legal 'white' payments. The term blackmail has now come to mean a threat to reveal information about someone or their family unless specific terms are met or payment made.

Black

Accident black spot, an

A stretch of road that is particularly dangerous, and the scene of many accidents

Any colour you like so long as it's black, you can have

Any quotation attributed to Henry Ford about his mass produced Model T car which were all black

Any colour you like so long as it's black, you can have

There are no choices

Back in Black

A song by AC/DC

Back To Black

A song by Amy Winehouse

Beat someone black and blue, to

To beat someone until they are badly bruised

Better a red face than a black heart

A proverb meaning it is better to be embarrassed than to be a cruel person

Beyond the black stump

An Australian term for the back of beyond

Black, the

An American rock band

Black, to

To boycott an employer in a labour dispute

Black Album, the

An album by Metallica. Also the name of an album by Jay-Z and Prince

Black and blue

To do something vigorously

Black and blue, to be

To be badly bruised

Black and tan

A kind of terrier with a black back and a brown-coloured face

Black and tan

Slang for a drink that combines ale and stout

Black and Tans

A British force that combined the Royal Irish Constabulary to help control the Sinn Fein rebellion in Northern Ireland in the 1920s

Black and white

Good and evil

Black and white

Used to differentiate photography, film and television broadcasts from coloured media

Black Angels, The

An American psychedelic rock band

Black ant

A type of common ant

Black art

Obsolete term for typesetting

Black arts, the

The devils magic

Black as a crow, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as a minister's coat, as

An American simile to describe something as being very black

Black as a raven, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as a skillet, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as a stack of black cats, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as a sweep, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as coal, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as ebony, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as Hades, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as Hell, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as jet, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as my hat, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as Newgate's Knocker, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as night, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as pitch, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as sloe, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as soot, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as the ace of spades, as

An American simile to describe something as being very black

Black as the devil, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black as the inside of a cow, as

A naval term for saying that there is zero visibility

Black as your hat, as

A simile to describe something as being very black

Black bag

A case traditionally carried by doctors to hold medicine and implements

Black beauty

An American slang name for a particular brand of amphetamine

Black Beauty

A popular novel written by Anna Sewell, also the title character of the book who is a horse and narrates the story. Has since been adapted into several films and a television series

Black belt

The highest grading in martial arts

Black belt

The areas in the southern states of America that have a very rich, dark, fertile soil

Black belt

Obsolete referring to areas in America where there is a large population of African-Americans

Black Betty

A song by Ram Jam

Black bile

Sadness or melancholia

Black bomber

A slang name for amphetamines

Black bottom

Fertile soil or land in the southern states of America

Black bottom

A popular Broadway song, which became a popular dance

Black box

A flight recorder used on aircraft for investigation in the case of an accident or crash

Black box

A system whose inner workings are unknown

Black Box

An Italian dance music act

Black cat, a

A sign of bag luck

Black coffee

Coffee taken without milk

Black comedy

A film or comedy act that has a dark subjects, such as death as its theme

Black Crowes, The

An American rock band

Black Dahlia, The

The nickname given to the American Elisabeth Short, who was murdered in 1947. The story was also turned into a novel, film and computer game of the same name

Black Dahlia, Murder, The

An American heavy metal band

Black day, a

A very dark and bad day

Black Death, the

The bubonic plague

Black diamonds

Coal

Black diamonds

Truffles

Black dog, the

Depression or sadness

Black duck

A type of common duck found in North America, which has black and brown feathers

Black English

Speech and vocabulary used mainly by black people

Black eye, a

Bruising around the eye

Black eye, to give someone a

To punch someone in the eye

Black eye, to give someone a

To defeat someone

Black Eyed Peas, the

An American hip-hop group

Black flag

Used by an invading force to show that enemies will be killed rather than of taken prisoner

Black Flag

An American punk rock band

Black flagged

In motorsport, to have your race stopped by the stewards

Black fly

Used to refer to a number of species of fly, that feed on mammal blood

Black Friars

Monks of the Dominican Order

Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving in a America when the Christmas shopping season officially starts, usually with retailers offering discounts

Black Friday

Day the stock market crashed in 1929, which led to the Great Depression

Black Friday

Any Friday 13th

Black frost

Frost that has no white ice particles

Black future, a

A bleak outlook

Black gold

Oil

Black Hand

Most commonly used to refer to Sicilian gangsters who brought crime to New York in the 1920s

Black hole

A prison or jail

Black hole, a

An entity in space with a strong gravitational pull from which no light or matter can escape

Black Hole of Calcutta, the

A prison in India where 123 captured Europeans died overnight after suffocating due to cramped conditions in 1756

Black humour

Humour that has a dark theme as its subject

Black ice

Ice on roads which is particularly dangerous as it is virtually invisible to motorists

Black ice

Sea ice that is thin enough to see the water underneath it

Black in the face, to be

To be worked up as a result of physical exertion or anger

Black is beautiful

A cultural movement in America that celebrates the features and skin colour of black people

Black is his eye

That it's someone's fault or they are to blame

Black Keys, The

An American alternative rock duo

Black Label Society

An American heavy metal band

Black Light Burns

An American rock supergroup

Black list

A list of people or organisations to avoid or boycott or are disapproved of

Black listed, to be

To be disapproved of

Black lung disease

The common name for Coal worker's pneumoconiosis, caused by breathing in coal dust

Black magic

Witchcraft or sorcery, which evokes the devil or other evil spirits

Black Majesty

An Australian metal band

Black Maria, a

An American expression for a police van used to round up anyone drunk and disorderly

Black mark, a

A sign of disfavour against someone, often because they have done something wrong

Black market

A market that operates outside of state regulation, usually trading in illegal goods

Black Mass

A ceremony where the Devil rather than God is invoked

Black Mass

A mass for the dead

Black Metal

A genre of music

Black Monday

The 19th of October 1987, when global stock markets crashed

Black Monday

The defeat of Edward III by the French in 1360, although it actually occurred on a Tuesday

Black money

Obsolete, copper coins or poor quality silver coins

Black Muslims, the

A religious organisation founded in 1931 that rejected Christianity as a white religion and preached Islam instead, preachers included Malcolm X, who was later assassinated

Black Oak Arkansas

An American rock band, from Arkansas

Black operation, a

A covert military operation that is outside of normal military protocol or is illegal

Black out, to

To faint or lose consciousness

Black out, to

To censor

Black ox has not trod on his foot, the

Sixteenth century proverb meaning one does not know the meaning of sorrow

Black Panthers, the

A militant organisation that promoted black civil rights

Black person, a

A racial identifier used to describe someone with dark skin, of African decent

Black power

A racial empowerment movement to promote equal rights for black people in America

Black Prince, the

Edward of Woodstock, born 1330, Prince of Wales and eldest son of Edward III

Black pudding

A sausage made from cooked and congealed blood

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

An American rock band

Black Republican, a

Referred to members of the Republican Party who supported the abolition of slavery

Black Roger, a

A pirate

Black Russian, a

A cocktail made with vodka and coffee liqueur sometimes mixed with cola

Black Sabbath

An English metal band which was fronted by Ozzy Osbourne

Black Sea, the

An inland sea in Eastern Europe

Black secret, a

To hide something in the past that is very bad, similar to a dark secret

Black sheep, a

Sheep with a recessive gene that gives them a black coat

Black sheep, a

Someone who doesn't fit in

Black sheep of the family, the

Someone who doesn't fit in or is an embarrassment to his or her family

Black Shirts

Can refer to a number of twentieth century fascist organisations

Black snake, a

A common name for a number of dark-skinned reptiles

Black snake, a

A black braided whip

Black spot

A fungus that affects fruit trees and roses

Black spot

Criminal slang for an alias

Black squirrel

A type of squirrel with black fur commonly found in Mid-Western America

Black Star

An American hip-hop group

Black Stone, the

The stone kissed by every Muslim who makes a pilgrimage to the Kaaba at Mecca

Black Stone Cherry

An American metal band

Black Tape for a Blue Girl

An American darkwave band

Black Tea

A variety of tea that is oxidised for longer than green or white teas

Black Tea

Tea taken without milk

Black Tide

An American metal band

Black tie

An occasion or event requiring formal dress

Black treacle

A type of dark coloured syrup made from refining sugar

Black up, to

To paint your face black

Black velvet

A cocktail made with stout, usually Guinness and champagne

Black Velvet

A song by Alannah Myles

Black Wednesday

The day in September 1992 when the British government were forced to withdraw the Pound Sterling from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism

Black-bag job, a

Illegal activity by government agents

Black-eyed pea, a

An edible bean, and common ingredient in soul food in the Southern states of America

Black-eyed Susan, a

A type of flower similar to a daisy

Black-hearted

Someone who has a cruel nature

Black-letter day, a

An ordinary day on the calendar, as opposed to a red-letter day

Black-tie dinner, a

A dinner requiring formal dress

Blackamoor, a

Offensive, someone with dark skin

Blackball

To cast a negative vote, particularly one that blocks someone from joining an organisation

Blackball someone, to

To ostracise someone socially, commercially or professionally

Blackberry

The edible fruit found on bramble bushes

Blackberry

A make of mobile phone

Blackberry summer, a

Fine weather in September and October; also know as an Indian summer

Blackbirding

Refers to the practise of kidnapping black people for slavery

Blackbirds

A type of bird, part of the thrush family

Blackboard, a

A chalkboard traditionally used by teachers for writing on

Blackboard jungle, a

A school that has a bad reputation or discipline problems

Blacken someone's name, to

To tarnish someone's reputation

Blacker than pitch

To describe something as very black

Blackface, a

A white person who painted their face black and perform in minstrel shows in nineteenth century America

Blackfellow, a

Offensive, used by Australian settlers to refer to Aborigines

Blackfield, a

An English/Israeli alternative rock duo

Blackguard, a

A rouge or scandal

Blackguard, a

Someone with bad manners or who uses bad language

Blackguard, a

Obsolete, used to describe criminals as a group

Blackguard, a

Obsolete, someone who carried out the dirtiest household tasks

Blackhead, a

A type of spot

Blackjack

A card game also know as 21

Blackjack

A large leather drinking cup which was coated in tar

Blackjack

A truncheon

Blackleg

A fatal disease found in domestic animals, caused by bacteria in soil

Blackmail

Where someone is forced into paying money to prevent information about him or her being made public

Blackout

A loss of electrical power supply

Blackout

A strategy employed particularly in cities in WWII of minimising outdoor light, to protect targets from air strikes

Blackout

Memory loss

Blacks

A racial classification term used to collectively describe people of with dark skin

Blacksmith, a

A metal worker who crafts objects from iron or steel in a forge

Blackstrap

Poor quality port wine

Blackstrap

A mixture of rum and treacle

Blackthorn

The common name for the tree that produces sloe berries

Blackthorn

A brand of cider

Blackthorn winter, a

A spell of unseasonably cold weather in April and May

Blackwash

Something that is out on the open

Blackwash

To deliberately tarnish someone's reputation

Blackwater fever

A particularly severe form of malaria

Clint Black

An American country singer, songwriter and producer

Emotional blackmail

Where someone is manipulated into doing something they don't want to do

Everything went black

To faint or lose consciousness

Given a black mark, to be

To be viewed in a negative light or punished, usually as a result of doing something wrong

Give someone a black look, to

To frown or look angrily at someone

Godspeed You! Black Emperor

A Canadian post rock band

In a black mood, to be

To be in a bad mood, angry or depressed

In someone's black books, to be

To be out of favour with someone

In the black, to be

To be in credit financially

Jack Black

An American comedic actor and musician

Jet black

Very black

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

An American rock band, fronted by guitarist Joan Jett

Know someone from a black sheep, to

To identify someone as untrustworthy

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

A South African male singing group

Little black book

A man's address book of his female contacts or dates

Little Black Boy, The

A poem by William Blake

Little black dress

A classic, stylish and versatile black cocktail dress

Look as black as thunder, to

To look very angry

Look on the black side, to

To be pessimistic

Media blackout

A voluntary or enforced censorship of news reporting about a certain subject or event

Men In Black

A film series starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones

Men in black, the

Government officials

Not as black as one is painted to be

Someone who is not as bad as they are made out to be

Paint it Black

A song by The Rolling Stones

Pitch black

Very dark

Penny Black, the

The first postage stamp, introduced in Britain and Ireland in 1840

Plentiful as blackberries, as

A simile to describe something as very plentiful

Pot calling kettle black, the

To say something of someone that is also true of you

Put down in black and white, to

To put something in writing or print

Put up a black, to

To make a serious mistake

Put your money on black or red, to

To gamble on a colour in roulette

Razed In Black

An American gothic-rock band

Red and the black, the

The gambling game of roulette

State something in black and white, to

To describe something in clear terms

Swear black is white, to

To insist something that is not true

The new black, X is

A snowclone, used to describe something that has become very popular

Things look black

To not expect positive things to happen in the future

Turn black, to

Used by police to indicate a fatality

Two blacks don't make a white

Two negatives don't make a positive

Wear black, to

A sign of mourning



Grey

Grey is seen as a neutral colour associated with dependability, durability sophistication but also boredom, blandness and dullness. Grey can be classic, solid, enduring, safe and non-offensive. Grey traditionally indicates guarded behaviour, as well as a sense of discipline and planning. Silver greys suggest a technology and a futuristic look or minimal, sparse, and sleek spaces. Grey suffers a lack of assertiveness so it suggests confusion, as in 'gray area'. But it is also associated with intelligence, as in "gray matter," referring to the brain. As well as these the word grey features in a number of phrases such as 'a grey mare' and 'grey eminence'.

GREY EMINENCE

The term grey eminence originally referred to Francois L Clerc du Tremblay, who as a Capuchin monk wore a grey robe, and was known as Pere Joseph. Eminence was the term used to address a cardinal and although never becoming one he was a trusted counsel of the French Cardinal Richelieu and would conduct sensitive negotiations on his behalf. The term gained its current meaning of someone who has a powerful influence on an official figure from behind the scenes, after it was alleged that Pere Joseph was an evil influence on the Cardinal. It has later been thought that this view was incorrect, however the usage and meaning still stands.

Grey

All cats are grey in the dark

In the dark physical appearance means nothing

Autumn's Grey Solace

An American goth/dark wave band

Banker's grey

Refers to a conservative shade of medium grey used for men's suits, and often worn by bankers

Born with a silver spoon in your mouth, to be

To be born into a wealthy and privileged family or to have gained opportunities from inherited wealth

Cross someone's palm with silver, to

To pay someone for a service

Cross someone's palm with silver, to

To bribe someone

Every cloud has a silver lining

Something good can result from every situation, even a bad one

Give someone grey hairs, to

To cause someone stress or try their patience

Grey

Indistinguishable

Grey, to go

The process where hair loses its colour and turns grey

Grey, to go

To age

Grey area, a

An idea or concept that is not definite or can't be clearly categorised

Grey as a badger, as

To describe someone whose hair has gone grey with age

Grey as a falcon, as

A simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as a fox, as

An American simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as a goose, as

A simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as a rat, as

A simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as an opossum, as

An American simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as glass, as

Uncommon, a simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey as Grannum's cat, as

Uncommon, a simile used to refer to something that is grey,

Grey as steel, as

A simile used to refer to something that is grey

Grey cardinal, a

Someone who exerts influence and power from behind the scenes

Grey day, a

An overcast or very cloudy day

Grey eminence, a

Someone who exerts power on an important figure from behind the scenes

Grey existence, a

To have a life without any excitement or anything to look forward to

Grey goods

Computing equipment

Grey goose, a

A common wild goose found in Europe

Grey Friars

Monks of the order of St Francis

Grey hair

Hair that has lost its colour through the process of aging

Grey mare, a

The wife rules the husband in a marriage

Grey mare is the better horse, the

The wife rules the husband in a marriage

Grey market

Transactions that take place outside of normal business channels but are not illegal

Grey matter, to use your

To use your brain

Grey nomads

An Australian term for retirees who go travelling around the country

Grey of the morning, the

The low level of light at sunrise

Grey of twilight, the

The low level of light at sunset

Grey page

A page which is densely set with type and no images

Grey Panthers, The

An American organisation, which fights age discrimination

Grey pound, the

The spending power of the older generation

Grey power

Referring to the influence of the older population on policy and legislation

Grey squirrel, the

A type of squirrel commonly seen in Britain but is not a native species

Grey water

Wastewater resulting from domestic uses such as showering or washing clothes

Grey water recycling

Collecting water that has already been used domestically and re-using it to flush toilets for example, to reduce overall water consumption

Grey-collar worker, a

Someone who works beyond the age of retirement

Grey-collar worker, a

Someone whose work combines both skilled and manual elements or whose job is neither white collar nor blue collar

Greyback

A common name for marine mammals such as whales and dolphins that are grey on top and white underneath

Greyback

A Confederate soldier during the American Civil War

Greyback

American slang term for body louse

Greybeard, a

An old man

Greybeard, a

Eighteenth century slang for an earthenware jug used to hold spirits.

Greyhound, a

A breed of grey-haired dog originally used for hunting and now used for racing

Greyhound lines

A long distance bus service in America, with a similar service in Australia

Greying

An area or country where there is a large proportion of old people

Greylag

A type of wild goose that was the last to emigrate south in the winter

Greymail

Threats made by spies on trial in the 1970s to expose government secrets unless changes against them were dropped

Greys

A pair of grey horses

He is grey before he is good

A proverb describing someone who reaches old age before attaining virtue

Little grey cells

Brain cells

Look for the silver lining

Look for the positive aspect in a situation

Look for the silver lining

A popular song written in 1919 and covered by Judy Garland

Macy Gray

An American soul and R&B singer-songwriter

Man in the grey flannel suit, the

An expression of conformity

Man in the grey flannel suit, The

An American novel written by Sloan Wilson, published in 1955 that was later made into a film.

Old and grey

To describe something or someone who is old, tired and worn

Old Grey Whistle Test, The

A music programme from the 1970s and 1980s that was shown on BBC 2

Pieces of silver

Money or coins

Quick as silver, as

Very quick

Quicksilver Messenger Service

An American psychedelic rock band

Silver Chair, the

The fourth book of the Chronicles of Narnia written by C. S Lewis

Silver fox, a

An older, attractive man usually with grey hair

Silver fox, the

A breed of fox with grey fur that has been domesticated through selective breeding

Silver fox, the

A character created by Marvel Comics

Silver ghost, a

A model of classic car made by Rolls Royce

Silver ring thing, the

An American Christian movement that promotes celibacy to teenagers until they are married

Silver Rule, The

The negative version of The Golden Rule, it states 'do not do to others that which you would not want them to do to you'.

Silver screen, the

The film industry

Silver bullet, a

In folklore, a bullet said to kill mythical beasts including werewolves and witches

Silver bullet, a

A very effective solution

Silver platter, handed to someone on a

Something that has been offered too easily

Silver platter, on a

Using presentation that is appropriate for a very formal setting

Silver surfer, a

An elderly person who uses the internet

Silver Surfer, the

A superhero created by Marvel Comics and the name of a film based on the character

Silver screen, to be on

To be a film actor or actress

Silver tongue, to have a

Someone who is articulate and can verbally express himself or herself particularly well

Silverchair

An Australian rock band

Silversun

An English pop rock band

Silversun Pickups

An American alternative rock band

Tattletale grey

An advertising concept from the 1940s created to indicate the use of inferior washing detergent

A WHITE ELEPHANT

A white elephant is something that is costly to maintain or is incredibly hideous to the owner. White elephants were revered and considered sacred in countries such as Thailand. It is said that the night before Buddha's birth, his mother dreamed of a white elephant carrying a lotus flower. Since then, the white elephant has been worshiped as a symbol of fertility and greatness, unlike most elephants that were used as pack and work animals and ridden to war.

However, rare white elephants were very expensive to maintain, even in that era. They required a home and food worthy of their status. They weren't used for work or war, and lived a pampered life.

Many legends tell of this sacred animal being used to punish someone who offended the king. When the king was angry with someone, he would give the person a white elephant. Though it was an honour, caring for a white elephant that could not be used for labour was a huge drain on the household finances. Being given a white elephant became a dreaded punishment, often resulting in the complete ruin of the person caring for the animal.

Even now, the term "white elephant" is often used to describe a business venture or investment that costs far more than it delivers, yet is impossible for the owner to sell or otherwise dispose of.

White

Agent White

A herbicide that was used in the Vietnam War by American forces, alongside Agent Orange

Barry White

An American singer and songwriter

Big white chief, the

The leader of a particular group or organisation

Black and white

Good and evil

Black and white

Used to differentiate photography, film and television broadcasts from coloured media

Bleed someone white, to

To take or exhort all of someone's money

Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes

Don't shoot until you are sure of hitting your target

Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes

Don't act prematurely

Drip white, to go

To go very pale with fear or illness

Egg white

The clear liquid that surrounds the yolk of an egg

Great White

An American hard rock band

Great white hope, the

Someone or something that is expected to be very successful

Great white shark, the

A type of large shark

Great White Way, the

The stretch of Broadway in New York from 59th street to Times Square

Jack White

A singer, songwriter and guitar player

Lily-white

Perfect and pure

Lily white

Unmistakably Caucasian

Lily white police force, a

An incorruptible police force

Little men in white coats, the

To imply that someone is insane

Little White Lies

A French film directed by Guillaume Canet

Little White Lies

A the names of a song by both Walter Donaldson in the 1930s and Status Quo in 1999

Pale as a white cloth, as

Very angry

Pearly whites

Teeth

Plain White T's

An American rock band

Poor whites

White servants in America in the 1800s

Put down in black and white, to

To put something in writing or print

Red, white and blue

Often used to refer to the flag of the United States of America, the Stars and Stripes

Rinso white

A washing powder jingle from the 1930s and 1940s

Show the white feather, to
The sign of a coward or cowardice

Snow white
White like snow

Snow White
The main character in Snow White a Brothers Grimm fairytale, which was later made into a Disney film called Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

Speak white, to
To ask a French speaking Canadian to speak in English

State something in black and white, to
To describe something in clear terms

Swear black is white, to
To insist something that is not true

Tell a white lie, to
To tell a harmless lie to be polite or avoid offence

That's white of you
To be honourable or fair

Three Colours: White
The second film in the French Three Colours trilogy, directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski

Turn up the whites of their eyes, to
To show great devotion or astonishment

Two blacks don't make a white
Two negatives don't make a positive

Walk in white, to
Obsolete, to die

White
Criminal slang for silver

White Album, the

A self-titled album by the Beatles, known as the white album because of its plain white cover

White as a blanched almond, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a corpse, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a ghost, as

To go very pale in the face

White as a hound's tooth, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a kerchief, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a lily, as

Pure and beautiful

White as a sheet, to go as

To go pale with fear

White as a shroud, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a swan, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a tallow candle, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as a whale's bone, as

Uncommon, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as alabaster, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as an angel, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as ashes, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as bleached cambric, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as chalk, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as death, as

To turn pale with fear or illness

White as flour, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as glass, as

Obsolete, a simile describe something as being white in colour

White as ivory, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as marble, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as milk, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White as the driven snow, as

To be pure and/or innocent

White as wool, as

A simile describe something as being white in colour

White beard, a

A metaphor for the elderly

White belt

The colour of belt worn in martial arts before a ranking has been achieved

White blood cells

Cells that exist in your bloodstream and defend the body against disease

White bread

Bread made from refined flour

White bread

An American term to describe middle-class mediocracy

White bucks

A style of white leather shoe fashionable in the 1940s and 1950s

White Christmas

The best-selling single of all time, sung by Bing Crosby and written by Irving Berlin

White Christmas, a

To have snow fall on Christmas Day

White Cliffs of Dover, the

Cliffs on the coast of the UK at Dover that appear white because they are made of chalk

White coat, a

A medical practitioner

White cockade, a

A white rosette, associated with royalty or royalist causes

White coffee

Coffee taken with milk or cream

White dwarf, a

A type of star that burns intensely relative to its size

White elephant, a

A valuable possession that is also a burden

White elephant sale, a

A second-hand sale stall, often used as a fundraiser

White English

Speech and vocabulary used mainly by white people

White face, to have

A sign of fear in someone

White father, a

A white man who protects or controls someone of another race

White Fathers, the

The Society of Missionaries of Africa, a French order of monks

White flag, to show a

A sign of surrender, truce or giving up

White flag, a

Associated with royalist causes

White Friars, the

The Carmelite religious order of monks

White gloves

Immaculate or pain-staking

White goods

Domestic appliances that are usually housed in white casing such as fridges or washing machines

White hair

Metaphor for the elderly

White head

A type of spot

White heat

Incredibly hot

White horses

Crested waves

White hot

Incredibly hot or intense

White hot anger

Intense anger

White House, the

The official residence of the President of the United States of America

White hunter

A white man that guides others on safaris or hunts for game

White hunter

A white man who hunts professionally

White knight, a

A saviour, similar to a knight in shining amour

White knight, a

Someone who saves a company from a hostile takeover by buying the company

White knight, a

Anyone who comes the rescue, financially

White knight, a

The piece in a chess game that was personified in *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

White knuckle ride, a

A rollercoaster or theme park ride

White knuckles

Hands clenched with fear or anticipation

White Ladies

Cistercian nuns

White Lady, a

A ghostly apparition that often appears in folklore that foretold of a death in a house

White lady, a

A cocktail made from Cointreau, lemon juice, egg whites, gin and ice

White Lady of Avenel

A character created by the writer Sir Walter Scott

White Lies

An English indie rock band

White lightning

Illegally distilled whiskey, or moonshine

White Lion

An American/Danish heavy metal band

White list, a

A list of approved people or things

White magic

Sorcery where the devil is not evoked

White man, a

A racial classification referring to a person with light skin

White man's brother, the

That black men should be treated equally to white men, as brothers

White man's burden, the

Imperialist policies that stated that it was a white man's duty to govern and educate non-whites

White man's grave, the

West Africa where many Europeans died from tropical diseases

White market

A legal market of ration coupons

White meat

Meat that is pale in colour when it is raw such as poultry

White mule

A strong alcoholic drink made from distilled corn

White night

Refers to the light nights in countries in northern latitudes during the summer

White night

A sleepless night

White Nile, the

A tributary of the River Nile, which drains from Lake Victoria

White noise

Static Noise

White onion, a

A variety of onion with pale skin

White on rice, like

To stick to or follow someone or something very closely

White out, to

To erase errors with white correction fluid

White paper, a

A report written by experts which aids decision making and policy formation, particularly used by government

White person, a

A racial identifier for someone who is Caucasian, referring to his or her skin colour and ethnicity

White pointer, a

A great white shark

White pointer, a

An Australian phrase for a female topless sunbather

White race

A racial classification referring to people with light-coloured skin

White rice

Rice that has been polished so that the outer layer of bran is removed

White Russian, a

A cocktail made with vodka, coffee liqueur and cream

White Russians

Russians who opposed the Communists

White Russians

A native of Belarus

White sale

A sale on towels and bed linen

White sauce

Usually refers to sauce made with cream such as béchamel but can refer to other types of sauces in other types of cuisine

White sepulchre, a

A bad person who pretends to be good or a hypocrite

White Sisters, the

A number of orders of nuns including the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa

White Slave Act, the

A law criminalising the trafficking of women from state to state for immoral purposes in America

White slavery

European convicts exported to America who had to work as servants to earn their freedom

White slavery

Women and girls who have been kidnapped and forced into prostitution

White Sox

A major league baseball team, based in Chicago

White spirit

A common, paraffin-based solvent

White squall

A sudden and violent windstorm that occurs at sea

White Squall

The 1996 film directed by Ridley Scott

White Stripes, The

An American two-piece rock band

White supremacy

The belief and promotion that white people are superior to other races

White tea

Tea made with leaves of the *Camellia sinensis* plant, which have been lightly oxidised

White tie

The most formal type of dress code, slang for top hat and tails

White tie event, a

A very formal event requiring the most formal dress

White trash

Slang for lower class or poor white people in America

White van man, a

An aggressive male van driver

White water

Waters that are turbulent or foaming

White water rafting

Rafting in rapids

White wedding, a

A traditional, formal, European wedding where the bride wears a white dress

White wedding

The name of a song by Billy Idol

White wine

Any pale coloured and transparent wine

White witch, a

A witch that practises white magic

White with rage

Very angry

White Zombie

An American heavy metal band

White-collar crime

Crimes such as fraud committed by the management of a company

White-collar worker, a

An office worker

White-glove inspection, a

A very careful inspection

White-glove treatment

Very careful or thorough treatment

White-headed boy, a

The favourite, or someone who receives favouritism

White-livered

Cowardly

Whitebeard, a

A metaphor for an elderly man

Whiteboard, a

A plastic coated board that can be written on with marker pen

Whitecap, a

A crested wave

Whited sepulchre, a

The ancient custom of painting a tomb white so that it was more easily seen

Whitehall

A street in London, home to many government offices, and previously the palace of Whitehall

Whitehall

The British civil service

Whiteout

A heavy blizzard, with poor visibility

Whiter Shade of Pale

A song by Procol Harum

Whiter than a sheet

To turn or to be white

Whiter than snow

Describing something as white

Whiter than white

A slogan used to advertise a number of washing detergent brands including Daz and Persil

Whiter than white, to be

To be pure and innocent

Whiter than white, to be

To be very good and honest

Whitesnake

An English rock band

Whites of your eyes, the

The area around the pupil of your eye

Whitewash

A traditional lime and water mixture used to paint walls and building exteriors

Whitewash

A cover up

Whitewash, a

A sporting victory where the other team did not score at all

Whitewash, to

To conceal faults or to make something look more attractive

Whitewash, to

An American term meaning clear someone who is insolvent from financial liability

Whitey

A term used by black people during the civil rights movement in the 1960s

Wite-out

A brand of correction fluid

Woman in white, a

An insane woman

Woman in White, The

A detective novel by Wilkie Collins



*A to Z
of Colour
Phrases*

A hedge between keeps friendship green

Accident black spot, an

Agent Blue

Agent Orange

Agent White

Al Green

Alice Blue

All cats are grey in the dark

All he touches turns to gold

All that glisters is not gold

Amber light

Another redskin bit the dust

Any colour you like so long as it's black, you can have

Aqua

Aqualung

As sure as God made little green apples

Autumn's Grey Solace

Baby blues

Back in Black

Back To Black

Banker's grey

Barry White

Beat someone black and blue, to

Beaten like a red-headed stepchild, to be

Better a red face than a black heart

Better dead than Red

Better red than dead

Between the devil and the deep blue sea

Beyond the black stump

Big white chief, the

Big Yellow Taxi

Black Album, the

Black and blue

Black and tan

Black and Tans

Black and white

Black Angels, The

Black ant

Black art

Black arts, the

Black as a crow, as

Black as a minister's coat, as

Black as a raven, as

Black as a skillet, as

Black as a stack of black cats, as

Black as a sweep, as

Black as coal, as

Black as ebony, as

Black as Hades, as
Black as Hell, as
Black as jet, as
Black as my hat, as
Black as Newgate's Knocker, as
Black as night, as
Black as pitch, as
Black as sloe, as
Black as soot, as
Black as the ace of spades, as
Black as the devil, as
Black as the inside of a cow, as
Black as your hat, as
Black bag
Black beauty
Black belt
Black Betty
Black bile
Black bomber
Black bottom
Black box
Black cat, a
Black coffee
Black comedy
Black Crowes, The
Black Dahlia, Murder, The
Black Dahlia, The
Black day, a
Black Death, the
Black diamonds
Black dog, the
Black duck
Black English
Black eye, a
Black eye, to give someone a
Black Eyed Peas, the
Black flag
Black flagged
Black fly
Black Friars
Black Friday
Black frost
Black future, a
Black gold
Black Hand
Black hole
Black Hole of Calcutta, the
Black humour

Black ice
Black in the face, to be
Black is beautiful
Black is his eye
Black Keys, The
Black Label Society
Black Light Burns
Black list
Black listed, to be
Black lung disease
Black magic
Black Majesty
Black Maria, a
Black mark, a
Black market
Black Mass
Black Metal
Black Monday
Black money
Black Muslims, the
Black Oak Arkansas
Black operation, a
Black out, to
Black ox has not trod on his foot, the
Black Panthers, the
Black person, a
Black power
Black Prince, the
Black pudding
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Black Republican, a
Black Roger, a
Black Russian, a
Black Sabbath
Black Sea, the
Black secret, a
Black sheep of the family, the
Black sheep, a
Black Shirts
Black snake, a
Black spot
Black squirrel
Black Star
Black Stone Cherry
Black Stone, the
Black Tape for a [Blue Girl](#)
Black tea
Black Tide

Black tie
Black treacle
Black up, to
Black velvet
Black Wednesday
Black-bag job, a
Black-eyed pea, a
Black-eyed Susan, a
Black-hearted
Black-letter day, a
Black-tie dinner, a
Black, the
Black, to
Blackamoor, a
Blackball
Blackball someone, to
Blackberry
Blackberry summer, a
Blackbirding
Blackbirds
Blackboard jungle, a
Blackboard, a
Blacken someone's name, to
Blacker than pitch
Blackface, a
Blackfellow, a
Blackfield, a
Blackguard, a
Blackhead, a
Blackjack
Blackleg
Blackmail
Blackout
Blacks
Blacksmith, a
Blackstrap
Blackthorn
Blackthorn winter, a
Blackwash
Blackwater fever
Bleed red ink, to
Bleed someone white, to
Blonde bombshell
Blood red
Bloody Red Shoes
Blue
Blue and green should never be seen without a colour in between
Blue as a larkspur, as

Blue as a razor, as
Blue as a violet, as
Blue as an indigo bag, as
Blue as an old maid, as
Blue as blazes, as
Blue as brimstone, as
Blue as steel, as
Blue as the sky, as
Blue baby, a
Blue balls
Blue blood, to be of
Blue Bonnets, the
Blue book, a
Blue bottle, a
Blue cheese
Blue Chip Company, a
Blue Christmas
Blue comedy, a
Blue cross sale, a
Blue day, a
Blue devil, the
Blue fish, a
Blue flag
Blue flag, someone has hoisted the
Blue for a boy, pink for a girl
Blue funk, to be in a
Blue gown, a
Blue in the face, to be
Blue jacket
Blue jay, a
Blue jeans
Blue joke, a
Blue language
Blue laws
Blue Man Group, the
Blue Monday
Blue Moon
Blue moon, a
Blue movie, a
Blue murder
Blue Nile, the
Blue note, a
Blue October
Blue on Blue
Blue Oyster Cult
Blue pencil something, to
Blue Peter
Blue Peter, a

Blue Peter, to hoist the
Blue plate special, a
Blue ribbon
Blue ribbon, a
Blue ribbon, to be adorned with the
Blue Rodeo
Blue sky
Blue state, a
Blue steak
Blue streak, a
Blue Suede Shoes
Blue whale, a
Blue with cold, to be
Blue wonder, a
Blue-collar worker, a
Blue-eyed
Blue-eyed boy
Blue-eyed boy, to be a
Blue-eyed maid
Blue-haired lady, a
Blue-sky laws
Blue-sky thinking
Blue, a
Blue, the
Blue, to
Bluebeard, a
Blueberry, a
Bluebird of happiness, the
Bluebird, a
Bluebonnet
Bluebottle
Bluecoats
Bluefin tuna
Bluegrass
Bluegrass music
Bluegrass State
Bluenose
Blueprint, a
Blues Brothers, The
Blues, The
Blues, to have the
Bluestocking, a
Bluet
Bluetail Fly
Bluetones, The
Bobby Brown
Bolt from the blue, a
Born to the purple, to be

Born with a silver spoon in your mouth, to be

Boston Brown Bread

Bottle-green

Bowling green

Boys in blue, the

Brown and serve

Brown as a berry, as

Brown as a nut, as

Brown as chestnut, as

Brown as coffee, as

Brown as leather, as

Brown as mahogany, as

Brown bag, to

Brown bear

Brown belt

Brown Bess

Brown betty

Brown Bill

Brown Bomber, the

Brown bread

Brown cow

Brown field site

Brown goods

Brown paper

Brown rice

Brown Shirt

Brown study, to be in

Brown sugar

Brown Swiss

Brown thrasher

Brown trout

Brown-bagger

Brown-eyed girl

Brown-nose, to

Brown-noser

Brown, to

Browned

Browned off, to be

Brownie points

Brownie, a

Brownout

Brownstone

Burn blue, to

Burn with a low blue flame, to

Cambridge Light Blue

Can't cut the mustard

Captain Scarlet

Catch someone red-handed, to

Chris Brown
Clint Black
Clockwork Orange
Clockwork orange, a
Cold as Greenland, as
Colour Purple, The
Colourless green ideas sleep furiously
Comedy Gold
Cream
Crimson tide
Cross someone's palm with silver, to
Curse you, Red Baron
Dago red
Dark blue, a
Deep Blue Something
Deep Purple
Do it up brown, to
Don't It Make Your Brown Eyes Blue
Do someone brown, to
Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes
Double yellow lines
Down the little red lane
Drip white, to go
Dyeing scarlet
Ears are red
Eat your greens
Egg white
Emerald Isle, The
Emotional blackmail
Enjoy a green old age, to
Enough blue sky to make a sailor's trousers
Eric the Red
Evergreen
Ever-loving blue-eyed world
Every cloud has a silver lining
Everything went black
Feel blue, to
Follow the yellow brick road, to
Fool's gold
Future's bright, the future's orange, the
Get away with blue murder, to
Get the green light, to
Get the red light, to
Give a girl a green gown, to
Give someone a black look, to
Give someone grey hairs, to
Give the green light, to
Given a black mark, to be

Go red, to

Go through a purple patch, to

Godspeed You! Black Emperor

Going green

Gold digger

Gold dust, like

Gold mine of information, a

Gold mine, sitting on a

Gold standard, the

Gold star, a

Gold, to say someone is

Gold-rush

Goldbrick, a

Goldbrick, to

Golden boy

Golden calf, the

Golden girl

Golden handcuffs

Golden handshake

Golden hello

Golden oldies

Golden opportunity, to have a

Golden parachute

Golden ratio, the

Golden rectangle, a

Golden Rule, a

Golden Rule, The

Golden section, the

Golden touch

Golden touch, to have a

Goldfinger

Goldfrapp

Good as gold, as

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road

Got the blues

Grass is greener on the other side, the

Great White

Great white hope, the

Great white shark, the

Great White Way, the

Green

Green and pleasant land

Green apples

Green around the gills, to look

Green as a bottle, as

Green as emerald, as

Green as grass, as

Green as grass, to be as

Green as sap, as
Green as young potatoes, as
Green beans
Green belt
Green Berets, the
Green card
Green cheese
Green corn
Green Erin
Green fingers, to have
Green goods
Green Grow the Rushes, Ho!
Green hand, a
Green Jelly
Green lists
Green man, the
Green Mile, The
Green mile, to walk the
Green Mountain Boys
Green Mountain State
Green Mountains, the
Green onion
Green Paper
Green Party, the
Green pastures
Green pepper
Green peril
Green power
Green Revolution, the
Green room
Green rushes
Green salad
Green shoots of recovery, the
Green sickness
Green stuff
Green tea
Green thumb
Green turtle
Green with envy, to be
Green wood
Green-eyed monster, the
Green-eyed, to be
Greenback Labour party
Greenbacks
Greenday
Greener pastures, to move to
Greenery
Greenflies

Greengage, a
Greengrocer, a
Greenhorn, a
Greenhornes, The
Greenhouse effect, the
Greenhouse gases
Greenhouse, a
Greenie, a
Greening
Greenland
Greenmail
Greenpeace
Greens
Greens, the
Greensleeves
Greenstick fracture, a
Greentapping
Greenwash
Greenwood
Grey
Grey area, a
Grey as a badger, as
Grey as a falcon, as
Grey as a fox, as
Grey as a goose, as
Grey as a rat, as
Grey as an opossum, as
Grey as glass, as
Grey as Grannum's cat, as
Grey as steel, as
Grey cardinal, a
Grey day, a
Grey eminence, a
Grey existence, a
Grey Friars
Grey goods
Grey goose, a
Grey hair
Grey mare is the better horse, the
Grey mare, a
Grey market
Grey matter, to use your
Grey nomads
Grey of the morning, the
Grey of twilight, the
Grey page
Grey Panthers, The
Grey pound, the

Grey power
Grey squirrel, the
Grey water
Grey water recycling
Grey-collar worker, a
Grey, to go
Greyback
Greybeard, a
Greyhound lines
Greyhound, a
Greying
Greylag
Greymail
Greys

Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes

Harvard Crimson, the

Having a blue

He is grey before he is good

Heart of gold, a

Hot as blue blazes, as

House of Orange, The

How now brown cow

Hunting pinks

In a black mood, to be

In someone's black books, to be

In the black, to be

In the green, to be

In the limelight, to be

In the pink, to be

In the red, to be

Indigo Girls

Indigo, to be

Infrared light

Into the blue

Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini

Ivory tower, from an

Jack Black

Jack White

James Brown

Jelly Roll Blues

Jet black

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

Just peachy

Keen as mustard, as

Kill the goose that laid the golden egg, to

King Crimson

Know someone from a black sheep, to

Lady in Red

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Lavender rays
Lay it out in black and white, to
Lay it out in lavender, to
Left red-faced, to be
Lemon Jelly
Lemonheads, the
Light blue, A
Light the blue touch paper and retire, to
Like blue blazes
Lily white
Lily white police force, a
Lily-white
Lincoln Green
Little black book
Little Black Boy, The
Little black dress
Little boy blue
Little brown ones
Little green men
Little grey cells
Little men in white coats, the
Little pink pill
Little Red Riding Hood
Little White Lies
Look a bit green, to
Look as black as thunder, to
Look blue, to
Look for the silver lining
Look on the black side, to
Loyal Orange Institution
Macy Gray
Make a blue, to
Man in the grey flannel suit, the
Maroon 5
Mauve decade
Maxine Brown
Media blackout
Mellow yellow
Memphis blues
Men in black, the
Mood Indigo
Mood indigo, to be in
Moody Blues, The
Moss pink
New Riders of the Purple Sage
Not as black as one is painted to be
Not have a red cent, to

Not to be as green as one is cabbage looking, to be

Nut-brown

Old and grey

Old blue, an

Old Grey Whistle Test, The

On the green, to be

Once in a blue moon, to happen

Orange

Orange blossom

Orange bowl

Orange County

Orange Crush

Orange Free State

Orange Goblin

Orange juice

Orange pekoe tea

Orange River

Orange stick

Orange tree, an

Orangeade

Orangemen

Orangery, an

Out of the blue, to come

Out of the red, to be

Oxford Blue

Oxford Blues, The

Paint it Black

Paint the town pink, to

Paint the town red, to

Pale as a white cloth, as

Parlour pink

Peaches and cream complexion

Pearly whites

Penny Black, the

Peter Green

Pieces of silver

Pink

Pink champagne

Pink coat

Pink elephants, to see

Pink Fairies

Pink Floyd

Pink for a girl, blue for a boy

Pink gin

Pink in the face, to turn

Pink Ladies, The

Pink lady

Pink of perfection, the

Pink out, to
Pink Panther, The
Pink pound
Pink ribbon
Pink slip, a
Pink slip, to
Pink Spiders
Pink tea
Pink toothbrush
Pink-collar worker
Pink, a
Pink, to
Pinked
Pinkeye
Pinkie
Pinking shears
Pinko
Pitch black
Plain brown wrapper
Plain White T's
Plentiful as blackberries, as
Poor whites
Porphyry-born
Pot calling kettle black, the
Pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, the
Pretty as a peach
Purple admiral
Purple airway
Purple as a plum, as
Purple cow, a
Purple haze
Purple heart
Purple heart, a
Purple in the face, to be
Purple mounted majesties
Purple passion
Purple prose
Purple Rain
Purple sage
Purple speech
Purple with rage, to be
Put down in black and white, to
Put more green into something, to
Put up a black, to
Put your money on black or red, to
Putting green
Queer as a clockwork orange, as
Quick as silver, as

Quicksilver Messenger Service

Ragged blue line, the

Raised to the purple

Razed In Black

Read the green, to

Receive a pink slip, to

Red alert, to be on

Red and the black, the

Red Army

Red as a beetroot, to go as

Red as a carnation, a

Red as a cherry, as

Red as a cock's comb, a

Red as a fox, as

Red as a geranium, as

Red as a lobster, as

Red as a peony, as

Red as a poppy, as

Red as a rose, as

Red as an apple, as

Red as any glede, as

Red as blood, as

Red as current wine, as

Red badge of courage, a

Red Badge of Courage, the

Red badge, a

Red ball express

Red Baron

Red blood cells

Red brick

Red Brick University

Red Brigade, the

Red card, to get a

Red carpet treatment, to get the

Red cheeks

Red China

Red Cross Knight, the

Red Cross, the

Red devil

Red devil, a

Red Devils, the

Red dog

Red dwarf

Red eyes

Red faces

Red flag

Red flag something, to

Red flannel

Red fox
Red giant
Red Guard, the
Red Harvest
Red hat
Red head, a
Red herring fallacy
Red herring prospectus
Red herring, a
Red hot
Red Hot Chilli Peppers
Red hot poker
Red House Painters
Red in the face, to be
Red in the gills as a turkey-cock, to go as
Red in tooth and claw
Red Indian
Red ink
Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, The
Red Krayola
Red letter days
Red light
Red light district
Red lips
Red lorry, yellow lorry
Red meat
Red men
Red Menace
Red mist
Red nose
Red nose
Red onion
Red pencil, to
Red pepper
Red rag
Red rag to a bull, like a
Red, Red Wine
Red Republic, the
Red Republican
Red ribbon
Red rover
Red sails in the sunset
Red scare
Red Sea
Red shift
Red Shirts
Red sky at night shepherd's delight Red sky in the morning shepherds warning
Red snow

Red Sox
Red state, a
Red tape
Red tide
Red tops
Red water
Red with anger, to be
Red-baiting
Red-blooded
Red-blooded American, a
Red-blooded male, a
Red-bone, a
Red-eye
Red-eye, the
Red-eyed
Red-flannel hash
Red-green colour blindness
Red-headed
Red-hot
Red-hot mama
Red, a
Red, white and blue
Redcap
Redcoats
Redlining
Redneck
Reds under the bed
Redskin
Redskins, the
Rhapsody in blue
Rinso white
Roll out the red carpet, to
Rose tinted glasses, to see the world through
Rosé wine
Rose-cheeked
Rose-lipped
Roses are red violets are blue
Rosy
Rosy outlook, to have a
Rosy-fingered dawn, a
Rub of the green, the
Ruby red
Ruby slippers
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Run a red light, to
Run around like a blue arsed fly, to
Scarlet fever
Scarlet Letter, The

Scarlet Pimpernel, the

Scarlet with rage

Scarlet woman

Screaming Blue Messiahs, The

Screaming blue murder, to

Screwed, blued, and tattooed

Sea green

See green in someone's eye, to

See red, to

See the red light, to

Show the white feather, to

Shrinking violet

Silence is golden

Silver bullet, a

Silver Chair, the

Silver fox, a

Silver fox, the

Silver ghost, a

Silver platter, handed to someone on a

Silver platter, on a

Silver ring thing, the

Silver Rule, The

Silver screen, the

Silver screen, to be on

Silver surfer, a

Silver Surfer, the

Silver tongue, to have a

Silverchair

Silversun

Silversun Pickups

Simply Red

Sing the blues, to

Snow white

Solid gold

Something borrowed, something blue

Speak white, to

Squeeze an orange, to

State something in black and white, to

Steal the limelight, to

Streets paved with gold

Strike gold, to

Strike me pink!

Suck an orange, to

Swear black is white, to

Talk a blue streak, to

Tangerine Dream

Tangled up in blue, to be

Tattletale grey

Tell a white lie, to
That's white of you
The moon is made of green cheese, to make someone believe
The new black, X is
There's clear blue water between the two
Thin blue line, the
Thin red line of heroes, the
Thin red line, the
Things are starting to green up around here
Things look black
Three Colours Red
Three Colours: Blue
Three Colours: Red
Three Colours: White
Tickled pink, to be
Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree
True as Coventry blue
True blue will never stain
True blue, to be a
Turn black, to
Turn blue, to
Turn green, to
Turn pink, to
Turn the air blue, to
Turn up the whites of their eyes, to
Turning blue
Two blacks don't make a white
Ultraviolet
Vanish into the blue, to
Vendetta Red
Very pink of, The
Vex Red
Village green
Vivian Green
Walk in white, to
Wear black, to
Wearing of the Green, The
White
White Album, the
White as a blanched almond, as
White as a corpse, as
White as a ghost, as
White as a hound's tooth, as
White as a kerchief, as
White as a lily, as
White as a sheet, to go as
White as a shroud, as
White as a swan, as

White wedding, a
White wine
White witch, a
White with rage
White Zombie
White-collar crime
White-collar worker, a
White-glove inspection, a
White-glove treatment
White-headed boy, a
White-livered
Whiteboard, a
Whitecap, a
Whited sepulchre, a
Whitehall
Whiteout
Whiter Shade of Pale
Whiter than a sheet
Whiter than snow
Whiter than white
Whiter than white, to be
Whites of your eyes, the
Whitesnake
Whitewash
Whitewash, a
Whitewash, to
Whitey
Wild blue yonder, the
William of Orange
William the Red
Wite-out
Woman in white, a
Woman in White, The
Working blue
Worship the golden calf, to
Worth its weight in gold
Yale Blue
Yellow alert, to be on
Yellow as a guinea, as
Yellow as a kite's foot, as
Yellow as a marigold, as
Yellow as gold, as
Yellow as wax, as
Yellow bellied
Yellow Book, The
Yellow boy, a
Yellow brick road, the
Yellow card, to be shown a

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