

Idioms and other expressions using colours

Complete sentences 1 – 34 with one of the colours from the box. Each colour can be used to complete or make an idiom or other expression (in **bold**). Some of the colours have to be used more than once. Each idiom is explained in the answer key at the back of the book.

black blue brown green grey pink red white yellow

1. Elsa congratulated me on getting the job, but I could tell that secretly she was _____ **with envy**.
2. Generally I'm a very calm, relaxed person. But when people are rude to me, I start to **see** _____.
3. I very rarely see my parents these days. They only come to visit **once in a** _____ **moon**.
4. Everyone in my family is a teacher, but I decided from a young age that I wanted to be an actor. I guess I've always been **the** _____ **sheep**.
5. My wife asked me if I liked her new dress. Well, I thought it was horrible, but of course I told her it looked wonderful. You have to tell a little _____ **lie** from time to time, don't you?
6. I hate applying for a new passport. There's so much _____ **tape** involved.
7. You can ask me to lend you money **until you're** _____ **in the face**, but my answer is still 'No'.
8. When Maria was attacked in the street, instead of running away she started **screaming** _____ **murder** until someone came to her help.
9. The best way to stay **in the** _____ is to eat sensibly, take regular exercise, drink in moderation and not smoke.
10. I think the new underground railway is a _____ **elephant**. The city already has a very efficient bus and tram system.
11. Everyone in my department is very happy because the project we've been working on for six months has finally been **given the** _____ **light**.
12. There were 200 people in a room designed for only 75. It was like the _____ **Hole of Calcutta** in there.
13. Your report is full of errors and spelling mistakes. I don't think you were using your _____ **matter** when you wrote it.
14. You must hear the new album by the American rock group Nuclear Puppy: it's _____ **-hot!**
15. I had a real _____ **-letter day** yesterday: my boss gave me a pay rise, I won £60 on the lottery, and my boyfriend took me to my favourite restaurant for dinner.
16. Most of the people in my town are _____ **-collar** workers. There are very few people working in factories.
17. The company has been doing badly for over two years, and now everyone agrees that it's a financial _____ **hole**.

18. Nobody in the office likes him very much: he's always **-nosing** the boss.
19. Your garden looks wonderful. What lovely, healthy plants. You must have **_____ fingers!**
20. I hadn't heard from Jo for almost ten years, so when a letter from her came **out of the _____**, I was naturally very surprised.
21. He would never argue **with** or contradict his boss. He's far too **_____**.
22. Yesterday I had an overdraft of almost £300, but I got paid today, so my bank account is **in the _____** again. Unfortunately I don't think it will stay like that for long!
23. Nobody knew who had been stealing money from the office, until the new salesman was **caught _____-handed** opening the safe.
24. I feel terrible this morning because I was out **painting the town _____** last night, and didn't go to bed until 3 o'clock.
25. If I were you, I would avoid the boss today. You're **in his _____ books** after that rude comment you made about his wife.
26. I know he was angry, but I was still shocked at the terrible language he was using. The **air was turning _____!**
27. (At a party): Hello, Anthea. Thanks for coming. Lovely to see you again. Let me get you a drink. **Glass of _____?**
28. I wouldn't recommend him for a senior position in management: he's still a bit **_____**.
29. When I told Sara that I wanted to go out for a drink with my ex-girlfriend, she didn't say anything, but she gave me a really **_____ look**.
30. There wasn't much we could do when we discovered that the office had been robbed except call the police station and wait for **the boys in _____** to arrive.
31. What's the matter with you? You've been **in a _____ mood** all evening.
32. It's only my parents who are coming to dinner tonight, not the Queen of England! There's no need to **roll out the _____ carpet**.
33. (Complete this sentence with two different colours): I was told that I had got the job at the interview, but I won't be happy until I see it **in _____ and _____**.
34. (Complete this sentence with two different colours): After falling off his bicycle, he was **_____ and _____** all over.