

# SILVER ENGLISH COACH



## Idioms with BLACK

- **to be in the black** = have money in one's bank account. (The opposite is to be in the red)  
*I'm still in the black, so I don't need your money.*
- **to black out** = lose consciousness or memory temporarily.  
*The plane dived suddenly, causing the pilot to black out.*
- **a black day** = an unhappy day when something bad happens.  
*9/11 was a black day in history.*
- **a blacklist** = list of people who are considered undesirable.  
*You are not on the blacklist yet, but be careful...*
- **a black look** = a look of anger.  
*When Sarah heard him talk like that, she gave him a black look.*
- **black market** = illegal trade.
- **black and blue** = covered with bruises.
- **in black and white** = in writing or in print.  
*Do you understand? Or shall I put it in black and white?*
- **not so black as somebody is painted** = not as bad as people believe.  
*Peter is a nice person, he's not so black as he is painted.*
- **the black sheep (of the family)** = person whose conduct is considered to be a disgrace to the family.
- **the pot calling the kettle black** = the accuser having the same fault as the person he is accusing.  
*She accused us of being extravagant! Talk about the pot calling the kettle black!*

## Exercise

Choose the right answer.

1. If you do that again, I will beat you
  - a. in the black**
  - b. in black and white**
  - c. black and blue**

2. Hah! You say I'm slow at work? And you? Talk about .....

- a. **the black sheep of the family**
- b. **the pot calling the kettle black**
- c. **in black and white**

3. This has been a ..... for the car industry with more job losses announced.

- a. **black look**
- b. **black market**
- c. **black day**

4. For a few seconds, he felt like he was going to .....

- a. **be in the black**
- b. **black out**
- c. **black and blue**

5. For me, Denise is a friendly girl. She's not .....

- a. **in the black**
- b. **the pot calling the kettle black**
- c. **so black as she is painted**

6. The government has created a ..... of environmentally damaging products.

- a. **black market**
- b. **black list**
- c. **black look.**

7. Laura was so angry that she gave her husband a .....

- a. **black and blue**
- b. **black day**
- c. **black look**