# 17 Seeing Red

## Pre-Reading

**Think about the following questions.**

1. What color is your classroom? Is it a good color for studying?
2. What colors make you feel relaxed?
3. What color clothes do you usually buy?

## Vocabulary Preview

**Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.**

| | |
|---|---|
| a. calm; happy | d. trust; a sure feeling |
| b. feeling | e. focus; think deeply |
| c. large; strong | f. looks |

1. ___ Pictures of green fields and blue lakes give me a <u>peaceful</u> feeling.
2. ___ It is too noisy here. I can't <u>concentrate</u> on my work.
3. ___ From her behavior, I did not get the <u>sense</u> that she was a good person for this job.
4. ___ The speaker's words had a <u>powerful</u> effect on the audience.
5. ___ I have <u>confidence</u> the new president will be a great leader.
6. ___ Her <u>appearance</u> was very clean and tidy.


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# Seeing Red

Track 33

Bright colors stir up **active** feelings. For example, the color red can cause people to feel excited. In fact, red can even make a person feel hungrier. Yellow can increase **energy**. Therefore, a room with strong red and yellow colors, would be a good place to eat a lot of food quickly. On the other hand, darker colors, like blue and green, are peaceful. The color blue can help people calm down. So, a blue room can be a good place to study, since people can concentrate more easily. However, it is easier to nod off in a blue room than in a red one.

The colors of clothes can also affect feelings. Black and **deep-blue** clothes can produce a sense of strength and **seriousness**. Therefore, a person in a black suit can seem like a leader more easily than one wearing white. If a person is wearing a dark suit and a red tie, he or she may seem both powerful and **energetic**. Perhaps this is why many **politicians** and businesspeople wear dark suits with red ties. Brown and green clothes can produce a sense of confidence, which means it may seem easier to trust a person wearing such colors. Therefore, many people choose to wear green or brown clothes for meetings or **interviews**.

Choice of color, for rooms as well as clothes, is not simply about appearance.

**Reading Time** _____ minutes _____ seconds 231 words

1 *active*: energetic; busy
3 *energy*: power; strength
8 *deep-blue*: dark blue, almost black
9 *seriousness*: a mood of formality and importance
11 *energetic*: full of energy
12 *politician*: a person working as a leader in the government
15 *interview*: a meeting where people try to get a job



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## Reading Comprehension

### Choose the best answer.

**1.** What is the main idea of this reading?

a. Colors are important.
b. Managers should wear black.
c. Colors can affect feelings.
d. People do not see colors well.

**2.** Where would red and yellow be most useful?

a. In an office
b. In a health club
c. In a department store
d. In a fast food restaurant

**3.** According to the reading, what would be the best color for a bedroom?

a. Blue
b. Yellow
c. Grey
d. Brown

**4.** According to the reading, green clothes would be most useful for which person?

a. A professor
b. Someone looking for a job
c. A manager of a large department
d. A doctor

**5.** Why would a president wear a black suit?

a. To seem powerful
b. To scare people
c. To make people feel relaxed
d. To look better in pictures

## Idiomatic Expressions

### Find these idioms in the reading.

- **stir up** [ to produce a strong reaction ]
  The photograph of my mother stirred up many happy memories.
- **calm down** [ to become relaxed ]
  I couldn't calm down until I saw my grade.
- **nod off** [ to fall asleep ]
  Please don't nod off in class!

### Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

**1.** The movie starts at midnight. If it is boring, I might _____.

**2.** A good way to _____ a child is to sing to him or her.

**3.** Don't _____ problems with the other students.


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## Summary

Scan the passage and complete the chart with the correct information.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **confident** | **increase** | **meeting** |
| **peaceful** | **powerful** | **strong** |

| Colors | Effect | Where or What |
|---|---|---|
| Red and yellow | Excited, hungry<br>1 _____ energy | A fast food restaurant |
| Blue and green | Calm, 2 _____ | A study room |
| Deep-blue and black | Serious, 3 _____ | Clothes for a leader → dark suit + red tie = 4 _____ + energetic |
| Brown and green | 5 _____ | Clothes for a 6 _____ |

## Listening

### A Problem at Work

Track 34 Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. His boss was wearing a _____ and _____ suit.
2. The clothes his boss wore made him feel _____.
3. He thought those colors made his boss look _____ and _____.



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## Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. Is there a color you wouldn't wear? Why not?
2. How do white clothes make you feel? How about a white room?
3. What color clothes do you usually wear? Why?

## Grammar

**How to Punctuate Conjunctive Adverbs**

Use a semicolon or period before conjunctive adverbs such as *however* and *therefore* in order to separate two independent clauses that are logically related. Conjunctive adverbs are also usually followed by a comma at the beginning of the second clause.

*Yellow can increase energy. (Therefore / Because), a room with strong red and yellow colors would be a good place to eat a lot of food quickly.*

*(However / Although), it is easier to nod off in a blue room than in a red one.*

## Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

### My Favorite Color of Clothing

**(1)** What color clothes do you like to wear? **(2)** What items of clothing do you have in this color? **(3)** Why do you like to wear this color? **(4)** Are you wearing this color now?

**Example**

I like to wear green and brown clothes. I have lots of green and brown shirts and pants. I like to wear these colors because they seem casual. However, I am not wearing anything green or brown today.



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## Vocabulary and Idiom Review

### A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

**1.** You would never guess from his _____ that he is rich.
a. appearance b. confidence c. fortune d. wealth

**2.** The General Manager is the most _____ woman in our company.
a. energy b. large c. powerful d. strong

**3.** Many _____ work in city and state governments before working at the national level.
a. businesspeople b. heirs c. inventors d. politicians

**4.** This medicine may _____ side effects in some patients.
a. concentrate b. produce c. stir up d. trust

**5.** The _____ I get when I am at the lake is very peaceful.
a. belief b. feeling c. reason d. person

**6.** White pants seem to be very _____ this year.
a. active b. peaceful c. popular d. strong

**7.** Please close the curtains. The sunlight is too _____.
a. bright b. enormous c. ordinary d. serious

### B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

**8.** The audience reacted _____ to the performance.
a. strength b. strong c. strongly

**9.** The loud noise broke the player's _____.
a. concentration b. concentrate c. concentrated

**10.** Although few people thought he could win, the player seemed _____.
a. confidence b. confident c. confidently



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