



## 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.