

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

Seeing Red

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

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.

Summary

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

	confident peaceful	increase powerful	meeting strong
Colors	Effect	Where or What	
Red and yellow	Excited, hungry 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



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 _____.

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.

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