

Monday.

The Standard 英文虎報

LS LIFE

27
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2017

Goodies



Colourful Idioms



MANY sayings like '大白象工程' (white-elephant work), '灰色地帶' (a grey area), '白字黑字' (in black and white) and '扯白旗' (raise a white flag) actually come from English idioms. Have you noticed another thing these idioms have in common? They all are related to colours! Many English idioms use colours, so it should be fun to learn!

Editor's Note

Hi! I hear many kids complain that learning English is boring. It can be if you just focus on grammar rules most of the time. But it can be really interesting when you learn idioms because they are fun to say. For example, if I have 'itchy feet', it does not mean I want to scratch my toes, but rather I want to leave a place and travel somewhere. When I say I am 'having kittens', I feel stressed and upset about something, like when I miss a deadline for a story! Try to use idioms in your writing to make your English sound more natural. Turn to G02 to learn more about idioms related to colour and also see how 'rooted to the spot' is used in a story on G05.



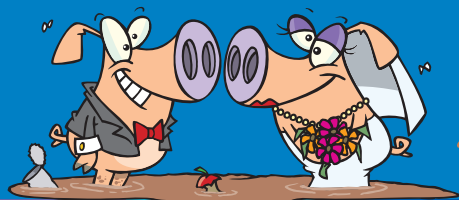
Simon

“ Blue

1. Out of the blue

WHEN something happens unexpectedly, we use ‘out of the blue’.

Example: **Out of the blue**, Michelle decided to get married.



“ Green

2. Get the green light / give (someone) the green light

A ‘GREEN light’ is like ‘permission’ in these two idioms.

Example:

- a) We just got the **green light** to begin the new project.
- b) My boss has given me the **green light** to begin the new project.



3. The grass is always greener on the other side

WE say this when think things are better with other people, though this is not always true.

Example: I used to envy Richard's class grades until I realised how hard he had to work to maintain them. Well, **the grass is always greener on the other side**.



“ White

4. White as a ghost

THIS describes someone's **pale** face because he or she is ill or afraid.

Example: The mother was as **white as a ghost** when she saw her son nearly got hit by a car!



5. Raise a white flag / wave a white flag

BOTH indicate that you have been **defeated** and you want to give up.

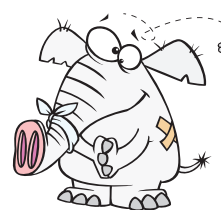
Example: The soldiers **raised / waved a white flag** and **surrendered** to the enemy.



6. White elephant

THIS means something troublesome to own or maintain.

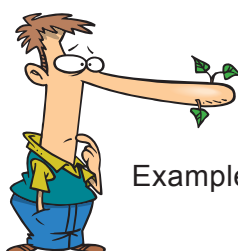
Example: The new airport is such a **white elephant**; it costs lots of money but nobody even wants to use it.



7. White lie

THIS is a harmless lie told to be polite or to avoid hurting someone's feelings.

Example: When I told her that her red dress suits her it was a **white lie** since I do not want to upset her.



“ Black

8. Black and white

IT means ‘officially’ but it also means ‘either good or bad’, implying something has been **oversimplified**.

Example:

- a) Let us make our agreement in **black and white**.
- b) Kids tend to see thing in **black and white**.



“ Red

10. Roll out the red carpet

WHEN greeting a person with great respect; when giving a big welcome to someone, we can use this idiom.

Example: The government **rolled out the red carpet** when the politician came to visit.



“ Grey

9. A grey area

WE say this when something is not clearly defined.

Example: Whether or not we should pay the housing tax is a **grey area**.



“ Yellow

11. Yellow-bellied

YOU use this phrase to describe someone who is **cowardly** and **timid**.

Example: The man is **yellow-bellied** and is never willing to fight for what is right.

