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*Phraseological units containing  
names of colours*

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## **Phraseological units containing names of colours reflecting peculiarities of the cultural life**

There is a great variety of spheres where we can apply phraseological units in they reflect practically all aspect of the human`s life. However, in order to trace peculiarities of an exact nation more deeply, we have selected for a detailed analysis phraseological units containing names of colours. As we know, each colour has its specific image created in people`s mind and by means of that image we have a great opportunity to penetrate deep into nation`s way of life, enlarge knowledge of their historical heritage and feel people`s spirit in general. Especially through Englishman`s attitude towards different colours, associations conjured up by that or those colours we may easily judge about people`s moral values, perception of the world and their mentality.

### **Black**

1. of the very darkest colour, like coal or soot; the colour of night; completely without light (the opposite of "white"). 2. a) (of a person) of a dark-skinned race, especially of the Negro race: a black American; b) of or for black people: black Africa, black culture (compare "black", "coloured" and "Negro": "black" is the word which is preferred by many black people; "coloured" are especially "Negro" are now considered by many black people to be offensive; in the United States many black people preferred to be called "African-Americans" or "Afro-Americans" in formal situations such as newspapers and government statements). 3. very dirty; covered with dirt: hands covered with grime. 4. (of coffee) without milk or cream. 5. very bad, threatening or hopeless. 6. (figurative) without hope, sad or melancholy. 7. (often capital) marked by disaster: The stock market crashed on Black Friday. 8. deserving of or indicating censure or dishonour. full of anger, hate or devil; resentful: He gave me a black look. 10. funny but in a cynical or macabre way: black

humour or black joke. 11. (especially BRE) not approved of, or not to be handled by members of a trade union during a strike: a black cargo.

*Cultural notes:* 1. Black is often thought of as a colour of devil, sadness and death. The black raven is associated with death. The devil is often shown in pictures dressed in black. People often wear black clothes to show grief at a person's death. At funerals, mourners frequently wear black clothes and the hearse is black. Members of the armed forces also usually wear black on the occasion of a royal death. However, it's not very rare for people to wear black for long periods as a sign of mourning. 2. There are many expressions using the word "black" to convey misfortune or cruelty. Black people sometimes object to this.

*The black-* *доходный, прибыльный*-a colloquial term for a bank account in credit, said to "in the black"(as opposed to a debit account "in the red", credit entries were originally written in black ink and debit entries were written in red ink).

*Any colour so long as it is black-* a phrase used by Henry Ford (an automobile magnate) when he asked what colours were available for a particular kind of car.

*As black as ink/pitch/the ace of shades-* *непроглядная тьма*-very dark; completely black.

*Black and blue-синяк-* having the skin darkly discoloured as the result of being hit, especially repeatedly; bruised: After the fight, he was black and blue all over; black- and-blue marks.

*Black and white- чёрным по белому* 1. the showing of pictures in black, white and grey; without additional colours: an old film in black and white; a black and white television. 2. *рассматривать с одной стороны* (usually derogatory) a too simple way of explaining events, in which people or things are regarded as either completely good or completely bad: She sees the situation very much in black and white terms, but in fact it's much more complicated than that- Она видит ситуацию только под одним углом, на самом деле всё намного сложнее чем кажется.

*Black economy*- *нелегальное производство*-an unofficial system of employing and paying workers without observing legal requirements such as the payment of income tax; a business activity that is carried on unofficially, especially in order to avoid taxation: the recent growth in the black economy.

*Black market* - *нелегальная торговля* 1. the illegal buying and selling of goods above the price fixed by a government (black market develop when, because of war, disaster or public policy, a government tries to set prices for commodities instead of allowing the normal operation of supply and demand to set prices). 2. *нелегальный рынок*-the place where this trading is carried on.

*Black sheep*- *позор для группы (семьи)*-someone who is thought by other members of their group to be a failure or to have brought shame on the group: Uncle Jack, who was imprisoned for forgery, is the black sheep of the family- Дядя Джек, который отсидел в тюрьме за фальсификацию, позор для нашей семьи.

*Blacklist*- *чёрный список*-a list of people, groups, who are disapproved of for some reason and are to be avoided or punished in some way: The police drew up a blacklist of wanted terrorists.

*Cultural Note*: in the United States during the 1940-s and 1950-s, during McCarthy period, many people in the film industry were put on an unofficial blacklist and could not get work because they were thought to be or admitted being communists.

*Not as black as it/one is painted* -*всё не так плохо как говорят*-not as bad as people say it/one is.

*Black and Tans*- «чёрно-пегие»-a British government military force sent by the British government to Ireland in 1921 to fight the Irish organization Sinn Fein. They wore a mixture of the black uniform of the police and the khaki uniform of the army, and were hated in Ireland for their often brutal methods.

*In someone's black books*- *чёрный список* - to be out of favor: Ever since he forgot about her birthday, he has been in her black books. The original expression is referred to *black books* and meant literally a book which contained a list of

disgraced persons, such as was kept by some Oxford colleges in the eighteenth century.

A *blackleg*-мошенник, шулер- a cheat, sharper, swindler: The newcomer turned out to be a blackleg to everybody's surprise- К общему удивлению, новичок оказался мошенником.

## Blue

1. the colour of the clear sky or of the deep sea on the fine day: She wore a dark blue dress; He painted the door blue. 2. the campaigning colour of the Conservative Party (Britain).3.(informal) sad and without hope, depressed: I'm feeling rather blue today; Don't look too blue. 4. (informal) concerned with sex, rather improper, risqué: Some of her jokes were a bit blue. *Till one's blue in the face-do посинения*-(unofficially) forever: You can call that dog till you're blue in the face, but it'll never come out -Ты можешь звать собаку до посинения, она всё равно не выйдет.

*Once in a blue moon- когда рак на горе свиснет*-very rarely, seldom: That sort of thing happens once in a blue moon.

*Blue murder- кричать во всё горло, громкий пронзительный крик*-we probably owe the phrase "blue murder" to an English misunderstanding of *morbleu*, a French oath dating from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century. *Morbleu* itself was formerly used in Cornwall, where the phrase "sing out *morbleu*" is recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Cornish expression referred to the noise a boy might make when being flogged. To cry, shout or scream "blue murder" has a similar meaning. *Morbleu* appears to mean "Blue death", but the *bleu* was merely a euphemistic substitution for *Dieu*. The original meaning of the oath was therefore "death of God". Apart from the fact that *Dieu* and *bleu* sound vaguely similar in French, there is no special association between blueness and death, though perhaps those who translated *morbleu* as "blue murder" were influenced by the tale of Bluebird. They managed to create a truly colourful phrase which continues to appeal to English-speakers. Typical usage is seen in Angus Wilson's *Anglo-Saxon's*

Attitudes: A few of his utterances are liable to make our union chaps cry "blue murder"- Его речи способны заставить наших парней жаловаться во весь ГОЛОС.

*Blue, Out of the-* как гром среди ясного неба, неожиданно- "Out of the blue", sometimes extended to "out of the clear blue sky", is a watered-down version of "a bolt from the blue". The latter refers to something-such as good or bad news-that comes as a sudden shock. The allusion is to a bolt of lightning that strikes without warning out of a clear blue sky, "bolt" in this context comparing the lightening to the short, thick arrow fired from a cross-bow. "Out of blue" puts the emphasis on the unexpectedness of what happens, on the lack of warning, rather than the effect it has. In most cases unexpectedly, in fact, could probably replace the phrase. "Then, quite out of the blue, it occurred to me ring up Claudine and asked her." Peter Draper "A season in love." "My wife's former fiance turned up out of the blue and she went off with him." Ruth Rendell "Talking to strange men." "I'm so sorry to arrive out of the blue like this." Alexander Fullerton "Other men's wives." Both of this phrases are first recorded around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In a letter dated 19 December, 1910, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "I got an encouragement out of the blue in the form of an honorary degree from Berlin." "Bolt from the blue" first appears in print a year later.

*Between the devil and the deep blue sea-* между двух огней-between two great dangers and not knowing what to do; in a very difficult position. Gleen had to choose between the confession that he hadn't studied or trying to fake it. He was between the devil and the deep blue sea.

*Origin:* 1) In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the heavy plank fastened to the side of the vessel as a support for the guns was called the devil. Sometimes a sailor had to go out onto this plank to do repairs to the boat. In heavy seas he would be in a great danger of falling overboard and drowning because he was between the devil and the deep blue sea. 2) The origin of this proverbial saying seems obvious enough. It sums up the position of someone who must choose between two courses of actions, neither of which will lead to a satisfactory outcome. The blue of the

saying, incidentally, is a relatively modern addition: in earlier forms it is simply deep sea or even dead sea. Laurence Urdang, in his Picturesque Expressions suggests that the origin of the phrase is more complicated than it seems. Devil was formerly a nautical term, referring to the seam in the hull of a ship, which ran along the water line. Urdang therefore suggests that a sailor who was ordered to do repair work to the devil was placed in a very perilous position. This may be so, but he did not have to make an impossible decision, as the saying has always implied. For our ancestors, the thought of being cast into the arms of the devil as they imagined him was as unwelcome as the thought of drowning.

*Blue blood- голубых кровей*-of high or noble birth; an aristocrat; from the upper class of society. Mr. Rimbler is marrying a very rich girl from the high society, a real blue blood- Мистер Римблер женится на девушке из высшего класса, голубых кровей.

*Origin:* Though this expression has been used in English since the early 1800s, it actually comes from an older Spanish saying *sangre azul*, used for those Spaniards who has not intermarried with the dark skinned Moors. Their blood was called blue because the blue veins were conspicuous under their fair skin.

*Blue-chip company- первоклассная компания*- a commercial company of high standing, in which it's considered to be profitable and safe to invest; a financially sound company with increasingly good prospects: This week we've seen spectacular gains, especially among blue-chips, famous companies with a history of profit in good and bad economic times-На этой неделе мы стали свидетелями захватывающей борьбы за прибыль, в особенности среди первоклассных компаний со стабильным доходом во времена экономического подъёма и спада.

*Origin:* This term is from gambling where a blue chip has the highest value. *Blue stocking-синий чулок-образованная женщина* - learnt woman. The term that was much used in the days when intelligent women were regarded as unusual. The description arose in London around 1750s, when a Mrs. Montague, Mrs. Vesey and Mrs. Ord became bored with the card games which were then considered to be the



most suitable feminine recreation at evening parties. These ladies preferred intelligent conversation, and chose male and female guests, who shared their unconventional views. Some of the men who attended these gatherings cared as little for conversation ideas about dress. Benjamin Stillingfleet, for example, habitually wore grey or blue worsted stockings instead of black silk stockings considered essential for gentlemen. This caused Admiral Boscawen to make a derisive remark about the Blue Stocking Society. The term was taken up; women who relished intelligent conversation became known as blue stockingers or blue stocking ladies. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the origin of the term had been largely forgotten, the women became blue-stockings or blues.

In a curious development, blue-stocking was then translated into French as *bas-bleu* and used as if it had been borrowed from that source by English. "The aristocratic *bas-bleus*," said the Times newspaper in 1842, "are at the present very much devoted to the abolition of slavery." In the original version of *Don Juan*, Byron comments rather obscurely: "By measuring the intensity of blue; I'll back a London *bas* against Peru." This comes in a passage when Byron says "heaven knows why" the stockings of "learned ladies" are blue. He adds: "I knew one woman of that purple school, the loveliest, chastest, best, but-quite a fool." This is a typical male comment of the time. Early references of blue-stockings by male writers were almost invariably sneering. "I have an utter aversion to blue-stockings," wrote William Hazlitt, in his *Table-talk*. De Quincey talked of "blue-stocking loquacity." Blackwood's Magazine laughed at "the tawdry blue-stockingship of a young lady from the manufacturing district."

*Bolt from the blue*- как гром среди ясного неба-something unexpected and unpleasant: His sudden death came as a bolt from the blue- Его смерть была для нас как гром среди ясного неба.

*True-blue*- преданный своим взглядам (informal) 1. Completely loyal. 2. (Bre) completely faithful to the principles of the Conservatives: A true blue Tory- Приверженец партии Тори.

*Blue funk*- замешательство, испуг, паника-a state of great terror or loss of nerve. *A bolt from the blue*- нежданно-негаданно- an unexpected and very surprising event: There marriage was a bolt from the blue for me- Его свадьба была для меня как снег на голову.

## **Brown**

1. having the colour of toasted bread or coffee mixed with milk: brown eyes; dark-brown shoes; brown bread; leaved turning brown in the autumn. 2. having skin of this colour; sun-tanned: He is very brown after his summer holiday. *Browned-off*- надоесть, наскучить - Bre, informal) annoyed and discouraged; bored; fed up: I got browned-off with waiting and went home- Я устал ждать её и вскоре ушёл домой. He is browned-off with his job- Ему наскучила его работа. *Astonish the Browns*-бросить вызов общественному мнению- to brave public opinion: Her witticism often astonished the Browns-Своим остроумием она бросала вызов общественному мнению.

*Fire into the brown*- стрелять в толпу-to fire in the crowd of people, without pointing at certain person.

*Brownout*- частичное затемнение, уменьшение освещения - (AmE) 1.a cut in power to some but not all electric lights in the area; a dimming or partial concealment of the lights in the city, especially as a defence against air raids. 2. a partial stoppage or loss: An electric power brownout-Отключение света.

*Brownout and the electric grid.* The most common usage of this term comes from the electric grid's inability to supply enough power. When the power supplied by your local utility is less than usual (say, 88%) brownout conditions are triggered. This is different than a blackout, which occurs when there is no power at all. In a brownout, also called power sag, there is some power being transmitted, but not enough to meet demand. Typically, a brownout will occur during periods of peak demand, such as in the middle of the summer when businesses and homes are all running air conditioners and coolers. If there is an accident that damages

power lines, some areas might have partial power. In any case, brownouts are extremely dangerous for computers and other electrical devices, with the low available voltage causing such electronics to overheat as they try to run. Fluorescent lights will flicker and incandescent lights will glow much dimmer than usual.

*Brownout and the medical field.* Brownout is also a medical term for someone who ends up with dimmed vision due to a loss of blood pressure. Sometimes known as a grayout, dim sight often gives a brown hue to everything the sufferer sees. A brownout is also the term used after a night of heavy alcohol consumption. Having a brownout instead of a blackout means you can remember some of what happened from the previous night, but not everything.

*A Television brownout.* Since 1996, the term "brownout" has been used by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists for the title of their annual report on the appearance of Latinos on American television. The Network Brownout Report documents how Latinos are underrepresented on television, especially in evening newscasts, compared to the percentage of the country's population. *Brownie point-одобрение в виде поощрения* - (usually, plural, informal, jocular) a mark of notice and approval for something good that one has done (from the special points that are given to Brownies for doing something good or well): She tried to gain some Brownie points by doing the washing-up- Она убиралась чтобы добиться похвал. She is hoping to earn lots of Brownie points by cleaning the teacher's shoes - Она надеется получить похвалу чистя ботинки учителя.

## **Green**

1. of a colour between yellow and blue in the spectrum, of the colour of growing grass and the leaves of most plants and trees: as green as grass; fresh green peas; A green salad has only green vegetables, such as lettuce and cucumber; When the traffic lights turn green, we can go; I painted the door green. 2. covered with green grass or other plants: green meadows/fields/hills. 3. a) (of a plant of this

colour) young or unripe-green bananas; green apples are sour; b) (of wood) not yet dry enough for use: Green woods does not turn well; c) (of tobacco) not dried. 4. concerned with, or not causing harm to the environment; environment-friendly: he is very green/green-minded ; our local government is very green-they won't allow chemicals to be dumped in the river. 5. (informal) unhealthy pale in the face because of sickness, fear, etc., pale and sickly in appearance: She turned green when she smoked her first cigarette; He turned green at the thought; The passengers turned quite green with sea-sickness.6. (informal) young and/ or inexperienced, immature, lacking training, and therefore easily deceived and ready to believe anything; easily fooled: You must be green to believe that! 7. (informal) very jealous: He was absolutely green with envy when he saw my new car. 8. (especially for a memory) fresh, strong and full of life, in spite of the passing time, 9.(figurative) flourishing, full of vigour, fresh: live to a green gold age. 10. of the Green Party: Green issues; a Green spokesman.

*Meaning: Green* often means "new." The colour green alone has long been used to mean something immature. For example, young trees often have a greenish tinge to the wood and sometimes in the bark. Anyone who has tried to start a fire with green wood knows it doesn't burn well. It is too damp, too new. Only seasoned or old woods burn well. Many fruits and vegetables are green when they are too young to eat, changing colour as they mature. An untrained horse is considered green until he receives training. Unbaked ceramic pottery is called green until it's fired in a kiln. There are plenty of examples of green referring to something new or inexperienced. *Give smb./ get the green light-получить разрешение* -(informal) give smb. / get permission to do something.

*Be not as green as one is cabbage-looking-* быть не таким уж глупым, как может показаться-*be not so stupid as it may seem.*

*Do you see any green in my eyes?- Неужели я кажусь таким простаком?- Do I really look like a fool in your eyes?*

*The grass is greener on the other side of the fence-* хорошо там, где нас нет- said of the people who never seem satisfied and always think that others have a better situation than they have.

*The rub of the green-чёрная полоса-* a piece of bad luck that has to be accepted: These things happen. I'm afraid it's just the rub of the green- Неудачи случаются. Это всего лишь чёрная полоса в моей жизни.

*Green card - вид на жительство* 1. (Bre) a special document certifying that a vehicle such as a car has been insured for travel abroad (the document is green in colour): Have you got your green card? - У тебя есть вид на жительство? 2. (Ame) an identity card given to non-Americans who have been given permission to live and work in the USA: I'm getting my green card in another 6 months- Я получаю вид на жительство через 6 месяцев. *Green fingers (Bre)/ green thumbs (Ame) - иметь хорошие руки (об опытных садоводах) - a. skill in gardening; a natural skill in making plants grow well: Plants don't grow for me, but my wife has got a green thumb-* Я не разбираюсь в растениях, но у моей жены хорошие руки.

*The long green-* доллары, деньги-Ame) money, dollars. And the boy will have plenty of the long green in a couple of years- Этот мальчик будет очень перспективным через пару лет.

*Greenhorn-* новичок- a freshman, a newcomer, young, naive, or inexperienced person, who is likely to get into trouble until she or he gets a little seasoning. When Jack London wrote about a "greenhorn" in 1887, the term already had the same meaning that we recognize today, referring to a person as a novice. Greenhorn was a popular term in the Old West of the 1800s, used by mountain men and experienced settlers in reference to new settlers fresh from the city and who had no idea how to deal with the rugged frontier. The term dates back to at least 1650, when new English Army recruits were called greenhorns to denote their lack of training. It's interesting to note that young oxen horns have a greenish tinge to them. They lose this coloration as the horn gains age and thickness. When you team the horn coloration with the inexperience of a young oxen team, it's easy to see how green and horn came to be paired together. A few references also allude to a jewellery

manufacturing practice of the 1800s involving horn. Artisans would create a cameo-styled jewellery piece out of horn and silver that needed to be heated to set the piece. Inexperienced artisans would use the incorrect amount of heat, leaving the horn with a greenish tinge instead of the preferred brown. Those that created the tainted pieces were known as "greenhorns" afterwards.

*Green with envy- позеленеть от зависти-* 'Green with envy' was a colorful term used long before Mark Twain wrote these words about jealousy in the late-1800s. Today, the saying means that one is envious or covetous of someone or something. If you go back a few hundred years to the 16th and 17th centuries, great authors such as Shakespeare and Chaucer wrote of characters that were green with envy. Long before Shakespeare connected green with jealousy, the colour was more commonly used to describe illness. Sources such as "Who Put the Butter in Butterfly" by David Feldman claim the early Greeks interchanged "green" and "pale" to mean sickly. The Greeks thought that when you were ill or jealous, the body produced too much bile, giving the skin a green tint. And while many sources are content to let Shakespeare take credit for inventing the idea of a person turning green with envy, a Greek poet beat him to the punch more than 2,000 years earlier. Sappho wrote of a forlorn lover being *green* in one of her works dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century B. C. *The green-eyed monster- «чудище с зелёными глазами»* - If one is "bitten by the green-eyed monster," it's thought they are consumed with jealousy. *Green room - гримёрка* - a room in the theatre or studio, where performers can relax before or after appearances.

*Greener pastures- глядеть в лес-* something newer or better (or perceived to be better), such as a new job.

*Green around the gills- иметь болезненный вид-* marked by a pale, sickly, or nauseated appearance.

*Turn green- побледнеть* look pale and ill as if you are going to vomit. *Going green-участвовать в движении по защите природы-* when someone or something makes changes to help protect the environment or reduce waste of pollution.

## Pink

1. pale red: a pink carnation / rose. 2. (often derogatory) giving some slight support to socialist political parties and ideas.

*In the pink*- *в прекрасном состоянии*- (usually humorously) in perfect health, very well: She has recovered from the flu and is feeling in the pink again- Она оправилась от гриппа и чувствует себя прекрасно.

*Origin*: The phrase originally came out of the English fox hunting tradition where a rider was not granted the right to don the scarlet coloured jackets, called "pinks", until he demonstrated superior horsemanship and service to the hunt. Being in the pink meant the rider had reached the pinnacle of achievement in the past. The use of the phrase "in the pink" evolved to be used more broadly to mean the very pinnacle of something, but not necessarily the hunt during the 18th century. This meaning of the phrase is seen in literature beginning in the mid-1700s and continuing throughout the 19th century. It isn't until the early 20th century that we see the phrase being used with its current associations. It is unclear how it transitioned into a phrase that is now specifically health-related, but possibly, as it came into use among those not familiar with the hunt, it was thought that pink referred to the rosy glow of the complexion that is indicative of good health.

*Pink elephant*- *напиться до чёртиков*- (often plural; humorously) an imaginary thing supposed to be seen by someone who is drunk. *Pink slip*- *уведомление об увольнении* - Ame) an official notice from an employer that one's employment is ended: We are going to give him the pink slip tomorrow- Мы собираемся известить его об увольнении завтра.

*Pink-collar*- *работник сферы обслуживания* - specially Ame) of or concerning jobs of fairly low rank, such as those of secretaries, waitresses, typists, that are usually taken by women.

*Pinkie* ( *also pinky*) –*мизинец* - (ScotE or Ame) the smallest finger of human hand. *Pinking shears* ( *also pinking scissors*) - *фестонные ножницы*- a special

type of scissors with blades that have V-shaped teeth, used to cut cloth in such a way that the threads along the cut edge will not come out easily.

*Pinko (pinkoes or pinkos)- умеренный либерал-* (informal, derogatory) a person who gives some slight support to socialist political parties and ideas.

*Tickled pink- приводит в восторг* - to be tickled physically can be a pleasant or irritating experience: when we are tickled metaphorically we are pleased.

*Origin:* Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century we have talked in English about something that "tickles the fancy". That thought can be expressed more pompously- one early writer glossed it as "striking the joyous perception"- but tickling the fancy does rather well and is used by discerning writers. Once this phrase was established it became possible to speak more simply about being tickled by something or someone. (As every child is fascinating to discover, tickling must always be done by someone else- you can not tickle yourself). By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was possible to state more emphatically that one was tickled by death. "We three boys are going to dance for you in a few minutes", says an American in Upton Sinclair's *World's End*, "and we are tickled to death about it". The alternative expression tickled pink seems to have come into being at the same time, also in America. The pinkness referred to is no doubt the heightened colour that accompanies hearty laughter. Tickled pink is the usual form, but it is recorded that an American who sat opposite William Temple at dinner told him: "Archbishop, you tickle me pink!" This sounds suspiciously like P.G. Wodehouse, though that writer seems to have confined himself to the conventional wording. In *Nothing Serious* he says: "Your view, then, is that he is tickled pink to be freed from his obligations?"

*The pink of perfection- идеал-* to be the example of perfection concerning beauty, way of behaviour.



## Purple

1. a dark colour made of a mixture of red and blue. 2. the purple- dark red or purple garments worn only by people of very high rank: He was born to the purple (born into a royal family)- Он родился в королевской семье.

*Purple passage (also purple path)*- *выразительный пассаж*- 1. a splendid or too grand-sounding part in the middle of a piece of writing. 2. a speech or writing full of ornate or flowery language.

*Purple heart*- *сердце*- (Bre) a small pill containing a drug (amphetamine) that causes excitement; it's often taken by drug addicts.

*Be born in purple*- *родиться в роскоши*- a person, who is born into a noble or a royal family.

*To marry into the purple*- *вступить в брак с отпрыском королевской семьи*- to marry the one the good family: Now I had not the slightest wish for my dear Helena to marry into the purple- Я не хочу чтобы моя дорогая Елена вышла замуж за отпрыска королевской семьи.

## Red

1. the colour of blood or fire: a red rose / dress; We painted the door red. 2. (of human hair) of a bright brownish, orange or copper colour. 3. (of human skin) pink, usually for a short time: I turned red with embarrassment / anger; The child's eyes ( the skin round the eyes) were red from crying. 4. (of wine) of dark pink to dark purple colour. 5. (especially in newspapers) supporting left-wing political ideas; socialist or communist: Red Ken wins seat in Parliament (from a newspaper report). 6. of communist countries; especially formerly communist countries of Eastern Europe. N- 1. red colour: The reds and yellows of the evening sky; You mix red and yellow to make orange. 2. red clothes: dressed in red. 3. the red- a colloquial term for a money account such as bank account that is overdrawn on in dept; compare "black" (such accounts were originally made in red ink, whereas

credit accounts were written in black): in / into / out of the red = in / into / out of debt; Your account is in the red.

*Cultural Note:* the colour red is often used as a sign of danger and in signs on roads meaning "stop".

*Be like a red rag (Bre) / a red Flag (Airie) to a bull-* *быть болезненным для кого- либо-* (informal) to be likely to cause uncontrollable anger: She's an ardent feminist, so jokes about women are like a red rag to a bull to her. [Collins 1970:256-258] *Better red than dead-* *лучше согласиться с предлагаемыми условиями, чем быть убитым-* a phrase used during the Cold War by some people opposed to nuclear weapons, meaning that it would be better to be controlled by a communist government than to be killed in a nuclear war.

*Red alert* — *состояние готовности перед лицом опасности-* a condition of readiness to deal with a situation of sudden great danger: The hospital services have been put on red alert- Медицинские службы были приведены в состояние постоянной готовности.

*Red biddy-* *дешёвый алкогольный напиток-* a colloquial term for an alcoholic drink made from cheap red wine and methylated spirits; it is an unpleasant and dangerous drink (the term comes apparently from "Biddy" - a nickname for an old woman, since some female tramps enjoy the drink). *Red blindness* – *дальтонизм* - daltonism.

*Red coat* - *английский солдат* - 1. a British soldier during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century when a red coat was part of the British uniform, as during the American War of Independence, Paul Revere in his famous "midnight ride" warned the American patriots, shouting: "Redcoats are coming!" Those whom he warned were ready to fight the British the next day. 2. a worker at a holiday camp who helps entertain holiday-makers. He wears a red coat as part of his uniform- Он носит красный мундир к качеству униформы.

*Red Nose Day-* «*День красного носа*»- the day on the year on which activities organized by Comic Relief are carried out to raise money for charities.

Many people in Britain wear plastic red noses on this day and some people put large red noses on the front of their cars to show their support.

*Cultural note:* Comic Relief is a British charity organization set up and run by a group of professional comedians to raise money for poor people in the world. *Red-blooded-* *сильный, храбрый, энергичный- adj-* (appreciative, of a person on their behaviour) confident and strong.

*Redbrick - название университетов в Великобритании-* any of the British universities started in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as distinct from the older Oxford and Cambridge universities. All redbricks were started as colleges; they became universities later. Many of them were built in red brick, contrasting with the mellow grey stone of the old foundations. All of them are in the cities outside London.

*Red-eye- эффект красных глаз-* 1. any of several fishes with the red eyes, as the rudd. 2. an unwanted effect in the photograph taken with a flash, in which a person's eyes appear to be red. 3. (Ame slang) strong, cheap, inferior whisky or other strong spirits. 4. (Ame informal) a passenger aircraft making a long-distance flight at night:

*Red-neck- консерватор-(informal, derogatory, especially in Ame)* 1. a man who lives in a country area, especially one who is uneducated and poor and has a strong unreasonable opinions. 2. a slang term, usually for a rural white southerner (in the US) who is politically conservative, racist and a religious fundamentalist (believes that the statements in the Bible are literally true and argues against the theory of evolution). Catch someone red-handed - пойманный с поличным.

*Origin:* in the 16 century a Scottish legal term referred to being "taken red-handed". The meaning was the same as "caught red-handed", apprehended while committing a crime or with the evidence of the crime still on one's person. Needless to say, the phrase had originally been suggested by a victim's blood on the land of a murderer, but it had quickly acquired the meaning within the law of "clear evidence of guilt," applied to any crime. "If he be not taken red-hand," wrote an early authority on Scottish legal matters, "the sheriff can not proceed

against him." A suspected criminal who was not "taken red-hand" was said to be "without red-hand."

E. F. Benson had fun with the phrase in *Miss Mapp*, where the heroine suspects that her servants are using the telephone to make their own calls. "Miss Mapp paused by the door to let any of these delinquents get deep in conversation with her friend: a soft and stealthy advance towards the room would then enable her to catch one of them red-mouthed."

*Paint the town red* - предаваться веселью, дебоширить- to paint the town red is to spend a boisterous night out, consuming plenty of alcohol and making a lot of noise. It has been suggested that the kind of behaviour associated with this phrase could lead to a certain amount of blood being splashed about, hence the reference to "red". The phrase may merely mean that those concerned attract attention to themselves, as they would if they wandered through the town splashing red paint everywhere: He inherited a lot of money and proceeded to paint the town red- Ему в наследство досталась большая сумма денег и он продолжил веселиться.

*Origin:* This expression was first recorded in an American newspaper at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In a 1970s Clint Eastwood western *High Plains Drifter* a small town in literally painted red and renamed Hell. The *Boston Journal* reported that "whenever there was any excitement or anybody got particularly loud, they always said somebody was "painting the town red". A few years later, in 1897, an article in the *Chicago Advance* said: "The boys painted the town red with firecrackers". By 1922 the expression was well enough known for James Joyce to make a joke in *Ulysses*: "And there was the end of his tether after having often painted the town tolerably pink."

*Red herring*- отвлекающий манёвр- something deliberately misleading to divert your attention from the main subject; something irrelevant that confuses an issue: Talking about the new plant is a red herring to keep us from information about downsizing plans- Разговор о новом заводе всего лишь манёвр, чтобы ввести нас в заблуждение по поводу сокращения заводов.

*Origin:* A red herring is a fish that has been pickled in such a way that it turns reddish. It has a long smell. Centuries ago it was used to teach hunting dogs to follow a train. It was dragged on the ground and the dogs followed its scent. Later, people who hated hunting dragged a red herring across the path of the fox the dogs were chasing. The dogs would get confused, stop following the fox, and follow the smell of the herring. Sometimes escaping crooks also used red herring to cover up their own scents so the bloodhounds couldn't find them. This idiom has been popular since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*See red - прийти в ярость, потерять самообладание-* to give way to the extreme anger: When he laughed in my face, I just saw red- Когда он рассмеялся мне в лицо, я потеряла самообладание.

*Origin:* This image probably comes from the colour of blood which has always been associated with passion, but it may also be connected with the fury of the bull when provoked by the matador waving a red cloth although the movement, not the colour is what excites the bull.

*Red letter day — значимое событие* - if someone tells you that today is a red letter day they mean it's a day of importance, such as anniversary, birthday or holiday.

*Origin:* The phrase "red letter day" dates back to at least 1385, when members of ancient monasteries and convents were responsible for producing calendars. They would use black ink for writing most of the calendar, but used red ink to mark important such as the days of Saints or other religious occasions, or holidays when the faithful should pray or atone. The red ink was easy to see at a glance. Some sources note that in early England, judges of the English High Court would wear scarlet robes to the Court of Law on red letter days.

Ancient religious books created before the printing press was hand-lettered, usually by the monks in a monastery. The pages of these illuminated manuscripts were decorated with gold and silver inlay. Often, the first letter of a word in a section was written in red ink. These letters were known as "rubrics." Though

they're not directly connected to red letter days, it is clear that early monks believed in the importance of red to catch a reader's eye and attention.

*Red tape- бюрократия, волокита-* official, bureaucratic formalities and procedure which slow down people and processes; legal or official obstacles to doing something: I have applying for visas. For some countries there's so much red tape involved- Я подал документы на визу. Чтобы получить визу в некоторые страны, нужно пройти через бумажную волокиту.

*Origin:* While the term seems abstract now, in the beginning, red tape was literally that: red tape. Before the days of binder clips and file folders, court and government clerks needed a way to keep documents together. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, and possibly even earlier, official documents were folded and bound with red cloth, ribbon or tape to keep them secure. Even at the Vatican documents were bound with red cloth. The US Federal Court used bright red cotton ribbon to bind official documents from 1790 to 1915. The cotton ribbon was wide, braided, and soft so it wouldn't damage the paper like other types of ribbon or rope. Court documents were stored in wooden boxes, with all of a day's paperwork folded and taped together. If someone wanted to find a court document, they would have to go through the box until they found the bundle for the day in question. Then they had to slice through the red cotton tape to view the papers. When they were finished, more red tape was used to bundle the documents again and replace them in the box. The process was time consuming, especially if the exact date of the paperwork in question wasn't known. The clerk might spend hours, if not days, going through boxes and cutting red tape on scores of document bundles before finding the right one. Today's government works with computers, but the process for handling information often seems as slow and cumbersome as the old method of boxes and tape. Every election brings talk of trimming governmental red tape, but measures to do so might just create more problems.

*Be in the red - быть в долгу, иметь задолженность* - the term to describe an economic loss.

*Come (get) out of the red* - выпутаться из долгов - to become profitable or payable. *Go into the red* - становится убыточным, приносит дефицит - to be unprofitable, not bringing in much income.

*Put in the red* - привести к банкротству - to make smb. bankrupt, to collapse.

*Red as a beet (red as a lobster)* - красный, багровый - to be of red or blood red colour: *I rubbed him till he was red as a lobster. By the time I finished he was feeling better but I was exhausted-* Я тёр его до покраснения. И после того как я закончил, то чувствовал себя изнурённым, в то время как ему полегчало.

*As red as a cherry (rose)*- кровь с молоком- rosy, pink, rubicund, ruddy, blooming with health, the very picture of health: *The girl's name was Peg, her cheeks were as red as a cherry-* Девушку звали Пег и она была с румянцем во всю щёку.

*As red as fire* - покрасневший, вспыхнувший - to turn red in the face, flush, blush: *You are sick, your face is as red as fire-* Ты болен, твоё лицо пылает.

*Not worth a red cent* - не стоит и ломаного гроша- having no value: I bought this car 20 years ago, moreover break doesn't work, it doesn't worth a red cent- Я купил эту машину 20 лет назад, к тому же тормоза не работают, она не стоит и ломаного гроша.

## **White**

1. the lightest or the brightest of the series of colours that pass from black as the darkest through a series of lighter and lighter grays, the opposite of "black"; the colour of milk, common salt and fresh snow; white paint; walls painted white; strong white teeth; white hair (as of a very old person-pale gray or silvery). 2. a) pail colour, bloodless: Her face was white with fear; b) light-coloured: the white meat of the chicken. 3. (as) white as a sheet-very pale, especially as a result of fear or shock: She went as white as a sheet when she heard the news. 4. (as) white as snow- very white: An old man with hair as white as snow. 5. Bleed somebody white

(idiomatic)-take away all somebody's money. 6. show the white feather (idiomatic)-act in a cowardly way; snow fear.

*Cultural Note:* 1. the colour "white" is usually thought of as the colour of purity and virginity. Babies are dressed in white at christenings and brides usually wear long white dresses at weddings that take place in church ("white wedding"). 2. People often wear white clothes in summer. 3. In sport "white clothes" ("whites") refers to the clothes worn by cricketers (white shirt, white trousers, white boots), tennis players (white shirt white shorts or skirt, white socks, white shoes) or bowls players (white shirt or blouse, white trousers or skirt, white shoes). *Whited sepulchre*- лицемер, ханжа-(*biblical* or humorous)- someone who gives the appearance of being good, but is evil; a person who seems to be good, but is really evil; a hypocrite. He was pretending to get everybody's approval, but turned out to be a whited sepulchre- Он притворялся, чтобы получить всеобщее одобрение, но в итоге оказался лицемером.

*The white man's burden* - «миссия белого человека»- 1. the duty that white people believed in the past that they had to manage the affairs of less developed peoples until they had enough education to manage their own affairs.

*Origin:* The expression comes from a poem by Rudyard Kipling (it is the title of one of his poems), and was used especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. 2. the phrase used to justify European and American imperialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The phrase implies that imperialism was motivated by a high-minded desire to uplift the less advanced black and brown peoples.

*White Christmas*-снежное рождество- Christmas during which snow falls; a Christmas Day when there is snow on the ground, thought by many people to be attractive and traditional. Such Christmases are rare in Britain in the late 20th century.

In the United States there is a well-known song called "White Christmas".

*White elephant sale*- пожертвование-(*Ame*, old-fashioned for jumble sale) a sale of articles as a way of collecting money for a good purpose, to help a hospital or a school.



*White fish*- *белуха*- (pl. fish or fishes)- any of several silvery freshwater used as food. *White flag*-*флаг парламентаря*- a white cloth or flag signalling surrender or truce; a sign that one accepts defeat: They walked towards the enemy waving the white flag to show that they were surrendering- Они шли навстречу врагу размахивая белым флагом чтобы показать о своей капитуляции. *White flight*- «бегство белых»- (AmE) large numbers of middle-class white people leaving an area / usually because of fears that black families are coming to live there. *White hope*- *надежда, перспективный человек*- (usually singular, sometimes humorous or derogatory) the person who is expected to bring great success: Our great white hope from the future - Наша надежда на будущее. The white hope of the Republican Party - Надежда Республиканской партии.

*White knight* - *белый рыцарь* - a person or organization that puts money into a business company to save it from being taken by another company.

*White lie* - *ложь во благо* - a lie told to cover up a small offence, to spare someone's feeling; a harmless lie, one told so as not to hurt someone feelings. Most people, even those who insist they would never tell a lie, have told a white lie. White lies are the little, untruthful things we say in an effort to save someone's feelings, to avoid a trivial but sticky situation or simply to be polite.

*Origin:* The term "white lie" has been used since at least the 1700s. The earliest the phrase appeared in print was 1741, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, when the contrast between white lies and black lies was examined. People started using especially white colour in this term because white has always been the colour of innocence, righteousness, goodness, and purity. Calling a lie "white" is the perfect way to separate it from the darker lies that are told to be cruel, malicious, or hurtful. *White magic* - *белая магия* - magic used for good purposes. *White supremacy* - *превосходство белой расы* - the belief expressed by some persons that white people are better than people of other races, especially black people, and that other races should be kept at a lower level of society. (A person who supports this belief is called a white supremacist).

*White tie* - *парадный костюм* - 1. a white bow tie worn with a swallow-tailed coat as part of men's most formal evening clothes. 2. (also white tie and tails) men's most formal evening clothes. 3. a conventional indication on an invitation card that formal men's evening dress is to be worn: Is it a white tie affair?

*White trash* - *бедняки из белого населения* - (also poor white trash) - (Ame derogatory, informal) white people who are poor and uneducated, the lowest social class of whites).

*White-collar* - *офисный работник*- adj - (of a job, worker) not manual; of people who work in offices or at professional jobs, rather than doing hard or dirty work with their hands. Managerial, clerical and sales jobs are common white-collar occupations. Such people used to wear white shirts in contrast to the overalls (often blue) of a manual or blue-collar worker: white-collar workers; a white-collar union.

*White elephant* - *нечто чрезвычайно дорогостоящее, но не приносящее практической пользы* - any possession that is useless, unwanted, or costs a lot of money to keep: There's a white elephant sale on Saturday, bring all your junk to sell- В субботу распродажа ненужного хлама, принеси на продажу всё, что есть. J. I. M. Stewart provides an example in *The Last Tresilians*, where a coin and art collection is presented to a college. The collection is a valuable one, but the college will have to pay for and maintain the special building that will house it. "Perhaps, Provost," says one of the college fellows, "you will give us some idea of where this monstrous white elephant is to be accommodated?"

*Origin:* White elephants were revered and considered sacred in countries such as Thailand. It is said that the night before Buddha's birth, his mother dreamed of a white elephant carrying a lotus flower. Since then, the white elephant has been worshiped as a symbol of fertility and greatness, unlike most elephants that were used as pack and work animals and ridden to war. However, rare white elephants were very expensive to maintain, even in that era. They required a home and food worthy of their status. They weren't used for work or war, and lived a pampered life. The phrase is originated in a story connected with the former kings of Siam (now Thailand). A white, albino elephant was a rare and valuable creature, normally kept in the royal stables for the King's sole use and treated with veneration. If a King

wanted to punish one of his courtiers without appearing to do so, he would present him with a white elephant. The courtier concerned could not, as it were, look a gift elephant in the mouth. He was therefore obliged to keep the animal and pay for its upkeep over a long period, getting nothing in return. It would have insulted the King to treat a white elephant like an ordinary working animal. This story is circulating in England by the middle of the 19th century, at which time "white elephant" began to be used in its figurative sense. A writer in 1851 referred to a man whose "services are like so many white elephants. Of which nobody can make use, and yet that drain ones' gratitude, if indeed one does not feel bankrupt."

Even now, the term "white elephant" is often used to describe a business venture or investment that costs far more than it delivers, yet is impossible for the owner to sell it or otherwise dispose of.

There is also a very famous game called "white elephant gifts". In a white elephant gift exchange, there are a couple of different sets of rules about the gifts to be given. A white elephant gift can be either an item currently owned by a person that they no longer want or a purchased gift that doesn't exceed a price limit set by the game. At a game time, the host draws a name from a hat and that person chooses a gift from the pile of white elephants and opens it. The next person whose name is drawn from the hat can either "steal" the gift already opened or choose one of the unopened gifts. If a player chooses to steal the gift, the person from which the gift was stolen can then steal a gift from another player or open another white elephant. People may end up with something they adore or they may be stuck with something they can hardly wait to wrap up for next year's white elephant game. *Call white black* - *утверждать что-либо вопреки очевидности* - to deny something despite of its obviousness.

(as) *White as a ghost (as a sheet, as ashes, as death, as the driven snow)* - *бледный, как полотно*- to be deadly pale: The effect on him was ghastly, he fell back in his chair and went as white as death- Принесённое мною известие потрясло его. Он откинулся на стуле и смертельно побледнел.

*White as milk (as snow)* - *белый как снег* - to be snowy, of a white colour (especially of skin): In contrast to Hal's deep tan Tommy was as white as milk- По сравнению с сильно загоревшим Хэлом, Томми был белый как снег.

## **Yellow**

*adj*-1. of a colour like that of butter, gold or the yolk ( middle part of an egg), ripe lemons or dandelions. 2. (often offensive) having the light brown skin and complexion of some eastern Asian people. 3. (also yellow-bellied, informal, derogatory) not brave, cowardly: I always suspected he was yellow, *v*- to make / become yellow: The paper yellowed with age; Many washings had yellowed the old linen tablecloth; yellowing autumn leaves. [Hornby 2000: 930] *Yellow streak*-*мрус* - cowardice in somebody's character.

*Yellow press* - *жёлтая пресса*- (informal, derogatory) newspapers that deliberately include sensational news items, especially in order to attract readers.

*Yellow alert* - *в состоянии боевой готовности* - (a condition of readiness to deal with) a situation of great danger. It is less serious than "red alert"- Это серьезнее, чем состояние боевой готовности.

*Yellow brick road* - *путь, в конце которого человека ждёт достижение цели или воплощение мечты* - a road which leads to a place where a person can find something good (from the story "The Wizard of Oz" by Frank Baum in which Dorothy and her friends have to follow the yellow brick road to find the wizard who will help them.)

*Yellow card* - *жёлтая карточка* - a card held up by a football or rugby referee to show that a player is to be booked (the name of the football or rugby player is to written in a book for breaking the rules).

*Yellow line* - *жёлтая линия* - (in Britain) a line of yellow paint at the edge of a street or road next to the pavement, which shows that parking of vehicles, is not allowed at certain times. A single yellow line means that no vehicle may wait (park) during the working hours (usually from 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.) except to

load and unload. Two yellow lines close together normally mean that no vehicles may park there at any time.

*Yellow journalism - жёлтая пресса* - means irresponsible, exaggerated, lurid, and even slanderous reporting, definition that hasn't strayed far from the original meaning.

*Origin:* The term "yellow journalism" has an original and unique origin. This phrase has lately been replaced by terms such as "tabloid reporting" and "infotainment" since broadcast, cable, and internet news sources have become more viewed than newspapers. Still yellow journalism is considered a very derogatory term. Yellow journalism stems from the late 1800s through the early 1900s when two newspaper owners tried to outdo each other with their front page spreads, all in pursuit of the highest circulation total. In those days, all news came from the newspaper, since there was no other way of getting such information. If a journalist decided to stretch the truth a bit, there was no one to dispute his facts. In this fertile soil sprouted yellow journalism.

*Historical note:* Joseph Pulitzer, the award namesake, owned a newspaper called New York World and was the first to use sensational journalism tactics to stretch the truth and attract his readers. For example, during a heat wave in Manhattan that killed many, he used headlines such as "How babies are baked" to draw more readers. William Randolph Hearst owned the San Francisco Examiner and didn't like to be second-best. Pulitzer's paper had the highest circulation of any newspaper in the country. After making his west coast paper a success, Hearst