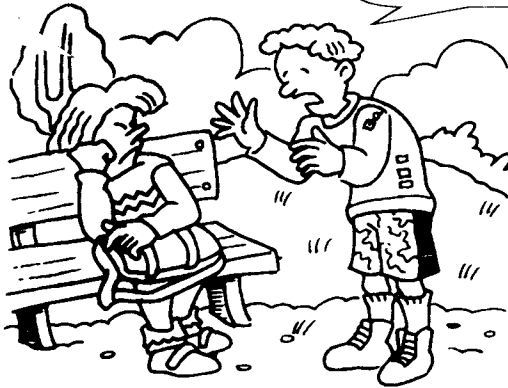


Chapter 1

Idioms Relating to Colours

I'm afraid I'm in my boss's **black books**.

You seem a bit **blue** these days. What's up?



1.1 (to be) in someone's black books

to be in disgrace ; to be condemned for something ; to be seriously out of favor

失宠 受贬黜

Examples

- Because of that one mistake I'll *be in his black books* forever. I'll never get a promotion now.
就因为那一个错误，我在他那儿从此失宠，就别想再有提升机会了。
- I'm *in my father's black books* because I chose a university that's far away from my family.
我选择一个离家很远的大学上学，遭到我父亲的冷眼相待。

1.2 black market

illicit buying and selling of officially controlled goods which are scarce

违法买卖官方控制下的奇缺物品的市场；黑市

Examples

- Some people in this city go to the *black market* to get things that they can't obtain easily.
城里有一些人到黑市去买那些难得买到的东西。
- Every country it seems has some kind of *black market*, from money to hard-to-get goods.
每个国家都有这一类的黑市，进行这种钱币和紧缺物品的交易。

1.3 **black-hearted**

evil ; wicked , sinister ; dangerous

邪恶 ; 黑心的 ; 阴险的

Examples

- Many movies show pirates to be romantic adventurers ; history shows that many were *black-hearted* individuals ; killers and thieves who caused havoc.

许多电影表现海盗们的浪漫故事 ; 但历史告诉我们他们很多都是心肠狠毒的人 是杀手、窃犯 他们给这个世界带来很多灾难。

- Some of us see tax collectors as *black-hearted* individuals but they're really just doing their job.

有些人认为收税人都是黑心肠的人 ; 其实他们不过是在尽职而已。

1.4 **blackleg (1)**

a person who does not participate in certain industrial action , especially trade union action (noun)

Can be used as a verb (to blackleg an action)

工贼 ; 罢工期间照常工作的人。有时可用作动词。

Example

- No one has much to do with him because he's a bit of a *blackleg*.

他身上的那点儿工贼味道使得人们和他没有太多的过往。

blackleg(2)

a swindler, especially at the racecourse or where horse racing is popular (noun)

在赛马场行骗的人

Example

- He lost his money to some *blackleg* who was operating at the racecourse.
他 被 在 赛 马 场 里 行 骗 的 人 弄 去 了 钱。

1.5 blue

sad ; depressed ; feeling gloomy

忧伤 情绪低落 郁闷

Examples

- I'm feeling *blue* these days because my boyfriend is over-seas and I miss him so much.
我 这 几 天 有 点 儿 闷 闷 不 乐 : 男 友 去 了 海 外 , 令 我 十 分 想 念。
- Whenever you feel *blue*, you should do something good for yourself; go shopping, do something kind for others or try to think more positively.
你 情 绪 低 落 的 时 候 应 该 做 点 儿 有 益 于 自 己 的 事 : 购 物 啦 , 助 人 啦 , 或 是 想 一 些 更 为 积 极 向 上 的 事 情。

1.6 blue in the face

showing exasperation, annoyance or sometimes anger

表 情 愤 激 显 得 烦 恼 、 气 愤

Examples

- I've told you till *I'm blue in the face* not to throw your socks on the floor!
我说得都气急败坏了，为的是要你不要把袜子扔到地板上。
- He'll keep saying he's innocent till he's *blue in the face*.
他不停地解释说他是无辜的，到最后竟满脸怒气了。

1.7 blueblood

of noble birth; having aristocratic blood
出生高贵的

Examples

- He doesn't deserve any special privilege — I mean it's not as if he's got *blue blood*.
他不应当受到什么特殊的待遇——我是说他不象有高贵血统的人。
- She thinks of herself as a *blue blood*, quite aristocratic.
她认为自己有高贵的血统，很有贵族派头。

blue collar

employment in manual or industrial work
手工劳作者

Examples

- My father doesn't want my brother to have a *blue collar* job.
我父亲不想让我兄弟当手工工人。

- *Bluecollar* workers are declining in numbers in many countries.
在许多国家，手工劳作者的人数越来越少。

1.9 blue-eyed boy

favored person ; the favorite of someone
受青睐的人 某人的宠爱者

Examples

- See that man standing near the photo copier? He's the boss' *blue-eyed boy* at the moment.
看到站在复印机旁边的那个人了？他现在正得老板宠爱呢。
- Being the teacher's *blue-eyed boy* carries some privilege.
受到老师的偏爱就享有一些特权。

1.10 get the green light

to be given approval for something to happen; to receive the go-ahead for a project or an idea to be put into action
绿灯放行 有做某事的通行证 批准

Examples

- I have the support of my immediate boss. I've put in the proposal ; now all I need is *to get the green light*.
我有我的直接上司支持我，我交上了提案。我现在就等最后批准了。
- Once I've *got the green light* for the home loan, I will

sell my old apartment.

只要我拿到购房贷款的批件，就把我的旧公寓卖掉。

1.11 give someone a black look

to look at someone with strong disapproval, annoyance or anger

(脸上)表示强烈不满,气愤

Example

- When I disagreed with the price the owner gave me a *black look*.
我对价格的异议招来物主满脸不高兴。
- She gave him a *black look*, turned around and left him forever.
她一脸不高兴，转身永远离他而去。

1.12 green

naïve ; inexperienced

天真的；没经验的

Examples

- I don't think we should let the trainee take on that responsibility because he's still a bit *green*.
我认为我们不应该让这位学员承担责任 他还有点儿嫩呢。
- Just because she's new and a little *green* doesn't mean that she can't do more substantial tasks.
她是新手，不太成熟，但这并不意味着她胜任不了更繁重的任务。

1. 13 green around the gills

sea sick; indicating signs of readiness to vomit
晕船；马上要吐的样子

Examples

- The sea crossing was so bad that many of the passengers were *green around the gills*.
这次横渡大洋真是糟透了，许多乘客都晕船了。
- I could tell there was something wrong with him because he was *green around the gills*.
看得出他不大舒服——他晕船了。

1. 14 green belt

a large area of land that is purposely kept natural and is not developed
(Often found in large cities where over-development is controversial.)
(在极度发展的大城市中的) 绿色地带

Examples

- There is a wide expanse of land on the outskirts of the city that has been designated as a *green belt*.
在这座城市的外围有一大片扩展地带被开辟成了绿色地带。
- It is impossible to build anything on land which is classified as part of the Sydney *green belt*.
要想在这片划为悉尼绿色带领域的地方建筑任何东西都是不可能的。

1.15 gray matter

the human brain; the active part of the brain
人类大脑；大脑活跃的那部分

Examples

His problem is that he doesn't use his *gray matter* enough — he just panics.

他的问题是：脑子用的不够——一副惊慌失措的样子。

Well, use your *gray matter* to solve the problem.

动动脑子去解决这个问题吧。

1.16 in black and white

written information which is considered true and/or clear
白纸黑字写着的（意为十分清楚，不可扭曲和改变）

Examples

- It's there *in black and white* — you can't argue against it.

白纸黑字写得清清楚楚——你是驳不倒的。

- I don't doubt what you say but I'd like it *in black and white*.

我并不怀疑你所说的，但我想要它清清楚楚地写到纸上。

The following dialog uses many of the idioms from above.

Chris: You seem a bit blue these days. What's up?

Neil: I'm afraid I'm in my boss's black books.

Chris: What on earth for? You seemed to be his blue-eyed boy.

Neil: Well, I've been given the green light to work on the new international project, but the approval has come from Head Office, not from my immediate boss.

Chris: Ah I see. So he's not pleased about it?

Neil: Judging from the black looks that he gives me, I'd say he's not happy at all.

Chris: How did it all happen?

Neil: I merely showed a deep interest in the project at the Head Office conference last month and I was selected.

Chris: Your boss probably thinks you're a bit green. You've only been with us for about six months.

Neil: True, but by using the old gray matter, it's possible to advance.

Chris: No doubt your boss will want the approval in black and white. He won't let you go easily.

Neil: You can say that again

in the black

to be in credit (in banks and book keeping credit balances used to be always written in black ink)

不欠债；有存款记录（因为在银行存款记录和帐簿上收支记录是黑体字）

Examples

- I paid off my loan last month my bank balance is finally *in the black*.
上个月我付清了贷款——我终于有银行有款记录了。
- I'll be *in the black* again after my next pay.
下次付款后，我就又是有款记录了。

1. 18 in the pink

in perfect condition of health ; healthy ; feeling very well
健康状况非常好；健康；感觉良好

Examples

- How am I? I'm *in the pink* !
看我怎么样？感觉十分良好！
- My grandmother's *in the pink* at the moment.
我奶奶这阵儿身体还不错。

1. 19 in the red

in debt; overdrawn (with a bank)
出现赤字 超支

Examples

- I'm afraid I'm *in the red* until I get paid.
恐怕在领到工资前我要超支了。
- I hate being *in the red*.
我不喜欢在开支上有赤字。

1.20

off colour

not feeling well

身体感到不舒服 精神不佳

Examples

- I'm a bit *off colour* today.
我今天精神不大好。
- Tony was sent home — he's *off colour*. Maybe he's coming down with a cold.
托尼被送回家了——他感觉不舒服。也许他得了感冒。

1.21

once in a blue moon

happening rarely

难得发生

Examples

- He only goes out *once in a blue moon*.
出门对他来说真是太难得了。
- *Once in a blue moon* is enough for me.
对我来说偶尔一次就行了。

1.22

out of the blue

unexpectedly

没料到 突然地

Examples

- *Out of the blue* my boss asked if I'd like to go to the conference in America!

真是没料到老板竟问我愿不愿意去美国开会！

- We were having dinner and totally *out of the blue* she asked if I'd like to meet her parents.

我们正在一起吃晚餐，突然她问我愿不愿意去见她的父母。

1.23 **paint the town red**

cause a commotion by behaving wildly/happily as on a spree

狂欢 狂饮

Examples

- After a year of hard work the students *ainted the town red*. They had a great time.
- Cowboys used to get paid and immediately went to *paint the town red*.

牛仔们常常拿到薪水就去狂饮。

1.24 **red herring**

a false clue ; unnecessary , irrelevant information

假造的线索 不必要的、无关信息

Examples

- That's a *red herring* - it is not important or even relevant to the real issue being considered.

这都是不相关的事情——与我们正在考虑的实际问题

无关紧要。

- Detective writers often put in a *red herring* or two in their stories to make it more difficult to know who really committed the murder.
侦探小说家常常在他们的故事里插入些假线索来使读者难以判断谁是真正的作案者。

1.25 red-letter day

a special day; an occasion to be remembered
节日 值得记忆的日子

Examples

- It'll be a *red-letter day* when taxes are actually reduced.
减少税收的实施之日是一个值得记忆的日子。
- It was a *red-letter day* when the war ended.
战争结束的那天成为一个值得纪念的日子。

1.26 rose-coloured glasses

to be optimistic; to see a situation in a cheerful way
乐观的 欢欣鼓舞地看待形势

Examples

- My grandmother tends to view the world through *rose-coloured glasses*.
我的祖母总是看世界很乐观。
- Try to look at it realistically, not through *rose-coloured glasses*.

要现实地看待这件事，不要盲目乐观。

see red

to be angered by something ; to be enraged

为某事所激愤 生气

Examples

- When he heard the news he *saw red*.
听到这个消息后他极为生气。
- Racial insults make me *see red*.
种族凌辱使我十分气愤。

1.28 tickled pink

very pleased ; very happy with a situation or an outcome

非常愉悦；对某形势或某一成果极为满意

Examples

- I'm *tickled pink* with this chair — it was such a bargain — less than half price!
这把椅子我买得很得意：好价钱，还不到一半呢！
- He's *tickled pink* with the baby.
与这个小婴儿一起使他心情愉快。

1.29 white elephant

burdensome possession (usually because of the cost of maintenance)

(由于维修的费用高而累赘的东西)

Examples

- The fountain with the dancing colored lights is actually a *white elephant* these days.
那些带有彩色灯光舞动的喷泉现在实际上是耗费高而无太大实际用途的摆设。
- At a bargain center there's usually a *white elephant* section where unwanted items are re-sold.
在打折商品区通常有一处出售昂贵而不能派用场的商品，在那儿人们可以把不需要的物品转卖。

1.30 **white-collar worker**

an employee who is not engaged in manual work
白领雇员 非手工操作者

Examples

- Only the *white-collar workers* received a salary increase.
只有那些白领雇员得到了加薪。
- My parents expect me to get a good *white-collar* job.
我父母指望我找到一份白领工作。

1.31 **with flying colors**

meritorious achievement; to be successful
出色地 成功地

Examples

- She passed her final exam *with flying colors*.
她成功地通过了期末考试。