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**PHRASEOLOGY in COLORS of the ENGLISH**  
mavzusida bajarilgan

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## **PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **I CHAPTER. Characteristics of a phraseological units**

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## INTRODUCTION

After the proclamation of the independence of Uzbekistan the President of our Republic Islam Karimov made the development programme which would develop our country in socio-economic and spiritual sphere. The programme which made durable both in theory and practice is not only for now, but also for future generations.

Uzbekistan was the first in the CIS area to have adopted the Law “On foundations of state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan” (November 20, 1991). The country has defined the care about the youth, support of its initiatives and protection of personal rights and freedoms as the priority directions of the law. The law provided for the legal and social protection of the young people, direct participation of the youth in shaping and implementing the policy of development of society.

The academic lyceums, which are established at the higher educational institutions, give the young people an opportunity to obtain the deeper knowledge to gain the higher education on the chosen majors, and the colleges, along with continuing the education on special subjects, allow to acquire the medium-qualification profession on two to three subjects so that each and every person joining the mature life could realize his abilities and find his own place in society.

Nowadays, the experience of Uzbekistan in the sphere of education and upbringing the upcoming generation attracts the attention of foreign specialists. The issues of social protection of the young people receive a special attention in Uzbekistan. The law provides for the minimum level of social care of the youth. It guarantees the free medical services and education, attendance of recreational and cultural facilities on easy terms, the soft loans for the construction or procurement of housing and other privileges. “The youth is not only our hope and future, but it is a decisive force of our today and tomorrow”<sup>1</sup>. Such definition will serve as the basis of the country’s youth policy.

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<sup>1</sup>Каримов И.А. “Юксак маънавият – келажак пойдевори”. Т. 2010 й.

Today our country is looking like a big constructional field, where new industrial, educational centers, large sport facilities are created, that are changing and improving the outlook of towns and regions and promotes increase of the social-economic and cultural life level of Uzbeks.

The theme of this qualification paper “Phraseology in Colors” is one of the most topical and interesting subject of language. As we know that phraseology is a science of linguistics, which deals with figurative word-combinations, used as ready-made units. Though it isn't easy to establish the difference between free word-combinations which are generated by the speaker in the process of speech and set expressions used as ready-made.

The world around us is always painted anyhow, therefore now and again we use light and, more widely, color terms in our everyday speech. There are about 100 color names in the vocabulary of any language, whereas a human eye can distinguish many times more colors (up to 100,000 shades). Color plays an important role in everyday life nowadays. Different colors frequently bear on our mood, emotions and even our physical state. That is why color researches are so popular with psychologists globally. However, while investigating a certain aspect, experts often disregard deep the historical and cultural experience of people who tend to designate the subjects and phenomena that surround them and the color names are part of the vocabulary. Therefore, it is no wonder that light and color naming making up an integrated concept of light-color is so popular in linguistic researches. Typologists, linguists and etymologists have researched dozens of languages and come to the conclusion that there are some universal features in the light-color naming system and some apparent uniformities between languages in color-naming. Besides, different interpretation of a particular shade by people is shown in tropes, idioms and sayings. In fact, they accumulate the socio-historical, intellectual and emotional information of a specific national character.

## I CHAPTER. Characteristics of a phraseological units

### I.1. The essence of the phraseology

The phraseology is one of the brightest and effective linguistic means. In linguistics, phraseology is the study of set or fixed expressions, such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and other types of multi-word lexical units (often collectively referred to as phrasemes), in which the component parts of the expression take on a meaning more specific than or otherwise not predictable from the sum of their meanings when used independently<sup>2</sup>. For example, 'Dutch auction' is composed of the words Dutch 'of or pertaining to the Netherlands' and auction 'a public sale in which goods is sold to the highest bidder', but its meaning is not 'a sale in the Netherlands where goods are sold to the highest bidder'. Instead, the phrase has a conventionalized meaning referring to any auction where, instead of rising, the prices fall.

Phraseology is a scholarly approach to language which developed in the twentieth century. It took its start when Charles Bally's notion of locutions phraseologiques entered Russian lexicology and lexicography in the 1930s and 1940s and was subsequently developed in the former Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries. From the late 1960s on it established itself in (East) German linguistics but was also sporadically approached in English linguistics. The earliest English adaptations of phraseology are by Weinreich (1969) within the approach of transformational grammar), Arnold (1973), and Lipka (1992 [1974]). In Great Britain as well as other Western European countries, phraseology has steadily been developed over the last twenty years. The activities of the European Society of Phraseology and the European Association for Lexicography with their regular conventions and publications attest to the prolific European interest in phraseology. Bibliographies of recent studies on English and

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<sup>2</sup>Altenberg, Bengt. On the Phraseology of Spoken English: The Evidence of Recurrent Word-Combinations In A.P. Cowie (ed.), *Phraseology*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998.

general phraseology are included in Welte (1990) and specially collected in Cowie&Howarth (1996) whose bibliography is reproduced and continued on the internet and provides a rich source of the most recent publications in the field.

The basic units of analysis in phraseology are often referred to as phrasemes or phraseological units. Phraseological units are (according to Prof. Kunin A.V.) stable word-groups with partially or fully transferred meanings ("to kick the bucket", "Greek gift", "drink till all's blue", "drunk as a fiddler (drunk as a lord, as a boiled owl)", "as mad as a hatter (as a march hare)"). According to Rosemarie Gläser, a phraseological unit is a lexicalized, reproducible bilexic or polylexemic word group in common use, which has relative syntactic and semantic stability, may be idiomatized, may carry connotations, and may have an emphatic or intensifying function in a text<sup>3</sup>.

The vocabulary of a language is enriched not only by words but also by phraseological units. Phraseological units are word-groups that cannot be made in the process of speech, they exist in the language as ready-made units. They are compiled in special dictionaries. The same as words phraseological units express a single notion and are used in a sentence as one part of it. American and British lexicographers call such units «idioms». We can mention such dictionaries as: L.Smith «Words and Idioms», V.Collins «A Book of English Idioms» etc. In these dictionaries we can find words, peculiar in their semantics (idiomatic), side by side with word-groups and sentences. In these dictionaries they are arranged, as a rule, into different semantic groups.

Phraseological units can be classified according to the ways they are formed, according to the degree of the motivation of their meaning, according to their structure and according to their part-of-speech meaning.

A.V. Koonin classified phraseological units according to the way they are formed. He pointed out primary and secondary ways of forming phraseological units.

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<sup>3</sup>Cowie, A.P. *Phraseology: Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Primary ways of forming phraseological units are those when a unit is formed on the basis of a free word-group:

a) Most productive in Modern English is the formation of phraseological units by means of transferring the meaning of terminological word-groups, e.g. in cosmic technique we can point out the following phrases: «launching pad» in its terminological meaning is «учиш майдони», in its transferred meaning - «жўнаш нуқтаси», «to link up» - «космик кемаларни бириктириш» in its transformed meaning it means -«таништирмақ»;

b) a large group of phraseological units was formed from free word groups by transforming their meaning, e.g. «granny farm» - «қариялар уйи», «Trojan horse» - «компьютерни зарарлантириш учун тузилган вирусли дастур»;

c) phraseological units can be formed by means of alliteration , e.g. «a sad sack» - «бахтсиз ҳодиса», «culture vulture» - «санъатга қизиқувчи киши», «fudge and nudge» - «мойиллик».

d) they can be formed by means of expressiveness, especially it is characteristic for forming interjections, e.g. «My aunt!», «Hear, hear !» etc

e) they can be formed by means of distorting a word group, e.g. «odds and ends» was formed from «odd ends»,

f) they can be formed by using archaisms, e.g. «in brown study» means «in gloomy meditation» where both components preserve their archaic meanings,

g) they can be formed by using a sentence in a different sphere of life, e.g. «that cock won't fight» can be used as a free word-group when it is used in sports (cock fighting ), it becomes a phraseological unit when it is used in everyday life, because it is used metaphorically,

h) they can be formed when we use some unreal image, e.g. «to have butterflies in the stomach» - «ҳаяжонланмоқ», «to have green fingers» - «боғбон» etc.

i) they can be formed by using expressions of writers or politicians in everyday life, e.g. «corridors of power» (Snow), «American dream» (Alby) «locust years» (Churchil) , «the winds of change» (McMillan).

Secondary ways of forming phraseological units are those when a phraseological unit is formed on the basis of another phraseological unit; they are:

a) conversion, e.g. «to vote with one's feet» was converted into «vote with one's feet»;

b) changing the grammar form, e.g. «Make hay while the sun shines» is transferred into a verbal phrase - «to make hay while the sun shines»;

c) analogy, e.g. «Curiosity killed the cat» was transferred into «Care killed the cat»;

d) contrast, e.g. «cold surgery» - «a planned before operation» was formed by contrasting it with «acute surgery», «thin cat» - «a poor person» was formed by contrasting it with «fat cat»;

e) shortening of proverbs or sayings e.g. from the proverb «You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear» by means of clipping the middle of it the phraseological unit «to make a sow's ear» was formed with the meaning «адашмоқ».

f) borrowing phraseological units from other languages, either as translation loans, e.g. «living space» (German), «to take the bull by the horns» (Latin) or by means of phonetic borrowings «meche blanche» (French), «corpse d'elite» (French), «sotto voce» (Italian) etc.

Phonetic borrowings among phraseological units refer to the bookish style and are not used very often.

Phraseological units can be classified according to the degree of motivation of their meaning. This classification was suggested by acad. V.V. Vinogradov for Russian phraseological units. He pointed out three types of phraseological units:

a) fusions where the degree of motivation is very low, we cannot guess the meaning of the whole from the meanings of its components, they are highly idiomatic and cannot be translated word for word into other languages, e.g. on Shank's mare - (on foot), at sixes and sevens - (in a mess) etc;

b) unities where the meaning of the whole can be guessed from the meanings of its components, but it is transferred (metaphorical or metonymical),

e.g. to play the first fiddle ( to be a leader in something), old salt (experienced sailor) etc;

c) collocations where words are combined in their original meaning but their combinations are different in different languages, e.g. cash and carry - (self-service shop), in a big way (in great degree) etc.

Prof. A.I. Smirnitsky worked out structural classification of phraseological units, comparing them with words. He points out one-top units which he compares with derived words because derived words have only one root morpheme. He points out two-top units which he compares with compound words because in compound words we usually have two root morphemes.

Among one-top units he points out three structural types;

a) units of the type «to give up» (verb + postposition type), e.g. to art up, to back up, to drop out, to nose out, to buy into, to sandwich in etc.;

b) units of the type «to be tired» . Some of these units remind the Passive Voice in their structure but they have different prepositions with them, while in the Passive Voice we can have only prepositions «by» or «with», e.g. to be tired of, to be interested in, to be surprised at etc. There are also units in this type which remind free word-groups of the type «to be young», e.g. to be akin to, to be aware of etc. The difference between them is that the adjective «young» can be used as an attribute and as a predicative in a sentence, while the nominal component in such units can act only as a predicative. In these units the verb is the grammar centre and the second component is the semantic centre;

c) prepositional- nominal phraseological units. These units are equivalents of unchangeable words: prepositions, conjunctions, adverbs, that is why they have no grammar centre, their semantic centre is the nominal part, e.g. on the doorstep (quite near), on the nose (exactly), in the course of, on the stroke of, in time, on the point of etc. In the course of time such units can become words, e.g. tomorrow, instead etc.

Among two-top units A.I. Smirnitsky points out the following structural types:

a) attributive-nominal such as: a month of Sundays, grey matter, a millstone round one's neck and many others. Units of this type are noun equivalents and can be partly or perfectly idiomatic. In partly idiomatic units (phrasisms) sometimes the first component is idiomatic, e.g. high road, in other cases the second component is idiomatic, e.g. first night. In many cases both components are idiomatic, e.g. red tape, blind alley, bed of nail, shot in the arm and many others.

b) verb-nominal phraseological units, e.g. to read between the lines, to speak BBC, to sweep under the carpet etc. The grammar centre of such units is the verb, the semantic centre in many cases is the nominal component, e.g. to fall in love. In some units the verb is both the grammar and the semantic centre, e.g. not to know the ropes. These units can be perfectly idiomatic as well, e.g. to burn one's boats, to vote with one's feet, to take to the cleaners' etc.

Very close to such units are word-groups of the type to have a glance, to have a smoke. These units are not idiomatic and are treated in grammar as a special syntactical combination, a kind of aspect.

c) phraseological repetitions, such as : now or never, part and parcel , country and western etc. Such units can be built on antonyms, e.g. ups and downs, back and forth; often they are formed by means of alliteration, e.g cakes and ale, as busy as a bee. Components in repetitions are joined by means of conjunctions. These units are equivalents of adverbs or adjectives and have no grammar centre. They can also be partly or perfectly idiomatic, e.g. cool as a cucumber (partly), bread and butter (perfectly).

Phraseological units the same as compound words can have more than two tops (stems in compound words), e.g. to take a back seat, a peg to hang a thing on, lock, stock and barrel, to be a shadow of one's own self, at one's own sweet will.

Phraseological units can be classified as parts of speech. This classification was suggested by I.V. Arnold. Here we have the following groups:

a) nounphraseologisms denoting an object, a person, a living being, e.g. bullet train, latchkey child, redbrick university, Green Berets,

b) verbphraseologisms denoting an action, a state, a feeling, e.g. to break the log-jam, to get on somebody's coattails, to be on the beam, to nose out , to make headlines,

c) adjectivephraseologisms denoting a quality, e.g. loose as a goose, dull as lead ,

d) adverb phraseological units, such as : with a bump, in the soup, like a dream , like a dog with two tails,

e) preposition phraseological units, e.g. in the course of, on the stroke of ,

f) interjection phraseological units, e.g. «Catch me!», «Well, I never!» etc.

In I.V.Arnold's classification there are also sentence equivalents, proverbs, sayings and quotations, e.g. «The sky is the limit», «What makes him tick», » I am easy». Proverbs are usually metaphorical, e.g. «Too many cooks spoil the broth», while sayings are as a rule non-metaphorical, e.g. «Where there is a will there is a way».

## I.2. Definition of a Phraseological Units and Idioms

As can be inferred from the above, the functional approach does not discard idiomaticity as the main feature distinguishing phraseological units from free word-groups, but seeks to establish formal criteria of idiomaticity by analysing the syntactic function of phraseological units in speech.

An attempt is also made to distinguish phraseological units as word-equivalents from idioms proper, i.e. idiomatic units such as that's where the shoe pinches, the cat is out of the bag, what will Mrs Grundy say?, etc. Unlike phraseological units, proverbs, sayings and quotations do not always function as

word-equivalents. They exist as ready-made expressions with a specialised meaning of their own which cannot be inferred from the meaning of their components taken singly. Due to this the linguists who rely mainly on the criterion of idiomaticity classify proverbs and sayings as phraseological units.

The proponents of the functional criterion argue that proverbs and sayings lie outside the province of phraseology. It is pointed out, firstly, that the lack of motivation in such linguistic units is of an essentially different nature. Idioms are mostly based on metaphors which makes the transferred meaning of the whole expression more or less transparent. If we analyse such idioms, as, e.g., to carry coals to Newcastle, to fall between two stools, or fine feathers make fine birds, we observe that though their meaning cannot be inferred from the literal meaning of the member-words making up these expressions, they are still metaphorically motivated as the literal meaning of the whole expression readily suggests its meaning as an idiom, i.e. 'to do something that is absurdly superfluous', 'fail through taking an intermediate course' and 'to be well dressed to give one an impressive appearance' respectively<sup>4</sup>.

The meaning of the phraseological units, e.g. red tape, heavy father, in the long run, etc., cannot be deduced either from the meaning of the component words or from the metaphorical meaning of the word-group as a whole.

The bulk of idioms never function in speech as word-equivalents which is a proof of their semantic and grammatical separability. It is also suggested that idioms in general have very much in common with quotations from literary sources, some of which also exist as idiomatic ready-made units with a specialised meaning of their own. Such quotations which have acquired specialised meaning and idiomatic value, as, e.g., to be or not to be (Shakespeare), to cleanse the Augean stables (mythology), a voice crying out in the wilderness (the Bible), etc. differ little from proverbs and sayings which may

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<sup>4</sup>Knappe, Gabriele. *Idioms and Fixed Expressions in English Language Study before 1800*. Peter Lang., 2004.

also be regarded as quotations from English folklore and are part of this particular branch of literary studies.

The definition of phraseological units as idiomatic word-groups functioning as word-equivalents has also been subject to criticism. The main disputable points are as follows:

The criterion of function is regarded as not quite reliable when used with a view to singling out phraseological units from among other more or less idiomatic word-groups. The same word-groups may function in some utterances as an inseparable group and in others as a separable group with each component performing its own syntactic function. This seems largely to be accounted for by the structure of the sentence in which the word-group is used. Thus, for example, in the sentence “She took care of everything” — take care is perceived as a single unit functioning as the predicate, whereas in the sentence great care was taken to keep the children happy — take care is undoubtedly separable into two components: the verb take functions as the predicate and the noun care as the object. The functional unity of the word-group seems to be broken.

It is also argued that the criterion of function serves to single out a comparatively small group of phraseological units comparable with phraseological fusions in the traditional semantic classification but does not provide for an objective criterion for the bulk of word-groups occupying an intermediate position between free word-groups and highly idiomatic phraseological units.

## **II CHAPTER. The phraseology in colors**

### **II.1. Colors in English idioms**

Color is closely connected to human activities and is an important reflection of human understanding of the world. Color has not only physical properties, but also rich connotations. Therefore, it becomes an important field of language, culture and translation researches. Color-related idioms are the most

connotative of all vocabulary and their connotations are determined by specific culture. Due to differences of living environments, value orientations, customs and belief systems, English and Uzbek nations may have different perception and understanding of the same color, hence the differences of expression. Therefore, color-related idioms condense a nation's life experiences and reflect the national mentality. The connotations of color-related idioms are distinctively culture-specific. Through the analysis of the similarities and differences of the two nations' understanding of the same color, offers a cross-cultural perspective of many color-related idioms<sup>5</sup>.

Let's consider some colors which are used in idioms: For example, the origin of the Word: *blue*. Think you know what the word blue means? While in English it's a broad word used to describe everything from shimmering waters to depressed feelings, the original word for blue didn't mean the color blue at all. To learn the origins of the word, word experts looked back through the millennia to the language of the Proto-Indo-Europeans, an ancient culture rooted in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. These people used the word blue- to describe something that was light-colored. Some scholars suspect blue - may have even meant "yellow". As people and their languages became more diverse, so did the words based on bhle-. Here's a short list of the terms spawned by that simple four-letter word:

- beliy – Russian for white;
- blawr – Welsh for gray;
- blanc – French for white or blank;
- blavo – Old Spanish for yellowish-gray;
- flavus – Latin for yellow;
- phalos – Greek for white.

For modern English speakers, the word blue came from the Old English *bleu*, which was borrowed from Old French, the language spoken by the people of northern France during the Dark Ages. An interesting trivia tidbit about the

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<sup>5</sup>Dean Curry. *English in color*. USA, 1995.

color blue is that many languages don't use separate words for blue and green. Koreans, for instance, use the word pureu-da to describe both colors. Likewise the Thai word khiaw usually means green but can represent blue when describing the sky or the ocean.

*Blue Blood for 'Silver Spoons'*, the term "blue blood" came to be associated with the aristocracy simply because it was not uncommon in earlier times for European nobility to have skin that appeared to have a blue cast. The bluish (or sometimes greenish) discoloration of their skin was often caused by a condition known as Argyria. Argyria is the result of ingested silver particles that are not able to pass through the body. Historically, this was caused by particles from silver eating utensils being swallowed along with food or silver being taken for medicinal purposes. Aristocrats were originally the ones who could afford medicine and who enjoyed the daily privilege of eating off of silver plates, drinking from silver vessels, and, as the saying goes, being born with "a silver spoon in their mouth." Thus, Argyria was a condition that was more common among the upper class. During this same period in history, having pale skin "untouched by the sun" was a mark of status among the wealthy who did not have to labor outdoors. Argyria would have certainly been more noticeable among individuals with untanned skin. However, it is also thought that the term may have come about simply because veins were more noticeable among those with pale complexions, even if they weren't plagued by this condition.

Origin of the Word: *green*. Rather than the twisting linguistic road some color names take to their modern meaning, the English word green remains remarkably close to its original spelling and meaning. We often connect the color green to life, youth, and vitality—that's exactly what ancient cultures thought, too. The word got its start with the Proto-Indo-Europeans, a loose collection of tribes that was likely among the earliest agricultural communities. They used the word gro- to mean well, grow. The word didn't change much with the rise and fall of cultures. The West Germanic people, who lived primarily in northern Europe, used the word gronja. Even today, languages derived from West

Germanic are rich in similar words, from the modern German *grün* to the Dutch *groen*. When German tribes called the Saxons invaded England during the Dark Ages, the word once again changed—this time to *grene*, an Old English word that looks almost identical to the modern term. So the next time you use green to brighten up a room or think of new life when you see the color, you're not only speaking like your ancestors, you're thinking like them, too.

*Turning Green with Envy* was a colorful idiom 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 who were green with envy. Shakespeare uses green to describe jealousy at least three times in his works. In *Othello*, Iago refers to the 'green-eyed monster'. In *Anthony and Cleopatra*, Shakespeare wrote of the 'green sickness,' meaning jealousy. And in *Merchant of Venice*, he used the term 'green-eyed jealousy'. Long before Shakespeare connected green with jealousy, the color 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.

Origin of the Word:*red*. If you've ever sighed over a perfect red rose or perhaps griped about being stopped by a red light you've used a word that's been in existence, in one form or another, since before the Egyptians erected the pyramids. Etymologists, or word detectives, suspect the term first used to describe red was the Proto-Indo-European word *reudh-*. Over the centuries, this root word became the world traveler of color-describing terms. It entered, for example, the ancient Indian language Sanskrit, the Germanic mother tongue Proto-Germanic, and the somewhat mysterious Eastern Iranian language called Avestan. In Greek the word became *erythros*, which medical professionals would recognize from the term *erythrocyte*, or red blood cell. The spelling of the modern

English word is a direct descendent of the Old English version, read. In fact, when you say names like Reed, Read or Reid, you're speaking Old English. Through the centuries, these names have kept not only their ancient meaning but their pronunciation as well. Red isn't the only color-related English word stemming from the eons-old reudh-. Commonly used terms like rust, ruby, and ruddy all have their roots in the same ancient word. Much like a well-preserved artifact, the word red is a link to some of most ancient ancestors.

*It's a Red Letter Day.* If someone tells you that today is a "red letter day" they mean it's a day of importance, such as a holiday, birthday, or anniversary. But why "red letter?" 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 dates 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 were hand-lettered, usually by the monks in a monastery. The pages of these illuminated manuscripts were decorated with pictures, some 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.

*Cutting Through Red Tape.* At some point, we all have to cut through the "red tape" in order to get something important done. Red tape refers to the amount of paperwork, phone calls, and general trouble one must go through to accomplish something. Whether it is getting a bill paid by the insurance company, or obtaining a permit from the local government, it seems to take forever to conquer the obstacles in our path in order to accomplish certain chores. Red tape

annoys us all, but where did this colorful name for such frustrating hindrances come from?

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 in many countries were folded and bound with red cloth, ribbon, or tape to keep them secure. Even at the Vatican, documents were bound with red cloth. Slicing through government red tape. 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 even more red tape headaches.

Origin of the Word: *white*. From the innocence of youth to the wisdom of old age, the color white represents a plethora of familiar concepts in the English language. The earliest origin of the word itself, however, is shrouded in a haze of mystery. Etymologists, or language experts, believe the word white got its start in Proto-Indo-European, a tongue that died out thousands of years ago but gave birth to many modern languages, including English, Welsh, Lithuanian, and

Armenian. There's no written evidence of the Indo-European language, so experts are forced to make the educated guess that the word for white was kwintos. This ancient word then entered another defunct language called Proto-Germanic. Like its predecessor, the word for white in Proto-Germanic is lost, so etymologists hypothesize that word was khwitaz. Over time, the word became hwit, which looks and sounds much closer to the white we use today. Hwit is an Old English word, spoken by the Anglo-Saxons, German tribes who began to invade England as early as the 5th century. The Anglo-Saxons weren't just the barbarian tribes we sometimes see portrayed in movies and books. They were also quite literate, producing authors like Bede and epic adventures like Beowulf. It's through this culture that we have some of the first written evidence of the word that would become white. The Anglo-Saxons were also the first to start using the word white as a surname for a person who had light hair or a fair complexion. Today, variations of white—all with their root in the ancient Proto-Indo-European language—are found in 20 languages around the world, including Sanskrit and Slavic.

*White Elephant: Revered or Revenge?* A white elephant is something that is costly to maintain or is incredibly hideous to the owner. It is both the name of the albino variety of the mammal that was worshiped in some Southeast Asian countries and a gift exchange game often played during the Christmas season in the United States. How did something so cherished in one country become the namesake for something so loathed in another? 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. Many legends tell of this sacred animal being used to punish someone who offended the king. When the

king was angry with someone, he would give the person a white elephant. Though it was an honor, caring for a white elephant that could not be used for labor was a huge drain on the household finances. Being given a white elephant became a dreaded punishment, often resulting in the complete ruin of the person caring for the animal. 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 or otherwise dispose of.

*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 host. At 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 s/he chooses to steal the gift, the person from which the gift was stolen can then steal a gift from another player or open another. When a gift has been stolen three times, it's no longer eligible to be played and is hidden out of sight. 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.

*The Short, Sweet Truth about White Lies*. 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. White lies are often employed in relationships, and many a man has relied on the white lie when that special person in his life poses the question, "Does this make me look fat?" 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. Why use the color white to denote a lie that - while it is an untruth - is kinder than the truth? White has always been the color 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.

**Origin of the Word: *yellow*.** The word used to describe everything from sunshine to jaundice is one of the oldest color words used in the English language. The word has its roots in Proto-Indo-European, a now-defunct language believed to be the ancestor to a smorgasbord of modern tongues, like Afghan, English, Iranian and Greek. However, there's no written evidence of the language. Etymologists, experts who study word origins, used detective work worthy of Sherlock Holmes to determine the original Proto-Indo-European word was *ghelwo*. From its ancient origins, the word entered Proto-Germanic, another extinct language for which there are no written records. Etymologists speculate the word for yellow was *gelwaz*. Proto-Germanic gave birth to even more languages, such as Old English, Middle Dutch and Old High German. It was through Old English, the tongue of the Anglo-Saxons, that experts find evidence the word for yellow had become *geoluorgeolwe*. In fact, the oldest written use of the Anglo-Saxon word is found in the epic poem *Beowulf*, which was penned in Old English sometime between the 8th and 11th century. The unknown author used it to describe a shield carved from yew wood. So the next time you say the word *yellow*, consider that you're using to a word with origins that go back at least a thousand years—and likely much further than that.

*The Yellow Journalism Wars.* Today "yellow journalism" means irresponsible, exaggerated, lurid, and even slanderous reporting, a definition that hasn't strayed far from the original meaning. 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.

*Two Yellow Rivals.* 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 wow his readers. For example, during a heat wave in Manhattan that killed many, he used headlines such as "How Babies are Baked" to get 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 purchased the New York Journal and paid enormous salaries to his journalists in an attempt to steal Pulitzer's top writers. The two newspapers battled back and forth, but somehow, Pulitzer remained on top, much to the dismay of Hearst. The fighting peaked in the prelude to the Spanish-American War, when the papers printed huge, outrageous headlines designed to stir up support for war. That the headlines may not have been accurate didn't seem to bother either publisher. Other newspaper publishers and editors hated such tactics in the name of increasing readership and one, Edwin Lawrence Godkin, called the World and Journal "yellow-journals." Yellow has long been used as a reference to cowardice, which is perhaps why Godkin chose that reference. Yellow journalism might infer that the publishers were cowards for choosing the easy way to gain new readers by inflaming them with sensationalized news, rather than proper, respectable reporting. The actual color yellow may also have a part in the phrase, because the warring papers both added yellow to their front pages during those years.

*Yellow Cartoons.* Pulitzer's paper was the first to run "The Yellow Kid" comic series. This comic used yellow ink to highlight the hero's nightshirt. Hearst lured away the comic's creator to pen the same cartoon for his paper, so Pulitzer hired another comic to continue the strip. Both newspapers now had "The Yellow

Kid" comic in their papers. So when Godkin accused the two of yellow journalism, it may have at least partially stemmed from the yellow ink in the famous dueling cartoons. Regardless of the true reason behind Godkin's coining of the phrase, one thing is certain: no reliable newspaper would ever want to be accused of yellow journalism.

Origin of the Word: *magenta*. A Roman emperor. A bloody battle. While most color words have their origins in long lists of dusty etymological explanations, the origin of the word magenta, a purplish-pink hue, is worthy of a summer blockbuster. Magenta is the name of a town in northwestern Italy. While no one knows for sure, historians speculate the town may have been named for Marcus Maxentius, a Roman general—and later an emperor—who had his headquarters there in the 4th century. Fast forward about 1500 years. In 1859, during the Second Italian War of Independence, French and Italian forces defeated the Austrians at Magenta. It was a particularly gory clash—so bloody that more than seven thousand men died were buried in one mass grave. Shortly afterward, a new type of purplish-pink dye, made from coal tar, was discovered. The color, originally called fuchsine after the dye used to create it, was soon renamed magenta. While some suspect it was called magenta after the red-colored uniforms worn by the French troops, many experts believe it was renamed because the color was reminiscent of the blood-stained battlefield.

Origin of the Word: *black*. From sophisticated elegance to evil incarnate, few colors conjure up such strong images as black. The origins of the word black stretch back to a group of tribes known as the Proto-Indo-Europeans. According to etymologists, these ancient groups likely used the rather un-elegant sounding word *bhleg-* to mean burn or gleam. Old English speakers, the Anglo-Saxons, transformed the word into black and began to associate it directly with the color. At the same time, they were also using the word black to mean white or bright. The words were so similar that translators are sometimes left scratching their heads as they try to determine whether the writer was describing something that was black or white. Black was also used as a verb. For example, one 16th century

text reads, “The paper will be blacked by smoke.” Around this time, the English people began to use it as a noun to describe professional mourners or a person with dark skin.

*Origin of the Word: brown.* The original term for brown is rooted in Proto-Indo-European, a tongue spoken by the ancient tribal cultures of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Word scholars, or etymologists, believe these peoples used the word *bher-* to mean dark and shining. As the Proto-Indo-Europeans migrated through Europe, the word eventually entered the ancestral language for many modern tongues, Proto-Germanic. These cultures used the term *brunaz*, and it still described an item both shiny and dark colored.

In Old English, the language of England during the Dark Ages, the word *brun* was used to describe items that were shining and bright. In fact, the first record of the word was used in a series of poems called the *Lays of Boethius*, reputed to have been written by England’s King Alfred. Today, the definition of *brun* still survives in the English word *burnish*. Not until the Middle Ages—the 13th century to be exact—did the word *brown* lose the shining part of its definition, when a writer used it to describe a man with “nut brown” hair. Centuries later, it’s still used as a broad term to describe that versatile blend of complementary hues or many colors.

*Origin of the Word: orange.* From the color of carved pumpkins to the scent of a succulent citrus fruit, the word *orange* triggers memories that satisfy the eyes and the nose. The word we use to describe orange, however, started out only as a way to describe the fruit. The original word for orange first made its appearance in Sanskrit as *naranga*. Sanskrit was the ancient language of India, with roots that go back to the 4th millennium BCE. *Naranga* wasn’t used to describe the color; rather it was used for the familiar citrus fruit, which was native to northern India. From there, the term became *narang* in Persian, a language spoken by the ancestors of modern-day Iranians. According to etymologists, or word researchers, the term finally entered common European usage when the

Moors, who were Arabs from Africa, settled in medieval Spain. So what happened at the beginning of the word? Etymologists believe that when the word came to English from French or Spanish, the English dropped the *n* when they did not use the original article which preceded it. As a result, the French *unenarange* became, simply, orange. Although it was used to describe the fruit, orange wasn't used to describe color until the middle of the 16th century. Experts argue that because very few things in the natural world are orange, there was no need for the word. Instead, writers substituted other terms, such as gold or amber.

**Origin of the Word:** *purple*. It's a color that calls to mind opulence and royalty. However, the word purple has a history as rich as the images it evokes. The original word was likely used by the Semites, a group of ancient people comprised of Hebrews, Arabs, and Phoenicians. In Greek, the word was *porphrya*, a term for the shellfish-derived dye that garment makers used to create the color, which had a decidedly more reddish tint than the modern image of purple. The ancient Romans took a fancy to the dye and called it *purpura*. It was so costly though that the ancient historian Theopompus reported it was literally worth its weight in silver. As a result, only the privileged, from wealthy senators to tyrannical despots, could afford to sport purple clothing. Purple remained the color of kings even through the Middle Ages. Garment makers found new sources for the dye, producing a blue-red color that is closer to the purple we know today. The Anglo-Saxons, who spoke Old English, called the dye *purpul*. The first written record of this word in Old English is found in an illuminated gospel manuscript dated to the late 7th or early 8th century. Not until the beginning of the 14th century did English speakers begin to use the word purple to refer not only to the dye but to the color as well. Luckily, modern technology makes it easy to reproduce purple. That means you can use it to feel like a king or queen—without having to break open the piggy bank.

## II.2. Color idioms in Context

The basic intend of these information are to help the learners of English as foreign language increase their knowledge of idiomatic expressions and have fun while doing it.

It is interesting to note that the colors most used in the idiomatic expressions are four: *black*, *blue*, *red*, and *white*, the most common being *blue*. The fact that blue is the most preferred color of the probably would lead one to note, at least, that the sky is blue and so is the ocean and both surround the land masses on which people live!

No doubt this color proclivity has psychological significance. We will leave the discovery of the social, political, economic, religious – and emotional parameters – contained in colorful expressions to others.

The information may be used by learners individually as resources material and individual study or by teachers as a supplemental language activity book in the classroom. Let's consider some color idioms in contexts, for example,

BLACK and BLUE means *discolored from a bruise*.

IN CONTEXT: After her fall down the stairs, Linda was all *black and blue*, and limped around for days before the stiffness left.

BLACK and WHITE means *writing or print*.

IN CONTEXT: "Before I'll make a deal with Harry" John said "I want him to put it in *black and white*. We need a written contract." "A good idea," Brain replied. "Otherwise you just have to take this word for it."

BLACKBALL means *to vote against the admission of: to exclude from a social group*.

IN CONTEXT: The committee met and discussed Mrs. Patton's qualifications for membership in the club. Some doubts arose about her past quarrels with various club members about certain matters. Finally, the committee

decided to *blackball* her since they felt that she was not a very cooperative person.

BLACK HUMOR means *morbid or bizarre form of humor; especially in novels and plays.*

IN CONTEXT:“How did you like Burt Lancaster’s latest movie?” - “Parts of it were okay, but too many scenes were so weird that the *black humor* was overwhelming and rather depressing.”

BLACKLIST means *a list of person or organizations to be disapproved of suspected of disloyalty, misconduct, etc*

IN CONTEXT:Harry’s name was on nearly every *blacklist* used by the different companies to help them decide on qualified job candidates. Harry frequently was named as having been suspected in a number of crimes connected with fraud. As a consequence, no company wanted to hire him.

BLACKMAIL means *extortion by the threat of exposure or criminal prosecution.*

IN CONTEXT:The day after he received the threatening letter, John decided to go to the police. When he showed the letter to them, containing the demand for \$250.00, the police told him that it was *blackmail*. The letter to make public John’s short term in prison for fraud.

BLACK MARKET means *the selling of goods illegal prices or in illegal quantities.*

IN CONTEXT:During the war the only way that we could get certain things, such as nylon stockings or gasoline, was to buy them on the *black market*. There was always short supply or complete lack of certain items in the stores. Nevertheless the black marketers as they were called never seemed to have lack. Of course their price were exorbitant-three to four times the regular price or even more!

BLACK OUT means *a temporary loss of consciousness.*

IN CONTEXT: According to the newspaper, the cause of the accident was not known for certain. However, one of the drivers had suffered from heart

attacks and the police believe that he suffered a *black out*. The car went out of control, and then ran the other vehicle.

BLACK SHEEP means *a person considered disgraceful by his family*

IN CONTEXT: Tom ran away from home at age 16. He got into trouble and spent some time in the prison. From there he progressed into the bank robbery, was captured and spent more time in prison. Finally at the age of 44, he decided to earn his living honestly and today he is no longer the *black sheep* of his family. His family is quite proud of him and the transformation they see in his life.

BLACK TIE means *formal evening dress that includes a black bow tie and dinner jacket or tuxedo*.

IN CONTEXT: Because it was one of the most important events on the season's social calendar, *black tie* was the required dress. Some people came dressed informally, but were not admitted – much to their chagrin.

BLACK COMEDY means *creating comedy out of a tragic event or situation*.

BLACK BELT means *the highest awarded belt in the martial arts*.

BLACK DAY means *a bad day; often used before the name of a particular day to symbolize a tragic event, such as black Tuesday or black Friday*.

IN THE BLACK means *prosperous*.

IN CONTEXT: The company lost money for about four years, but last year sales increased and profits were quite high. The president of the company was pleased to announce that the company was finally *in the black*.

BLUE LAW means *laws about morality issues*

BLUE COMEDY means *jokes about socially taboo subjects*.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL means *a special priced meal at a restaurant*.

(TO) BE BLUE; FEEL BLUE; HAVE THE BLUES; SING THE BLUES means *to be gloomy, sad, or depressed*.

IN CONTEXT: "I have the blues so often when it's cloudy and rainy. Do you feel blue when it's rains?" "Oh, sometimes I'm *blue* on a gray day. But you

should see Dorothy. She sings the blues all the time, whether the day is sunny or cloudy!”

BLUE BLOOD means *noble or aristocratic descent*.

IN CONTEXT: Elaine considers herself a *blue blood* because her family is descended from some famous aristocratic family, or she says. I don't believe it. I think that she has invented the whole thing!

BLUE-COLLAR WORKER means *person whose work involves manual labor*.

IN CONTEXT: The owner of the factory gave a big party for all the *blue-collar workers*, the men who ran machines and those who drove the trucks. There was plenty of food and fun for all. The owner wanted to honor the workers because the year was very profitable.

BLUE FUNK means *a state of emotional depression*.

IN CONTEXT: Nearly every time my father reads the newspaper or watches television about the sad state of the economy, he gets into a *blue funk*. Sometimes he won't even speak to the rest of us for two or three days especially when he loses money in the stock-market.

BLUE LAW means *any every strict law regulating personal conducts, such as laws prohibiting dancing or going to the movies on Sunday*.

IN CONTEXT: That town has so many *blue laws* that it is difficult to do anything on Sunday. Even the restaurants aren't open, and of course, there are no movies. The *blue laws* were passed many years ago when the leaders of the town were very religious.

BLUE MONDAY means *a depressing day since it is the first day of work after a, two-day weekend*.

IN CONTEXT: “I hate to go to back to work on Monday. We had such a nice time over the weekend” Nancy said. “Me too,” Allie replied. “It really is *blue Monday*, so depressing after days of fun!”

BLUE PENCIL means *to edit or censor*.

IN CONTEXT: The Norman thought that he had written an excellent

article, but when he got it back from the editor-in-chief, he could hardly believe his eyes. The chief had *blue-pencilled* it so much that the little of the original text remained. The only comment the chief wrote was: “Learn to use simpler words and a more direct style of writing!”

BLUE PRINT means *a detailed plan for any enterprise or undertaking*

IN CONTEXT: The committee of local residents presented to the Council their *blue print* for the development of a recreational area in the community. They pointed out the need for such an area because of the large number of children who needed a place to play. For the adults, as well, they proposed a number of facilities.

BLUE RIBBON means *the first prize; the highest honor.*

IN CONTEXT: “My sister, Jean who won a *blue ribbon* for taking first place in the 60-yard dash. “Really? When did she do it?” “Yesterday at the Field Day at school. She was the fastest runner among the sixth grade girls.”

BLUE STOCKING means *a woman who displays great interest intellectual or literary subjects.*

IN CONTEXT: “Sometimes MrsPruit acts as if we know nothing about art or literature” Gabriela remarked. “Yes” Kathy responded. “She’s a *blue stocking*, but she seems to think that she can criticize others whenever she feels like it.” “She certainly likes to show off her knowledge of modern art” Gabriela added. “She never misses an art show!”

BLUE STREAK means *anything very fast.*

IN CONTEXT: When Walter saw the bear approaching, he took off like a *blue streak*, running as fast as he could.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON means *very seldom, rarely.*

IN CONTEXT: In recent years, we don’t often get a chance to visit our grandparents. They live so far away. We get to see them once in a *blue moon*.

OUT OF THE BLUE means *from an unexpected source or at an unexpected time.*

IN CONTEXT: Suddenly *out of the blue* Joe got an inspiration for a lovely poem

about autumn leaves and sat down and began to compose it.

TRUE BLUE means *very loyal*.

IN CONTEXT: Pat is the kind of friend everyone dreams of. She is a loyal in every way, and rarely criticizes or seeks ways to get the advantage. One can rely on her loyalty, even in difficult circumstances. She is *true blue* and is always ready to help.

BROWNBAGGING means *to bring a homemade packed lunch to work*.

BROWN OUT means *a partial loss of electrical power*.

BROWNSTONE means *a building made out of dark colored sandstone*.

IN A BROWN STUDY means *describing someone as being in deep thought*.

GRAY MATTER means *intelligence or brains*.

IN CONTEXT: “Mark is a guy with a lot of *gray matter*,” Laura said. “Yeah, he’s really got brains” Wendy agreed. “He gets A in all this courses and has already won two scholarships.”

GRAY MARKET means *the business of buying or selling items that are priced below what has been regulated*.

GRAY MOOD means *an unhappy mood*.

GRAY AREA means *caught between two differing views*.

GREEN AROUND THE GILLS means *pale and sickly in appearance*.

IN CONTEXT: “You certainly look *green around the gills*,” Marry said. “Don’t you feel well?” “No, in fact I think I’ll go home and go to bed. I feel terrible,” Fred replied.

GREEN LIGHT means *permission to proceed*.

IN CONTEXT: “We might as well go ahead with plans for the trip,” Morris said. “Yes, I agree,” Laurie replied, “since he gave us *green light* yesterday and said that funds will be available.”

GREEN ROOM means *a room (in a theater or studio) where performers can relax before or after appearances*.

GREENBACK means a legal-tender note issued by the United States government.

GREENER PASTURES means *something newer or better (or perceived to be better), such as a new job.*

GREENHORN means *novice, trainee, beginner.*

TURN GREEN means *to look pale and ill as if you are going to vomit.*

GREEN THUMB (US) or GREEN FINGERS (UK) means *the ability to grow healthy plants.*

IN CONTEXT: Mrs. Jane always seems to have success in growing things. Her flower garden never seems to be lacking in strong, healthy, beautiful plants and flowers. Her vegetables garden also always appears to be healthy and very productive. Her friends frequently remark: “Jane, you certainly have a *green thumb!*”

GREEN WITH ENVY means *very envious, very jealous of.*

IN CONTEXT: At first Phil’s friends were glad about his new job. No one was jealous. In a few months he received a bigger salary, but still no one was envious. However, when, after one year, Phil received a promotion and his salary was doubled, nearly every one of his friends was *green with envy*. Some even wanted his job.

PINK SLIP means *a discharge notice.*

IN CONTEXT: “Paul doesn’t work here anymore,” said Bill. “He got a *pink slip* on Friday”. “Oh, that’s too bad” John remarked, “but he deserved to be fired after all the trouble he caused.”

IN THE PINK means *the highest degree of excellence or perfection.*

IN CONTEXT: The doctor examined Jim thoroughly and finally said: “You’re *in the pink* of health!” To which Jim replied: “It must be because I take vitamins and exercise a lot.”

PINKING SHEARS means *scissors with serrated blades.*

A PINK ELEPHANT means *term to describe hallucinations during intoxication*

PINKIE FINGER means *the smallest finger on the human hand.*

PINK COLLAR means *refer to a particular class of jobs once only filled by women.*

TICKLED PINK means *exceedingly pleased; overjoyed.*

IN CONTEXT: When the news came that she had won \$10,000 in a slogan contest, Mrs. Parker was *tickled pink*. She was so happy that she decided to telephone all her children to tell them.

BORN TO THE PURPLE means *high rank; imperial power.*

IN CONTEXT: Oscar's way of conducting himself and his attitude toward people often gave the impression that thought that he was born to the purple. He was proud, imperious and utterly demanding. To say the least, he had few friends.

PURPLE HEART means *a medal awarded to a US soldier wounded in battle.*

LAY IT OUT IN LAVENDER means *very cool, relaxed, and in control.*

PURPLE PASSION means *strong feeling.*

IN CONTEXT: Lois is a person of strong likes and dislikes. She seems to express her feelings rather strongly at times. One of her favorite expressions is *purple passion*. She likes music, ice-cream, and old movies with a *purple passion*, as she often says. She also hates housework, getting up early, and football with *purple passion*. Lois expresses her opinions forcefully!

PURPLE PROSE means *elaborate and ornate language.*

IN CONTEXT: The editor of the magazine called Malcolm into his office.

"Malcolm," he said, "your article is very interesting but it is full of *purple prose*. You're going to have to rewrite it and use simple, straightforward language. Your writing style too florid and you use too many ornate words!"

IN THE RED means *losing money.*

IN CONTEXT: The annual budget of the company continued to show a deficit and it finally went out business because it was always *in the red*. It appears that the owners did not have a good business sense.

A RED CENT means *a copper penny having little value.*

IN CONTEXT: "This is the most worthless place of machinery I ever saw!"

Steve said. "It doesn't work at all. It's not worth a *red cent*."

RED FLAG means *sign of danger*.

IN CONTEXT: As soon as the boss took a grip on the edge of the desk, Andy recognized it as a *red flag* and kept his mouth shut. He knew from experience that to pursue the matter further would only lead to complication.

RED EYE means *strong, cheap whiskey*.

IN CONTEXT: In the early days on the western frontier, red eye was the common alcoholic drink found in most saloons. Over-consumption made eyes red! Today, the term is applied in a unique way. Late night flights on regularly scheduled airlines are the Red Eye Special. Eyes made red from cheap whiskey and eyes made red from lack of sleep at night are still red eyes!

RED CARPET TREATMENT means *giving privileged treatment to an important person*.

RED HANDED means *in the act of committing a crime*.

IN CONTEXT: As the thief was climbing out of the window with the stolen necklace, the police were waiting for him and caught him *red-handed* because he was careless.

RED HOT means *exceedingly hot; enthusiastic or excited; quite skillful*.

IN CONTEXT: "Our team is red hot," shouted the enthusiastic students. And the red hot support of the fans seemed to spur the team on even more. Even the atmosphere of the gymnasium felt as if it, too, was red hot!

RED-LETTER DAY means *a very happy day*.

IN CONTEXT: Tuesday was a *red-letter day* for Roscoe. He closed a business deal and thereby earned a fee of \$20,000.

RED NECK means *a poor, white Southern farmer in the U.S. (it is frequently used to imply an ignorant or illiterate person.)*

IN CONTEXT: "What does that newspaper mean by calling that group of protesters, *red necks*?" "I suppose the writer wants to suggest that they are ignorant and incapable of thinking straight." "Well, I don't like it! My brother, who's a college graduate, was a member of the group!"

RED TAPE means *the excessive use of official forms and producers to obstruct progress.*

IN CONTEXT: Two months ago Tina sent in her job application to the central office of the state government. There is so much *red tape* in the processing of her application that it will be another month before it will be completed. Tina is desperate! Last night she complained to her parents: “Why is there so much red tape when person needs to get something important done?”

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET means *to welcome with great hospitality or ceremony.*

IN CONTEXT: After the war Jim returned to his home town a hero. The people of the town gathered to meet him at the bus station and *rolled out the red carpet.*

(TO) SEE RED means *to be very angry.*

IN CONTEXT: “Everytime you say that word,” Clarice said, “I get so angry! I *see red!*” “Yes, I know,” Ed replied. “You have a hard time controlling your temper.”

ROSE-COLORED GLASSES means *cheerfully; optimistically.*

IN CONTEXT: Brenda’s friends often became impatient and sometimes angry with her constant good humor. She always seemed to see only the good side of things. Her friends accused her of seeing the world unrealistically through *rose-colored glasses.*

ROSY means *bright; cheerful; optimistic.*

IN CONTEXT: “Don’t get your hope too high,” her mother remarked. “Things may look rosy today, but tomorrow’s another day.” “I know, Mother,” Yvonne answered, “but as long as the things look rosy. I’m going to enjoy it!”

*White:* Brides wear white to symbolize innocence and purity. White reflects light and is considered a summer color. White is popular in decorating and in fashion because it is light, neutral, and goes with everything. Examples include classic “white” substances such as sugar, foam, pure sand or snow, cotton, clouds, and milk. White is commonly the color of snow and ice. *White magic:* Healing or “good” paranormal magic is called White magic.

*White noise:* White noise, in acoustics, is a sibilant sound that is often a nuisance, although it can also be deliberately created for test purposes.

*White Revolution:* The White Revolution (Persian: Enghelab-e-Sepid) was a far-reaching series of reforms launched in 1963 by the last Shah of Iran. Verghese Kurien, chairman of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.(GCMMF), set up the Anand model of cooperative dairy development, engineered the White Revolution in India, and made India the largest milk producer in the world.

WHITE AS ASHEET means *pale; bloodless*.

IN CONTEXT: When they told Nellie that her father's plane was missing in a flight from Seattle to Tokyo, she turned white as a sheet and began to cry. "Oh!" she moaned. "The plane's probably crashed in the ocean."

WHITE-COLLAR WORKER means *people whose work doesn't involve manual labor*.

IN CONTEXT: Doctors, lawyer, bankers and people who work in offices are called white-collar workers. Unlike blue-collar workers, they do not work with their hands and usually wear clothes that are stylish, such as suits, shirts, ties, dresses, etc., rather than work clothes made from denim or similar fabric.

WHITE ELEPHANT means *a possession that is no longer wanted by its owner often because it is useless, expensive, or troublesome to maintain*.

IN CONTEXT: The Chandlers finally sold their summer house at the beach. The house was so big and costs so much to maintain that it became a white elephant for them. They really couldn't afford it any longer.

WHITE GOODS means *a description of household items, such as linens, towels, and appliances*.

WHITE HOT means *an extreme manner of intensity*.

WHITE FEATHER means *a symbol of cowardliness*.

WHITE FLAG means *assign surrender or truce*.

IN CONTEXT: The discussion became quite heated at times but finally the opposition raised the *white flag* and said that they were willing to compromise.

An agreement was quickly reached because opposition was convinced by what the chairman had said.

WHITE HEAT means *extremely great heat; state of great activity, excitement or feeling.*

IN CONTEXT: “My sister is one of these very active, emotional persons,” Clay observed. “She’s always moving at a fast pace, in a *white heat*, so to speak.”

WHITE LIE means *a diplomatic untruth, told with gold intentions.*

IN CONTEXT: My mother is a person who believes that one can avoid problems with other people sometimes by not telling them the whole truth. She feels that it helps to avoid friction and bad feelings between people. As she often says: “A little *white lie* never hurts anybody, and besides the truth sometimes hurts!”

WHITE PAPER means *a paper issued by the government to justify its position in some matter of international interest.*

IN CONTEXT: The first thing Donald had to do his new job was to prepare a *white paper* explaining the government’s position concerning crisis overseas. People were so worried that his office was getting nearly 300 telephone calls a day.

WHITE TIE means *formal evening clothes for a man and determines the dress code for a woman at a formal social function.*

IN CONTEXT: The invitation clearly stated that the event would be formal, *white tie*, that is. As a result, Marian had to buy a new evening wear at an exclusive shop for women’s clothes.

WHITEWASH means *to conceal or cover over mistakes or failures.*

IN CONTEXT: The company was in a difficult situation. It had suffered severe financial losses during the year. Instead of telling the truth about the problems it faced, the directors of the company decided to *whitewash* the facts and to keep the public from hearing the truth.

*Yellow:* Cheerful sunny yellow is an attention getter. While it is considered an optimistic color, people lose their tempers more often in yellow rooms, and babies will cry more. It is the most difficult color for the eye to take in, so it can

be overpowering if overused. Yellow enhances concentration, hence its use for legal pads. It also speeds metabolism. Yellow is associated with age and aging, both with people and objects (i.e. yellowed-paper).

*Yellow cake:* Yellowcake (also known as urania and uranic oxide) is concentrated uranium oxide, obtained through the milling of uranium ore.

*Yellow Card:* In Association football (soccer), the referee shows a yellow card to indicate that a player has been officially cautioned.

*Yellow (Emotion):* The term is associated at times with jealousy, as well as cowardliness.

*Yellow emperor:* The legendary first emperor of China was known as the Yellow Emperor.

*Yellow-fever mosquito:* A yellow-fever mosquito is a mosquito in the Aedes genus, so named because they transmit dengue fever and yellow fever, the mosquito-borne viruses.

*Yellow (Graphite):* Pencils are often painted yellow, originally because of the association of this color with the orient, where the best graphite was found.

*Yellow (Jaundice):* Yellow is associated with jaundice, since someone who has that disease turns yellow. Yellow has traditionally been associated with jaundice and cowardice.

*Yellow Race:* Asian people are sometimes referred to as the yellow race.

(TO) BE YELLOW, HAVE A YELLOW STREAK means *cowardly*.

IN CONTEXT: When Ted refused to fight, the other boys began to taunt him: “You’re yellow, afraid to fight. You’ve got a *yellow streak* down your back a mile wide!”

YELLOW-DOG means *cowardly*.

IN CONTEXT: “Why were you two boys fighting?” the school principal asked in a severe tone. “Well,” said one, “he called me *yellow-dog!*” “Is that true?” questioned the principal. “Yeah. Course he is a coward. Too yellow to fight like a man!”

YELLOW JOURNALISM means *exaggerated, sensational news*.

IN CONTEXT: “That story just can’t be true! John exclaimed.” It’s greatly exaggerated just to create an impression on crises. I call it yellow journalism!”

### II.3. Idiom Quizzes – Colors

Choose an idiom to replace the expression in the brackets:

1. The girl was (very pleased) that she was chosen to represent her class at the competition.

(a) blacked out (b) tickled pink (c) green with envy (d) out of the blue

(b) tickled pink ▼

2. My boss is not very flexible and he always sees things (as either good or bad).

(a) in the red (b) off-color (c) with flying colors (d) in black and white

(d) in black and white ▼

3. The government finally gave the city (permission) to build the new airport.

(a) the green light (b) a horse of a different color (c) once in a blue moon (d) red tape

(a) the green light ▼

4. Our company has been (losing money) for three years now.

(a) rolling out the red carpet (b) yellow-bellied (c) in the red (d) green

(c) in the red ▼

5. It was a (memorable) day when the first person walked on the moon.

(a) yellow-streak (b) white-elephant (c) red-herring (d) red-letter

(d) red-letter

6. My brother passed the test to become a police officer (easily and with great success).

(a) green (b) with flying colors (c) out of the blue (d) tickled pink

(b) with flying colors

7. Our company told us (suddenly and without any warning) that our factory would close next month.

(a) out of the blue (b) once in a blue moon (c) with flying colors (d) pitch-black

(a) out of the blue

8. The mother (was very angry) when her daughter came home at three o'clock in the morning.

(a) rolled out the red carpet (b) saw red (c) showed her true colors (d) looked at the world through rose-colored glasses

(b) saw red

9. The man argued with his wife until he was (very angry) but still she would not agree with him.

(a) brown bagging it (b) in the black (c) blue in the face (d) a pot calling the kettle black

(c) blue in the face

10. I go to the swimming pool only (rarely) although I love to swim.

(a) green around the gills (b) with flying colors (c) in the red (d) once in a blue moon

(d) once in a blue moon

• **1 - When someone is good at gardening, they have '\_\_\_ fingers / thumbs'.**

yellow

red

green

brown

• **2 - When some is very envious, they are '\_\_\_ with envy'.**

green

red

black

blue

• **3 - When someone is in debt with the bank (overdrawn) they are '\_\_\_ the red'.**

at

to

in

on

• **4 - When you talk to someone who doesn't listen, you become 'blue in the \_\_\_\_'.**

tongue

face

mouth

head

• **5 - When you are not aware about something, you are 'in the \_\_\_\_' about it.**

white

dark

gray

black

• **6 - The bad person in a group or family is known as a 'black \_\_\_\_'.**

cheat

sheep

chip

ship

• **7 - A small lie you tell to protect a person's feelings is a '\_\_\_ lie'.**

white

clean

clear

pink

• **8 - When you give something the 'green light' you are giving:**

refusal

permission

time

money

• **9 - When someone is 'yellow' they are:**

rich

cowardly

happy

young

• **10 - A large sum of money paid to a retiring worker is called a 'golden \_\_\_'.**

hug

handshake

 high-five

 kiss

See if you can match the meanings with the correct idioms.

	Meanings	Idioms
1.	a number of official rules and regulations which seem unnecessary	<input type="text"/>
2.	a very special and happy occasion	<input type="text"/>
3.	to be very good at gardening	<input type="text"/>
4.	very, very infrequently	<input type="text"/>
5.	to be very jealous of somebody	<input type="text"/>
6.	something that takes the attention away from the subject being discussed	<input type="text"/>
7.	the person in the family who is thought of as being very bad/naughty	<input type="text"/>
8.	to say something which is not true because you do not want to make the person unhappy	<input type="text"/>
9.	something which cost a lot of money but isn't really very useful	<input type="text"/>

<b>Meanings</b>	<b>Idioms</b>
10. unexpected	<input data-bbox="844 275 1187 320" type="text"/>

## CONCLUSION

We came to the conclusion on the basis of the studied theoretical material and of the research of the colors in idioms that the phraseology is one of the brightest and effective linguistic means.

Phraseological fund of the English language is so great that the study of it did not complete the framework of this paper. Nevertheless, the considered phraseological examples can clearly diverse in their semantics and expressive idioms of the English language. But we should not forget that a lot of phraseological units came into English language from the history and culture of various countries.

Phraseology is a very complex phenomenon, the study of which requires its own method of research, as well as use of these other sciences - lexicology, grammar, stylistics, phonetics, history, language, history, philosophy, logic, and geography. The opinions of linguists in a number of problems phraseology apart, and it is quite natural. However, the important task of linguists working in the field of phraseology, is to bring together and finding common ground for how the theory of phraseology and practice of teaching foreign languages.

Idioms are words and phrases that express a specific kind of meaning. It is easy to remember idioms, if we group them under different categories i.e, color idioms (black, blue, green, gray, orange, red, white, yellow); food idioms and so on. It is one of the practical methods for vocabulary improvement. Color is closely connected to human activities and is an important reflection of human understanding of the world. Color has not only physical properties, but also rich connotations. Therefore, it becomes an important field of language, culture and translation researches. Color-related idioms are the most connotative of all vocabulary and their connotations are determined by specific culture.

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