



## “BLACK” AND “RED” ARE NOT JUST COLOURS



**Grouping:** A.1, A.2, A.3, A.4, A.5  (small group) and A.6  (whole class)

### WORKSHEET 4:

Often, the words “black” and “red” are used to express something more than colours.

A. Take a look at the following expressions and together with your partners try to guess where to use “black” “red”, to fill in the gaps. If you need help, you can use an English dictionary or go to <http://www.learn-english-today.com/idioms/idiom-categories/colour-idioms.htm>

- a. I was very angry. I saw \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. I owe money to the bank. I am in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. My friend has money in her bank account. She is in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. If our football team gets the title we shall paint the town \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. My uncle does not follow the family tradition. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ sheep of the family.

B. Colours often carry heavy symbolisms. With regard to the expressions above, which colour would you connect with the words “excitement”, “danger”, “security”, “strong emotions”, “vitality” “bad behaviour”, “action”? Discuss and decide with your partners. Then, write next to each colour the words that you think are connected with that colour:

red: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

black: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Can you think of other words and symbolisms which are connected with those colours? Add them to the above lists.

D. Can you think of any expressions with “red” and “black” in your own mother tongue or other languages that you know? Tell your fellow students. Are they similar to any

of the English expressions that were previously mentioned? Discuss if “red” and “black” carry the same symbolisms.

- E. Are you aware of any other colours that carry symbolisms? Which are those colours and what are their symbolisms? Discuss with your fellow students and write them down. If you happen to notice that there differences in colour symbolisms among the different cultures, you can note that down next to each colour.

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- F. As a class discuss your answers and exchange information.