





7. THE BLACK SEA AND THE RED SEA

WORKSHEET 4: "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)

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.

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



ANSWER SHEET FOR A

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

ANSWER SHEET FOR B

red: ___excitement___ danger___ vitality ___action _____
_____ strong emotions _____

black: ___security___ bad behaviour _____

ANSWER SHEET FOR C

(Indicative answers, compatible to the so called Western culture, as colour symbolism may vary among cultures. You can give different answers on the basis of your personal culture).

red: ___passion___ love___ violence and warfare (blood is red) _____

black: ___death___ mourning _____ bad luck (black cat) _____

ANSWER SHEET FOR E:

(Indicative answers, as the answer will depend on the students' own experiences and background).

Green: ___growth___ love for nature _____

Blue: ___relaxation___ tranquility _____

White: ___purity___ innocence _____