



ESL Vocabulary Worksheet for Adults

Reading Passage - Word Association Matching for Colors and Objects

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Reading Passage

Colors play a significant role in language and communication. They are not just visual elements; they carry meanings and associations that vary across different cultures. For instance, the color red often signifies love and passion but can also symbolize danger or warning. In English, there are many expressions and idiomatic phrases related to colors that enrich the language.

Consider the phrase "green with envy," which uses the color green to describe intense jealousy. Similarly, "feeling blue" is an expression used to signify sadness or depression. The color association extends to objects as well. A "white lie" is a harmless or small lie often told to avoid hurting someone, and "red tape" refers to excessive bureaucracy or adherence to rules and formalities.

Understanding these color associations and their usage in phrases and expressions can greatly enhance language learning. They add a layer of complexity and depth to everyday communication, making it more vivid and expressive. This exploration of colors and their associated meanings and phrases is not just a linguistic journey but a cultural one as well.

EXERCISE 1: Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is red commonly associated with?

- a) Coldness
- b) Passion
- c) Sadness
- d) Luck

2. The color blue is often linked to:

- a) Anger
- b) Happiness
- c) Calmness
- d) Energy

3. Which phrase means to experience jealousy?

- a) Red with anger
- b) Green with envy
- c) Blue with sadness

d) Yellow with fear

4. What does 'once in a blue moon' mean?

- a) Something happens frequently
- b) Something happens rarely
- c) Something happens at night
- d) Something happens during the day

5. White is often related to:

- a) Purity
- b) Darkness
- c) Mystery
- d) Danger

6. Yellow is commonly associated with:

- a) Fear
- b) Happiness
- c) Boredom
- d) Strength

7. The phrase 'to be caught red-handed' means:

- a) To be caught doing something wrong
- b) To be extremely embarrassed

- c) To be injured
- d) To be very lucky

8. What color is often associated with nature and growth?

- a) Purple
- b) Orange
- c) Brown
- d) Green

9. The color black is often associated with:

- a) Joy
- b) Mourning
- c) Health
- d) Wealth

10. The color pink is often linked to:

- a) Masculinity
- b) Femininity
- c) Anger
- d) Coldness



EXERCISE 2: Fill-in-the-Gaps

Fill in the blanks with words or phrases from the passage:

1. The expression '_____ with envy' describes intense jealousy.
2. A '_____ moon' represents a rare event or occurrence.
3. To be 'caught _____-handed' means to be caught in the act of doing something wrong.
4. The bride wore a beautiful _____ dress at the wedding.
5. The sky on a clear day is usually described as _____.
6. People often wear _____ to funerals as a sign of mourning.
7. The walls were painted a bright shade of _____ to create a cheerful atmosphere.
8. He felt _____ with fear when he heard the strange noise.
9. Roses are often _____, a color representing love and romance.
10. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence is a saying that uses the color _____.



EXERCISE 3: Vocabulary Matching

Match the words with their meanings. Answers are scrambled.

Color	Association
Green	Purity or wedding dresses
Black	Jealousy or envy
Red	The sea or the sky
Blue	Passion or danger
Yellow	The sun or happiness
White	Anger or caution
Pink	Joy and celebration
Gray	Sadness and mourning
Brown	Growth and renewal

Purple	Relaxation and peace
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EXERCISE 4: Discussion Questions

1. What are some common color associations in your culture?
2. How do colors influence language and communication?
3. Can you think of any idioms in your native language that involve colors?
4. Why is it useful to learn color associations in English?
5. How do colors affect your perception of objects or situations?
6. Discuss any differences in color symbolism between your culture and English-speaking cultures.
7. How can learning about color associations improve your English vocabulary?
8. Are there any colors that have unique meanings in English compared to your native language?
9. How do colors contribute to the richness of language?
10. Do you have a favorite English idiom or expression that involves a color?