

Contrastive there is also an appropriate idiom

[Linguistics](#), [Language](#)



CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF

IDIOMS

6 Idioms formed with

the colour red The conceptual meaning of the colour red in Oxford

Online English Dictionary is ? Of a colour at the end of the spectrum next to orange and opposite violet, as of blood, fire, or rubies.; (of a person or their face) flushed or rosy, especially with embarrassment, anger, or heat. ? Some further associations with this colour are love and hell. Its French equivalent is rouge and both languages are abundant in idioms containing red.

1) red-blooded (vigorous or virile) = au sang chaud 2) red as a beetroot (red-faced, typically through embarrassment) - rouge comme une pivoine

(red as a peony) The idioms above have a partial French equivalent, while the

idioms below have an absolute equivalent: 3) red carpet (privileged

treatment of a distinguished visitor) = le tapis rouge 4) run a red light

(to pass through an intersection having a red traffic light without stopping) =

griller un feu rouge Red is also a colour of shame and anger because our faces usually become red when we are ashamed or angry and therefore in both

languages are used idioms with red for these states: 5) see red

(become very angry suddenly.) = voir rouge 6) red-faced

(Blushing from embarrassment) = se fâcher tout rouge Idioms formed with

the colour blue French equivalent for blue is bleu. This colour is usually

associated with sky, sea and in a more metaphorical context with peace and

aristocracy. Since it is associated with aristocracy there is also an appropriate

idiom blue blood (noble birth) = avoir du sang bleu. However, the idiom blue-

collar relates to manual workers or workers.

Some idioms containing blue are: 7) men in blue (policemen) = hommes en bleu 8) blue-eyed boy (a person highly regarded by someone and treated with special favor) = le couchou (darling, favorite) 9) a bolt from the blue (a sudden and unexpected event or piece of news) = un coup de tonnerre dans un ciel bleu 10) out of the blue (unexpectedly) = à l'improviste (unexpected)

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711) blue ribbon (a badge given as first prize to the winner of a competition) = le ruban bleu 12) once in a blue moon (very rarely) = tous les trente-six du mois is literally translated as ? every thirty sixth of the month? From the examples above we can conclude that English idioms containing blue have partial equivalents in French and rarely absolute equivalents. Idioms formed with the colour green Oxford English Dictionary defines green as: ? Of the colour between blue and yellow in the spectrum; coloured like grass or emeralds?. Green is used as a symbol for vegetation, nature, life, clean environment and a number of idioms contain it in this sense: 13) to have green fingers or to have a green thumb (to be good with plants) = avoir la main verte 14) greenbelt (an area of open land around a city, on which building is restricted) = ceinture verte Green has another symbolic meaning, that of being young and inexperienced: 15) a little green (having little or no experience in a given field, specialty, or skill) has a partially equivalent French idiom années vertes 16) be as green as grass (have little experience or knowledge) is a non-equivalent idiom in French Commonly used idioms such as to be green with envy and give green light to have their absolute equivalents in French: 17) to be green with

envy (very envious orjealous) = être vert de colère¹⁸) to give the green light (permission to go ahead with a project) = donner le feu

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8 Conclusion The aim of

this paper was to analyse as much as possible English idioms from various English dictionaries and to find their partial or absolute equivalents in French and to describe and explain the non-equivalent ones. Furthermore, the corpus of idioms and their symbolism in the paper was obtained from Oxford Online English Dictionary whereas their French equivalents were found in online dictionaries: Collins English-French Dictionary and Reverso Dictionary. The method of this contrastive analysis was based on Kvetko's division of degrees of equivalents and the idioms were divided according to those categories and the ones of their common metaphorical or symbolic meaning. Both English and French are rich in idiomatic expressions containing colours and the most common ones are those formed with black, white and red.

From this analysis we can conclude that colours are of great importance to our language and vocabulary and that all languages share a universal system of basic colour categories.