

Cherry on the cake

Idioms for all



- Plus de 1 250 expressions idiomatiques anglais-français
- Classement thématique
- Facile à mémoriser
- Exercices corrigés

Éline de Mathuisieulx
Victoria Gallop



1. Les couleurs



- * **To give colour to something** : donner de la couleur à quelque chose, embellir quelque chose
Exemple : Emma Woodhouse uses vivid images to give colour to her speeches.
- ** **To show one's true colours** : se montrer sous son vrai jour
Exemple : The candidate seemed so polite at interview but showed his true colours when competing with colleagues, he was really vicious!
- *** **With flying colours** : avec succès, haut la main
Exemple : Helen passed her exam with flying colours, she was top of her class.

Bleu

- * **To appear / happen out of the blue** : venir / surgir de nulle part
Exemple : My aunt decided, out of the blue, to come and visit us today.
- ** **To have (got) the blues** : avoir le cafard, ne pas avoir le moral
Exemple : He's got the blues since his girlfriend dumped him. He's been listening to that blues song "Since my baby left me".
- *** **Like a bolt from the blue** : inattendu, tombé du ciel
Exemple : Her good news came like a bolt from the blue.



**** Once in a blue moon** : tous les trente-six du mois, rarement
Exemple : I'm really afraid my daughter will fail her exams, she only does her homework once in a blue moon.

**** To do something until one is blue in the face** : faire quelque chose jusqu'à épuisement, jusqu'à n'en plus pouvoir
Exemple : The little girl was so upset! She screamed and screamed until she was blue in the face!

***** To scream blue murder** : crier comme un putois (fam.), hurler
Exemple : She tried to take the sweet from the child and it screamed blue murder.

Vert

*** To have green fingers** : avoir les doigts verts, avoir la main verte
Exemple : Brigitte has green fingers, her plants always look fabulous.

*** To get the green light** : avoir le feu vert
Exemple : The project got the green light.

**** To be green with envy** : être vert de jalousie, très jaloux
Exemple : Instead of being happy for his colleague when she got a huge promotion, Gaston was green with envy.

***** To be/look green around the gills (branchies)** : être malade comme un chien (fam.), très malade
Exemple : Augustus had eaten too much cake and was looking green around the gills.

Rouge

* **To see red** : voir rouge, être fâché

Exemple : They forgot to do what I asked! I saw red!

* **To roll out the red carpet** : dérouler le tapis rouge, accueillir quelqu'un avec tous les honneurs

Exemple : The President rolled out the red carpet when the Queen came to visit.

*** **To be caught red-handed** : être pris la main dans le sac, en train de faire quelque chose de mal

Exemple : In a play by Feydeau, a husband almost catches his wife red-handed in bed with another man.



* **To be in the red** : être dans le rouge, être à découvert (dans un contexte bancaire)

Exemple : I have been spending too much money, and now I am in the red.

*** **A red-letter day** : un jour à marquer d'une pierre blanche

Exemple : Her graduation was a real red-letter day for her and her parents.

*** **To paint the town red** : faire la fête

Exemple : After graduation, the students painted the town red; most of them had to spend the next day in bed with a bad hangover.



* **Code red (U.S.)** : code rouge, alerte rouge

Exemple : It's an emergency, code red alert!

**** To go as red as a beetroot :** devenir rouge comme une tomate
Exemple : He was so embarrassed that he went red as a beetroot.

***** A red herring / false lead / cul-de-sac :** une fausse piste
Exemple : Professor Moriarty tried to distract Sherlock Holmes with a red herring.

Rose

*** To see pink elephants :** voir des éléphants roses, avoir des hallucinations (connoté à l'alcool, à la drogue)
Exemple : She smoked too much and saw pink elephants.

**** To be in the pink (of health) :** être dans une forme olympique, être en grande forme
Exemple : You look in the pink of "health", I haven't seen you look this good for ages!

***** To be tickled pink :** rosir de plaisir
Exemple : Unexpectedly, Isabelle got a huge bunch of flowers from her husband; she was tickled pink.

Brun

**** To be brown as a berry :** être très bronzé, à la limite du coup de soleil
Exemple : Have you seen Nick's little boy at the beach? He is brown as a berry, isn't he!

**** Brownie points :** des bons points
Exemple : She got brownie points for finding the perfect present for Matilda: books!

*** **To be browned off** : être énervé

Exemple : She's browned off because she's been queuing for three hours.

Jaune et or

* **The gold standard** : l'étalon-or, la référence absolue

Exemple : Look what Charlie won! They say this brand is the gold standard in chocolate.

** **To follow the yellow brick road** : suivre la voie royale. Référence au célèbre roman de Lyman Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz*, publié en 1900.

Exemple : Follow the yellow brick road, go to this prestigious university, it's the way to your dream job.

*** **A yellow coward, (to be) yellow** : (être) peureux, trouillard (fam.)

Exemple : When he wouldn't jump off the high wall with the other boys they called him a yellow coward.



* **A golden opportunity** : une opportunité en or

Exemple : My sister found a great apartment, and it's not too expensive. What a golden opportunity!

** **Silence is golden** : le silence est d'or

Exemple : Stop talking nonsense. Silence is golden.

*** **A/the golden mean** : un/le juste milieu

Exemple : We need to find a golden mean between the two extremes to satisfy everyone.

Gris et argent

**** To give someone grey hair :** donner des cheveux blancs à quelqu'un, causer du souci

Exemple : My teenage boy is giving me grey hair, he goes out at night and never tells me when he'll be back.

***** A grey area :** une zone d'ombre

Exemple : It was a bit of a grey area of the law, there was guidance that should be followed, but no enforcement.



*** To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth :** être né avec une cuillère en/d'argent dans la bouche

Exemple : Daisy married a millionaire, their children will be born with a silver spoon in their mouths.

**** On a silver platter :** sur un plateau d'argent, lorsque l'on reçoit quelque chose sans faire d'effort

Exemple : I think he got his job on a silver platter because his father is the CEO.

***** Every cloud has a silver lining :** à quelque chose malheur est bon, voir le verre à moitié plein

Exemple : After he lost his job he had to move to London to find another, but he loved it; every cloud has a silver lining!

Noir

*** To be in a black mood :** être d'humeur noire

Exemple : Wednesday Addams was in a black mood after she was sent to that horrible summer camp.

**** It is written in black and white :** c'est marqué noir sur blanc

Exemple : You can't pretend you didn't see the instructions, they're written here in black and white.

***** To be in someone's black books :** perdre les faveurs de quelqu'un

Exemple : I am in Alice's black books at the moment, I forgot her birthday.

Blanc

*** A white Christmas :** un Noël blanc

Exemple : It has been snowing all night, we're going to have a white Christmas!

***** To draw a blank :** faire chou blanc, échouer

Exemple : We searched everywhere for it but we drew a blank.

***** A white elephant :** quelque chose d'inutile et encombrant, ou un gouffre financier

Exemple : The huge brown wardrobe was a very kind wedding present, but it's a white elephant, nobody has brown furniture nowadays.

La transparence

*** To be crystal clear :** clair comme de l'eau de roche, comme de l'eau de source, très clair

Exemple : Her explanation was crystal clear.

**** To be clear/plain as day :** être très clair, clair comme le jour

Exemple : He's going to be fired, it's clear as day.

***** To have a clear conscience :** avoir bonne conscience, la conscience tranquille. Ne pas se sentir coupable de quelque chose

Exemple : I'm sure I behaved correctly, I have a clear conscience.

Exercice

Remplissez les espaces blancs.

1. With flying _____ : avec succès, haut la main
2. To be in someone's _____ books : perdre les faveurs de quelqu'un
3. A bolt from the _____ : inattendu, tombé du ciel
4. To be _____ off : être énérvé
5. To be _____ with envy : être vert de jalousie
6. To get the _____ light : avoir le feu vert
7. A _____ area : une zone d'ombre
8. To be tickled _____ : rosir de plaisir
9. To be caught _____ - handed : être pris la main dans le sac
10. To paint the town _____ : faire la fête
11. That's a _____ herring : c'est une fausse piste
12. A _____ elephant : quelque chose d'inutile et encombrant
13. (To be) _____ : (être) peureux, trouillard
14. The _____ mean : le juste milieu
15. Every cloud has a _____ lining : à quelque chose malheur est bon
16. To have a _____ conscience : avoir bonne conscience