

### COLOURS

**Age:** Teenager/Adult

**Level:** Intermediate to upper intermediate (B1)

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

- » Associate things with colours
- » Analyse colour choices
- » Analyse eye colour
- » Analyse clothes colours

**Language focus:** colours, character adjectives

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student; lined paper for notes

### PROCEDURE

1. Before you give out the worksheet, ask students in pairs to write as many different colours as they can in 30 seconds. The pair with the most colours on their list then writes them on the board for the others to check. Include different shades of colours here (such as light brown, dark green, sky blue).
2. Next, ask students how many of the colours they can see in the classroom.
3. Tell students they are going to do an activity about colours. Students work in pairs, student A and student B. Give out cut up copies of Exercise 1: one half to student A and one half to student B. Student A reads a word from their list and their partner says the colour that first they think of when they hear that word. Student A records the colour under the word on their photocopy. Then student B reads a word and student A says a colour. They continue saying the words in turn until all the words have been read.
4. Students form groups of four and compare and discuss their colour choices. Were the colour choices the same or different? Why do they think we associate certain colours with certain words?
5. Students report their conclusions to the class and see if everyone has the same ideas.

**Key:** Students' own answers.

6. Tell students they are going to do another colour test. Individually, they have to look at the words in Exercise 2 and read the colours as quickly as possible.

7. Tell students to look at their partner's eyes for ten seconds. (See if they can do it without laughing!) Ask them to remember their partner's eye colour and write it down without looking again.
8. Ask students if they think it's possible to tell a person's character from the colour of their eyes. Do they associate certain types of people with different eye colours?
9. Ask students to look at Exercise 3. Students read the paragraph that describes their partner's eye colour. Then they discuss with their partner if they agree with the analysis.
10. Students read the rest of the analysis and discuss with their partner again if they agree with what it says, referring to people they know.
11. Ask students to stand back-to-back in pairs. Without looking at their partner, they have to describe what he or she is wearing, including the colour of their clothes. Then they turn around to check. Find out who was able to describe the clothes perfectly.
12. Students work in pairs again. First, they write down the colours that their partner is wearing today. Then they ask their partner what colours they usually wear and write them down.
13. Ask students if they think the colours a person wears can tell us about their character. Find out what adjectives they would use to describe a person who normally wears black, red, pink and blue, for example.
14. Ask students to read the analysis of clothes' colours. They should underline all the adjectives in each description then discuss with their partner if they agree with the character descriptions. You might need to pre-teach some of the more difficult vocabulary here (*clairvoyant, ruthless, calculating, black moods, a sharp tongue, to go on and on*).

#### Key:

##### Exercise 1

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. yellow | 5. pink   |
| 2. purple | 6. blue   |
| 3. red    | 7. orange |
| 4. green  | 8. brown  |

##### Exercise 2 and 3

Students' own answers.

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#### EXERCISE 1: COLOUR ASSOCIATIONS

Read the words in your list to your partner and find out what colour they associate with that word.

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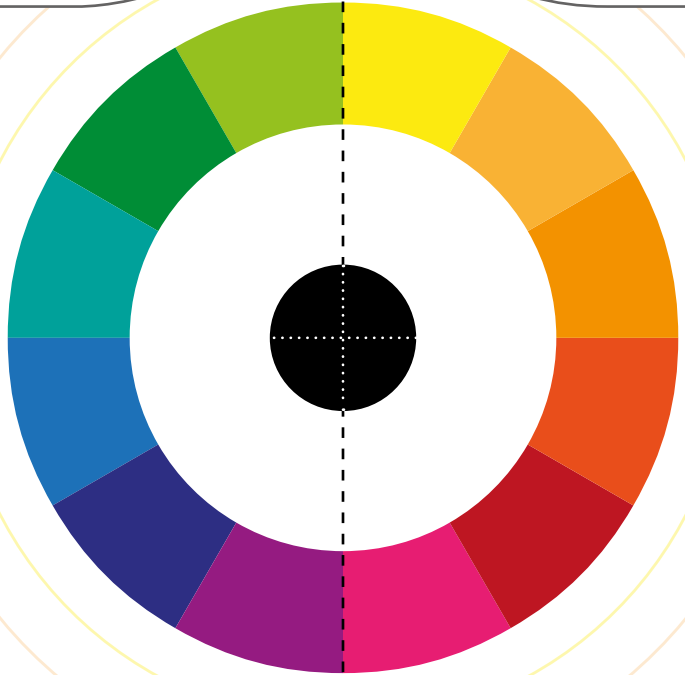


#### Student A

- happiness
- tomato
- chocolate
- home
- car
- ice-cream
- sky
- romance
- planet
- anger
- China
- grass
- fire
- sea
- Coca-Cola

#### Student B

- love
- jeans
- danger
- ketchup
- rose
- tennis
- coffee
- apple
- politics
- sun
- bus
- Pepsi
- boredom
- The Simpsons
- space



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### EXERCISE 2: COLOUR TEST

If you can see this page in colour then look at the words below. Try to say the name of the colour that you see and not the word that you see. If you do it quickly, it's difficult.

1. BLUE
2. ORANGE
3. GREEN
4. YELLOW
5. BROWN
6. RED
7. PURPLE
8. PINK

### EXERCISE 3: IT'S IN THE EYES

You can discover a lot about a person's character by looking at the colour of their eyes. Look in a mirror, or look at your partner's eyes, and start analysing!

#### Grey

You are very strong. You always defend the people you love. Unfortunately, you often get into difficult situations.

#### Blue

You are either very weak or very strong. You can often be very cold emotionally.

#### Blue-grey

You are a kind person (usually). You have a good sense of humour. You can be an artist, a writer or a clairvoyant!

#### Hazel

You are a difficult person to classify. You can be loyal, but sometimes you can cause a lot of problems.

#### Brown

You are full of contradictions. You are happy to give someone 10 euros but then argue over 10 cents. You use a lot of energy and are very affectionate.

#### Green

People with green eyes are usually good dancers, artists and actors. You can be jealous and possessive. You are a very nervous person.

### EXERCISE 4: CLOTHES

The colours that we wear communicate a lot about our character. What do your clothes say about you?

#### BLACK

You want people to see you as a cool and mysterious person, but many people (especially the ones who know you) see you as insecure. You are often selfish.

#### WHITE

You like others to see you as a very open person who is kind and considerate, but in reality you are capable of being quite ruthless and calculating.

#### GREY

You are sensitive and artistic, but sometimes you can be dull and unadventurous.

#### RED

Usually a warm, sexy and exciting person. However, you can be a bit annoying with your bad temper and black moods.

#### BLUE

You are sincere and hard-working, but you can also be a bit mean when sharing things with other people.

#### YELLOW

You're a fun person to be with and very adventurous, but sometimes you can be very immature.

#### GREEN

You are often serious and competitive. You tend to hide the nicer side of your character behind a sharp tongue.

#### PINK

You're optimistic and romantic, but sometimes you're too eager to believe other people and can be let down.

#### BROWN

You are practical and intelligent and have lots and lots of common sense. But you have a tendency to go on and on about things when you talk!

#### ORANGE

You can be lively, happy and sociable, but you can also be clumsy, tactless and thoughtless. You love being the centre of attention.