

Orange-coloured Glasses

Level: Upper-intermediate

Age: Teenagers

Time needed: 30 minutes

Lesson aim: To help students expand their vocabulary by exploring colour adjectives and expressions.

Skills: Study skills, speaking, writing

Materials needed: Worksheet, Macmillan Online Dictionary

Warmer

Ask students to look at the title of the article and ask them what they think the text is about. Briefly discuss why they think orange is so prevalent as a corporate colour and what other colours can be related to companies.

Then ask students to read the text and elicit a summary of the main ideas. You could ask a few comprehension questions to check understanding and to help explain meaning: *Which companies have recently 'gone' orange? What does the mobile phone company Orange believe the colour orange represents?*

And so on.

Activity 1

Ask students to check the meaning of the words in Activity 1. Check the class' answers against the Macmillan Online Dictionary. Then give students time to read the text and complete it with the words from Activity 1. Check answers as a class.

Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| a discern | f bypassing |
| b nuances | g solely |
| c myriad | h portray |
| d connotations | i grabs |
| e crucial | j frivolous |

Activity 2

Have students discuss the questions in pairs. Give them time to change pairs and discuss again. Then elicit some ideas and discuss as a class. After that, give students time to search the words in the Macmillan Online Dictionary and complete Activity 2 individually.

Key:

- a** *discernible*: able to be seen, noticed or understood
discerning: showing good judgement about things such as art, music and books
- b** *nuance*: a slight difference (in colour) that may be difficult to notice
shade: a particular form of a colour, for example, sky blue and navy blue are shades of blue
hue: a literary word for colour
- c** **meaning in text**: to avoid dealing with something
other meanings: to avoid the centre of a town or city by using a road that goes round it; to perform a medical operation to make someone's blood flow past a blocked or damaged part of their heart rather than through it

Activity 3

Ask students if they know the meaning of the words given. Review any doubts as a class and check the Macmillan Online Dictionary if necessary. Then give them time to complete Activity 3 individually. If time allows, ask students to provide new examples of adjective-noun words.

Key:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a authority | f fragility |
| b calmness | g innocence |
| c cleanliness | h neutrality |
| d dynamism | i solidity |
| e femininity | j youthfulness |

Activity 4

Before completing Activity 4, give students time to search the words in the Macmillan Online Dictionary and share their findings. Then ask them to complete Activity 4 in pairs. Elicit some examples to discuss as a class.

Key:

a

dark	bright	pale
deep, rich, sombre	garish, gaudy, loud, vibrant	faded, light, pastel

b Student's own answers.

Activity 5

Before completing Activity 5, ask students if they know idioms or expressions that use colour vocabulary. You could elicit examples in English or in their own language. Then ask students to complete Activity 5 in small groups and use the Macmillan Online Dictionary as support.

Key:

- a** black (*black market*: the illegal buying and selling of goods)
- b** blue (*once in a blue moon*: very rarely)
- c** red (*red carpet*: special treatment to an important visitor)
- d** blue (*out of the blue*: suddenly and unexpectedly)
- e** black (*black sheep*: someone who is not approved by the other members of their family)
- f** red (*caught red-handed*: caught doing something wrong)