

# I passed with flying colors!



**1 Warm Up Work with a partner.**

- What do you think the title means?

**2 Matching Work with a partner.**

Match the word to the idiom. What do you think the idiom means?

white

pink

black

red

blue

1. You shouldn't buy anything on the \_\_\_\_\_ market – even if it's cheaper.
2. My father had a \_\_\_\_\_-collar job. He was a miner for over thirty years.
3. When starting your own business, there can be a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ tape.
4. When I told my grandmother that I liked the sweater, it was actually a \_\_\_\_\_ lie.
5. Susie was tickled \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard that she'd won first prize.

**3 Check Match the meaning to the idiom. Write the number from exercise two.**

1. complicated official rules \_\_\_\_\_
2. very happy \_\_\_\_\_
3. employment that is physical (not at a desk) \_\_\_\_\_
4. buying or selling something illegally \_\_\_\_\_
5. something that's not true (but said for good reasons) \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Check Fill in the spaces using an idiom from the list above.**

1. When people buy things \_\_\_\_\_, they often pay in cash.
2. George was \_\_\_\_\_ when he heard the good news.
3. My brother had to deal with lots of \_\_\_\_\_ in order to get a visa to work abroad.
4. We all told our boss that his new hairstyle was great. Actually, that was just \_\_\_\_\_!
5. Mike has \_\_\_\_\_. He says that he likes being able to work outdoors.

**5 Discussion**

- When were you last tickled pink?
- Do you have a blue-collar job? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of this kind of job?
- When did you last tell a white lie? What did you say?
- Is there a large black market in your country?
- Do you think there is a lot of red tape if you want to start your own company?

# I passed with flying colors! Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	Idiom Building
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	Idioms themed around color
<b>Level:</b>	Intermediate +
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes, depending on discussion
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

## Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet looks at some common idioms which are connected with a color. There are a number of exercises to recycle the idioms, including discussion at the end.

- 1 The opening question introduces the topic. Students can work in pairs for this.
- 2 Follow the instructions. Before beginning, pre-teach vocabulary, as needed. Don't teach the meaning of the idioms. You may need to teach the word *collar*, *miner* and *tickle*. Students can work alone, and then check in pairs.
- 3 Again, students can work alone and check in pairs. Elicit the answers from the group, and give further explanations or examples where necessary.  
  
After going through the answers, give the students one minute to read the idioms again, and memorize them.
- 4 This exercise checks your students' ability to use the idioms in sentences. Students can work in pairs, and then check with a student from a different pair. For this exercise, have students cover the previous exercises.  
  
Go through the answers with the group. Accept any answers that make grammatical (and logical) sense.
- 5 Assign new pairs or groups of three. The pairs/groups should begin by reading through the questions.  
  
When students are talking, monitor, but try not to interrupt. Make a note of errors which you think need correcting: especially ones which cover these idioms.  
  
When the discussion comes to a close, write some of the errors you heard on the board, and elicit corrections.

**The answer key can be found on the next page.**

**Answer Key (Other answers may be possible)**

- 2**
1. You shouldn't buy anything on the black market – even if it's cheaper.
  2. My father had a blue-collar job. He was a miner for over thirty years.
  3. When starting your own business, there can be a lot of red tape.
  4. When I told my grandmother that I liked the sweater, it was actually a white lie.
  5. Susie was tickled pink when she heard that she'd won first prize.

- 3**
- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | complicated official rules                            | 3 |
| 2. | very happy  | 5 |
| 3. | employment that is physical (not at a desk)           | 2 |
| 4. | buying or selling something illegally                 | 1 |
| 5. | something that's not true (but said for good reasons) | 4 |

- 4**
1. When people buy things on the black market, they often pay in cash.
  2. George was tickled pink when he heard the good news.
  3. My brother had to deal with lots of red tape in order to get a visa to work abroad.
  4. We all told our boss that his new hairstyle was great. Actually, that was just a white lie!
  5. Mike has a blue-collar job. He says that he likes being able to work outdoors.

**How are we doing?**

We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Tell us how it went in your class. You can send us feedback from [www.handoutsonline.com](http://www.handoutsonline.com).

Alternatively, you can email the editor at [editor@handoutsonline.com](mailto:editor@handoutsonline.com).

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