

Coloured Idioms



Germany

- Ach du grüne Neune - Oh you green nine → to wonder

Origin: Berliner Dancing Club, Blumenstraße 9, Haupteingang Grüner Weg

- Blau sein - Be blue → to be drunk

Origin: Because lack of oxygen in excessive consumption of alcohol and the face turns blue

- gelb vor Neid werden - get yellow in front of envy

→ get drastically get jealous

Origin: one woman was envious of the other woman, so she poured yellow acid on her

- einen grünen Daumen haben - to have a green thumb → to have a knowledge of the environment
Origin: when you work in the Garden your fingers get green

- blau machen - make blue → to truancy school

Origin: from Blue Monday, that's been the free day of the dyers

- das Gelbe vom Ei sein - to be the yellow from the egg → to be the best

Hungary

- Zöld utat ad valakinek - Give someone the green light → give permission to go ahead with the project
- A szomszéd kertje mindig zöldebb – grass is always greener on the other side → said about people who never seem happy with what they have and always think that other people have better situation than they have
- Zöldfülü - be green → be unexpected
- Sárga az irigységtől – green with envy → very jealous
- A piros alma is gyakran férges – worm in the apple → The worm in the apple is a person who ruins everything
- Hófehér – as white as snow → it means pure white
- Ritka mint a fehér holló – as rare as white crow → very rare

Spain

- Ser la oveja negra → being the black sheep

origin: in the 18th and 19th in England black sheep was wanted because it couldn't be died. Moreover it was seen as a mark of devil.

- Me pones verde → you put me green

- de noche todos los gatos son pardos → in the night the old cats are brown → it means that during the night you can be easily tricked by someone because you can't probably see nothing.

origin: it started to be used in Don Quixote story published in 1615

- a caballo regalando no le mires el diente – to a given horse don't look at its teeth

→ It means that when someone gives you a present you don't have to found defects

- el perro y el nino van donde le dan carino – the dog and the child go where they are treated with love

- por navidad cada oveja a su corral – for christmas every sheep got its place

→ It means that when its christmas you meet with your familiy

Italy

- Mangiare in bianco - to eat in white → to eat plain food
- Di punto in bianco – at point in white → out of nowhere
- Mettere nero su bianco – to put black over white
- Passare la notte in bianco – to spend the night in white → to have a sleepless night
- settimana bianca – white week → a week you spend in the mountains, in winter, to ski or do winter sports
- Essere al verde – to be green – to have no money on the bank account
- Avere il pollice verde – to have the green thumb → to be very good with plants
- Vedere i sorci verdi -to see green mice → to go through something difficult
- Essere d'umore nero – to be in a black mood → to be in a really bad mood

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