Colours and Shapes

The names of colours and shapes, the shades and patterns of everyday description, and the words of colour, language and idiom, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 4

two red cars · a turquoise cylinder · out of the blue

Colours *A1–A2*

red	blue
green	yellow
orange	purple
pink	brown
black	white
grey	gold, silver
light blue	dark green

What colour is it? It's red. · two red cars (not reds cars)

Shapes *A1–A2*

circle	square
triangle	rectangle
star	heart
diamond	line
dot	round
big	small
in the middle	with a …

What shape is it? It's a circle. · a white flag with a red circle

Shades, patterns, 3D *B1–B2*

Shades: navy, scarlet, turquoise, beige, maroon, cream, lilac

How strong: pale · light · bright · dark · deep

-ish: greenish, reddish, bluish, greyish · sevenish (= about seven)

Patterns: striped, spotted, checked, plain, floral, polka-dot

2D and 3D: oval, pentagon, hexagon · cube, sphere, cone, cylinder, pyramid

Describing: round, square, rectangular, triangular, oval, pointed, flat · shaped like · heart-shaped

*It's a small **maroon** box **shaped like a cube**, with a **pale** blue **floral** lid.*

maroon = granate · brown = marrón

Precise and figurative *C1–C2*

Precision: hue, shade, tint, tone, saturation

Judging: muted, pastel, vivid, garish, lurid, iridescent

Ideas: the spectrum, a basic colour term, perceive, perception, a pigment, a dye

Idioms: out of the blue, see red, a white lie, red tape, green with envy, a grey area

More idioms: caught red-handed, a red herring, show your true colours, a white elephant, give the green light

*The approval came **out of the blue**, after two years of **red tape**.*

see red = anger · go red = blush

Describing things

- *What colour is it? What shape is it?*
- *It's a sort of greenish blue.*
- *It's about twenty centimetres long.*
- *It's round, with a gold star in the middle.*

Common mistakes

- ~~two reds cars~~ → two **red** cars
- ~~a car red~~ → a **red car**
- ~~Which colour has it?~~ → **What colour is it?**
- ~~a squared shirt~~ → a **checked** shirt

Words with a past

- **turquoise**: Old French, "Turkish" (stone)
- **pink**: first a flower, then a colour
- **magenta**: a battle in Italy, 1859
- **vermilion**: Latin *vermiculus*, little worm

My new words

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com · Free to print and share in class