

WORD FOR WORD



A Rainbow of Colours

Do you find your work life pale and drab? Is everything leaden and greyish? Better take a good look around you and you will see life in quite a different light. It has all the colours of a rainbow.

White-collar workers of all hues and shades slog away in the office. Besides those who have *grown grey in the service*, we may have greenhorns, the fresh graduates. There are also *blue-eyed* innocents who look at the world *through rose-tinted glasses*. They always get conned by the *silver-tongued*. The yellow bellies who would rather *show* their *white feather* than make counter suggestions to their boss. The hot-heads who *see red* at the slightest provocation and can fairly *make the air turn blue* when they give vent to their anger. Not to mention, the pessimists who paint everything in dark colours.

Come lunchtime, some of us cannot get away from the office fast enough. We make a beeline for the door at the stroke of the hour. For the *brown baggers*, it is time to take a repast of their sumptuous packed lunch. For the *yellow-journalist* followers, the hour is to be wiled away by devouring the sensational stories in the tabloids. For the *green thumbs*, the time is best spent tending to their little pots of violets and evergreen.

After the lunch break, we are back *in the brown study* devising plans to *bleed* our customers *white-* in the economic downturns, we have to make sure that the company books stay in the black or we would *be shown the red card*. Yet more often than not, our brilliant ideas get caught up in *red tape*. What a life!

However, *every cloud has a silver lining*. Just when we feel *browned off*, out of the blue our boss *gives the green light* for our plan after *blue-pencilling* some of our more innovative ideas.

Our project comes through *with flying colours*. The profits turn the company book *into the black*. It is again time to break open a bottle of bubbly and to *blue our money* till kingdom comes.

Notes:

<i>White-collar workers</i>	Professional or office workers as opposed to manual or factory workers.
<i>To grow grey in the service</i>	To remain in one occupation (usually the military or the government) for most of one's working life.
<i>Blue-eyed</i>	Someone who is inexperienced and can be easily deceived.
<i>To look through rose-tinted glasses</i>	To see things in an over-optimistic light.
<i>Silver-tongued</i>	Someone who is eloquent and persuasive.
<i>To show white feather</i>	To act in a cowardly way, for white feather is a symbol of cowardice.
<i>To see red</i>	To become enraged.
<i>To make the air turn blue</i>	To give vent to one's rage by swearing violently.
<i>Brown-bagger</i>	A person who takes a packed lunch to work.
<i>Yellow journalist</i>	A journalist who relies on sensationalism and lurid exaggeration to draw readers.
<i>Green-thumb</i>	A person who has an unusual ability to grow plants.
<i>In a brown study</i>	In a mood of deep absorption or thoughtfulness.
<i>To bleed someone white</i>	To extort all of someone's money.
<i>Be shown the red card</i>	To be dismissed, as in a football match, a player who is shown the red card for an offence may be barred from playing.
<i>Red tape</i>	Obstructive official routine or procedure.
<i>Every cloud has a silver lining</i>	There is always a brighter side to a gloomy situation.
<i>Be brown-off</i>	Thoroughly discouraged or disheartened.
<i>To give green light to</i>	To give permission to go ahead.
<i>To blue-pencil</i>	To censor.
<i>With flying colours</i>	With great success.
<i>Into the black</i>	In credit or without debt.
<i>To blue one's money</i>	To "blow", i.e., spend money wildly.