

The Meaning of Colors

Colors have a great impact on our daily lives. Yet, few people know that colors have different meanings from one country to another or that the same color may even have different meanings within the same country.

In the Western world, for example, the color red usually means love. Red hearts and red roses are usually used to show love for loved ones. However, red can also mean that someone is very angry. In Taiwan, the color red is usually a symbol of good luck. Children in Taiwan look forward to receiving red envelopes during the Lunar New Year.

Green is related to nature. If you have a green thumb, it means you are good at gardening. However, if you say someone is a green-eyed monster it means he or she is very jealous of others. In Taiwan, wearing a green hat means someone might be cheated in a relationship.

In some Asian countries, such as China and Thailand, the color yellow makes people think of emperors and good fortune, while the same color brings to mind death and doom in Syria. In the West, yellow has traditionally been related to cowardice. For example, a yellow-belly is a word used in American slang to describe someone who is a coward.

The color pink makes people think about pretty young girls because girls often dress themselves from head-to-toe in pink. Interestingly, there is a pink jail in Texas. The color pink makes all the prisoners feel uncomfortable and ashamed. Therefore, no one wants to go back to the pink jail again.

It might be surprising that colors have different meanings both between and within countries. We should all know more about the different meanings behind the various colors and how they affect our daily lives.

People at Work

Most people have jobs, and they go to work almost every day. Some people are very lucky because they can have a lot of fun or make a lot of money doing their jobs. However, most people are not so lucky because their jobs aren't much fun and don't make them much money.

It is often the case that many interesting jobs are very hard. For these kinds of jobs people have to learn how to do the job for a long time before they start working. For example, doctors study for six or more years after they are finished university. Pilots have to study even longer. They have to learn to fly small airplanes at the beginning, and then slowly they move up to fly bigger and bigger planes. Most pilots are over thirty years old.

Some young people have good luck and get to work in interesting and well-paying jobs. For example, there are many good athletes who are young. Football and tennis players are often under thirty-five years old. Older people usually cannot play these sports very well because they cannot move very quickly. However, golf is a good sport for older people. There are many good golfers who are quite old.

Many people keep working until they retire at sixty or sixty-five years old. When they stop working, they have a lot of free time. However, some people never stop working at all. These people usually have very interesting jobs. They have so much fun doing their jobs that they don't want to give them up. For example, many writers, artists, musicians, and actors keep working until they die. To these people, their work is their lives.

My Snowball

Many people keep pets as companions. Some people have dogs, other people have cats, and still others have snakes. People love pets because they might be lonely and in need of someone to talk with. I am also no exception. I still could remember that Snowball was a very cute, little cat, and she came into my life when I was about thirteen years old. My parents bought Snowball for me as a birthday gift. She was very tiny when I first saw her. She was usually lying on a warm blanket in a plastic basket, and she had curled herself up like a furry ball. I could barely recognize what she was until I heard her meow. I could scarcely take it all in. I was astonished but delighted to have her. She looked like a white, fluffy ball. That was the reason why I came up with the name Snowball.

Snowball was a Persian cat with long, snow-white fur. She enjoyed staying beside me. When I came home from school, she would walk toward me, lie by my side and feel my hand patting her. When I felt frustrated, she would also lie by me and respond to everything I said with a meow. What I remember most about her was that she would always lie on the couch with both eyes fixed on the TV. When she saw other cats on TV, she would rush to the TV and scratch the screen with her sharp claws. Unfortunately, she died when I was sixteen years old. She was not with me for a very long time, but I was still full of sorrow. I will never, never forget her although she has been gone for many years. The memory of her will always be deep in my mind.