

1 DESCRIBING

This document provides additional materials relating to Chapter 1 of *Social English Power* by Peter Clarke. For more information, visit SocialEnglishPower.com

PRACTICE 1.1: COLOUR FLASH CARDS

Flash cards for practising the names of colour shades are provided at the end of this document.

Here are some more activity ideas using the flash cards:

1. *Five in time*. Two students compete against each other; a third student acts as the judge, and needs a stopwatch. Student A takes 5 colour cards at random and shows them to student B. B then speaks out the name of the 5 colours as quickly as possible; the judge records the time used. A and B then change roles and repeat. To make the learning multi-modal, A and B can be asked to switch between saying and writing the names. As another variant, students can name one of the colour description adjectives (*garish*, *warm*, etc.) shown in the chapter.
2. *Pairs*. For this game, print the colour flash cards on white card, and the “colour names” flash cards (also at the end of this document) on yellow card. Lay out all the white and yellow cards on the table, face down. 2-4 students then play the traditional “pairs” game: each student turns over one white and one yellow card in turn, trying to find a matching pair. If he/she finds a pair, he/she keeps the cards and plays again. If the cards do not match, they are turned face down and the next student takes a turn. Play continues until all the cards have been collected. The winner is the student holding the most cards.

PHRASES FOR DESCRIBING COLOURS

Conventions and spelling rules for -ish / -y endings

We can add *-ish* / *-y* to colour names to mean “something like”; examples are *pinkish*, *reddish-brown* and *bluey-grey*. You’ll notice that changing *red* to *reddish* requires adding another *d*. The spelling rules for adding *-ish* / *-y* are similar to the rules you already know for *-ing* verbs, but, of course, there are exceptions.

The words marked * are commonly used. The others are uncommon but possible.

Shade name	-ish form	-y form
blue	blueish*	bluey*
green	greenish*	greeny*
turquoise	turquoisish	turquoisey or turquoisey*
purple	purplish*	purpley
violet	violetish	violety
lilac	lilacish	lilacy
red	reddish*	reddy*
scarlet	scarletish	scarletty
crimson	crimsonish	crimsony
maroon	maroonish	maroony
brown	brownish*	browny*
coffee	coffee-ish	coffee-y
chocolate	chocolatish	chocolatey ⁺
copper	copperish	coppery*
beige	beigeish	beigey
pink	pinkish*	pinky* ⁺
salmon	salmonish	salmony* ⁺
orange	orangish or orangeish	orangey* ⁺
amber	amberish	ambery
lemon	lemonish	lemony* ⁺
white	whiteish*	<i>Not used</i>
cream	creamish	creamy* ⁺
ivory	ivoryish	<i>Not used</i>

+ The noun *pinky* is also used to mean the smallest finger of the hand.
Chocolatey, salmony, orangey, lemony and *creamy* can also refer to flavours.

PRACTICE 1.3: SUGGESTED ANSWERS

Suggested answers to the first two questions are given.

1. While they are still growing, bananas are a light leaf green colour. When ready to eat, they turn lemon yellow all over. As they continue to ripen, black spots start to appear on the skin, and the flesh starts to change from a creamy yellow colour to a brownish-grey. Eventually, the whole skin turns black.
2. As dawn begins to break, the mountains start to turn from black to dark grey and gradually lighten. The brilliant yellow disk of the

sun appears and, where it catches the snow, the mountains begin to shine in a crisp, brilliant white.

PRACTICE 1.5: SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. Roughly speaking: (= approximately)
 - A book is rectangular or oblong.
 - Your computer screen is rectangular or oblong.
 - Your eyes are oval or almond-shaped.
 - An upright piano is rectangular. A grand piano is triangular.
 - Harry Potter’s spectacles are round.
 - A tomato is spherical.
 - A credit card is rectangular or oblong.
 - Mount Fuji is conical.

2. A square food: cheese portions, slices of bread. A rectangular food: packs of butter, a block of noodles. A circular food: nan bread, pizza. A triangular food: certain brands of cheese spread and chocolate, tortilla chips. A spherical food: many fruits. A conical food: ice cream cone.

3.
 - Several countries have issued triangular postage stamps in the past, including Cameroon, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, and Russia.
 - You can find many examples of spherical rocks—both natural and manmade—by searching online.
 - Watches and jewellery often come in square boxes.
 - MP3 music players and radios are often rectangular.
 - Witches are sometimes believed to wear conical hats. Some party hats are conical too.
 - Many traffic signs such as “No entry” are circular.

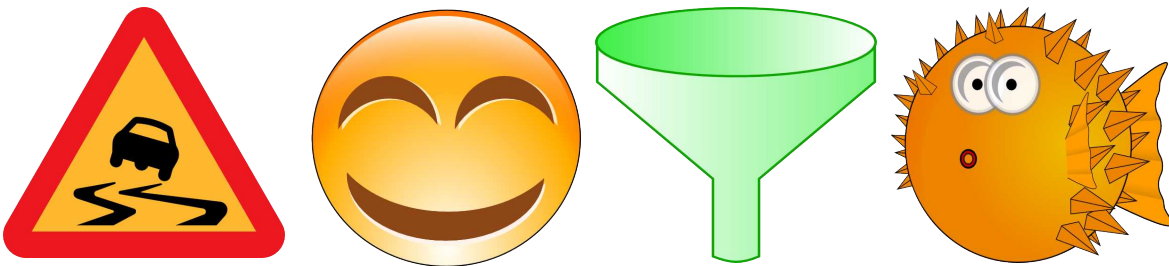
4. Some examples are badminton, all sorts of combat sport such as boxing and judo, rowing, archery, running, swimming, and shooting.



5.

- A *circular bus* is a bus whose route has only one terminus. Most bus routes go from terminus A to terminus B, wait a while, and then return to terminus A. Circular routes wait only at terminus A.
- A *circular letter* is sent to many people, usually without their name on it. It usually contains some kind of advertising or information.
- A *triangular relationship* is a romantic relationship involving three people.
- Parents say to their children that they will get *square eyes* if they watch too much television.

6. Can you describe the colours and shapes of these objects? Answers are on the following page. *Hint:* In the smiling face image, the shape of the eyes and mouth is called a *crescent*.



Suggested answers:

1. The image is a garish orange triangle with a thick red border. It contains a black car at an angle, with two S-shaped skid marks beneath the car.
2. The image is a circular orange face with a thin black border. The eyes and mouth are formed by three chocolate-coloured crescents.
3. The image is a mint green funnel. The top half is conical and the bottom half is thinner and cylindrical.
4. The image is a bright orange fish. The fish's body is cylindrical with a fan-shaped tail. Its body is covered with conical spikes. The eyes are large white disks with small black pupils (= the dot in the middle of the eye). The mouth is a small red circle.

PRACTICE 1.6

In question 1, you are asked to state which letter of the alphabet resembles the shape of these objects. (See next page.)



PRACTICE 1.7: SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1.

1. Correct.
2. Correct.
3. The yellow paper is at the top of or above the man.
4. The price of the car is below or beneath or underneath the car.
5. The yellow paper has the word "October" at the right hand side.

2. The car is at an angle; the man's arm is horizontal; the man's

index finger (= his second finger) is angled slightly downwards; the man's other fingers are vertical (or pointing downwards); the man's tie is nearly vertical; the words printed in blue are sloping upwards.

PRACTICE 1.8: SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. At the top of
2. On the left hand side of
3. To the right of
4. In

PRACTICE 1.9: SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. There are five men to the left of the man in the blue robe. (This is correct from our viewpoint as the observer of the picture. From the viewpoint of the man in the blue robe himself, there are eight men on his left.)
2. The man with the big beard is near the left of the picture, three to the left of the man in the blue robe, in the front row.
3. Two of the hands are on the man's shoulders. Two are on his right upper arm, and the fifth hand is on his left forearm (= the arm below the elbow).

The colour flash cards and name cards are shown below. You can print them on different colours of card (e.g. colour cards on white, name cards on yellow), and then cut them up into 22 individual cards. Alternatively, you can print them on opposite sides of the same card for more practice activities.

COLOUR FLASH CARDS



COLOUR NAME FLASH CARDS

Baby blue	Sky blue	Royal blue	Navy
Violet	Sea green	Lime green	Turquoise / teal
Maroon	Crimson	Scarlet	Lilac
Beige	Copper	Chocolate-coloured	Coffee-coloured
Lemon	Amber	Shocking pink	Salmon
		Ivory	Cream

