

IELTS Speaking Part 3: Colours

1. What colours are the least popular in your country?

Uh...that's an interesting question, and I've never actually thought about it before! Let me have a little think....uh... I suppose it also kind of depends on what you're talking about. So I mean, for clothes,let's say, I don't see that many people wearing orange. So that's not really a very popular colour in terms of clothes. And for things like cars, then orange is also not such a popular colour. You know, I can't even remember seeing an orange car around. So yeah, I guess that's probably the least popular colour here. There are probably a few others too, but none that I can think of right now.

Let's say = 比如说

2. Might this colour become popular in the future?

Sure. I mean, the future's never-ending, isn't it! So I think it's highly likely that at some stage in the future unpopular colours like orange are gonna come into fashion. You know, things are always coming in and out of fashion, and I guess colour's no different. But when exactly this might happen is anyone's guess!

Isn't it = here, means “对吧！”

Highly likely = *very likely*, 很有可能

At some stage – 在某个阶段

Come into fashion = *become fashionable*, 入时, 流行起来

3. What was the most popular colour last year?

Um....it's kind of hard for me to say, because I don't really follow fashion that closely, you know, I don't pay that much attention to the latest trends and stuff,

but off the top of my head I would say red seems to have been quite popular in the last year or so . Um... yeah, quite a lot of people seem to have been wearing red. And um... also black and white, which I think are actually popular every year, simply because they go well with most other colours. Uh... So yeah, I'd say it's a toss up between those three – red, white and black.

off the top of my head – 我估计, 不用思索, 没有认真的考虑过

go well with... - 相配

it's a toss up between...and... – we say this when it's hard to determine which one.

4. How do colours affect people's mood?

Jeez – I'm not getting any easy ones, am I! Um...how do colours affect people's mood? I guess some colours tend to have a positive effect on people's mood. For example warm colours like red and yellow kind of make people feel relaxed. And um, bright, striking colours like pink might give you an energetic feel, if you know what I mean. And in terms of dark colours, they might have a somber effect on people, You know, if you walk into a dark room, it might kind of dampen your mood somewhat. So yeah, I think colours can affect all of us subconsciously to varying degrees.

Jeez – short for “Jesus”, 天啊!

Striking – attracting attention

Somber - 忧郁的; 昏暗的, 阴沉的; 暗淡的, 不鲜艳的

Somewhat – to some extent, 到某种程度

5. What colours are mostly seen on buildings?

I guess it's generally light colours like grey and white, so not really very exciting. But having said that, I've noticed that in some of the smaller cities, there are quite a few other colours of buildings dotted around, like pink and yellow, but grey and white, I'd say, are definitely the predominant colours.

But having said that = 但话又说回来呢,

Dotted around - 点缀着

Predominant – 主要的(*If something is predominant, it is more important or noticeable than anything else in a set of people or things.*)

6. What colour is suitable for offices?

That's a good question. Thinking about it, I suppose a colour that would make people feel... I dunno...um... attentive and focused on their work, and also give people a happy feeling when they walk into the office. So, for me I'd say a bright-ish colour could help create such kind of positive effect. For example, I think yellow would be good – not too bright a yellow, but a kind of light-ish yellow, or maybe a light grey or green... I think all these kinds of colours could have a positive effect.

I dunno = I don't know

Attentive -注意力集中的

-ish – (加在形容词之后构成形容词)表示“稍带...的”, “有点儿...的” *-ish is added to adjectives to form adjectives which indicate that someone or something has a quality to a small extent. For example, something that is largish is fairly large.*

7. How differently do men and women look at the same colour?

Um... my initial thought would be not all that differently. Because I mean, if you take pink, for example, then both men and women see it as a feminine colour, and the same goes for purple. So I think they see colours in pretty much the same

way. Having said that, though, I suppose there are instances when women might pay more attention to a colour, for example when choosing clothes. I mean, men, on the whole, don't ponder a lot over the colour, whereas women tend to, I think. For instance, they might see black as giving them a slim look, while white may have the opposite effect. And men definitely don't think about that kind of stuff when they're choosing what colour to wear. They're much more laid-back about it.

Not (all) that – 没那么…

Feminine – 有女性气质的

The same goes for… – …同样的

Having said that, (though) – 但话又说回来呢

There are instances – there are times

Ponder over sth – 琢磨琢磨, 沉思, 深思

Laid-back – 随意的

8. Is there any change in the use of colours in the present and in the past?

I'm sure there is, but I can't really think of any examples off the top of my head. But I guess one thing to mention would be that in the past, people were generally a lot more superstitious about things, you know, they knew less about science and how the world works, so probably some colours held some kind of special meaning which now isn't the case. So yeah, I think they're used a bit differently now, but I'm afraid I can't think of any concrete examples!

Superstitious – 迷信

How the world works- 世界怎样运作

Now isn't the case – 现在不是这样的

Concrete example – *specific example*, 具体的例子

9. What colours are suitable for formal occasions?

It's kind of hard to generalize because it really depends on what the formal occasion is, but I suppose, on the whole, colours that are, not too "in your face", you know, that don't stand out too much, like grey, white, black and brown would be suitable, unless, of course, you really want to make an impression, in which case you might want to go for something bold and striking, like bright red!

In your face - 挑衅; 咄咄逼人的

In which case - 在这种情况下

Bold – 明显的

10. Do business people need to wear dark clothes?

No, I'd say most definitely not. That seems to be a very outdated concept, that they should wear dark clothes. And I mean, nowadays, a lot of the most successful business people are young Internet whizzes, and they turn up to press conferences in all kinds of casual wear, like jeans and t-shirts. So wearing dark colours is definitely not a "must", you know, looking presentable is really the main thing. And people nowadays, I think, are very open-minded and accepting towards what other people wear.

most definitely not– 绝不

internet whizz – 互联网天才

casual wear – 休闲服装

look presentable -要得体, 像样的; 体面的 *If you say that someone looks presentable, you mean that they look fairly tidy or attractive.*