



The Red Carpet (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you have a carpet in the hall of your house or block of flats? If so, is it red?
2. Does red have any symbolic meanings in your country?
3. Are red carpets used on formal occasions in your country? If so, where?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The earliest mention of a red floor-covering used to greet someone is found in a Greek
a) poem. b) play. c) treatise.
2. In the middle ages, the colour of royalty was
a) red. b) white. c) purple.
3. In England, during the Elizabethan era, poor people weren't allowed to wear certain
a) colours. b) clothes. c) Both of these.
4. The first use of a red carpet at a film premiere was
a) in the early 1920s in the USA. b) in the UK in 1922. c) Neither of these.
5. In the 1990s, the red carpet at film premieres began to be used to show off high fashion clothes.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Who was King Agamemnon welcomed home by?
2. Why had he been away?
3. Why was the dye used to make purple fabric expensive in the Middle Ages?
4. When did red become fashionable in the home?
5. Why did Sid Grauman decide to use a red carpet at film premieres?
6. What changed in the way movie stars were filmed arriving at the 1964 Oscars? Why?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Linen is a _____ made from the fibres of the flax plant. It's used to make summer clothes.
2. The use of butter for frying food isn't _____ in southern Europe.
3. Before _____ assistance with your new device, read the FAQs on our website.
4. We always book our theatre tickets early to _____ we get good seats.
5. I'd like to buy a motorbike, but I can't _____ it at the moment.
6. _____ is a deep, rich, red colour that's between red and purple.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

The episode of the crimson carpet is one of the most significant scenes in the Aeschylus tragedy Agamemnon. Agamemnon had ¹_____ (left/lived/made) his wife Clytemnestra to rule the country while he was ²_____ (out/alone/away) fighting in the Trojan War. She hated him because he had sacrificed their daughter Iphigenia to satisfy the goddess Artemis, ³_____ (but/so/why) she decided to kill him on his return. She persuaded him to walk on a crimson carpet, which was usually reserved for great heroes, although he was ⁴_____ (sad/afraid/happy) that this would make the gods angry. Then she stabbed him with a knife while he was ⁵_____ (doing/making/having) a bath.

⁶_____ (Since/After/For) ancient times, Clytemnestra has appeared as a very bad person in many works of literature. Nowadays, however, she is sometimes seen as an anti-heroine.

F – Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

widespread interpreted although pigment afford
ensured premiere dignify sophisticated venue

G – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. What's your favourite colour?
 2. Why do you like it?
 3. Are there any colours you don't like? Why?
 4. Which colours have a particular meaning in your country?
 5. Do you think colours can influence your feelings? If so, can you give some examples?
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Answers: The Red Carpet (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. a

C – Read and answer

1. By his wife, Clytemnestra. 2. He was fighting in the Trojan War. 3. Because the pigment used to make the dye was rare. 4. In the 19th century. 5. He wanted to make the image of Hollywood more sophisticated and respectable. 6. They were filmed arriving in their limousines, because for the first time the red carpet was placed outside the venue.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. fabric 2. widespread 3. seeking 4. ensure 5. afford 6. Crimson

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. left 2. away 3. so 4. afraid 5. having 6. Since

F – Check your pronunciation

widespread interpreted although pigment afford
enured premiere dignify sophisticated venue