



A Lesson on English

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PURPLE

There are three primary colors: red, blue and yellow. From these three, all colors can be produced. The colors produced by combining two primary colors are called secondary colors: green, purple, orange. This issue of ALOE will consider the color purple, which combines the stability of blue and the energy of red.

PURPLE is rare & royal

- Purple is a very rare color in nature; some people consider it to be artificial.



- Purple is associated with royalty. It symbolizes power, nobility, luxury, and ambition. It conveys wealth and extravagance.

- Purple is associated with wisdom, dignity, independence, creativity, mystery, and magic.

Tyrian PURPLE

Tyrian purple (Greek, *πορφύρα*, *porphyra*; Latin, *purpura*) is also known as royal purple, imperial purple or imperial dye. It was first produced by the ancient Phoenicians. Tyrian purple was expensive; the 4th-century BC historian Theopompus said that “purple for dyes fetched its weight in silver” in Asia Minor. Due to this expense, purple-dyed textiles were significant status symbols in the ancient world, with their use regulated by special sumptuary laws.

Purple dye was made from a mucous secretion from the hypobranchial gland of a particular sea snail, *murex brandaris*, the spiny dye-murex.

At one point in time, production of this dye was controlled by Byzantium. The imperial court subsidized the production of purple, keeping it for its own exclusive use.

A child born to a reigning emperor was thus porphyrogenitos, “born to the purple.”

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Sara and Jarda Tusek at Polasek Gardens, Florida

"A Lesson on English" is a series of short lessons created for people who want to become fluent in conversational English. The lessons are practical and useful for students learning English in a traditional classroom setting or on

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PURPLE is for kids

According to surveys, almost 75 percent of pre-adolescent children prefer purple to all other colors.

A perennially popular book for children is *Harold and the Purple Crayon*.

"Harold wants to go for a walk in the moonlight, but there is no moon, so he



draws one with his purple crayon. He has nowhere to walk, so he draws a path. He has many adventures looking for his room, but, in the end, he draws his own house and bed and goes to sleep."

PURPLE in culture

- In Christianity, purple is the color of penitence in the Church calendar. It conveys solemnity and dignity. Both Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) and Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) use purple altar vestments and priestly garb to denote these seasons of humble preparation to encounter Christ.



- In *Star Trek*, Klingons have purple blood.
- *The Color Purple* is a well-known book by Alice Walker, African American author, concerning a girl's difficult life. Purple is at first the color of suffering, then becomes the color of life.
- American televangelist Jerry Falwell accused the purple Teletubby character of being homosexual. He based this conclusion on the character's purple color and his triangular antenna; both the color purple and the triangle are sometimes used as symbols of the Gay Pride movement.

