THE FLATMATES

Language point:
Painting vocabulary

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**The Flatmates – Painting vocabulary**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>types of paint and colours</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>undercoat:</strong></td>
<td>a type of paint that you put on walls first, before you apply a layer of colour. You often use undercoat if you want to paint over a dark coloured wall with a lighter colour. Undercoat is usually white or cream. We need to put some undercoat on this red wall if we don't want the white paint to end up looking pink!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>matt:</strong></td>
<td>a type of paint that is not shiny Do you want matt or gloss paint?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>gloss:</strong></td>
<td>a type of paint that has a shiny or smooth appearance I don't want this wall to have a dull finish. I think gloss paint will work much better than matt.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a primary colour:</strong></td>
<td>red, yellow or blue. These colours can be mixed together in different ways to make any other colour Children often like bright primary colours but I like more subtle colours.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a pastel colour:</strong></td>
<td>a pale and soft colour (light pink or yellow, for example) My teenager daughter wants her bedroom decorated in pastel shades of pink and lilac.</td>
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<td><strong>earth tones:</strong></td>
<td>rich dark colours which contains some brown I want strong primary colours but he's more into browns and oranges and all those earth tones.</td>
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**Equipment we use with paint**

**a brush / a paintbrush:**
an tool with short pieces of stiff hair, plastic or wire attached to a wooden or plastic handle, which is used for painting  
We need a **thick brush** for the walls and then a small one for around the light switch.

**a roller:**
a tool which has a sponge cylinder attached a wooden or plastic pole which is used for painting walls, large or high areas  
We'll need to use the **roller** to paint the ceiling.

**paint stripper:**
liquid used to remove old paint from wooden surfaces (for example, doors)  
First we'll use the **paint stripper** to get rid of all the old paint, then we'll redo the doors a lovely sky-blue gloss.

**a colour chart:**
a piece of paper or cardboard that shows small samples of different colours to help you choose which pot of paint to buy  
I don't know exactly what shade of blue to paint this room. Which blue on this **colour chart** do you think looks best?

**Painting idioms and expressions:**

**to paint a rosy / bleak picture:**
to describe something in a particular way, either very positively (rosy) or negatively (bleak)  
The boss **painted a rosy picture** of the firm's future, saying it would be making bigger and bigger profits over the next 10 years.  
She always **paints such a gloomy picture**. She's so sure that global warming, wars and famine are the only thins in store for all of us.

**to paint the town / to paint the town red:**
to go out and enjoy yourself, (often drinking alcohol, dancing and having a good time) usually to celebrate something  
When she heard that she'd passed all her exams, she went out with her friends and **painted the town red**. She didn't get home till 3 in the morning!

**to watch paint dry (usually used humorously):**
used to talk about an activity that you think is very boring  
I'd rather **watch paint dry** than play computer games. They so boring!
Vocabulary:

**porous**
something that has a lot of small holes, so liquid (for example, paint) can pass through, especially slowly

**a painter and decorator**
someone who works painting and improving the appearance of people's houses

**a project manager**
someone who works as the overall manager of a piece of work or project (which usually involves a team of workers and a budget of money and resources)

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