

HÙDòng HÀNYǚ  
互动汉语

Interactive Chinese

YUÈDÚ JIÀOCÁI

阅读教材

Reading Material

CHÉNGYǚ & YÀNYǚ

成语 & 谚语

Idioms & Proverbs

本书编写组 编



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只要功夫深,铁杵磨成针 If you work at it hard enough, you can grind an iron rod  
into a needle ..... 66

种瓜得瓜,种豆得豆 As you sowed so will you reap ..... 66

知己知彼,百战百胜 Know the enemy, know yourself, and in every battle you will be  
victorious ..... 66

只许州官放火,不许百姓点灯 The magistrates are free to burn down houses, while the  
common people are forbidden even to light lamps ... 67

### 爱屋及乌

周武王为了安顿纣王投降的军队,向军师姜太公征询意见。姜太公说:“喜欢一个人,就会连同喜欢他屋顶上的乌鸦。憎恨一个人,看到他家的篱笆墙也会深恶痛绝,因此应该杀掉这些将士。”后来周武王没有采用他的建议,而采用弟弟周公的建议,放那些战俘回家。

“爱屋及乌”这里指因爱一个人,就会连带喜欢他房顶上的乌鸦。后来用来比喻因为爱某人而对与某人有关的人或事物也产生好感。

#### Love me, love my crow

The king of the Zhou asked for advice from the war counselor Jiang Ziya about settling the troops that surrendered themselves to him. Jiang Ziya said, “One’s love for a person extends even to the crows on his roof. One’s hate for a person extends even to the fence of his house. So you should kill them.” Later the king didn’t take his advice, and he took his brother’s suggestion. He let go the prisoners of war.

Love for a person extends even to the crows on his roof. It’s often linked to love for a person that extends to everything about him.

### 拔苗助长

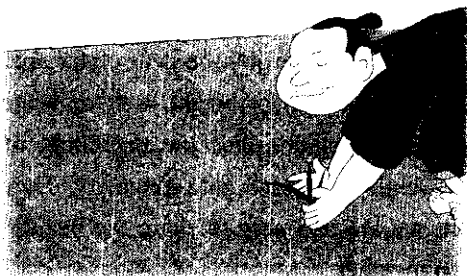
宋国有一个种田人,总是嫌自己种的禾苗长得慢,决定帮禾苗快点儿长高。于是,他把禾苗一棵棵往上拔,完工后疲倦地回到家对儿子说:“我今天帮助禾苗长高了很多。”他儿子跑到田里一看,禾苗被太阳一晒,已经全部枯萎了。

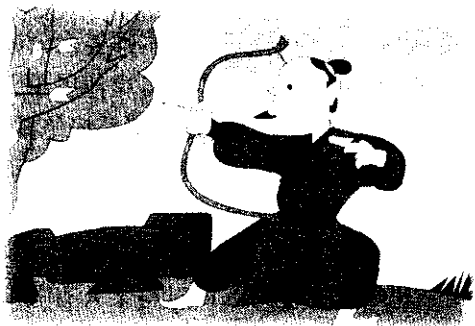
“拔苗助长”用来比喻违反事物发展规律,急于求成,反而把事情弄糟。

#### To try to help the shoots grow by pulling them up

There was a farmer in the Song State. He always thought his seedlings of cereal crops grew so slowly, so he wanted to help them grow fast. He pulled them up one by one. Then he went back home and said to his son, “I helped the seedlings of the cereal crops grow today.” His son went to the fields and saw the seedlings of the cereal crops were all withered.

This idiom satirizes those who spoil things by excessive enthusiasm.





### 百发百中

春秋时代,楚国人养有基善于射箭。有人在柳树上选择高低不同的三片叶子,分别写上“一”、“二”、“三”的记号,请养有基在百步外去射。于是养有基在百步之外搭箭射击,第一箭中“一”叶,第二箭中“二”叶,第三箭中“三”叶,三箭皆中。

“百发百中”用来比喻做事有十足把握,每次都达到预期的目的。

#### Every shot hits the bull's eye

In the Spring and Autumn period, Yang Youji of the Chu State was good at shooting. Someone chose three leaves from a willow tree and marked them “one, two, three”. Then he asked Yang Youji to shoot them. So Yang Youji shot at them from one hundred steps, and the first arrow shot the “one” leaf, the second shot the “two” leaf, the third shot the “three” leaf.

It means acting with absolute certainty and doing without failure.

### 悲欢离合

宋代著名文学家苏轼入仕途后,与家人聚少离多。有一年中秋节,他独自在月下饮酒,看到一轮满月挂在天上,怀乡思亲之情油然而生。提笔写下了千古绝句:“人有悲欢离合,月有阴晴圆缺,此事古难全,但愿人长久,千里共婵娟。”道尽人世沧桑,难有两全其美之事。

“悲欢离合”这里指人生中的悲哀和欢乐,团聚和离散的种种遭遇。后来用来表达人生中的各种境遇和由此产生的各种心情。

#### Joy and sorrow, parting and reunion

After Su Shi, the famous literati of the Song Dynasty, took up the official career, he often had to leave his family. On one Mid-Autumn Festival, he drank alone. When he saw the moon in the sky, homesick feeling rose of itself. He wrote: People may have sorrow or joy, be near or far apart. The moon may be dim or bright, wax or wane. This has been going on since the beginning of time. May we all be blessed with longevity. Though far apart, we are still able to share the beauty of the moon together.

It refers to the vicissitudes of life.





### 背井离乡

元朝著名剧作家马致远在他的《破幽梦孤雁汉宫秋》中讲述汉元帝宠爱的妃子被北番王索要为妻,汉元帝迫于压力只能答应。他在灞陵桥头设宴送别爱妃,在饯行时,汉元帝斥责一位大臣说:“面对北番的武力威胁,却只能让一个弱女子去和番,受远离家乡、卧雪眠霜的滋味,也该让你尝一尝。”后来妃子跃进江里自杀了。

“背井离乡”被后人用来指远离家乡,流落到异地。

#### To leave one's native place

The famous dramatist Ma Zhiyuan of the Yuan Dynasty told the story in one of his dramas about the imperial concubine of the Han Dynasty. She was deeply loved by the king of the Han, but the king of the Northern Land demanded her to be his wife. The king of the Han Dynasty had no choice, but to agree. When they gave her a farewell dinner at the Baling Bridge, the king of the Han reprimanded one of the ministers, “We could only let a woman marry the person who was born in the Northern Foreign Land when we faced a threat. And she has to bear the pain of leaving home. You should bear it too.” Later the imperial concubine jumped into the river and killed herself.

It describes leaving home against one's will.

### 逼上梁山

在古典小说《水浒》一书中,描写了许多好汉以梁山泊为根据地,聚众起义的故事。其中典型人物有武松、林冲、鲁智深等人。他们都是在官府迫害下,被迫起来反抗的,聚众在梁山上与官府进行斗争。

“逼上梁山”,被用来引申为被迫进行反抗或被迫做某件事情。

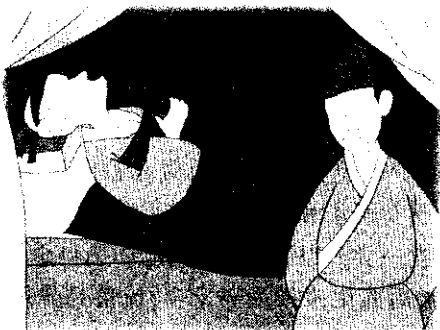
#### Have no alternative but

#### to join the Liangshan rebels

Liangshan used to be the base of peasant rebel forces beginning from the Northern Song Dynasty. Legend has it that in early 1119, the insurgent peasant armies led by Song Jiang were once stationed here. Outlaws of the Marsh written by Shi Nai'an tells stories about heroes like Lin Chong, Wu Song and Lu Zhishen, who were so oppressed by officials that they could not but join the Liangshan Mountain rebels.

Be driven to rebel; be compelled to act desperately.





### 病入膏肓

扁鹊的医术非常高明。一次去见齐王,说齐王有病,劝说他赶快治疗,齐王不听;扁鹊又去劝了他两次,他还是不听;最后一次,扁鹊见到齐王什么也没有说。齐王觉得蹊跷,便问扁鹊为何如此。扁鹊说:“大王的病起先还可以治好,现在病入膏肓,已经没有办法治了。”不久,齐王便一命呜呼了。

“病入膏肓”这里指病情严重,已经没有办法医治了。用来比喻事情到了无可挽救的程度。

### The disease has attacked the vital organs

The medical skill of Bian Que was brilliant. Once he wanted to visit the king of the Qi State. He said the king was ill and tried to persuade him to be cured. The king didn't believe his words. Later, Bian Que went to persuade him twice more. He still wasn't convinced. The last time, Bian Que said nothing to him when he saw him. The king felt strange, so he asked Bian Que why he didn't try to persuade him to be cured. Bian Que said, "Your illness can be cured in the beginning. Now the disease has attacked the vitals. There is no way to cure you." Soon, the king of the Qi State died.

It refers to be ill beyond cure.

### 不求甚解

田园诗人陶渊明在《五柳先生传》中描述了一个喜爱清静、不慕富贵的人。这个人门前种有五棵柳树,便自称五柳先生。他喜欢读书,但对于读的书,不求甚解,只是执着体会书中蕴含的意义。每次与朋友喝酒也是尽心尽兴。其实这也是陶渊明的自我写照,表达出他精神上的自由和安逸。

“不求甚解”原指读书只领会,不必在一字一句上下功夫。后人用来指学习不深入,只停留在半懂不懂之间。

### Not to seek a deep understanding

The pastoral poet Tao Yuanming described a person who liked quietness and disliked riches and honor in "The Story of Mr. Five Willow". This person planted five willow trees in front of his house, so he called himself "Mr. Five Willow". He liked reading, but he didn't seek to understand the meaning of every word. He only stuck to understand the meaning that the books contained. Every time he drank with his friends, he enjoyed himself to the full. In fact it was the real portrayal of Tao Yuanming himself. It expressed the freedom and ease of his mind.

It later referred to a person who is content with superficial understanding when reading.





### 草菅人命

汉文帝时,请贾谊担任梁王刘揖的太傅,要他好好教导刘揖。贾谊说:“读书固然重要,但更重要的是要做一个正直的人,秦朝的赵高教给秦二世残酷的刑法,所以秦二世变成了一个暴君。难道秦二世天生残忍吗?根本原因是教导他的人没有引导他走正道,他所学到的是把杀人看得像割草一样简单。”

“草菅人命”的原意是把杀人看得像割草一样。后来比喻统治者滥施淫威,任意残害人命。

#### To regard human life as wild grass

A king of the Han Dynasty let Jia Yi hold the post of teaching Liu Ji. Jia Yi said, “Studying no doubt is important, but the more important thing is to be an upright man. Zhao Gao taught the second king of the Qin Dynasty the cruel law, so the second king of the Qin Dynasty became a cruel king. Was he born cruel? The basic reason is that his teacher didn't lead him the right way. What he learnt is to put people to death at the slightest pretense.”

It refers to a ruler who slaughters people indiscriminately.

### 草木皆兵

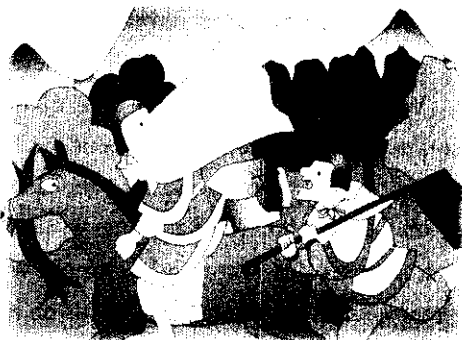
公元383年,前秦皇帝苻坚进攻东晋,在淝水一战中打了败仗。东晋的军队驻扎在八公山上,苻坚登上寿阳城头,看见晋军阵容整齐,八公山上的草木随风而动,他以为到处都是晋军,顿时吓得面如土色。不久,晋军打败了苻坚,苻坚只带着少数残兵逃了回去。

“草木皆兵”是指把草和树都当成敌人。形容在极度恐惧下的多疑心理。

#### Every bush and tree looks like an enemy

In 383, the king Fu Jian attacked the Eastern Jin Dynasty. He was defeated in Feishui. The army of the Eastern Jin Dynasty was stationed on the Bagong Mountain. Fu Jian stepped onto the city walls, and he saw the grass and trees on the Bagong Mountain floating. He thought they were all soldiers of the Jin Dynasty, so he became very scared. Soon, Jin's army defeated Fu Jian.

It refers to a person who is in a state of imaginary fear.





### 出类拔萃

孟子对孔子十分崇敬,把孔子尊为圣人。一次,孟子的学生公孙丑问孟子:“老师,你是圣人吗?”孟子回答说:“连孔夫子都不敢尊为圣人,我能算得了什么啊?”于是公孙丑又列出几个贤德于世的人,请孟子比较。孟子说:“麒麟与走兽,凤凰与飞鸟,泰山与山丘,河海与小水洼,都属于同类,但它们又绝不相同,前者远远地超出它们的同类。”

“出类拔萃”这里指超出同类。后人用来形容非常优秀的人,或在同一事物中超过同类。

#### **To stand out in a crowd or rise above the common herd**

Mencius respected Confucius very much. He called him “Sage”. Once, Gongsun Chou, one of his students, asked Mencius: “Teacher, are you a sage?” Mencius answered: “Even Confucius doesn’t dare to be called ‘Sage’, How dare I?” So Gongsun Chou mentioned several names of virtuous persons, and he asked Mencius to compare them. Mencius said: “Kylin and beasts, phoenix and birds, Tai Mountain and hills, sea and stream, each pairs belong to one kind. But they are different. The former goes far beyond the latter.”

It refers to the person who is out of the ordinary.

### 打草惊蛇

唐朝县令王鲁贪赃枉法,搜刮民财,于是手下人也纷纷效仿。有人写了一个状子,状告他的秘书营私舞弊。他看完案卷,在状子上写了八个字“汝虽打草,吾已蛇惊。”意思是说:你虽然状告的是我的秘书,但也给我提了个醒。

“打草惊蛇”现常用来比喻做事不机密,而惊动了对方。

#### **To beat the grass and unintentionally frighten away the snake hidden there**

Wang Lu, a county magistrate of the Tang Dynasty, not only took bribes and bent the law, but also extorted people’s money. So his subordinates imitated him one after another. Someone wrote a complaint which exposed his secretary’s crimes. Wang Lu saw the records then he wrote eight words on it. The meaning of the eight words was: although you exposed against my secretary, you reminded me too.

To alert the opposite party through carelessness.



### 滴水穿石



张乘崖上任崇阳县令时,发现地方盗窃之风盛行,于是他决心进行整治。一天,他看见一个管理县衙钱库的小官吏从钱库中偷了一枚铜钱,于是把小官吏拿下,带回审讯。但是小官吏拒不肯说,还指责张乘崖无能查出重案。张乘崖顿时大怒,判决到:“一日一钱,千日千钱,绳锯木断、水滴石穿。”最后处死了小官吏示众,社会上的盗窃之风得到了有效的遏制。

“滴水穿石”是指水滴不停,滴久了把石头也给滴穿了。后人用滴水穿石来比喻力量虽小,但是只要坚持就总会成功。

### Dripping water wears through rock

When Zhang Chengya held the post of the county magistrate of Chongyang County, he found theft was rampant there. So he determined to rectify it. One day, he saw an official, who managed the money-house of yamen, steal a coin from the money-house, so he caught him and interrogated him. But the official refused to confess his faults, and criticized Zhang's incompetence. Zhang Chengya was very angry and said, "one coin a day, a thousand days a thousand coins. A rope can cut down a wood. The dripping water wears holes in stone." Finally he put the official to death. Theft crimes was effectively contained.

*Constant effort, minor as it is, will lead to success.*

### 东施效颦

越国的美女西施有心口痛的毛病,一旦犯病,就用手捂住胸口,皱着眉头。即使如此,人们觉得她这样的姿态也很美。有个叫东施的丑女子看见后,也学着捂胸口,皱眉头,别人却被她的这个样子吓得跑开了。

“东施效颦”原指东施效仿西施皱眉头的样子。后来比喻盲目模仿他人,效果恰得其反。

### Dongshi in imitation of the famous beauty Xishi

The famous beauty Xishi, who lived in the State of Yue at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period, often kept her hands on her stomach and frowned to soothe her pain. Dongshi thought it was the air of melancholy that made Xishi beautiful, so she imitated Xishi's way of frowning, with the result that she looked uglier than before.



*Imitating others regardless of one's own condition makes one look ridiculous.*



### 对牛弹琴

传说古代有一位音乐家,十分喜欢弹琴。一天他带着琴在郊外散步,看见一头牛在低头吃草,周围风景宜人,于是他一时兴起,便坐下来为牛弹奏了一曲。曲声虽然优雅动听,然而牛却只顾低头吃草,根本不理睬。音乐家很失望,只好摇摇头走了。

“对牛弹琴”比喻对外行人讲内行话,对不懂道理的人讲道理。多用来指说话不看对象。

#### To play the lute for a cow

It is said that there was a musician, who liked playing the lute very much. One day he went for a walk along the countryside. He saw a cow eating the grass, and the scenery was very beautiful. So he played the lute for the cow. Although the music was very pleasant to listen to, the cow didn't notice it. The musician was very disappointed and left.

It means to attempt to explain truths to a person who doesn't know truths and now it is also used as a gibe at one who speaks without taking his audience into account.

### 对症下药

华佗是东汉时期最著名的医学家。有一次,有两个病人来看病,两人病况很相似。华佗详细询问病情后,给他们各自开了药方。两人出门后一看药方,却发现处方不一样。于是两人回来问华佗,华佗笑着说:“你们两个的病虽然症状相同,可引起病症的原因不同,所以开的处方也不一样。”

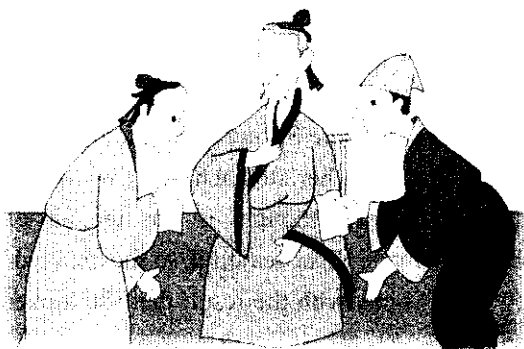
“对症下药”是指医生针对病情用药。后来用来比喻针对实际情况来采取措施,解决问题。

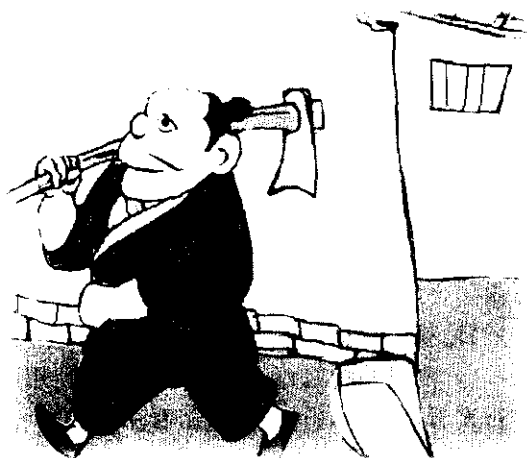
#### To prescribe medicine for a patient according to his illness

Hua Tuo is the most famous doctor in the period of the Eastern Han. Once, two patients came to see him. Their symptoms were similar. Hua Tuo asked about their illness, and then wrote out prescriptions. They found their prescriptions were different, so they asked him. Hua Tuo laughed and said: “Although your symptoms are similar, the causes are not the same, so the prescriptions are different.”

Give the right prescription for an illness; to take effective measures according to objective realities and concrete problems.

### 救死扶伤





### 功亏一篑

一个人想建一面土墙,每天挖土、搬土、打墙,忙个不停,十分辛苦。那面墙也一点儿一点儿地增高了。但只差一篑土就要建成时,他却不愿意再干下去了。最终这面墙还是没有建成。

“功亏一篑”用来比喻做事情只差最后一点儿但却放弃或失败了。

**Fail to build a mound for  
want of one final basket of earth**

A man wanted to build a wall. Every day he was very busy in building it. The wall became higher and higher, but he gave up when it

fell short of one final basket of earth. Ultimately the wall wasn't completed.

To fall short of success for lack of a final effort.

### 瓜田李下

经过瓜田的时候不要弯腰去系鞋带,以免别人误会是偷瓜;经过李子树的时候,不要抬手整理帽子,以免别人误会是偷李子。一个人要爱惜自己的名誉,必须小心谨慎,不要让人怀疑,要持端端正正的姿态对待一切。

“瓜田李下”这则成语用来比喻容易引起嫌疑的场合。

**In a melon patch or under a plum tree**

Don't lace your shoes in a melon patch; don't adjust your cap under a plum tree, to avoid being suspected of stealing. One should treasure his reputation. Don't do anything to arouse suspicion.

This idiom is used to describe the circumstances or surroundings that will easily arouse suspicion.

