

HÙDòng HÀNYǔ  
互动汉语

Interactive Chinese

YUÈDÚ JIÀOCÁI

阅读教材

Reading Material

XIÈHÒUYǔ & DIǎNGù

歇后语 & 典故

Two-Part Allegorical Sayings

&

Allusions

本书编写组 编



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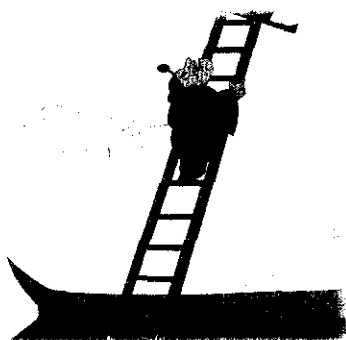
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### 矮子爬楼梯——步步登高

矮个儿的人,每爬一步梯子,就登高一节。再往上爬就更高一节,这即为“步步登高”。

这个歇后语通常用来形容官场上的平步青云,地位高升等情况,或指人的生活越来越好,不断提高等。

**A short person goes up the stairs  
—ascending step by step**

A short person, once he goes up one step, he ascends one step. He goes up again, he ascends again. That is “ascending step by step.”

This saying refers to the circumstances that one rapidly goes up in officialdom or gets better and better.

### 半天空里挂口袋——装疯(风)

在半空中挂口袋儿,要装什么东西呢?进去的只能是呼呼的风了。也就是用来装风。“风”与“疯”同音,运用谐音的方式也就变成了“装疯”。

这则歇后语指人故意装成疯疯癫癫的样子。

**Hang a bag in the sky  
—pretend to be mad (to hold the wind)**

One hangs a bag in the sky, what does he want to hold? Only the wind. 风 “Wind” and 疯 “mad” are homonyms, so “holding the wind” turns into “pretending to be mad.”

This saying refers to the person who pretended to be mentally deranged on purpose.



### 半夜里偷桃吃——找软的捏

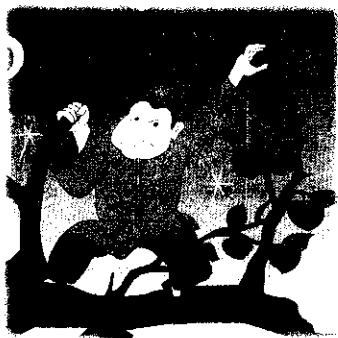
生桃子又酸又硬不好吃,熟桃子甜甜的,软软的很好吃。在半夜三更去偷桃子,分不清哪个是熟,哪个是生。只能用手捏一下,如果是软的那就是熟桃子了。

这个歇后语比喻专门找软弱的欺负。

**Steal peach to eat at midnight  
—look for the soft one**

The unripe peach is hard and sour to eat, but the ripe peach is sweet and soft. One steals a peach at midnight, so he can't distinguish the unripe one from the ripe one. He has to pinch. If it is soft, it must be a ripe peach.

This saying refers to one who bullies the weak.





### 扁担没扎——两头失塌

用扁担来挑东西，如果扁担的两头扎不住，那么在使用的时候，两头的东西就很容易滑下去，故称作“两头失塌”。

这则歇后语比喻两边都想收获，结果却是两头都落空。

### A shoulder pole carelessly loaded —both loads will slip off

If the loads are not secured at both ends of the pole, they will slip off.

This saying refers to the person who tries to grab both sides but end up with neither.

### 擦粉进棺材——死要面子

人已经死了，就要睡到棺材里去了，却还要往脸上擦胭脂抹粉的，都到了这时候还那么在乎这张脸。分明是“死要面子”吗。

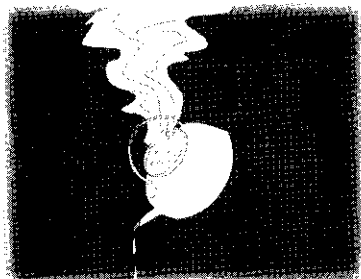
这个歇后语指条件已经不允许了，还要极力装扮自己，掩盖不光彩的面目，坚持那些表面看起来体面的东西。一般作为对维护虚假行为的嘲讽。



### Putting make-up on before entering the coffin —saving face even when dying

One is dead and is going to be put into the coffin. But he still wants to powder his face. He cares about his face even at death. Even when dead, he is anxious to keep up appearances.

This saying refers to a person who covers the appearance that seemed not honorable. It also sneers at the person who upholds false behavior.



### 茶壶里煮饺子——倒不出来

把饺子放到茶壶里煮，等到煮熟要倒出来时，却因为口子太小而不能把饺子倒出来。

比喻那些肚子里很有才学或者很想讲话的人，却不能把他的才学或想法表达出来。

### Boiling dumplings in a teapot —can't pour them out

One boils dumplings in a teapot until they are cooked, but he can't pour them out because the opening of the teapot is too small.

This saying refers to the person who is talented but can't express his opinions or knowledge.



### 城门里扛竹杠——直来直去

扛竹竿从城门出入,由于竹竿长,城门窄,只能是直着进去,直着出来。

这个歇后语主要指人的性格直率,说话办事直截了当,不拐弯抹角。

#### Carry a bamboo pole through the city gate —in and out straightly

If you carry a bamboo pole through the city gate, because the pole is very long and the city gate is narrow, you must go in

and out with the pole straight.

This saying refers to a person who is frank and outspoken.

### 窗户上的纸——一戳就破

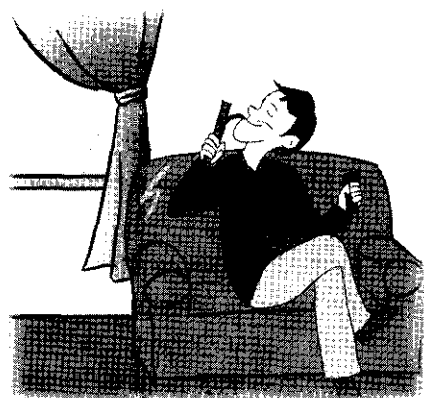
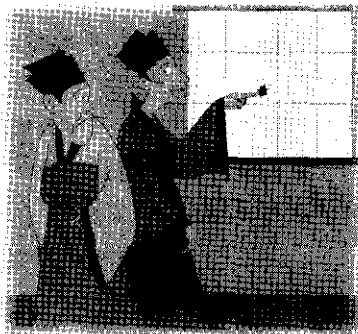
很早以前,还没有发明玻璃,人们就用很薄的纸来糊窗户。可是纸又薄又软,只要用手一戳就破了。

这个歇后语的本意指窗户纸很薄,指头轻轻一点就破了。后多用来比喻稍一指点就明白。

#### Paper window panes—torn by a touch

Long ago, people used paper as glass. They stuck them with paste on windows. But if you poke it with one finger, it would be torn.

This saying originally refers to the paper on the window that was very flimsy. Now it refers to understanding something quickly only with a few pointers.



### 从梢开始吃甘蔗——越吃越甜

甘蔗的顶部不算甜,但越往下吃口感就越甜,人吃甘蔗时,从梢开始,那吃起来味道自然是越来越有韵味了。人们对生活的希望大概也是这样吧。

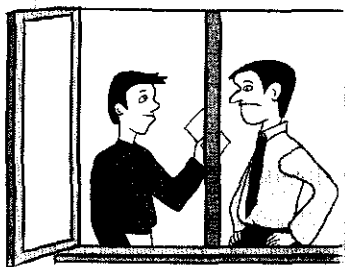
此歇后语比喻境遇越来越令人满意。

#### Eating sugarcane from the top —the more you eat, the more it tastes sweet

The top of the sugarcane is not very sweet. But it will become more and more sweet if you eat it from top to bottom. Maybe people's wish for living is like this.

This saying refers to the circumstances that become more and more satisfying.

### 打开天窗——说亮话



说话的时候打开天窗,你不必半遮半掩的,我也不必躲躲闪闪的,而且这时候,光线更亮了,看得更清楚,这样说出的话自然就是“亮话”了。

“打开天窗——说亮话”这个歇后语常用来指直截了当地把事情说明白。

#### Opening the skylight—speak frankly

When we are talking with others, we open the skylight. The room will be very light, so the words that we said are “light words”.

This saying often refers to speaking something straightly and clearly.

### 打破砂锅——问(罨)到底

砂锅一旦被打破,裂痕就将从上面一直裂到下面。这些裂痕称“罨”。

“罨”与“问”谐音,“罨到底”即成为“问到底”。

这是一个运用谐音得出的歇后语。它的意思是为了寻找事情的由来或答案,非要问个清楚不可。

#### Getting to the root of the matter

If the earthen pot breaks, it cracks all the way to the bottom. The cracks are called “罨”. 罨 “crack” and 问 “ask” are homonyms. “Crack to the bottom” can turn into “ask to the bottom”.

The meaning of this saying is to look for an answer; one must keep asking questions until he gets to the bottom of it.



### 大姑娘上花轿——头一回

在过去,姑娘出嫁时都要坐上花轿,因此对于每个大姑娘来讲,坐花轿都是头一回。

这个歇后语的意思是:初次接触某件事物,缺少经验。

#### A girl who has never married before sits on the Sedan chair—the first time

In the past, when a girl got married, she sat on a bridal sedan chair. So for every girl, it is the first time to sit on a bridal sedan chair.



The meaning of the saying is: one comes into contact with something the first time, he must be short of experience.



### 大寒吃雪条——凉了心

大寒是我国的一个节气,也是一年里天气最冷的时候。大寒的时候吃雪条,那可真是凉上加凉,一直凉到心里头。

这则歇后语常用来形容受挫折或失望后情绪低落意志消沉。

#### **Eating icecream on a Great Cold day—too cold**

Great Cold is one of the solar terms in China. It is also the coldest day in a year. It is too cold if you eat an icecream on a Great Cold day.

This saying is often used to describe a mood that is very low after one has lost hope to something.

### 大热天穿棉袄——不是时候

棉袄有很好的保暖功能,一般在冬天才穿,如果在炎热的夏天穿上它,那也太不合时宜了。

这个歇后语的意思是说:说话办事选择的时机不合适。

#### **Wearing a cotton-padded jacket in a hot day**

##### **—it is not the time**

The cotton-padded jacket is very warm and it is often worn in winter. If you wear it in summer, that is out of keeping with the times.

The meaning of the saying is one chooses the wrong opportunities when he wants to speak or do something.



### 带刺的鲜花——好看是好看,有点儿扎手

艳丽的鲜花让人喜爱,总想伸手摘一朵,但枝上有刺,可不是那么容易就可以摘得到手的,一不小心就会扎了手。那伤痛只有自个儿知道是怎么样的一种感受了。

比喻姑娘虽然长得好看,但又不好惹或不易接近。

#### **A flower with sting**

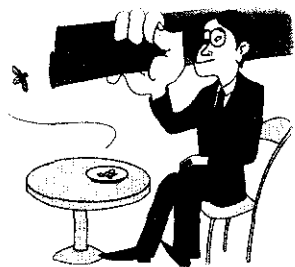
##### **—it is beautiful but prickly**

Almost everyone likes beautiful flowers and always wants to pluck them. But it's not very easy to pluck because there are thorns on the stems. Maybe you will be pricked for your carelessness. Only

then you know the feeling.

This saying refers to girls who are very pretty but not to be trifled with.





### 电线杆当筷子——大材小用

吃饭要用筷子,人人皆知,但吃饭时偏偏不用筷子,而要用又粗又大的电线杆儿,这不是把大材料当成小材料用了吗?

这则歇后语指一些不合理的安排,本来才能突出可以干大事的,却被安排做一些小事,从而埋没了这种突出的能力。

**Regard electric wire poles as chopsticks  
—large material being put to small use**

Everybody knows we should use chopsticks to have meals. But if you use electric wire poles as chopsticks, isn't the large material put to small use?

This saying refers to some unreasonable arrangement.

### 刀尖上翻筋斗——玩儿命

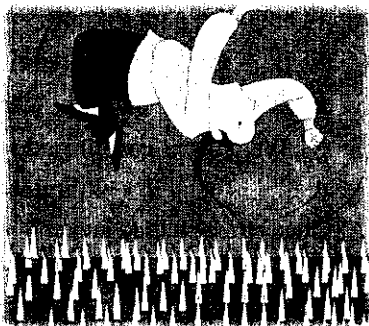
在刀尖上翻筋斗可不是闹着玩儿的,一不小心就可能受伤甚至丧命,假如真的有人在上面翻,那是拿生命去冒险,这可是“玩儿命”呀。

这个歇后语常指用生命作代价去干一些冒险的事情,随时都有可能丧命。

**Turn somersaults over sharp knives—play with one's life**

It's very dangerous to turn somersaults over sharp knives. Maybe he will lose his life from carelessness. If there really is a person who wants to turn somersaults over knives, you must think that he is “risking his life”.

This saying often refers to the person who may lose his life at any time if he does riskful things at the expense of his life.



### 放虎归山——自留后患

老虎非常凶猛,有时还会伤及到人,好不容易才把老虎捉住,又轻易地把它放回山里,以后老虎肯定还会出来伤人,这不是自己给自己留下了后患吗?

此歇后语指对敌方或事件处理得心慈手软,不果断不恰当,是要给自己留下祸患的。

**Set free a tiger and let it return to the mountains  
—breed calamity for the future**

A tiger is very ferocious. It's difficult to catch, but easy to return to the mountains. Don't you breed calamity for the future?

This saying refers to one making more troubles for himself if he deals with enemies softheartedly.





### 擀面杖吹火——一窍不通

擀面杖是一种实心、没有通气孔的木棍,用来擀面。如果硬要拿它用来吹火,当然不能把火吹旺。

“擀面杖吹火——一窍不通”,指对事物一点儿也不懂,是个外行。

**Try to blow the fire with a rolling pin  
—know nothing about something**

A rolling pin is a solid stick. If you try to blow the fire with it, it is impossible to extinguish the fire.

This saying refers to a person who knows nothing about something.

### 狗咬吕洞宾——不识好人心

吕洞宾是民间传说中八仙中的一位“神仙”,也是一个行侠仗义的好心人,他经常惩治坏人帮助穷人,深得人间百姓崇敬。狗却不认识吕洞宾,把他当坏人咬,所以说它“不识好人心”。

人们用这个歇后语来指好坏不分,别人的好心却被当成恶意。

**Snarl and snap at Lu Dongbin  
—wrong a kind-hearted person**

Lu Dongbin was one of the Eight Immortals and was a kind-hearted man. He often punished the bad and helped the poor.

Common people respected him very much. But the dog didn't know him, and it bit him. So we say it “doesn't know a kind-hearted person.”

People use this saying to refer to regarding one's good intention as a bad one.



### 棺材里伸手——死要钱

人死了,装到棺材里,但还伸出手来向人要钱,这不就是“死要钱”吗?

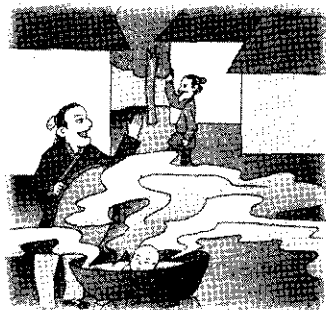
人们用这个歇后语来指那些时时想发财的财迷。

**Reach out a hand for money even in one's coffin  
—be greedy untill death**

If a dead person in the coffin reaches out a hand for money, isn't it “being greedy untill death”?

This saying refers to the moneygrubber who always wants to be rich.





### 锅里煮娃娃——熟人

把娃娃放到锅里面煮,过不久,打开锅盖看时,娃娃被煮熟了。当然这里只是假设,谁又忍心真的去煮娃娃呢。这里“熟”有两种意思,一是指煮熟,二是指熟悉。

这个歇后语是运用意思理解上的转换而成,指的是非常熟悉的人。

#### **Boiling a baby in a pot—acquaintance (a cooked person)**

If one boils a baby in a pot, soon, the baby will be cooked. Of course it is a supposition. No one is hardhearted enough to do that. Here “熟” has two meanings. One refers to “cooked”; the other refers to “know somebody well.”

This saying converts “cooked” into “know somebody well.” It refers to acquaintances.

### 韩信用兵——多多益善

韩信是汉朝的一员大将,他非常擅于带兵。有一次韩信带兵出征,皇帝问他要带多少兵,他说:“当然是越多越好了,这样才有利于作战嘛。”

后来,人们就用“多多益善”来指使用或者将得到的东西,越多越好。

#### **Like Han Xin commanding troops —the more the better**

Han Xin, a strategist in the Han Dynasty, was good at commanding troops. Once, he was ready to command troops to fight. The emperor asked him how many soldiers he wanted. He said: “The more the better. This is beneficial for the battle.”

Later, people use “the more the better” to refer to beneficial things that they have or will have.



### 和尚打伞——无法(发)无天

和尚的头不留头发,可以说“无发”,“发”与“法”同音,“无发”变成了“无法”。和尚打着伞,把天遮住了,变成了无天,合成即为“无法无天”。

人们常用这个歇后语来指不受法律约束,毫无顾忌的胡作非为。

#### **A monk holding an umbrella**

#### **—having neither law (hair) nor Providence (sky)**

Monks don't keep hair, so we can say he has “no hair.” A pun is on the homophone 发 “hair” and 法 “law,” so “no hair” turns into “no law.” A monk holds an umbrella, and the umbrella covers up Heaven. So, “no law (hair) nor Heaven.”

This saying refers to acting wildly in defiance of the law and public opinion.





### 和尚的脑壳——没法(发)

和尚不留头发。运用“发”与“法”谐音,这里“法”指办法,“无法”也就是“没有办法”。

这则歇后语指对事物没有办法,没有能力找到解决问题的方式。

**The head of a monk—there is no way out (no hair)**

Monks don't keep hair. Because 发 “hair” and 法 “way” are homophones, 无发 “no hair” is 无法 “no way” here.

This saying refers to situations when there is no way out, or one has no ability to find the way to solve the problem.

### 黄鼠狼给鸡拜年——没安好心

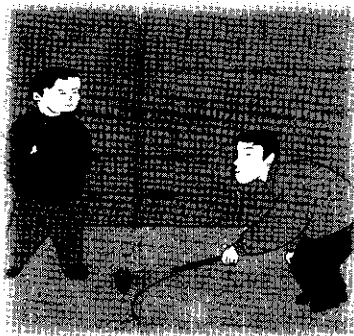
黄鼠狼喜欢吃鸡,经常去农民家里偷鸡、鸭等家禽。一天黄鼠狼想吃掉鸡,就装模做样地去给鸡拜年,结果把鸡吃掉了。

这个歇后语比喻一些虚伪的人,表面上很和善,实际上却是一肚子坏水。

**The weasel goes to pay his respects to the hen  
—not with the best of intention**

The weasel likes eating hens. They often go to peasants' homes to steal hens, ducks and other poultry. One day, the weasel wanted to eat the hen, so it pretended to pay his respects to the hen, and then ate it.

This saying refers to the hypocritical person who is kind in appearance but bad at heart.



### 贱陀螺——不打不转

陀螺是一种用木头制作的玩具,玩儿时用绳子缠绕,用力抽开绳子,使它在地上直立旋转,越抽打,转得越快。如果不抽打了,就会慢慢地停下来。

这个歇后语常用来形容某些人不施加压力就不那么听使唤了。

**The low-down spinning top—  
will not turn unless you beat it**

The spinning top is a toy that was made of wood. The more you beat it, the more it turns. If you don't beat it, it will stop turning.

This saying is often used to describe one who will not be obedient if you don't bring him to bear on the pressure.