

漢英對照 成語詞典

Chinese Idioms  
And Their English  
Equivalents

陳永楨 · 陳善慈編著 商務印書館



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## 漢英對照成語詞典

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# A

0001 阿聾送殯 ā lóng sòng bīn  
*The deaf attends the funeral (implying that he can't hear the music). (lit.)*

**Turn a deaf ear to**

**As deaf as a post.**

〔同義〕充耳不聞

See 0384

*None so deaf as those who won't hear.*

〔反義〕洗耳恭聽

See 3053

*To be all ears.*

0002 哀莫大於心死 āi mò dà yú xīn sǐ

*Sadness is not as great as heart's death. (lit.)*

**He begins to die that quits his desires.**

**The wound that bleedeth inwardly is most dangerous.**

莊子：「哀莫大於心死，而身死次之。」

0003 挨鬥 āi dòu

*To be beaten. (lit.)*

**Stand the gaff.**

**Run the gauntlet.**

〔反義〕批鬥

See 1965

*Haul over the coals.*

0004 愛莫能助 ài mò néng zhù  
*Love but can't help. (lit.)*

**The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

**Beyond one's tether.**

詩經：「維仲山甫舉之，愛莫助之。」

0005 愛屋及烏 ài wū jí wū

*Love one's house and extend love*

*to the crows on the roof. (lit.)*

**Love me, love my dog.**

**He that loves the tree loves the branch.**

〔同義〕幼吾幼以及人之幼

See 3684

*Charity begins at home.*

說苑：「臣聞愛其人者，兼愛及屋上之烏。」

0006 愛憎分明 ài zēng fēn míng  
*Love and hatred separate clearly. (lit.)*

**Separate the sheep from the goats.**

〔反義〕認賊作父

See 2248

*Set a fox to keep one's geese.*

0007 愛之欲其生，惡之欲其死

ài zhī yù qí shēng, wù

zhī yù qí sǐ

*Loving him wish him alive, hating him wish him dead. (lit.)*

**The greatest hate springs from the greatest love.**

論語·顏淵：「愛之欲其生，惡之欲其死，既欲其生，又欲其死，是惑也。」

0008 安步當車 ān bù dāng jū

*Walking step by step is as good as riding in a carriage. (lit.)*

**Ride the shoe leather express.**

**On shanks' mare.**

**To leg it.**

**Ride in the marrow-bone coach.**

〔同義〕乘十一路車

See 0363

*Ride on the horse with ten toes.*

戰國策：「晚食以當肉，安步以當

車。」

0009 安分守己 ān fèn shǒu jǐ  
*Keep one's duty and have self control. (lit.)*

**Know one's distance.**

**Know where to draw a line.**

**Mind one's own business.**

[同義] 循規蹈矩 See 3280  
*Walk the chalk.*

[反義] 橫行無忌 See 1069  
*Throw one's weight about.*

蘇軾詩：「胡不安其份，但聽物所誘。」

0010 安家落戶 ān jiā luò hù  
*To settle down with the family. (lit.)*

**To settle down.**

**To domicile oneself in**

[反義] 萍踪無定 See 1997  
*Here today and gone tomorrow.*

0011 安貧樂道 ān pín lè dào  
*Willing to accept poverty and be happy with the right track. (lit.)*

**Poverty is not a shame but the being ashamed of it.**

[同義] 不戚戚於貧賤，不汲汲於富貴 See 0241

*Better go to heaven in rags than to hell in embroidery.*

0012 安然無恙 ān rán wú yàng  
*Safe and no illness. (lit.)*

**In (With) a whole skin.**

**To escape with life and limb.**

**To be safe and sound.**

**Save one's bacon.**

**Land on both feet.**

[反義] 遍體鱗傷 See 0134  
*Beaten black and blue.*

0013 安如磐石 ān rú pán shí

*Firm as a great rock. (lit.)*

**As firm as a rock.**

[反義] 搖搖欲墜 See 3348

*Hang by a thread.*

史記：「此所謂磐石之安也。」

0014 安如泰山 ān rú tài shān  
*As stable as Tai Shan (Mt. Tai in the west of Shantung Province, China). (lit.)*

**Safe upon the solid rock.**

[同義] 固若金湯 See 0946

*As firm as a rock.*

[反義] 危在旦夕 See 2876

*Hang on by the eyelids.*

文選·枚乘諫吳王書：「乘所欲爲，易於反掌，安於泰山。」

0015 安下金鉤 ān xià jīn gōu  
*Lay down a golden hook. (lit.)*

**Lay an ambush.**

[同義] 打埋伏 See 0493

*A put-up job.*

0016 安於現狀 ān yú xiàn zhuàng  
*Content with the present situation. (lit.)*

**Let well alone.**

**Stick in the mud.**

[同義] 既來之，則安之 See 1233

*Take the world as it is.*

[反義] 野心勃勃 See 3364

*To level at the moon.*

0017 安之若素 ān zhī ruò sù  
*At ease as usual. (lit.)*

**To be well at ease.**

**To be well adapted to**

[同義] 既來之，則安之 See 1233

*Take things as they come.*

[反義] 突兀不安 See 2806

*Get hot under the collar.*

0018 按兵不動 àn bīng bú dòng

*Keep the troops unmoved. (lit.)*

**Stay one's hand.**

**Bide one's time.**

**To mark time.**

史記：『王按兵毋出。』

0019 按部就班 *àn bù jiù bān*

*To follow according to the prescribed way. (lit.)*

**In apple-pie order.**

**A place for everything, and everything in its place.**

〔同義〕井井有條 See 1402

**Keep everything ship-shape.**

〔反義〕亂作一團 See 1708

**All in a huddle.**

文選·陸機文賦：『然後選義按部，老辭就班。』

0020 按老皇曆辦事 *àn lǎo huáng lì bān shì*

*According to the old Imperial way to do things. (lit.)*

**Ride a method to death.**

**To keep a custom you hammer the anvil still, though you have no iron.**

〔同義〕陳陳相因 See 0344

**Follow the beaten track.**

〔反義〕另起爐灶 See 1671

**Break fresh ground.**

0021 按下不提 *àn xià bù tí*

*Put it down unmentioned. (lit.)*

**To leave it at that.**

0022 暗藏敵人 *àn cáng dí rén*

*A secretly hidden enemy. (lit.)*

**A snake in the grass.**

〔反義〕過街老鼠 See 0998

**Everybody points an accusing finger at**

0023 暗渡陳倉 *àn dù chén cāng*

*Secretly pass through the old barn. (lit.)*

**To steal a march upon**

0024 暗箭傷人 *àn jiàn shāng rén*

*A secret arrow injures a man. (lit.)*

**A stab in the back.**

**Hit below the belt.**

〔同義〕明槍易躲，暗箭難防

See 1822

**Better be stung by a nettle than pricked by a rose.**

〔反義〕公開挑戰 See 0918

**Throw down the gauntlet.**

宋·劉炎邇言：『暗箭中人，其深次骨，人之怨之，亦必次骨。』

0025 暗結珠胎 *àn jié zhū tāi*  
*Secretly forming a pearl embryo. (lit.)*

**To be in the family way.**

**In an interesting condition.**

**To be in trouble.**

0026 暗送秋波 *àn sòng qiū bō*  
*Secretly send autumn waves (beauty's eyes are as bright as autumn lake water or waves). (lit.)*

**Make eyes at**

**Cast sheep's eyes at**

〔同義〕眉目傳情 See 1776

**Leer one's eyes at**

0027 暗中埋伏 *àn zhōng mái fú*  
*Ambush in the dark. (lit.)*

**Lie in wait.**

〔同義〕佈下伏兵 See 0294

**Lay an ambush.**

0028 暗中摸索 *àn zhōng mō suǒ*  
*To reach by feeling in the dark.*

(lit.)

**Grope in the dark.**

**Feel one's way.**

0029 暗中示意 àn zhōng shì yì

*Hint an idea. (lit.)*

**Drop a hint.**

**Put a bug in one's ear.**

[反義] 開誠佈公 See 1466

*Put one's cards on the table.*

0030 暗中行事 àn zhōng xíng shì

*Secretly take action. (lit.)*

**On the sly.**

**With closed doors.**

**Under the rose.**

**Hole and corner.**

[同義] 偷偷摸摸 See 2784

*Up to some hangky-pangky.*

[反義] 光明磊落 See 0981

*To be open and aboveboard.*

0031 黯然失色 àn rán shī sè

*Sadly losing colour. (lit.)*

**The moon is not seen where the sun shines.**

**Pale beside another.**

**To be cast into the shade.**

[同義] 相形見绌 See 3113

*Make one shrink small.*

[反義] 毫無遜色 See 1030

*Sustain comparison with another.*

0032 昂首雲外 áng shǒu yún wài

*To lift up the head beyond the cloud. (lit.)*

**Hold one's head high.**

**Have one's nose in the air.**

**As proud (vain) as a peacock.**

**Hold one's head up.**

[同義] 自命不凡 See 3986

*Pique oneself on.*

[反義] 得縮頭時且縮頭 See 0616

*When you bow, bow low.*

0033 傲骨嶙峋 ào gǔ lín xún

*Haughty bone uneven with notches. (lit.)*

**As hard as a bone.**

[同義] 威武不屈 See 2879

*Die in the last ditch.*

[反義] 卑躬屈節 See 0095

*Bow and scrape.*

# B

0034 八面玲瓏 bā miàn líng  
lóng

*Eight faces transparent. (lit.)*

**All things to all men.**

**Dance and sing all weathers.**

**His mill will go with all winds.**

[同義] 圓滑周旋 See 3733

*Smooth and suave.*

[反義] 到處碰壁 See 0599

*Driven from pillar to post.*

元·馬熙詩句：『八面玲瓏得月多。』

0035 八月十五是中秋，有人快活  
有人愁 bā yuè shí wǔ shì  
zhōng qīu, yǒu rén kuài  
huó yǒu rén chóu

*August the 15th is the mid-  
autumn, there are people happy  
and people sad. (lit.)*

**It is no play where one weeps and  
another laughs.**

0036 拔苗助長 bá miáo zhù  
zhǎng

*Pull up the seedling to help its  
growth. (lit.)*

**Too much zeal spoils all.**

**A watched pot never boils.**

[同義] 欲速則不達 See 3719

*Haste makes waste.*

孟子·公孫丑上：『揠苗助長。』

0037 白費唇舌 bái fèi chún shé  
*Sheer waste of lips and tongue.  
(lit.)*

**Waste one's breath.**

0038 白費氣力 bái fèi qì lì  
*Sheer waste of air and strength.*

*(lit.)*

**Beat the air.**

**Find a mare's nest.**

**Wash a blackamoor white.**

[同義] 徒勞無功 See 2807

*Plow the sands and sow the waves.*

0039 白刃戰 bái rèn zhàn

*White dagger war. (lit.)*

**Fight hilt to hilt.**

[同義] 短兵相接 See 0687

*Fight at close quarters.*

0040 白日作夢 bái rì zuò mèng  
*Making dreams in broad daylight.  
(lit.)*

**To be day-dreaming.**

**In a brown study.**

[同義] 想入非非 See 3116

*Build castles in the air.*

[反義] 頭腦清醒 See 2798

*To be all there.*

0041 白手起家 bái shǒu qǐ jiā  
*Start a family with empty hand.  
(lit.)*

**Start from scratch.**

**A self-made man.**

[反義] 家道中落 See 1252

*To be worse off.*

0042 白頭宮女在，閒話說玄宗  
bái tóu gōng nǚ zài, xián  
huà shuō xuān zōng

*The white-haired court girls in the  
palace gossip about Xuan Zong  
(an emperor in the Tang  
Dynasty). (lit.)*

**Strike up the old tune.**



0043 白頭偕老 bái tóu xié lǎo  
To grow old together with white hair. (lit.)

At their silver wedding.

A Darby and Joan.

0044 白雲蒼狗 bái yún cāng gǒu  
The white cloud changes into a grey dog. (lit.)

It is the unforeseen that always happens.

[同義] 變幻無常 See 0136

As changeable as the weather.

杜甫詩：「天上浮雲如白衣，斯須變幻如蒼狗。」

0045 白紙黑字 bái zhǐ hēi zì  
White paper and black writing. (lit.)

It's all in black and white.

0046 百般愚弄 bǎi bān yú nòng  
To fool by hundred ways. (lit.)

Pull someone's leg.

0047 百步穿楊 bǎi bù chuān yáng

Hit the willow from a hundred steps. (lit.)

Hit the bull's-eye.

0048 百尺竿頭，更進一步

bǎi chǐ gān tóu, gèng jìn yī bù

To the top of a hundred-foot pole, one step further up. (lit.)

Make further efforts.

Break one's own record.

[同義] 精益求精 See 1397

Though good is good, yet better is better.

[反義] 吃老本 See 0371

Rest on one's laurels.

傳燈錄：「百尺竿頭須進步，十方

世界是全身。」

0049 百川歸海 bǎi chuān guī hǎi

Hundred rivers return to the sea. (lit.)

Follow the river and you'll get to the sea.

The sea refuses no river.

All rivers do what they can for the sea.

All roads lead to Rome.

[同義] 異途同歸 See 3558

There are more ways to the wood than one.

淮南子·汜論訓：「百川異源，而皆歸於海。」

0050 百發百中 bǎi fā bǎi zhōng

Hundred shoots and hundred hits. (lit.)

Every shot told.

Every time a bull's eye.

[反義] 無的放矢 See 2954

Draw a bow at a venture.

史記：「楚有養由基者，善射者也。

去柳葉百步而射之，百發而百中。」

0051 百煉成鋼 bǎi liàn chéng gāng

Tempering for hundred times makes steel. (lit.)

Steeled and tempered.

Practice makes perfect.

漢·應劭漢官儀：「今取堅鋼，百煉而不耗。」

0052 百鳥歸巢 bǎi niǎo guī cháo  
Hundred birds returning to nests. (lit.)

To sing off beat.

**Sing out of tune.**

[同義] 亂作一團 See 1708

*It was hell broken loose.*

[反義] 步調一致 See 0292

*To be in step.*

0053 百忍成金 *bǎi rěn chéng jīn*  
*Hundred patience makes gold.*  
*(lit.)*

**All good things come to those who wait.**

[反義] 小不忍則亂大謀 See 3134

*Anger and haste hinder good counsel.*

0054 百舍重繭 *bǎi shě chōng jiǎn*

*Hundred housing and double cocoon. (lit.)*

**To be dead beat.**

**More dead than alive.**

[同義] 筋疲力竭 See 1348

*To be worn out.*

[反義] 生龍活虎 See 2415

*Alive and kicking.*

莊子天道：『百舍重繭而不敢息。』

0055 百事通 *bǎi shì tōng*  
*Hundred things through. (lit.)*

**A know-all.**

[反義] 一竅不通 See 3440

*A babe in the wood*

0056 百萬雄師 *bǎi wàn xióng shī*

*Million brave soldiers. (lit.)*

**Their name is legion.**

[反義] 烏合之衆 See 2944

*Rag, tag and bobtail.*

0057 百聞不如一見 *bǎi wén bù rú yī jiàn*

*Hearing of hundred times is not like seeing once. (lit.)*

**Seeing is believing.**

**One eye-witness is better than ten ear-witnesses.**

[同義] 耳聞不如目睹 See 0726

*The eyes believe themselves, the ears believe other people.*

0058 百無禁忌 *bǎi wú jìn jì*  
*No taboo for hundred things. (lit.)*

**To ride whip and spur.**

[同義] 不管三七二十一 See 0196

*Let the world wag as it will.*

[反義] 投鼠忌器 See 2792

*Burn not your house to rid the mouse.*

0059 百無聊賴 *bǎi wú liáo lài*  
*Out of hundred things nothing one wants to do. (lit.)*

**It's more pain to do nothing than something.**

**Have time hanging on one's hands.**

**Bored stiff.**

[同義] 閒極無聊 See 3092

*Twiddle one's thumbs.*

[反義] 忙不過來 See 1758

*Have too many irons in the fire.*

0060 百務羈身 *bǎi wù jī shēn*  
*Body is tied down by hundred things. (lit.)*

**To be up to one's ears in work.**

**To have one's hands full.**

[同義] 忙得不可開交 See 1759

*Not to have a moment one can call one's own.*

[反義] 閒極無聊 See 3092

*Bored to death.*

0061 百依百順 *bǎi yī bǎi shùn*  
*Follow and obey hundred times. (lit.)*

**At one's beck and call.**

**Dance after someone's pipe.**

**Have a nose of wax.**

**Feed (eat) out of someone's hands.**

[同義] 言聽計從 See 3306

**Go all out on a person.**

[反義] 拂逆人意 See 0824

**Go against the grain with one.**

0062 百折不撓 *bǎi zhé bù náo*  
*Undeterred by hundred setbacks.*  
(lit.)

**Fight for it tooth and nail.**

**Get at it hammer and tongs.**

**Never say die.**

**Stick it out.**

[同義] 不屈不撓 See 0243

**Firm and unyielding.**

[反義] 俯首就範 See 0832

**Give one's head for the washing.**

漢·蔡邕：『有百折不撓，臨大節而不可奪之風。』

0063 百足之蟲，死而不僵 *bǎi zú zhī chóng, sǐ ér bù jiāng*

*An insect of hundred feet (a centipede) even dies yet not get stiff. (lit.)*

**Even a worm will turn.**

淮南子：『百足之蟲，至死不僵。』

0064 擺臭架子 *bǎi chòu jiǎ zi*  
*To put up smelly shelf. (lit.)*

**Cock one's chest like a half-pay admiral.**

**Throw one's weight about.**

[同義] 盛氣凌人 See 2433

**To be overbearing.**

[反義] 畢恭畢敬 See 0121

**Cap in hand.**

0065 擺架子 *bǎi jià zi*

*To put up a shelf. (lit.)*

**Put on side (airs, frills).**

**Wear a high hat.**

**On the high horse.**

[同義] 神氣十足 See 2407

**Puffed up with pride.**

[反義] 平易近人 See 1994

**Have a taking way with one.**

0066 拜把兄弟 *bǎi bǎ xiōng dì*  
*To be brothers by oath and hand-shaking. (lit.)*

**Sworn brothers.**

0067 班門弄斧 *bān mén nòng fǔ*  
*To wield an axe at the door of Lu Ban. (lit.)*

**Teach one's grandmother how to suck eggs.**

**Bend the bow of Ulysses.**

**It is hard to halt before cripple.**

\* *Ban was a famous mechanic of Lu State and is now worshipped as the god of carpenter.*

梅之渙題李白墓詩：『采石江邊一堆土，李白之名高千古，來來往往一首詩，魯班門前弄大斧。』

0068 搬起石頭打自己的腳 *bān qǐ shí tóu dǎ zì jì de jiǎo*

*Carrying up the stone hits oneself's feet. (lit.)*

**To be hoisted with one's own petard.**

[同義] 自作自受 See 4017

**Fry in one's own grease.**

0069 板起面孔 *bǎn qǐ miàn kǒng*

*To harden one's countenance like a board. (lit.)*

**Pull a long face.**

**Keep a straight face.**

〔同義〕冷若冰霜 See 1595

*As cold as ice.*

〔反義〕笑逐顏開 See 3155

*Beam with joy.*0070 半斤八兩 *bàn jīn bā**liǎng**Half a catty and eight ounces.  
(lit.)***Six of one and half a dozen of the other.****To be as broad as it is long.****Tweedledum and tweedledee.**

〔同義〕不相上下 See 0258

*Break even.*

〔反義〕天淵之別 See 2737

*A far cry from*

0071 半絲半縷，恒念物力維艱

*bān sī bàn lǚ, héng niàn**wù lì wéi jiān**Half a thread of silk, half a piece  
of string, always remember  
things and efforts are difficult  
(to produce). (lit.)***Waste not, want not.****He that will not stoop for a pin  
shall never be worth a pound.****See a pin and let it lie, you're  
sure to want before you die.**

〔同義〕來之不易 See 1543

*Hard to come by.*0072 半途而廢 *bàn tú ér fèi**Abandon half way. (lit.)***Do things by halves.****Drop (fall) by the wayside.****Not go the whole hog.**

〔反義〕堅持到底 See 1265

*Stick it out.*

禮記：『君子遵道而行，半途而廢，

吾弗能已矣。』

0073 半吞半吐 *bàn tūn bàn tǔ**Half-swallowing, half-spitting.**(lit.)***To mince matters.****To hum and hew.**

〔同義〕欲說還休 See 3718

*To shut up shop.*

〔反義〕暢所欲言 See 0333

*Speak one's mind.*0074 半心半意 *bàn xīn bàn yì**Half heart and half mean. (lit.)***Half heart is no heart.**

〔同義〕心猿意馬 See 3197

*Run with the hound and hold  
with the hare.*

〔反義〕全心全意 See 2164

*Heart and soul.*0075 半信半疑 *bàn xìn bàn yí**Half belief, half doubt. (lit.)***Half in doubt.****Take with a grain of salt.**

〔同義〕姑妄聽之 See 0931

*Take the story for what it is  
worth.*

〔反義〕深信不疑 See 2400

*Feel it in one's bones.*0076 棒頭出孝子 *bàng tóu chū**xiào zǐ**The head of a rod brings out  
filial son. (lit.)***Spare the rod and spoil the child.**0077 包藏禍心 *bāo cáng huò xīn**Conceal an evil heart. (lit.)***The bait hides the hook.**

〔同義〕笑裏藏刀 See 3151

*Velvet paws hide sharp claws.*

左傳：『無乃包藏禍心以圖之。』

0078 包打聽 *bāo dǎ tīng*

- Guarantee to pry. (lit.)*  
**Have an itching ear.**  
**A rubber neck.**  
**A nosey parker.**  
**Paul Pry is on the spy.**  
 [反義] 充耳不聞 See 0384  
*None so deaf as those who won't hear.*
- 0079 **保持鎮靜** bǎo chí zhèn jìng  
*Maintain calm. (lit.)*  
**Keep one's hair on.**  
**Keep one's head.**  
**Keep cool.**  
**As cool as a cucumber.**  
**Keep one's shirt on.**  
 [同義] 頭腦冷靜 See 2797  
*Have one's brains on ice.*  
 [反義] 驚惶失措 See 1399  
*Like ducks in a thunder storm.*
- 0080 **保留一手** bǎo liú yī shǒu  
*Reserve the master hand. (lit.)*  
**Reserve the master-blow.**  
 [反義] 竭盡所能 See 1329  
*To the best of one's abilities.*
- 0081 **保留意見** bǎo liú yì jiàn  
*Reserve one's opinion. (lit.)*  
**Keep one's own counsel.**
- 0082 **飽餐一頓** bǎo cān yī dùn  
*Eat a full hearty meal. (lit.)*  
**Gorge oneself.**  
**Eat like a horse.**  
**Grease the gills.**  
**To tuck in.**  
 [反義] 飢腸轆轤 See 1197  
*As hungry as a hunter.*
- 0083 **飽經風霜** bǎo jīng fēng shuāng  
*Fully experienced in wind and*

- frost. (lit.)*  
**Gone through thick and thin.**  
**Gone through deep waters.**  
 [同義] 曾經滄海 See 0317  
*To have sailed the seven seas.*  
 [反義] 初見世面 See 0424  
*Babes in the woods.*
- 0084 **飽慳私囊** bǎo qiān sī náng  
*Fill private pocket to the full. (lit.)*  
**Line one's pocket.**  
**Feather one's nest.**  
 [同義] 貪污腐化 See 2675  
*Have an itching palm.*
- 0085 **飽食終日，無所用心** bǎo shí zhōng rì, wú suǒ yòng xīn  
*Eating to the full all day and never use the heart. (lit.)*  
**A belly full of gluttony will never study willingly.**  
**A full belly neither fights nor flies well.**  
**Highly fed and lowly taught.**  
**Fat paunches make lean pates.**  
**He is better fed than nurtured.**  
 [同義] 行尸走肉 See 3216  
*Idle men are dead all their life long.*  
 [反義] 孜孜不倦 See 3961  
*Keep one's nose to the grind-stone.*  
 論語：「飽食終日，無所用心，難矣哉。」
- 0086 **飽以老拳** bǎo yǐ lǎo quán  
*To satisfy (him) with old fist. (lit.)*  
**Give one a good licking.**  
**Land a person one.**  
**Comb a person's head.**  
**Dust someone's jacket.**

[同義] 狠揍一頓 See 1061

*Knock the daylight out of one.*

晉書·石勒載記：『孤昔日厭卿老拳，卿亦飽孤毒手。』

0087 寶刀未老 *bǎo dāo wèi lǎo*  
*Precious sword is not yet old.*  
(lit.)

**There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.**

[同義] 老當益壯 See 1562

*There is fight in the old dog yet.*

[反義] 吾老矣，無能爲也矣

See 2945

*Old bees yield no honey.*

0088 抱殘守缺 *bào cán shǒu quē*  
*Cherish broken and worn out articles.* (lit.)

**Stick-in-the-mud.**

[反義] 改弦更張 See 0855

*Start with a clean slate.*

漢書·劉歆傳：『猶欲抱殘守缺。』

0089 抱頭鼠竄 *bào tóu shǔ cuān*  
*Hold the head and skulk away like a rat.* (lit.)

**Show a clean pair of shoes.**

漢書：『常山王奉頭鼠竄以歸漢王。』

0090 抱恙在身 *bào yàng zài shēn*

*Carry sickness of the body.* (lit.)

**To be taken ill.**

**To be laid up.**

**To be out of sorts.**

[同義] 身體違和 See 2388

*To be under the weather.*

[反義] 久病新瘥 See 1416

*To pull through.*

0091 暴虎馮河 *bào hǔ píng hé*  
*To attack a tiger without weapons, cross a river without a*

*boat.* (lit.)

**Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.**

**To go it blind.**

**Fool-hardiness.**

[同義] 有勇無謀

See 3679

*Have more guts than brains.*

論語：『暴虎馮河，死而無悔者，吾不與也。』

0092 暴跳如雷 *bào tiào rú léi*  
*Jump up like a thunderbolt.*  
(lit.)

**Fly into a passion.**

**To go berserk.**

**Hit the ceiling.**

**Get one's monkey up.**

**In a towering rage.**

**Stamp with fury.**

**Have a tantrum.**

**Blow one's top (stack).**

[同義] 怒不可遏

See 1928

*To hit the roof.*

[反義] 平心靜氣

See 1993

*Collect oneself.*

0093 杯弓蛇影 *bēi gōng shé yǐng*

*Mistake the shadow of a bow in a glass for a snake.* (lit.)

**Take every bush for a bugbear.**

[同義] 疑神疑鬼

See 3520

*Harbour suspicions.*

晉書·樂廣傳：『廣賜客酒，杯中有蛇，既而疾，廣意廳壁角弓影，復置酒，客頓愈。』

0094 杯水車薪 *bēi shuǐ chē xīn*  
*A cup of water (to put out burning) a cartload of firewood.*  
(lit.)

**A drop in the bucket.**

[同義] 僧多粥少 See 2321

*Not enough to go round.*

孟子：『猶以一杯水，救一車薪之火也。』

0095 卑躬屈節 bēi gōng qū jié

*Bow low and humiliate oneself. (lit.)*

**Bow and scrape.**

**Lick the ground.**

**Lick someone's shoes.**

[同義] 奴顏婢膝 See 1926

*Grovel at the feet of*

[反義] 昂首雲外 See 0032

*Have one's nose in the air.*

0096 悲不自勝 bēi bú zì shèng

*To grieve beyond one's control. (lit.)*

**Be overcome with grief.**

**Abandon one's self to grief.**

**A lump in the throat.**

[反義] 喜氣洋洋 See 3059

*Beam with joy.*

0097 悲歡離合 bēi huān lí hé

*Grief and joy; partings and reunions. (lit.)*

**Sadness and gladness succeed each other.**

蘇軾詞：『人有悲歡離合，月有陰晴圓缺。』

0098 悲痛欲絕 bēi tòng yù jué

*Grief to pain that one wants to die. (lit.)*

**Eat one's heart out.**

**Torn with grief.**

**Feel all mops and brooms.**

**Go to pieces.**

[同義] 心如刀割 See 3188

*Cut one to the heart.*

[反義] 欣喜若狂 See 3202

*Frantic with joy.*

0099 背城借一 bèi chéng jiè yī

*Borrow one with one's back on the wall (to fight). (lit.)*

**Fight with one's back to the wall.**

**Make a spoon or spoil a horn.**

**Fight to the last ditch.**

[同義] 破釜沉舟 See 2003

*Burn one's boats.*

左傳·成二年：『請收合餘燼，背城借一。』

0100 背道而馳 bèi dào ér chí

*To run, turning the back on. (lit.)*

**Run counter to**

**Look one way and row another.**

**To be diametrically opposed to**

[同義] 南轅北轍 See 1877

*Poles apart.*

[反義] 方向對頭 See 0753

*On the right tack.*

蘇軾詩：『仙山佛國本同歸，世跡玄關兩背馳。』

0101 背誦如流 bèi sòng rú liú

*Repeat from memory as fluently as a stream. (lit.)*

**To rattle off.**

**Know a lesson off pat.**

**To reel off.**

**Get something down cold.**

**Know by heart.**

0102 背信棄義 bèi xìn qì yì

*Unfaithful to and a breach of faith. (lit.)*

**Go back on a person.**

**To back out.**

**Play one false.**

**A breach of promise.**

**Go back on.**

- [反義] 忠心耿耿 See 3910  
*As true as the dial to the sun.*
- 0103 悖入悖出 *bèi rù bèi chū*  
*Wrongly in and wrongly out. (lit.)*  
 Ill got, ill spent.  
*What is gotten over the devil's back is spent under his belly.*  
 大學：「言悖而出者，亦悖而入，貨悖而入者，亦悖而出。」
- 0104 備受奚落 *bèi shòu xī luò*  
*Suffer much from jeers and sneers. (lit.)*  
 Get the cold shoulder.  
 To get the goose.  
 To be sneezed at  
 To be looked down upon.
- 0105 本地薑不辣 *bèn dì jiāng bǔ là*  
*Local ginger is not hot. (lit.)*  
 A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country and his own home.  
 Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence (hill).  
 [反義] 月是故鄉明 See 3744  
*Dry bread at home is better than roast meat abroad.*
- 0106 本來無一物，何處惹塵埃  
*bèn lái wú yí wù, hé chù yě chén āi*  
*Originally there wasn't a thing, where came the dust? (lit.)*  
 Out of nothing comes nothing.  
 六祖佛偈詩：「菩提本無樹，明鏡亦非臺，本來無一物，何處惹塵埃。」
- 0107 本末倒置 *běn mò dào zhì*  
*The first and last turn around. (lit.)*

- Put the cart before the horse.**  
**Turn topsy-turvy.**  
 [同義] 冠履倒置  
*Turn things upside down*  
 [反義] 撥亂反正 See 0167  
*Put things back to order.*  
 大學：「物有本末，事有終始。」
- 0108 笨頭笨腦 *bèn tóu bèn nǎo*  
*Stupid head, stupid brain. (lit.)*  
 Dead from the neck up.  
 Mickle head, little wit.  
 A block-head.  
 [同義] 獸頭獸腦 (呆頭呆腦)  
 See 0570  
*To be muddle-headed.*  
 [反義] 聰明伶俐 See 0459  
*Have a good head on one's shoulders.*
- 0109 蹦蹦跳跳 *bèng bèng tiào tiào*  
*Hopping and Jumping. (lit.)*  
 Jump like parched peas.  
 As playful as a kitten.  
 [同義] 生龍活虎 See 2415  
*Alive and kicking.*  
 [反義] 呆若木鷄 See 0569  
*To be rooted to the spot.*
- 0110 逼供信 *bī gōng xìn*  
*Compel one to give the truth. (lit.)*  
 Give one the third degree.  
 Grill a person.  
 Extort confession.
- 0111 逼近眉睫 *bī jìn méi jié*  
*Forcing near eyebrow and lashes. (lit.)*  
 Hang over one's head.  
 [同義] 危在旦夕 See 2876  
*Sword of Damocles*



0112 鼻子朝天 bī zi cháo tiān  
*Nose up towards sky. (lit.)*

**Cock up the nose.**

**Have one's nose in the air.**

[同義] 目空一切 See 1871

*Turn a blind eye to*

[反義] 五體投地 See 3014

*Fall on one's knees.*

0113 比比皆是 bǐ bǐ jiē shì

*Here and there all is the same. (lit.)*

**Right and left.**

**Here and there and everywhere.**

[同義] 滿坑滿谷 See 1746

*As thick as blackberries.*

[反義] 寥若晨星 See 1641

*Few and far between.*

明·陶宗儀·輟耕錄：『朝爲師生而暮若途人者，比比皆是。』

0114 彼此對立 bǐ cǐ duì lì

*Facing each other. (lit.)*

**To be at odds.**

[同義] 冰炭不相容 See 0155

*At loggerheads with one another.*

[反義] 水乳交融 See 2593

*To be hand and glove with another.*

0115 彼此交惡 bǐ cǐ jiāo è

*Exchange ill-feeling toward each other. (lit.)*

**There is no love lost between them.**

[反義] 互忍互讓 See 1095

*Live and let live.*

0116 筆走龍蛇 bǐ zǒu lóng shé

*Pen runs like snake and dragon. (lit.)*

**Write a fair hand.**

**To write with a flourish.**

[同義] 龍飛鳳舞

See 1691

*Write a good fist.*

溫庭筠詩：『落筆龍蛇滿壞牆。』

0117 必恭必敬 bī gōng bì jìng

*Certainly one will stoop and respect. (lit.)*

**Cap in hand.**

[同義] 維恭維謹

See 2898

*Bow and scrape.*

論語：『有子曰恭近於禮，遠恥辱也。』

0118 敝帚自珍 bī zhǒu zì zhēn

*Value even one's worn-out broom. (lit.)*

**All his geese are swans.**

**There's nothing like leather.**

**The crow thinks her bird fairest.**

**The smoke of a man's own house is better than the fire of another's.**

魏文帝典論：『里語曰，家有敝帚，享之千金。』

0119 閉口不言 bì kǒu bù yán

*Shut the mouth saying nothing. (lit.)*

**Zip one's lip.**

**Hold one's peace.**

**Not to breathe a syllable.**

**Keep mum.**

**Bottom up one's lip.**

[同義] 默不作聲 See 1857

*As mute as a fish.*

[反義] 信口開河 See 3207

*Shoot off one's mouth.*

0120 閉門謝客 bì mén xiè kè

*Close the door and refuse receiving guests. (lit.)*

**Not at home.**

**Sport one's oak.**