

# 轻松学常用语



张呈富 王士均 / 编  
Compiled by Zhang Chengfu and  
Wang Shijun  
〔英〕保罗·怀特 / 译  
Translated by Paul White

## EASY WAY TO LEARN CHINESE EVERYDAY EXPRESSIONS



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**Easy Way to Learn Chinese**  
**Everyday Expressions**

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## 前 言

常用语顾名思义就是日常生活中极为常用的词语。掌握一些常用语,不论是对讲汉语的中国人还是学习汉语的外国人都是很有必要的。

常用语与成语、典故的区别在于:成语和典故多产生于古代的典籍和事件,常用语更多的则是来自民间。民间的语言往往生活气息浓厚,表现力很强。常用语就是这样,形象生动,言简意赅,在人们的日常交往中有着不可替代的作用。可以这样说,讲汉语,就离不开常用语;常用语使用得当,人们的语言表达就会丰富得多,与他人的交往也就有效得多。

当然,学习常用语的方法很多。可以通过老师的讲授学习,也可以通过阅读文学作品学习,更可以在与别人的交往中学习。这些方法和途径都是很有效的,但是也有一定的局限性。老师讲解常常侧重于语意的解释。阅读文学作品可以了解一个常用语出现的语境。利用日常交往学习,可以使一个常用语的使用环境更加明晰、准确。然而,了解这些只是“知其然,不知其所以然”,只有了解了常用语的来源和演变过程,才可能将一个常用语掌握到家,运用得恰到好处。

本书的编写正好是从来源和演变过程入手的。本书编者对民间语言多有研究,所选的常用语也是独具匠心。收入本书的这些常用语不仅真正常用,而且条条都有美丽生动的传说。这些传说不仅有利于读者了解所收常用语的来源,对于读者了解中国民间语言和传说特点也很有裨益。本书秉承轻松学习系列的特点,英译文由精通汉语的英国友人提供,英语地道、纯正而又流畅。文中的难懂、难读的字词都有注解、注音。书中的插图为本书增色不少,读者读起来将倍感轻松愉快。

## FOREWORD

Everyday expressions are, as the term implies, habits of speech in extremely common use in everyday life. A grasp of certain everyday expressions is naturally necessary for Chinese people to express themselves in their own language, but it is also important for foreigners who are studying the Chinese language.

The difference between everyday expressions and proverbs and allusions is that the latter two derive from ancient classical works and incidents, whereas everyday expressions spring from among the common people. The language of the common people often has a strong and earthy flavor, and a robust power of expression. With their vivid imagery and pithy phrasing, such everyday expressions are indispensable for everyday social exchanges. It can be said that when speaking Chinese one cannot do without them, and that an appropriate application of everyday expressions enriches one's power of verbal expression and makes communication with others more effective.

There are, of course, many ways to learn everyday expressions – in the classroom, through reading literary works and through everyday personal contact. All these methods are feasible, but they have their limitations: The teacher's explanations may tend to emphasize the semantics involved; reading literary works can provide the context to expressions, and using everyday expressions in personal communication can illuminate and put into focus the environment in which they are or should be used. However, these approaches can only show the student the “how but not why” of everyday expressions. A mastery of such ingredients of conversational speech and facility in their use can only be attained through a knowledge of their origins and course of evolution.

The starting point of the method of compilation of this book is precisely the origins and course of evolution of the everyday expressions — a comprehensive selection — contained in it. The author is well — versed in folk expressions, and the choice of everyday expressions has been ingenious in its originality in that they are not only genuinely colloquial but also each has a charming and lively tradition. Discovering these traditions, the reader will understand the origin of the expressions and be helped to get a better understanding of the speech of ordinary people and aspects of Chinese tradition.

This book follows the mode of the series *Easy Way to Learn Chinese*. The text has been rendered into idiomatic and fluent English by an Englishman well acquainted with the Chinese language, and explanations have been appended of obscure sections. In addition, unorthodox readings of certain characters have been rendered in pinyin notation. We hope that the illustrations accompanying the passages add to the book's attractiveness, and increase the reader's pleasure in "relaxed learning."

# 目 录

## CONTENTS

上当 .....	1
----------	---

Shangdang

见鬼 .....	5
----------	---

Jiangui

东西 .....	11
----------	----

Dongxi

对象 .....	17
----------	----

Duixiang

伙计 .....	21
----------	----

Huojì

朋友 .....	25
----------	----

Pengyou

借光 .....	29
----------	----

Jieguang

混账 .....	32
----------	----

Hunzhang



揩油 .....	36
Kai You	
二百五 .....	42
Erbaiwu	
出洋相 .....	47
Chu Yangxiang	
生意经 .....	52
Shengyi Jing	
团团转 .....	58
Tuantuan Zhuan	
走后门 .....	61
Zou Houmen	
乱弹琴 .....	65
Luantanqin	
和为贵 .....	71
He Wei Gui	
拖油瓶 .....	77
Tuo Youping	
咬耳朵 .....	81
Yao Erduo	

破天荒 .....	87
Po Tianhuang	
一毛不拔 .....	90
Yi Mao Bu Ba	
三邀四请 .....	96
San Yao Si Qing	
莫名其妙 .....	102
Mo Ming Qi Miao	
白字先生 .....	105
Baizi Xiansheng	
岂有此理 .....	109
Qi You Ci Li	
抓小辫子 .....	117
Zhua Xiao Bianzi	
劳而无功 .....	121
Lao Er Wu Gong	
狗肉朋友 .....	127
Gourou Pengyou	
胡说八道 .....	133
Hu Shuo Ba Dao	

梁上君子 .....	136
Liang Shang Junzi	
救命稻草 .....	140
Jiu Ming Daocao	
做贼心虚 .....	146
Zuo Zei Xin Xu	
儿不嫌母丑 .....	149
Er Bu Xian Mu Chou	
不打不相识 .....	153
Bu Da Bu Xiangshi	
天高皇帝远 .....	157
Tian Gao Huangdi Yuan	
好心得好报 .....	162
Hao Xin De Hao Bao	
龙多不治水 .....	168
Long Duo Bu Zhi Shui	
同行是冤家 .....	174
Tonghang Shi Yuanjia	
两好合一好 .....	180
Liang Hao He Yi Hao	

知足者常乐 .....	186
Zhi Zu Zhe Chang Le	
狗眼看人低 .....	191
Gou Yan Kan Ren Di	
眼不见为净 .....	197
Yan Bu Jian Wei Jing	
墙倒众人推 .....	203
Qiang Dao Zhong Ren Tui	
牛头不对马嘴 .....	209
Niu Tou Bu Dui Ma Zui	
死马当活马医 .....	214
Si Ma Dang Huo Ma Yi	
吃不了兜着走 .....	218
Chi Bu Liao Dou Zhe Zou	
有眼不识泰山 .....	223
You Yan Bu Shi Tai Shan	
县官不如现管 .....	228
Xianguan Buru Xian Guan	
此地无银三百两 .....	234
Ci Di Wu Yin San Bai Liang	

无事不登三宝殿 .....	239
Wu Shi Bu Deng San Bao Dian	
有钱能使鬼推磨 .....	245
You Qian Neng Shi Gui Tui Mo	
身在福中不知福 .....	254
Shen Zai Fu Zhong Bu Zhi Fu	
冤家宜解不宜结 .....	259
Yuanjia Yi Jie Bu Yi Jie	
宰相肚里能撑船 .....	264
Zaixiang Duli Neng Cheng Chuan	
偷鸡不成蚀把米 .....	270
Tou Ji Bu Cheng Shi Ba Mi	
平时不烧香,急来抱佛脚 .....	276
Pingshi Bu Shao Xiang, Ji Lai Bao Fo Jiao	
听君一席话,胜读十年书 .....	281
Ting Jun Yi Xi Hua, Sheng Du Shi Nian Shu	
若要人不知,除非己莫为 .....	287
Ruo Yao Ren Bu Zhi, Chu Fei Ji Mo Wei	



# 上 当

shàng dàng

很早以前，有一家姓王的大户，在城里开了一个当铺。由于经营有方，当铺越开越大，资产也越来越雄厚，家里的每个人都有一份。可是，这些人懒于亲自照料自己那份产业，而是联手请了一个人替他们经营。他们则到时候分利，过着一不操心、二不费力的生活，优哉游哉。

到了清朝的光绪年间(1875-1909)，主持当铺生意的是一个叫寿芑<sup>①</sup>的人。此人并不是个生意人，对生意并不上心。相反，他很爱读书，曾经校刻过一些书籍。见此情景，王家的人都打起了小算盘，想从当铺捞点油水。于是，有的人就把家里没用的物品拿出来，到自家的当铺去典当。当然了，价格是自己说，不管多高，伙计都得给，一分也不能少。你来敲一下，我来诈一回，没过几个月，当铺的资金就所剩无几了。没有办法，寿芑只好找别的商号借贷。可是，没有资金，借来的钱怎么还呢？就这样，资金充盈的当铺没出一年就倒闭了。

周围的人见此情景，就编了一句顺口溜<sup>②</sup>，讽刺王家的人挖自家墙角的行为：“清河<sup>③</sup>王，自上当。”过去，人们把物品抵押在当铺叫上当。由于王家的人诈骗了自家的当铺，

① 芑：读作 zhù。

② 顺口溜：民间流行的一种口头韵文，多用口语，念起来很顺口。

③ 清河：地名。

使其破了产,人们后来就把受骗、吃亏叫“上当”。

※ ※ ※

## Shangdang

Many years ago, a certain rich family surnamed Wang opened a pawnshop in a city. Wise management ensured the steady growth of the shop's business. Its capital, in which each member of the family had a stake, increased by leaps and bounds, and eventually the members of the family grew tired of looking after the business, and hired a manager to do it for them. Thenceforth, they were freed from care and exertion, and spent their days in pursuit of leisure.

During the Guang Xu reign period (1875-1909) of the Qing Dynasty, there was a manager of the pawnshop named Shou Zhu. This man had no inclination for business; he was more interested in books, and had once been an editor. The Wangs, calculating how to make their pawnbroking business profitable once more, brought the items which they did not use at home and pawned them at their own pawnshop. Of course, they set their own prices, and the counter clerk had to give them whatever they asked — not a cent less. Within only a few months, there was very little capital left in the business, as the Wangs had cheated themselves. Shou Zhu had no choice but to borrow money from other establishments. But with no replacement of capital, how



could the loans be repaid? In less than a year, this once-thriving pawnshop closed down.

Seeing this, the local people coined a phrase, satirizing the Wang family for cutting the ground from under their own feet: “Wang from Qinghe going to his own pawnshop.” In those days, pawning articles was called “shangdang” (“going into hock”). As the Wangs’ pawnbroking business had gone bankrupt as a consequence of their own self-deceit, this expression became a synonym for being cheated and suffering loss.