

轻松学俗语

英汉对照

EASY WAY TO LEARN CHINESE SLANG

NEW WORLD PRESS



轻松学俗语
Easy Way to Learn Chinese
Slang

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前 言

俗语，是中国民间文化艺术宝库中的一颗明珠。它通俗简炼，形象生动，既说明某种事理，又具有很强的艺术表现力。它主要来源于口语，是人民群众智慧和想象力的结晶。俗语，顾名思义，往往是一个民族社会习俗的反映，与其历史背景和文化因素密切相关。很多俗语的产生、发展及演变，都伴随着一个美丽的故事或传说。这些俗语连同它们的故事长久地在民间流传下来，活跃在人们的日常用语中，成了汉语语汇中不可缺少的重要组成部分。

本书编者精选了现代汉语中常用的 60 多条俗语，中英文相对照，以故事的形式，详尽地说明了它们的来历、涵义和用法。一些故事还配有生动形象的插图，以帮助读者理解和记忆。为方便外国读者阅读和理解，编者对俗语词条中的汉字加注了拼音，并对故事中涉及到的历史、文化名词给出了简明的注释。

对于那些正在学习汉语，或是对中国文化感兴趣的外国人来说，本书就象一幅中国民俗画的长卷，向他们展示着中国民间的文化和习俗，令他们在轻松的欣赏之余，领略中国文化的魅力，同时丰富其汉语语汇，提高其中文的语言表达能力。因而，本书可以作为外国人学习汉语的趣味性读物。

另外，本书的英文部分出自有经验的翻译之手，并经外国专家润色，准确、流畅、生动、优美。因此，本书也可作为中国人学习英语的辅助读物，能使读者在掌握一些俗语的英译法的同时，学到纯正、地道的英文，从而提高英语的口语和书面表达能力，以便更加自如地与外国朋友进行交流。

FOREWORD

Chinese slang sayings are gems in the treasure house of Chinese folk culture. They have come from the Chinese folk and have been playing an active role in people's daily lives. Being closely related to the historical and cultural background of China, they vividly reflect the customs of Chinese society. Most of them have been derived from a beautiful and intriguing tale and have spread far and wide with the tale itself.

This book includes about 60 different slang sayings, which are commonly used in modern Chinese language. With the story following each of the slang sayings and the illustrations accompanying some of them, the reader can gain a distinct idea about every slang saying and get to know how to use them in the correct way. To enhance comprehension of the readers whose mother tongue is not Chinese, the compilers have marked each Chinese character with *pinyin* and offered concise notes on the historical and cultural terms involved in the stories.

In addition to displaying a panorama of Chinese folk culture and social customs, this book also provides the foreign readers with a chance to get acquainted with the *living* Chinese language. By reading this book and trying to employ the slang sayings in everyday conversation, the foreign readers will find their Chinese friends amazed and impressed, and thus become more confident in the study of the Chinese language.

Furthermore, the English translation of this book has been proof-read by Melinda Arnott, an Australian expert who is proficient in Chinese language, and thus it presents fluent and elegant English to readers. Therefore, it can help Chinese readers to improve their spoken and written English, enabling them to communicate with foreign friends more freely.

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吃 醋

chī

cù

EATING VINEGAR



魏征是唐朝的开国元勋，因他劳苦功高，贞观年间（627-649）唐太宗封他为左光禄大夫、郑国公。他虽官居极品，可不像那些得志的小人，一旦荣华富贵，不是休妻另娶，就是讨三房四妾，他还是和妻子恩爱如初。

唐太宗知道此事后，一天早朝后把魏征单独留下，要赐他几名美女为妾。魏征百般推辞，唐太宗就是不依。两人正相持不下，突然听见有人高叫：“陛下，魏大哥不要，你就将美女赐与我吧！”唐太宗一见是程咬金，不由大怒，喝令他退下。程咬金越想越气，他匆匆赶到郑公府，将此事向魏夫人说了一遍。

魏夫人一怒之下，穿戴上凤冠霞帔，随程咬金闯上金殿，质问唐太宗为何拆散他们恩爱夫妻，并说：“陛下硬要郑公纳妾，臣妾不如死了好。”唐太宗说：“好，我成全你。”随即命内侍到后宫取他亲手配的毒酒。

程咬金见此，怕太宗真地毒死魏夫人，偷偷溜了出来。不一会儿，内侍端着一壶毒酒来到，正和程咬金撞了个满怀，把壶摔得粉碎。程咬金忙递过另一个酒壶，让他呈上去。魏夫人将一壶毒酒一饮而尽。

魏夫人只想着马上就要死了，谁料过了好半天，毒性也没发作，只觉得口中酸溜溜的不是味。程咬金大笑着说：“大嫂如此能吃醋，真是个醋缸。”

太宗大惊，忙问内侍，才知酒壶被程咬金换过了，不由微微一笑说：“只可惜了我那壶百花露。”

原来唐太宗并不是真想毒死魏夫人，只想和她开个玩笑，让内侍取来的是百花露，而程咬金信以为真，用一壶醋换下了百花露。

这就是“吃醋”的来历。本来，魏夫人吃醋是为了捍卫真挚的爱情，可是后来，“吃醋”的词义发生了变化，人们用它来形容恋爱中的男女的嫉妒心理。

During the Zhenguan Period of the Tang Dynasty (627-649), Wei Zheng was conferred by Emperor Tai Zong the titles of the Left Grand Councilor and Duke of the State of Zheng because of his dedication and valuable service in founding the Tang Dynasty. Indeed Wei Zheng was a man of great integrity and did not seek corrupt pleasure as many officials did. Wei Zheng refused to take any concubines or forsake his first wife, on the contrary, he remained faithful to his beloved wife. He also rejected the life of privilege, wealth and luxury, which many lesser men had greedily embraced after their rise in feudal hierarchy.

Emperor Tai Zong decided to test Wei Zheng's fidelity. One day, after attending court, he invited Wei Zheng to stay behind and offered him some beautiful maidens to be his concubines. Wei Zheng immediately declined the offer. The emperor pressed his offer but Wei Zheng stuck to his position. During their conversation a third voice was heard: "Please Your Majesty, will you give me the concubines, since elder brother Wei does not want them?" pleaded Cheng Yaojin, a boisterous general in the founding period. The Emperor was enraged by this insolence, and he curtly instructed Cheng to leave the court and to mind his own business.

Cheng was infuriated and rushed to the residence of the Duke of Zheng to tell Madam Wei Zheng of the imperial offer to her husband. Madam Wei Zheng put on her court dress and went to see the Emperor with Cheng Yaojin. She demanded the Emperor offer her a reason as to why he should want to break up her happy and loving marriage. Madam Wei declared that if the emperor forced Duke of Zheng to adopt concubines she would rather die. The Emperor responded with: "Very well then, you shall have your way" and he then asked his eunuch to bring in a bottle of poisonous wine which he had mixed himself for Madam Wei to drink. Cheng Yaojin feared that the Emperor would

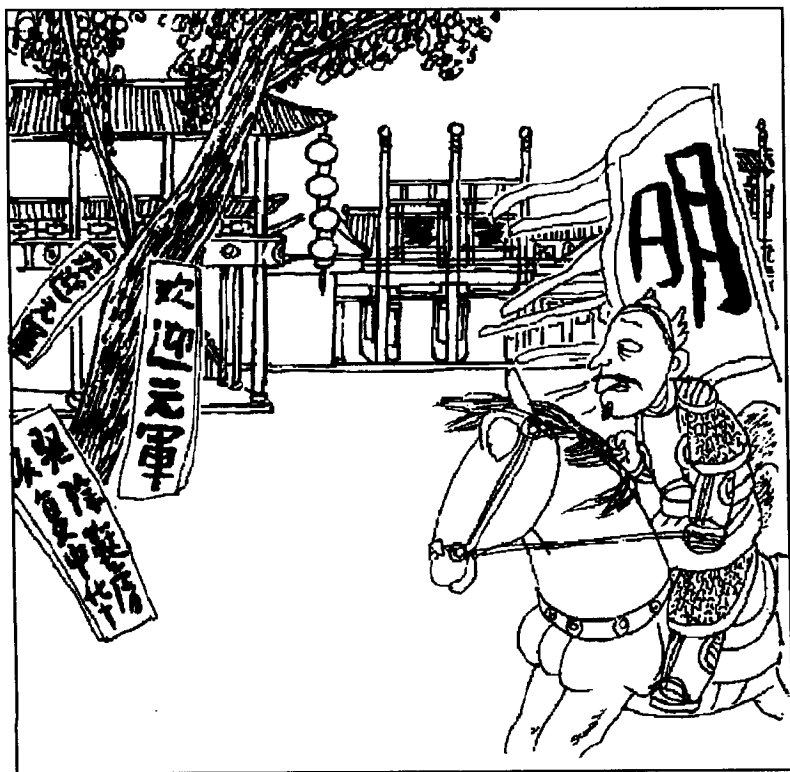
really poison her. He tried to divert Madam Wei's fate and purposefully bumped into the eunuch carrying the bottle of poisoned wine which broke into pieces. Cheng then replaced the broken bottle with a bottle of vinegar. The eunuch handed it to Madam Wei and she drank it in one gulp. She then waited to die but nothing happened, except for the strong acidic taste in her mouth. Cheng Yaojin then remarked that it was remarkable Madam Wei could drink so much vinegar. The Emperor was as confused as Madam Wei and asked the eunuch to explain what was going on. The Emperor smiled at the antics but remarked that it was a shame to have wasted the "poisonous" hundred flower juice he had personally prepared. Actually the Emperor did not really intend to poison Madam Wei, he was merely amused to see how far her love would go.

Cheng Yaojin's credulousness and replacement of the hundred flower juice with vinegar has become a story with meaning for many jealous lovers. Madam Wei's faithful love was so strong that she would even drink poison to defend it. But over the generations it has become a vulgar slang which means being jealous of a rival in love.

两 面 派

liǎng miàn pài

A TWO - FACED CHARACTER



元朝末年，元军和朱元璋（明朝的开国皇帝）领导的义军在黄河北面，展开了拉锯战。这可苦了这一带的老百姓，元军来了要欢迎，义军来了也要欢迎。贴在门上的红红绿绿的欢迎标语，来得勤，换得也快。

河南北部的怀庆府人生活节俭，舍不得花钱买纸写欢迎标语。他们想出了一个好办法，用一块薄薄的木板，一面写着“欢迎元军保境安民”，另一面却写“驱除鞑虏，恢复中华”。哪方面来了，就翻出欢迎哪方面的标语，既省钱，又方便。

有一次，常遇春率领义军打跑了元军，进驻怀庆府。一进城见家家门口五颜六色的木牌上，全是欢迎义军的标语，他很高兴。突然一阵狂风刮来，木牌被吹翻过来，常遇春一看木牌反面全是欢迎元军的标语，非常生气，下令凡门口挂两面牌的满门抄斩。

常遇春下令假装撤退，在大街上扔下元宝，一会儿再回来，元宝没有了，见人就杀。再扔元宝再撤退，有人拾走元宝，再抓去杀。就这样直杀得没人再敢拾元宝为止。这样怀庆府还能剩多少人呢？这就是明初由山西洪洞县往这里移民的一大原因。

现在我们说的“两面派”就是从怀庆府挂“两面牌”演变而来的。人们用它形容对斗争双方都敷衍的人。

In the line of dynasties the Ming succeeds the Yuan. At the end of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), there was much fighting. The Yuan troops had waged a seesaw battle in the region north of the Yellow River against the forces of Zhu Yuanzhang, who later became the Emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It was a confusing time for the people of this region as they were expected to greet whichever army that occupied their township. Every time the occupying army entered they had to put up banners with welcoming slogans. In this period of uncertainty, the banners were used all too frequently.

The people in Huaqing Prefecture in northern Henan Province led a frugal life and hated to write a welcome banner every time a new army entered. So they thought of a way to economize. Instead of using paper, they used a wooden board which they could recycle. On one side of the board, they wrote, "We welcome the Yuan army to protect the region and bring peace to the people." On the other side, they wrote, "Drive out the Tartars and restore the middle kingdom!" It could be turned over and back again at appropriate times. This was an economic and convenient way for the people to fulfill their patriotic duties.

Soon after, the insurrectionary army under the command of General Chang Yuchun defeated the Yuan court troops. The General and his soldiers entered the seat of Huaqing Prefecture and were greeted with the colorful wooden boards to welcome them. Suddenly, there was a gust wind and the wooden boards were flipped over. The General saw the words welcoming the Yuan court troops written on the other side of the board. He was enraged and ordered punishment for the families that had written the words on both sides of the board.

Chang Yuchun then feigned that he was withdrawing from the town. He tricked the people by leaving shoe-shaped silver ingots on the streets. Those who took the ingots were then ac-