

第一章 动物·植物·自然

Animals, Plants and Nature

A barking dog never bites .

【直译】会吠叫的狗不咬人。

【参考译文】吠犬不咬人。/ 咬人的狗不露齿。/ 真凶不露相。

【重点提示】bark(at sb / sth.) (指狗等)吠叫; bite (into sth.) 咬(某物/某人)。此谚语告诉我们咆哮凶煞的人往往并不可怕;不要被高声恫吓虚张声势的人所吓倒。类似谚语: Barking dogs seldom bite / Great barkers are no biters. / Barking dogs do not bite. (译文同上)

【示例】A canvassing candidate came to a house where there was an Alsatian who barked ferociously. His agent said: 'Just go in. Don't you know the proverb "A barking dog never bites"?' 'Yes,' said the candidate, 'I know the proverb, you know the proverb, but does the dog know the proverb?' (1980 Daily Telegraph 1 May 18)

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush .

【直译】手中一只鸟抵得上林中两只鸟。

【参考译文】双鸟在林不如一鸟在手。/ 手中一只鸟胜过林中两只鸟。/ 十赍不如一现。

【重点提示】worth, adj. 有价值的; bush, n. 灌木。该谚语常用于劝人做事情要注重实效, 不要寄希望于幻念, 以免所求不就反失所得或失去本来有把握得到的东西。

【示例】He had one quite reasonable offer for his used car, but turned it down. Then he could find no taker at all. He learned with a vengeance that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

A cat has nine lives .

【直译】猫有九命。

【参考译文】猫有九条命, 竹有千重根。

【重点提示】1. 在英国，由于猫的生命力特别强，很难被弄死。人们把猫从高处扔下来，它能平稳地四脚落地，不受损伤，而且，猫具有机敏、灵活等天性，很难置之于死地。因此，人们用该谚语比喻富有生命力的人，或形容人幸运地死里逃生。2. 莎士比亚在他的名剧《罗密欧与朱丽叶》第 3 幕第 1 场中用过这条谚语：“Tyb: What wouldst thou have with me? Mer: Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives.”

【示例】God knows how he is still alive. He must have nine lives like a cat.

A cornered cat becomes as fierce as a lion.

【直译】被逼得走投无路的猫，会像狮子一样凶猛。

【参考译文】狗急了跳墙，兔子急了咬人。

【重点提示】在英语中 corner 除了可用作名词外，还可用作动词，意思是“使某人或某动物走投无路”。在本谚语中 cornered 用作形容词，意为“被逼至绝路的”。fierce 的意思是“凶猛的，凶狠的”。该谚语旨在告诫人们：任何看起来弱小的人或动物在被逼得走投无路的时候所爆发出来的能量是巨大的。

【示例】Don't force John to do anything again. He has lost all his money and a cornered cat becomes as fierce as a lion.

A great tree attracts the wind.

【直译】大树能够引来风。

【参考译文】树大招风，业大招贼。/ 人怕出名猪怕壮。

【重点提示】attract 的意思是“吸引”。高大的树冠随风摇摆，使人们很容易感受到风的大小。人们往往用该谚语来告诫一些在任何方面都好出风头的人要注意自己的言行，以免遭到攻击。

【示例】No one wants to show their wealth to the public for fear that a great tree attracts the wind.

A little bait catches a large fish.

【直译】少许诱饵就能钓到一条大鱼。

【参考译文】本小利大。/ 一棵梧桐树，引来凤满枝。

【重点提示】英语中 a little 修饰不可数名词，意为“少许，一点儿”。bait 意为“诱饵，诱惑物”。该谚语常用于指投入少量资本便能赚到大钱或投入少量精力便能取得大的成功。

【示例】Don't worry about it and we can try our best to catch a large fish with

a little bait.

A little spark may kindle a great fire .

【直译】一点儿火星可能引起大火。

【参考译文】星星之火可能酿成大火。/ 千里之堤，溃于蚁穴。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *spark* 意为“火花，火星”，*kindle* 意为“点燃，引起”。该谚语可以用来指一件小事或一些轻微的不良行为、习惯等有可能酿成大祸，告诫人们要防微杜渐。

【示例】*We'd better get rid of some bad habits for a little spark may kindle a great fire.*

A mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken .

【直译】仅有一个洞的老鼠会很快被抓住。

【参考译文】狡兔三窟。/ 老鼠一个窝，猫儿笑呵呵。

【重点提示】本谚语中的 *but* 是一个副词，作“only(仅仅)”讲。此谚语旨在告诫人们：不能太依靠一种手段，必须有其他手段作后备；只有一个洞穴的老鼠必然会被人捉住。类似谚语：The mouse that has but one hole is

quickly taken . / The rat which has only one hole is soon caught . / The mouse does not trust to one hole only . / It's a poor mouse that has only one hole . (译文同上)

【示例】*Just as a mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken , we must have several tactics in order to win the game.*

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse .

【直译】点头和眨眼对瞎马都一样。

【参考译文】对牛弹琴牛不懂，心有灵犀一点通。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *nod* (点头) 和 *wink* (眨眼) 均为名词。此谚语意在告诉我们：有些事对于聪明人只需稍微暗示即可传达意思；对于愚笨的人再暗示也毫无用处。类似谚语：A nod is as good as a wink (to a blind bat / beggar / man) (对瞎蝙蝠/瞎乞丐/盲人) 点头和眨眼都一样。 / A nod is as good as wink (to a blind horse) . (对瞎马) 点头相当于眨眼。 / 点头等于眨眼。 / 大暗示和小暗示一样。 / 点头相当于眨眼。

【示例】*You needn't say no more — a nod's as good as a wink to a blind horse.*

A plant may produce new flowers ; man is young but once.

【直译】一株植物可能开出新的花朵，一个人的年轻却只有一次。

【参考译文】花有重开日 人无再少年。/ 人活一世 草木一春。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在劝告青少年不要虚度年华，要珍惜青春大好时光，努力学习，勤奋工作。同义谚语：Gather ye rosebuds while ye may. 花开堪折直须折，莫待无花空折枝。

【示 例】All the young people in our company study and work hard . They are quite aware that a plant may produce new flowers ; man is young but once .

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet .

【直译】玫瑰即使换了其他任何名字，也是芬芳。

【参考译文】有麝自然香。/ 玫瑰即使被称做其他名字也芬芳依旧。/ 花名可变，芬芳依旧。

【重点提示】本谚语出自莎士比亚 (William Shakespeare) 的名著《罗密欧与朱丽叶》的第 2 幕第 2 场。罗密欧与朱丽叶相恋，却因彼此的家族对立，不能通婚。朱丽叶在感叹两人生在敌对的家族时说：你的名字是我的敌人，可是名字又能代表什么？玫瑰被称做其他名字芬芳依旧。该谚语告诉人们名称无关紧要，它不影响人或物的内在品质；重要的是人或事物的本质，而不是他（它）们的名称。该谚语现在常用作挖苦讽刺语。

【示 例】The name is of little importance , it does not affect the inherent qualities of a person or a thing . A rose by any other name would smell as sweet .

A rose is a rose is a rose .

【直译】玫瑰就是玫瑰就是玫瑰。

【参考译文】玫瑰再芬芳，不过花一枝。

【重点提示】该谚语源自美国作家格特鲁特·斯泰因 (G. Stein, 1874 - 1946) 所写的 Sacred Emily 一诗中：Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose. 该谚语的句式可被即兴套用（如示例）。该谚语旨在告诉人们对生活中很吸引人的或看起来很重要的东西不必过分在意，积极追求的过程中对于结果应该采取一种顺其自然的态度。本谚语主要用于劝解人或进行自我宽慰。

【示 例】But Hungary did not win the World Cup , and their place in the history of the game must be rather like that of a very great athlete who has failed to win an Olympic medal . As Gertrude Stein once said . a cup is a cup is a cup .

A single flower does not make a spring .

【直译】一枝花开放不能称其为春天。

【参考译文】一花独放不是春，百花齐放春满园。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在说明仅靠一样事物或一事情构不成色彩缤纷的热闹场面或轰轰烈烈的壮观局面。同义谚语：One swallow does not make a summer. 一只燕子成不了夏天。

【示例】I have told you that there are various heated arguments. A single flower does not make a spring.

After a storm comes a calm.

【直译】暴风雨之后，接着就是宁静。

【参考译文】否极泰来，雨过天晴。

【重点提示】该谚语往往用于指激烈争吵、剧烈冲突平息之后或大的祸患过去之后的宁静、和平甚至幸福的境界。类似谚语：After a storm a calm. (译文同上) 同义谚语：After rain comes sunshine. 雨过天晴。

【示例】After a storm came a calm. They made up quickly after quarrelling with each other seriously.

After rain comes sunshine.

【直译】雨过天晴。

【参考译文】苦尽甘来。/ 雨过天晴，否极泰来。

【重点提示】该谚语常用于说明不幸过去之后就是幸福的时光。类似谚语：After rain comes fair weather / clear shining. (译文同上) 同义谚语：After a storm comes a calm. 暴风雨过后，风平浪静。

【示例】After rain comes sunshine. Mrs. Smith is now living a happy life with her husband after ten years' separation.

All rivers run into sea.

【直译】所有的河流都流向大海。

【参考译文】海纳百川。

【重点提示】该谚语借用大海的博大来暗喻一个有着宽广胸怀的人才能够广结朋友、吸取不同的意见、得到最多的支持，鼓励人们用博大的胸怀来对待人世间的一切。

【示例】Just as all rivers run into sea, he is such an enlightened manager that many excellent people have entered his company and work hard for him.

Any port in a storm.

【直译】在暴风雨中任何可以躲避的地方都是避风港。

【参考译文】船遇风暴求陆地，人溺水中抓稻草。

【重点提示】该谚语用了省略的形式 完整的句子应是 *Any place in a storm is a port* 该谚语意在说明：在危难的时刻可以用来躲避的地方是很难找到的，所以任何可以躲避的地方都是很珍贵的，都是安全的港湾。

【示 例】*I had to live in a small village during the war , any port in a storm*

Beard the lion in his den .

【直译】入狮穴捋狮须。

【参考译文】老虎嘴里拔牙，太岁头上动土。/老虎屁股摸不得。

【重点提示】beard 的意思为“胡须”，但在本谚语中它用作动词，意为“公然反对（某人/某事物）勇敢地对抗”。den 的意思为“兽穴，洞穴”。该谚语源出《圣经·撒母耳记上》第 17 章第 34 至 35 节：“There came a lion ... I caught him by his beard , and smote him , and slew him .” 苏格兰诗人司各特在他的长诗《玛密恩》（发表于 1808 年）中引用此语时给加上“in his den”：“And dar’st thou / Beard the lion in his den ... ?” 该谚语用于形容对待威胁性大的敌手或有威惧性的上司等的态度或举动时，与汉语中的“敢捋虎须”、“敢在太岁头上动土”等俗语的意思基本对等。但是，该谚语的使用场合并不局限于此，它还可用于表示对某人怀有畏惧或敬畏心理而又鼓足勇气去对付他或与之打交道这类情况。因此，译成汉语时宜根据所述双方的具体关系处理好用词和语气。

【示 例】*I have always found it difficult to talk to my boss but tomorrow I will have to beard the lion in his den when I go to ask for a better job .*

Beat the dog before the lion .

【直译】在狮子面前打狗。

【参考译文】杀鸡给猴看。/杀一儆百。

【重点提示】该谚语的寓意是：当人们不便或不敢对某些大事、大人物或权威人士直接处置的时候，往往先拿一小事或小人物开刀，以示警告或威胁，从而达到预期的目的。

【示 例】“*Our boss criticized Miss Smith and reduced her salary today Be careful . Our boss is very strict with every one of his employees and he just beats the dog before the lion .*”

Better be a bird in the wood than one in the cage .

【直译】宁可做林中一只鸟也不做笼中一只鸟。

【参考译文】宁做林中鸟，不做笼中雀。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在表明人们不愿受到约束，追求自由的决心。此谚语有时也可被用来对一些出卖自由换取物质享受的人表示鄙视。

【示例】*She is so young and beautiful but she married an old man as his second wife. I hope that she will understand soon that it's better to be a bird in the wood than one in the cage.*

Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion .

【直译】宁为狗头，不为狮尾。

【参考译文】宁为鸡口，不为牛后。/ 宁为驴头，不作马尾。/ 宁为鸡头，勿为凤尾。

【重点提示】该谚语的寓意是：宁可做普通者中的领袖，也不做高阶层中的最末分子。类似谚语：Better be the head of an ass than the tail of a horse. 宁为驴首 不为马尾。/ Better be the head of a cat / fox / lizard / mouse than the tail of a lion. 宁为猫/狐狸/蜥蜴/鼠首 不为狮尾。/ 宁为鸡头 勿为凤尾。

【示例】*Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion. I decide to study hard to become a first-class student in this common university instead of in a very famous one.*

Beware of a silent dog and still water .

【直译】提防不吠的狗，当心平静的水。

【参考译文】无声狗 咬死人 平静水 淹死人。/ 静水流深，哑狗心狠。

【重点提示】英语中 *beware of* 意为“当心，谨防”，该短语通常用于祈使句中，且没有被动语态形式。本谚语中 *still* 为形容词，意为“静止的，静寂的”。该谚语旨在告诫人们不要为表面的平静与安详所麻痹，应警惕和提防任何潜在的危险。类似谚语：Beware of a silent man and still water. 提防沉默的人，当心平静的水。

【示例】*In our daily life we should beware of a silent dog and still water to guard against anything that can be potentially dangerous.*

Birds of a feather flock together .

【直译】同类的鸟儿才成群。

【参考译文】物以类聚 人以群分。

【重点提示】*flock* 在本谚语中用作动词“聚结”的意思。该谚语往往用于贬义，而且可简略成 *birds of a feather*，用于指臭味相投的人，意同“一丘之貉”。同义谚语：A man is known by the company he keeps. 观其友，知其人。

【示例】*They all thought that she and her boyfriend were birds of a feather*

Bread is the staff of life

【直译】面包是生活的支柱。

【参考译文】民以食为天。/ 人是铁，饭是钢，一顿不吃饿得慌。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *staff* 意为“支柱”。粮食是人们生活当中的头等大事，任何统治者都应深刻地认识到这一点儿。只要人民的衣食无忧，国家和社会才会有安定团结的局面，统治者才会巩固自己的政权。该谚语主要强调粮食或食物对于生命的重要意义。

【示例】*Every governor should put the fact in the first place if he wants to govern a country smoothly—bread is the staff of life.*

Cannot see the wood(s) / forest for the trees.

【直译】见树不见林。

【参考译文】一叶障目，不见泰山。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在告诫人们不能只注意小节而不了解全局；不能因吹毛求疵而忽视事物未来成就的价值和目标。该谚语的早期形式，从约翰·海伍德在 1546 年到斯威夫特在 1738 年使用期间，*tree-s* 前面都没有定冠词 *the*。类似谚语：*Fail to see the wood(s) / forest for the trees*。/ *You cannot see the wood for (the) trees*。（译文同上）

【示例】*Sometimes teachers notice language errors and don't see the good ideas in a composition; they can't see the woods for the trees.*

Cast pearls before swine

【直译】把珍珠拿给重猪看。

【参考译文】对牛弹琴。

【重点提示】该谚语出自《新约·马太福音》第 7 章第 6 节 [Matthew 7: 6]:

Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet,

and turn again and rend you. 从意义到用法，该谚语与汉语成语“明珠暗投”基本上不对应。该句中的 *pearls* 一般指事物而不指人，“明珠暗投”则主要指人，比喻有才德的人未被发现重用或陷入歧途。该谚语与“对牛弹琴”在某些语境中意义相近，但文化色彩不同。该谚语在英国英语中被视为陈旧语，在美国英语中看成文学体。

类似谚语：*Never cast your pearls before swine.* / *Do not cast your pearls before swine.* 不要把你们的珍珠丢在猪前。/ 不要把珍贵之物送给不识货的

人。/ 勿对牛弹琴。

【示 例】*He explained the beauty of the music to his wife but it was casting pearls before swine.*

Coming events cast their shadows before .

【直 译】事情发生前多有预兆。

【参考译文】山雨欲来风满楼。

【重点提示】本句中 *coming* 为形容词，意为“就要来的，将来的”。*shadow* 的意思为“预兆”。本谚语提示人们注意事情发生的前兆，以便早做防范。

【示 例】“*Coming events cast their shadows before .*” *This Shikastan (Earthly) observation was of particular appropriateness during an epoch when the tempo of events was so speeded up.*

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched .

【直译】鸡蛋还未孵，先别数鸡雏。

【参考译文】鸡未孵出别数鸡，钱未到手别算利。

【重点提示】本句中 *hatch* 意为“孵出”。本谚语旨在告诫人们在事情没有成功之前不要过早乐观，不要盲目地打如意算盘，不要过早给事物下结论。类似谚语：*Count not your chickens before they are hatched* (译文同上) 同义谚语：*Do not say you have had a fine day until evening comes.* 夜未来临，勿夸晴天。

【示 例】*Mr. Smith hoped to be made manager before the end of the year . . .*
Don't count your chickens before they are hatched . *warned his wife .*

Curiosity killed the cat .

【直译】好奇心使猫致死。

【参考译文】好奇的猫祸事多，好奇的人麻烦多。/ 多一事不如少一事。

【重点提示】该谚语疑出自英国 18 世纪著名诗人托马斯·格雷 (1716 ~ 1771) 的 *Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat* , *Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes* .

此谚语旨在告诫人们不要对任何事情都抱有强烈的好奇心，那样会给自己带来很多麻烦。同义谚语：*The fox knew too much . . . that 's how he lost his tail.* 狐狸知道的太多了，这就是它失去自己尾巴的原因。

【示 例】*The townspeople had learned the hard way that curiosity killed the cat — you stayed indoors if there was trouble*

Don't change horses in mid-stream .

【直 译】行到河中莫换马。

【参考译文】河中莫换马 临阵莫换将。

【重点提示】本谚语劝戒人们不要在不适当的时候做重要的变化。想要做任何改变，先考虑周围环境、时机是否合适。1864 年 美国内战正酣 许多人要求换总统。当时的总统林肯便告诉大家：“诸位，我并不认为自己是总统的最佳人选，但是我想起一个荷兰老农夫的故事。这位农夫对他的朋友说：‘It was not best to swap horses when crossing a stream .’”，类似谚语：

Don't / Never swap / swop horses while crossing a / the stream (译文同上)

【示例】Don't change horses in mid-stream . If we think it necessary to make changes we must choose the right moment to make them .

Don't put / set the cart before the horse .

【直译】不要把马车放在马前面。

【参考译文】马在车前，犁在牛后。

【重点提示】本句中 cart 的意思为“马车”。put / set the cart before the horse 源自法语 mettre la charrue devant (avant) les boeufs 。本谚语旨在告诫人们做事或说话要有条理，要合乎逻辑；不要本末倒置，倒果为因。

【示例】The Greens bought all their furniture before they had a house ; that 's really putting the cart before the horse .

Don't be a dog (l ying) in the manger .

【直译】莫学狗占马槽不吃草。

【参考译文】占着茅坑不拉屎。

【重点提示】本句中 manger 意为“马槽，牛槽”。该谚语源自伊索寓言：一条狗霸占住牛槽，而它自己却又不吃草。此谚语多用于讽刺那些占据财物、资源、职位等，自己不能充分利用，不能发挥才能，但却阻挡他人使用的人。

【示例】Don't be such a dog in the manger — you didn't read the book until I asked to borrow it from you !

Don't kill the goose that lays / laid the golden egg(s).

【直译】不要杀死下金蛋的鹅。

【参考译文】杀鸡取蛋 竭泽而渔。

【重点提示】本谚语中 geese 意为“雌鹅”，注意其复数形式是不规则的，为 geese 。而动词 lay 是“下蛋”的意思，其过去式也是不规则的。该谚语源出伊索寓言：某人得到一只每天产一金蛋的鹅，他贪婪至极，欲得到全部金

蛋，便将鹅杀掉，结果一无所获。本谚语告诫我们千万不要因一时的贪婪而断掉财路。类似谚语：Kill not the goose that lays the golden eggs (译文同上) Kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. 杀鸡取蛋。

【示例】We cannot afford to stop trading with certain countries just because we disagree with their politics — that would be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Don't lock the stable after the horses are stolen

【直译】不要失马后再锁马圈。

【参考译文】失马锁厩，为时已晚。/ 亡羊补牢为时已晚。

【重点提示】本谚语中 lock 作为动词，意为“锁，锁上”；stable 作为名词，意为“马厩”。该谚语与汉语成语“亡羊补牢”在意义上不完全相等。汉语成语强调受到损失后，想法补救，免得以后再受损失；而英语谚语则强调为时已晚，告诫人们要谨慎小心，提前做好各种预防工作。类似谚语：It is too late to lock / shut / bolt / close the barn door / the stable / the stable-door after / when the horse / steed is stolen / has been stolen (译文同上)

【示例】So many books have been stolen from the library that you now have to leave your bags and cases at the desk as you go in. It's a good idea but one can't really admire them for locking the stable-door after the horse has been stolen.

Don't make a mountain out of a molehill

【直译】勿将鼯鼠丘看做大山。

【参考译文】拿鸡毛当令箭，小题大作。

【重点提示】在本谚语中 molehill 的意思是“（由鼯鼠打洞扒出的泥土堆成的）鼯鼠丘”。除此之外，它还有“无意义的事，小困难（或障碍）”的意思。该谚语告诫人们不要夸大困难、问题、小事等。类似谚语：Don't make mountains out of molehills (译文同上) 同义谚语：Make a storm in a teacup. 小题大作；大惊小怪。

【示例】You are not hurt badly. Stop trying to make a mountain out of a molehill with crying.

Every cloud has a silver lining

【直译】每一片阴云中，都有一点银白的衬层。

【参考译文】乌云总有耀眼处，浪子也有菩萨心。

【重点提示】本谚语中 lining 是名词，意思是“内衬或环衬”。该谚语常用

来鼓励自己或别人，其寓意为：凡事不论多么麻烦、不幸，都总存在光明和希望的一面。类似谚语：Every cloud has its silver lining (译文同上)

【示 例】Don't be so grumpy and pessimistic because every cloud has a silver lining.

Every dog has his /its day.

【直译】每条狗都有走运日。

【参考译文】困龙终有上天时，片瓦也有翻身日。

【重点提示】该谚语源出莎士比亚名剧《哈姆雷特》第5幕第1场的台词：

let Hercules himself do what he may / The cat will mew, and dog will have his day. 此谚语也可常用来鼓励自己或别人在遇到困难、麻烦的时候要坚强、乐观，总有一天光明会来的。类似谚语：Every dog has his (its) day, and every man his hour. 狗有走运日，人有得意时。同义谚语：Every cloud has a silver lining. 每一片阴云中，都有一点银白的衬层。

【示 例】Mary will be able to go to dance like her sister when she grows up. Every dog has his day.

Every one to his taste.

【直译】人各有所好。

【参考译文】萝卜青菜，各有所爱。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在说明不同的人有不同的兴趣、爱好、习惯等，我们不能光用自己的标准去对别人的事情妄加评论。同义谚语：One man's meat is another man's poison 一个人的肉是另一个人的毒药。萝卜青菜，各有所爱。

【示 例】It is more true of novels than perhaps of anything else, that every one to his taste.

Fight fire with fire.

【直译】以火攻火。

【参考译文】以毒攻毒。/ 以血还血，以牙还牙。

【重点提示】该谚语的寓意是 对于一些恶毒的进攻、攻击、伤害 不应该心慈手软，应还以同样的手段或方法，给对方以迎头痛击。

【示 例】“ You think the other Palestinians have hired some heavies as well ? ”
“ Why not ? Fight fire with fire ”

Fire and water have no mercy.

【直译】水和火没有怜悯之心。

【参考译文】水火无情。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *mercy* 的意思是“仁慈，宽恕，怜悯”。水和火可能会对人类造成巨大的损失，有时甚至是毁灭性的。该谚语意在告诫人们要谨防水灾和火灾，以免水火给人们的生活带来巨大的损失。同义谚语：

Fire and water are good servants , but bad masters . 水和火是好仆人但是坏主人。

【示例】*Fire and water have no mercy . The flood destroyed all the houses in the village and all the villagers were forced to leave their home .*

Fire cannot be hidden in flax .

【直译】亚麻里包不住火。

【参考译文】纸包不住火，雪埋不住人。若想人不知，除非己莫为。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *flax* 的意思是“亚麻，亚麻纤维”。亚麻是很容易燃烧。该谚语意在说明很多事，特别是不想让别人知道的事是不容易隐瞒的，早晚有一天是会暴露的，就像亚麻里的火一样。

【示例】*You should know that she will ask you about it sooner or later for fire cannot be hidden in flax .*

Fish and guests smell in three days .

【直译】鱼和客人在三天之内是新鲜的。

【参考译文】鱼不过三日鲜，客不过三日亲。

【重点提示】*smell* 的意思是“有某种气味”。在本谚语中可以引申为“新鲜”的意思。该谚语的寓意是：人与人如果相处久了，就会缺少刚见面时的新鲜感和热情，相反会生出一些摩擦，甚至是厌恶的情绪。此谚语常用来告诫人们无论在哪里做客，都不要呆得太久，以免给主人带来不便，从而使其产生厌烦的情绪。

【示例】*We ' d better leave their home tomorrow , for fish and guests smell in three days , and we should make a good impression on them .*

Fish begin(s) to stink at the head .

【直译】鱼臭从头部开始。

【参考译文】鱼烂头先臭，国败官先腐。/ 上梁不正下梁歪。/ 上行下效。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *stink* 是动词，意思是“发出臭味”。该谚语源自拉丁语 *piscis primum a capite foetet* 其寓意指国家的腐败先从统治阶级开始 告诫统治者们要想治理好国家，使国富民强就必须洁身自律，真正起到表率

作用。

【示 例】*The proverb — fish begins to stink at the head — suggests that the corruption of a country begins from the ruling class. Every governor in the country should remember this forever.*

For want of a nail the shoe is lost; for want of a shoe the horse is lost; for want of a horse the rider is lost.

【直译】想要钉子，鞋子丢了；想要鞋子，马又丢了；想要马，骑手又失去了。

【参考译文】千里之堤，溃于蚁穴。/ 因小失大。

【重点提示】注意本谚语中用了三个平行的句子，而且含有递进的意味。旨在告诫人们要防微杜渐，不要因事小而不为，“千里之堤，溃于蚁穴”，等事物完成了量的积累，达到了质变的时候，其后果是不堪设想的。

【示 例】*For want of a nail the battle was lost. Well, Republicans may have found just the right nail to win the entitlement battle.*

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.

【直译】当你可以收集花蕾的时候一定要收集。

【参考译文】花开堪折直须折，莫待无花空折枝。/ 莫等闲，白了少年头。

【重点提示】本谚语中的 *ye* 为 *you* 的古代用语，*rosebud* 意为“蔷薇花蕾”。该谚语出自英国诗人海瑞克（Robert Herrick）的诗：*To the Virgins, to make Much of Time: 'Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.* 该谚语旨在劝告人们要珍惜青春大好时光，努力工作，努力学习，及时行乐。同义谚语：*A plant may produce new flowers; man is young but once* 花有重开日，人无再少年。

【示 例】*Time flies quickly. Every one of us should value our time and make full use of our time, just as the proverb says — gather ye rosebuds while ye may.*

Give a dog a bad (ill) name and hang him.

【直译】给狗加一个坏名声，并且绞死它。

【参考译文】欲加之罪 何患无辞。/ 众口铄金 积毁销骨。

【重点提示】本句中的 *hang* 是“绞死”的意思，这时它的过去式和过去分词分别为 *hanged, hanged* 而当它作“悬挂”讲时 其过去式和过去分词分别为 *hung, hung*。加给某人一个恶名，对他加以诽谤，使之声名狼藉，并永远无法摆脱恶名，从此谚语中足以看出谗言可畏。

【示 例】*Give a Dog an ill Name, and he'll soon be hanged. Spoken of those who raise an ill Name on a Man on purpose to prevent his Advancement.*

Go to bed with the lamb and rise with the lark

【直译】小羊入圈就上床，百灵鸟出巢就起床。

【参考译文】日出而作，日落而息。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *lamb* 和 *lark* 都是名词，分别为“小羊，羔羊”和“云雀，百灵鸟”的意思。*go to bed* “上床睡觉”和不及物动词 *rise* “起身，起床”相对。该谚语为我们描绘了一幅田园生活的美好画面，同时也告诉我们农民是怎样辛勤劳动的。有时可用于劝说人们早睡早起。

【示例】*On the farm John works hard and regularly . going to bed with the lamb and rising with the lark .*

Go to the sea if you would fish well.

【直译】如果你想钓到好鱼，就得到海里去。

【参考译文】不入虎穴，焉得虎子；不入大海，难擒蛟龙。

【重点提示】该谚语旨在告诉人们如果想要获得一些珍贵的东西，就必须要冒一定的风险，付出艰辛的努力，付出一定的代价。同义谚语：*No pains, no gains.* 不劳无获。/ *Nothing venture / risk, nothing gain / have / win.* 不冒险则不能获利。

【示例】*Go to the sea, if you would fish well. If you want to earn more money, you must devote yourself to business.*

Great oaks from little acorns grow

【直译】高大的橡树是由小小的橡树籽生长起来的。

【参考译文】合抱之木，生于毫末；千里之行，始于足下。

【重点提示】本句中 *oak* 和 *acorn* 都是名词，分别是“橡树，橡木”和“橡树果，橡树籽”的意思。这是一句美国谚语，旨在告诉人们许多伟人都是出自贫贱，许多伟大的事业都是由一点一滴的小事堆积起来的。鼓励人们要充满自信，勇于奋斗。

【示例】*As great oak trees grow from tiny acorns, so many great people or things grew from a small and unimportant beginning.*

He that keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl

【直译】与狼在一起就得学狼嚎。

【参考译文】近朱者赤，近墨者黑。/ 跟着猫儿会上房，跟着老鼠会打洞。

【重点提示】*keep company with sb.* 是指“和某人保持伙伴或朋友关系”；*howl* 指“（狼）嚎叫”。本谚语旨在说明，如果与坏人交往，就会很快变得和他们

一样坏，类似汉语成语“近墨者黑”或“跟着黄鼠狼学偷鸡”。类似谚语：

Who keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl . (译文同上) 同义谚语：

He that lies down (sleeps) with dogs must rise up with fleas. 与狗一起躺下(睡觉)

的人起来时会满身跳蚤。

【示例】*If you mix with evil companions you will soon be as wicked as they are. Remember that he who keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl.*

He that lies down (sleeps) with dogs must rise up with fleas .

【直译】与狗一起躺下(睡觉)的人起来时会满身跳蚤。

【参考译文】近朱者赤，近墨者黑。 / 认贼作父三只手，与狐为伍一身臊。

【重点提示】本谚语中 lie down 和 rise up 都是动词短语，意思分别为“躺下”和“起来”，flea 的意思是“跳蚤”。此谚语告诫人们要远离坏人，不要与坏人为伍。类似谚语：If you lie down with dogs , you will get up with fleas . (译文同上) 同义谚语：He that keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl , 与狼在一起就得学狼嚎。

【示例】*If you lie down with dogs , you ' ll get up with fleas , and that ' s the fruits of traveling with a fool .*

His bark is worse than his bite .

【直译】狂吠比咬人更糟糕。

【参考译文】刀子嘴 豆腐心。 / 君子动口不动手。

【重点提示】本谚语可用来说明：有些人的样子看起来凶恶或嘴巴尖刻点儿，但心地并不坏，并不恶毒，也可指一些恃强凌弱者表面凶顽，其实并不强大。

【示例】*Our boss looks really fierce , but I think his bark is worse than his bite because he has always been kind to us .*

Hitch one ' s wagon to a star / the stars .

【直译】将你的马车拴在星辰上。

【参考译文】胸怀大志。 / 壮志凌云。 / 癞蛤蟆想吃天鹅肉。

【重点提示】本谚语中 hitch 的意思是“拴，系住”，wagon 为“四轮马车，货车”之意。该谚语出自美国作家爱默生(Ralph Waldo Emerson)的散文 Society and Solitude 。该谚语可根据上下文用作褒义词，与汉语成语“雄心勃勃”、“雄心大志”对译，也可用作贬义词，与汉语成语“野心勃勃”、“痴心妄想”语意相同。但该谚语与这些成语在比喻形象方面完全不同。

【 示 例 】 *John hitched his wagon to a star and decided to study hard and become a geologist.*

Honey catches more flies than vinegar .

【直译】蜂蜜比醋抓的苍蝇要多。

【参考译文】蜜多饵香, 谀多辞甜。

【重点提示】在本谚语中 *fly* 用作名词“苍蝇”, *vinegar* 的意思是“醋”。其寓意是: 软的和奉承的话语比犀利的话语更能让人接受。既然人人都喜欢听好话, 那么在与人际交往中, 特别是在规劝别人的时候, 我们何不讲究点儿策略。但是无论何时我们也要记住另外一句: 忠言逆耳利于行。类似谚语: *Flies are easier caught with honey than with vinegar* . (译文同上)

【 示 例 】 *Honey might attract more flies than vinegar but nothing beat blackmail at securing the absolute allegiance .*

If wishes were horses beggars might (would) ride .

【直译】如果愿望是匹马, 乞丐也就能骑它。

【参考译文】做梦娶媳妇, 一枕梦黄粱。

【重点提示】本谚语是一个含有虚拟语气的句子, 是对现实的一种假设。如果愿望都能实现, 那么每个人, 包括乞丐都可以变得富有、聪明、成功、受欢迎。可惜愿望终归是愿望, 它不等于事实, 因此, 我们在怀有良好愿望的同时, 一定要注重现实, 脚踏实地, 勤奋努力, 这样才会把美好的愿望变成现实。

【 示 例 】 *Some students don't study hard but want to pass all the examinations . They should be practical and remember the proverb . If wishes were horses beggars might ride .*

It's an ill wind that blows nobody (any) good .

【直译】使人人遭殃的风才是恶风。

【参考译文】人有好坏, 事有利弊。人有祸福, 月有阴晴。

【重点提示】本谚语中 *ill* 是形容词, 意思是“坏的, 恶意的”, 而 *good* 则用作名词, 意为“好处, 利益”。无人得到好处的风才是坏风。但风一定使某些人受益, 某些人受害, 所以根本没有坏风, 而是好坏兼容。该谚语旨在告诉人们凡事皆有利弊, 此失则彼得, 没有使所有人都遭殃的坏事, 一个人的不幸说不定是另一个人幸运的开始。凡事要从正反两方面去考虑。

【 示 例 】 *I'm ... refusing to believe that it's an ill wind which blows abso-*