

前 言

学习汉语的外国学生，当他们初步掌握了汉语的语音、词汇、语法和文字时，很想进一步提高自己的汉语水平。怎样提高呢？一件重要的事就是需要掌握一些汉语语言中最有特色的东西——例如成语、谚语、歇后语、典故和古诗。这些东西既和汉语汉字有密切关系，又和中华民族的文化背景有密切关系。掌握了它们，不但能够丰富外国人汉语的表达能力，而且也能够增强他们汉语表达的本土特色。简而言之，他们所掌握的汉语就更像汉语了。这就向成为一个“中国通”迈出了重要的一步。

为以上目的，我们给这样的外国学生编了一套“博古通今学汉语丛书”，包括“成语 101”、“谚语 101”、“歇后语 101”、“典故 101”和“古诗 101”。

本套书精选汉语中最有价值的、常用的、表现力强的成语、谚语、歇后语、典故和古诗各 101 则。每则均附英文释义，每则配一幅精美插图，另有一些难解词语中英文注释。随书附 MP3 光盘。

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With justice on your side, you can go anywhere; without it, you cannot take a step.
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If fated to be together, people will gather no matter how far apart they may be; if not, they will miss even when facing each other.

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Distant water can't put out a nearby fire, and a distant relative is not as helpful as a close neighbour.
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The moon waxes only to wane, and water surges only to overflow.
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If a person does not treat guests properly when at home, few will wish to entertain him when he is abroad.
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Know the enemy, know yourself, and in every battle you will be victorious.
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The magistrates are free to set fires, while the common people are forbidden to even light lamps.
99. 只要功夫深，铁杵磨成针·····198
If you work hard enough, you can grind even an iron rod down to a needle.
100. 种瓜得瓜，种豆得豆·····200
As a man sows, so shall he reap.
101. 嘴上无毛，办事不牢·····202
A man with downy lips is bound to make slips.

谚语 101

101 Pearls of Chinese Wisdom

Bāzì yámen cháo nán kāi, yǒu lǐ wú qián mò jìnlái

1. 八字衙门^① 朝南开，有理无钱莫进来

The *yamen* gates may be wide open, but with no money and only right on one's side, one should not enter them.



① 衙门:是旧时官员办公审案的地方。衙门的两扇大门开着像个“八”字。(government office in feudal China; 八字 here refers to the shape of the open gates.)

衙门的大门朝南开着，有理却没有钱的人别想进去告状。

这条谚语告诉我们：过去官府腐败，只贪图老百姓的钱财，不为老百姓办事。

This proverb, dating from feudal times, warns the unwary not to seek justice from the corrupt and greedy officials of those days.

Bīngmǎ wèi dòng, liángcǎo xiān xíng

2. 兵马^①未动，粮草^②先行

Provisions should be arranged before an army is mobilized.



① 兵马：兵士和战马，泛指作战部队。(soldiers and horses, generally, an army)

② 粮草：军用的粮食和草料。(food and fodder provided for an army)

作战的部队还没有动身，军用的粮草就先运足了。

这条谚语告诉我们：无论是打仗还是做任何一件工作，都必须事先做好充分的物质准备，才能有成功的把握。

This proverb stresses that whatever we do, proper preparations should be made in advance to ensure the success of our endeavours.

Bù jīng yí shì, bù zhǎng yí zhì

3. 不经一事，不长一智^①

Wisdom comes from experience.

不亲身经历一件事情，就不能增长对这方面的见识。

这条谚语告诉我们：要想对一件事情有深刻的了解，最重要的是亲自去实践、体验一下。

This proverb tells us that experience or practice is the best way to learn something.



^① 智：智慧、见识。(wisdom, knowledge)

Bú rù hǔ xué, yān dé hǔ zǐ?

4. 不入虎穴^①，焉^②得^③虎子

How can one catch tiger cubs without entering the tiger's lair?



① 穴：岩洞、巢穴。(cave, lair)

② 焉：是疑问代词“怎么”的意思。(an interrogative pronoun meaning “how ...”)

③ 焉得：怎么能得到。(how can you obtain ...?)

不进入老虎住的山洞，怎么能够得到小老虎呢？

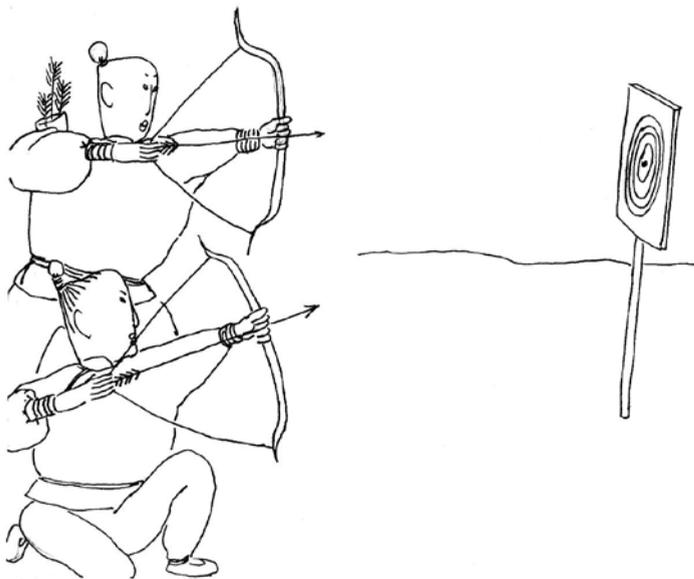
这条谚语告诉我们：只有勇于探索，不畏风险，才能取得成功。

This proverb tells us that one cannot expect to achieve success without experiencing difficulties and risks; only those who are bold and not afraid of hardships and dangers can achieve success.

Chā zhī háo lí, shī zhī qiān lǐ

5. 差^①之毫厘^②，失^③之千里^④

A little error may lead to a large discrepancy.



开始时只稍微差了一点点，结果可能会造成很大的失误。

这条谚语告诉我们：做事情要力求细心、准确。哪怕是极微小的差错，也可能造成非常大的损失。

This proverb advises that one must make every effort to be careful and exact when doing things, because even a tiny mistake can lead to a great loss.

① 差：不相同。(difference)

② 毫厘：形容非常小的数量。(very tiny in amount)

③ 失：失误。(fault)

④ 千里：形容很大的距离。(a long distance)