

## 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。

## 目 录

### Contents

1. 八字衙门朝南开，有理无钱莫进来 ..... 2  
The *yamen* gates may be wide open, but with no money and only right on one's side, one should not enter them.
2. 兵马未动，粮草先行 ..... 4  
Provisions should be arranged before an army is mobilized.
3. 不经一事，不长一智 ..... 6  
Wisdom comes from experience.
4. 不入虎穴，焉得虎子 ..... 8  
How can one catch tiger cubs without entering the tiger's lair?
5. 差之毫厘，失之千里 ..... 10  
A little error may lead to a large discrepancy.
6. 长江后浪催前浪，世上新人赶旧人 ..... 12  
Just as the waves of the Yangtze River behind drive on those ahead, so does each new generation replace the old.
7. 常将有日思无日，莫待无时想有时 ..... 14  
When rich, think of poverty; don't think of riches when you are poor.

8. 吃一堑，长一智 ..... 16  
A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit.
9. 打蛇不死，后患无穷 ..... 18  
Unless you beat a snake to death, it will cause endless trouble in the future.
10. 大处着眼，小处着手 ..... 20  
Keep the general goal in sight while tackling daily tasks.
11. 单丝不成线，独木不成林 ..... 22  
A single thread can't make a cord, nor a single tree a forest.
12. 当局者迷，旁观者清 ..... 24  
The spectators see more of the game than the players.
13. 刀不磨要生锈，水不流要发臭 ..... 26  
A knife will rust if not sharpened regularly, and water will stagnate if it is not allowed to flow.
14. 道高一尺，魔高一丈 ..... 28  
As virtue rises by one foot, vice rises ten.
15. 灯不拨不亮，理不辩不明 ..... 30  
An oil lamp becomes brighter after trimming, a truth becomes clearer after being discussed.
16. 读书须用意，一字值千金 ..... 32  
When reading, don't let a single word escape your attention; one word may be worth a thousand pieces of gold.

17. 读万卷书，行万里路 ..... 34  
Read ten thousand books and walk ten thousand miles.
18. 儿不嫌母丑，狗不嫌家贫 ..... 36  
A son never thinks his mother ugly, and a dog never shuns its owner's home however shabby it may be.
19. 儿孙自有儿孙福，莫为儿孙做马牛 ..... 38  
Children will have their own happiness and fortune when they grow up; parents need not worry and work so hard for their futures.
20. 耳听为虚，眼见为实 ..... 40  
What you hear may be false, but what you see is true.
21. 凡人不可貌相，海水不可斗量 ..... 42  
As a man cannot be known by his looks, neither can the sea be fathomed by a gourd.
22. 放下屠刀，立地成佛 ..... 44  
The butcher who lays down his cleaver at once becomes a Buddha.
23. 风无常顺，兵无常胜 ..... 46  
A boat can't always sail with the wind; an army can't always win battles.
24. 逢人只说三分话，未可全抛一片心 ..... 48  
Talking to a stranger, it is wise to be somewhat reserved.
25. 瓜无滚圆，人无十全 ..... 50  
No melon is completely round, and no person is perfect.

26. 害人之心不可有，防人之心不可无.....52  
One shouldn't have the heart to harm others, but must be vigilant so as not to be harmed oneself.
27. 花有重开日，人无再少年.....54  
Flowers may bloom again, but a person never has the chance to be young again.
28. 画虎画皮难画骨，知人知面不知心.....56  
When drawing a tiger, you show its skin but not its bones; in knowing a man, you may know his face but not his heart.
29. 火要空心，人要虚心.....58  
A fire must have space at its centre to burn vigorously; a man must be modest to make progress.
30. 见怪不怪，其怪自败.....60  
Face odd things fearlessly and their fearsomeness will disappear.
31. 江山易改，本性难移.....62  
Rivers and mountains may be changed, but it is hard to alter the nature of a single person.
32. 近水楼台先得月，向阳花木早逢春.....64  
A waterfront pavilion gets the moonlight first; spring comes early to plants exposed to the sun.
33. 近水知鱼性，近山识鸟音.....66  
Living near the rivers, we know the habits of fish; living near the mountains, we are acquainted with the singing of birds.

34. 近朱者赤，近墨者黑.....68  
Near vermillion, one is stained pink; near ink, one gets stained black.
35. 酒逢知己千杯少，话不投机半句多.....70  
If you drink with a bosom friend, a thousand cups are not enough; if you dislike someone, half a sentence is too much to share.
36. 老当益壮，穷当益坚.....72  
Old but vigorous, poor but determined.
37. 良药苦口利于病，忠言逆耳利于行.....74  
Just as it takes bitter medicine to properly cure a disease, it takes blunt advice to put us on the right track.
38. 两虎相斗，必有一伤.....76  
When two tigers fight, one is sure to be injured.
39. 留得青山在，不怕没柴烧.....78  
As long as the green hills remain, there'll be no shortage of firewood.
40. 路遥知马力，日久见人心.....80  
As distance tests a horse's strength, so does time reveal a person's heart.
41. 麻雀虽小，肝胆俱全.....82  
Small as it is, the sparrow has all the vital organs.
42. 马好不在鞍，人好不在衫.....84  
Don't judge a horse by its saddle, and don't judge a person by the clothes.

43. 明人不用细说，响鼓不用重捶.....86  
A person of good sense needs no detailed explanations; a resonant drum needs no heavy beating.
44. 明知山有虎，偏向虎山行.....88  
Going deep into the mountains, undeterred by the tigers there.
45. 宁为玉碎，不为瓦全.....90  
Better to be a shard of jade than a whole tile.
46. 贫居闹市无人问，富在深山有远亲.....92  
If you are poor, even if you live in a crowded city you will be alone. If you are rich, even if you live in the remotest of mountains your most distant relatives will flock to you.
47. 平生不做亏心事，半夜敲门心不惊.....94  
A clear conscience sleeps even through thunder.
48. 平时不烧香，临时抱佛脚.....96  
Never burning incense when all is well, but clasping Buddha's feet in times of trouble.
49. 千军易得，一将难求.....98  
It is easy to find a thousand soldiers, but hard to find a good general to command them.
50. 钱财如粪土，仁义值千金.....100  
Riches are as worthless as dust; benevolence and justice are the most valuable things one can possess.

51. 前人栽树，后人乘凉.....102  
The previous generation plants the trees under whose shade future generation rests.
52. 强中更有强手，能人背后有能人.....104  
However strong you are, there's always someone stronger.
53. 人过留名，雁过留声.....106  
A man leaves his name behind wherever he stays, just as a goose utters its cry wherever it flies.
54. 人老心不老，人穷志不穷.....108  
Old but young at heart; poor but with lofty ideals.
55. 人善被人欺，马善被人骑.....110  
A weak person is liable to be bullied; a tamed horse is often ridden.
56. 人往高处走，水往低处流.....112  
Man seeks the heights, while water seeks the lowlands.
57. 人为财死，鸟为食亡.....114  
As birds die for food, men die for wealth.
58. 人无千日好，花无百日红.....116  
Man cannot be always fortunate, nor can flowers bloom forever.
59. 人无完人，金无足赤.....118  
It is as impossible to find a perfect man as it is to find one hundred percent pure gold.

60. 人无远虑，必有近忧.....120  
Those who do not plan for the future will find trouble on their doorstep.
61. 人心齐，泰山移.....122  
When people are of one mind and heart, they can move Mount Tai.
62. 人有失足，马有失蹄.....124  
A man is prone to stumble when walking, and a horse is prone to stumble when galloping.
63. 任凭风浪起，稳坐钓鱼船.....126  
Sit tight in the fishing boat despite the rising wind and waves.
64. 若要人不知，除非已莫为.....128  
If you don't want people to find something out, you had better not do it.
65. 三个臭皮匠，顶个诸葛亮.....130  
Three cobblers with their wits combined equal Zhuge Liang, the master-mind.
66. 三人一条心，黄土变成金.....132  
If people are of one heart, even the yellow earth can become gold.
67. 少壮不努力，老大徒伤悲.....134  
A man who does not exert himself in his youth will be sorry he didn't when he grows old.

68. 十年窗下无人问，一举成名天下知.....136  
One can study for ten years in obscurity, but as soon as one passes the examination the whole country will know him.
69. 十年树木，百年树人.....138  
It takes ten years to grow a tree, but a hundred years to cultivate a generation of good men.
70. 书到用时方恨少.....140  
It is when you are using what you have learnt from books that you wish you had read more.
71. 天外有天，人上有人.....142  
As capable as you are, there is always someone more capable, just as there is another heaven beyond heaven.
72. 天下无难事，只怕有心人.....144  
Nothing in the world is difficult for one who sets their mind to it.
73. 天下兴亡，匹夫有责.....146  
Everyone is responsible for the welfare of their country.
74. 天有不测风云，人有旦夕祸福.....148  
In nature there are unexpected storms; in life unpredictable vicissitudes.
75. 万事俱备，只欠东风.....150  
Everything is ready except the east wind.

76. 小洞不补，大洞叫苦.....152  
A small hole not mended in time will eventually become a big hole much more difficult to mend.
77. 小时偷针，大时偷金.....154  
A child who steals a needle will grow up to steal gold.
78. 心正不怕影斜，脚正不怕鞋歪.....156  
An upright man is not afraid of an oblique shadow; a straight foot is not afraid of a crooked shoe.
79. 秀才不出门，能知天下事.....158  
Without even stepping outside his gate the scholar knows all the wide world's affairs.
80. 养兵千日，用在一时.....160  
Armies are to be maintained and trained for years, but to be used in the nick of time.
81. 一寸光阴一寸金，寸金难买寸光阴.....162  
A speck of time is more precious than an ounce of gold.
82. 一个篱笆三个桩，一个好汉三个帮.....164  
Just as a fence needs the support of three stakes, an able man needs the help of three other people.
83. 一粒老鼠屎，坏了一锅粥.....166  
A drop of mouse dung will spoil a whole pot of porridge.
84. 一年之计在于春，一日之计在于晨.....168  
The whole year's work depends on good planning in spring and a whole day's work depends on good planning early in the morning.

85. 一人得道，鸡犬升天.....170  
When a man is in power, all his followers are in favour.
86. 一失足成千古恨，再回头是百年身.....172  
One single slip brings eternal regret, and looking back, you find that your whole life has passed away.
87. 一言既出，驷马难追.....174  
A word, once it is uttered, cannot be overtaken even by swift horses.
88. 一朝被蛇咬，十年怕草绳.....176  
A man once bitten by a snake will for ten years shy at a rope.
89. 一着不慎，满盘皆输.....178  
One careless move will forfeit the whole game.
90. 有借有还，再借不难.....180  
A timely return of a loan will make it easier to borrow a second time.
91. 有理走遍天下，无理寸步难行.....182  
With justice on your side, you can go anywhere; without it, you cannot take a step.
92. 有缘千里来相会，无缘对面不相逢.....184  
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.

93. 与君一夕话，胜读十年书.....186  
Chatting with someone for one night can be more  
profitable than studying for ten years.
94. 远水不救近火，远亲不如近邻.....188  
Distant water can't put out a nearby fire, and a distant  
relative is not as helpful as a close neighbour.
95. 月满则亏，水满则溢.....190  
The moon waxes only to wane, and water surges only  
to overflow.
96. 在家不会迎宾客，出外方知少主人.....192  
If a person does not treat guests properly when at home,  
few will wish to entertain him when he is abroad.
97. 知己知彼，百战百胜.....194  
Know the enemy, know yourself, and in every battle  
you will be victorious.
98. 只许州官放火，不许百姓点灯.....196  
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.

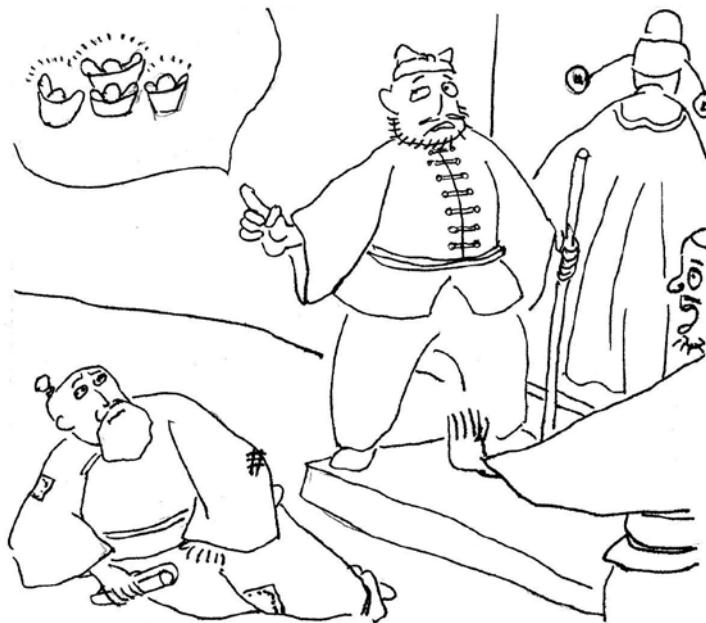
# 谚语 101

## 101 Pearls of Chinese Wisdom

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

## 1. 八字衙门<sup>①</sup> 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.**



<sup>①</sup> 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。

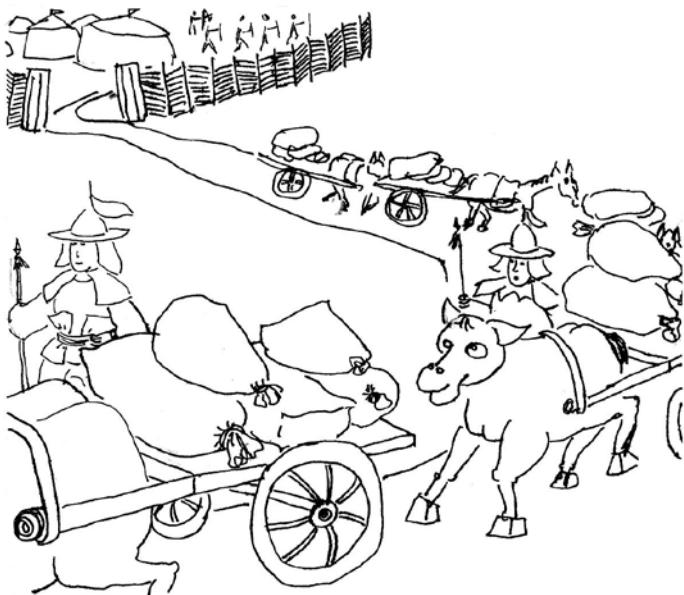
这条谚语告诉我们：过去官府腐败，只贪图老百姓的钱财，不为老百姓办事。

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<sup>①</sup>未动，粮草<sup>②</sup>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<sup>①</sup>

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.

<sup>①</sup> 智：智慧、见识。（wisdom, knowledge）

Bú rù hǔ xué, yān dé hǔ zǐ?

#### 4. 不入虎穴<sup>①</sup>, 焉<sup>②</sup>得<sup>③</sup>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？

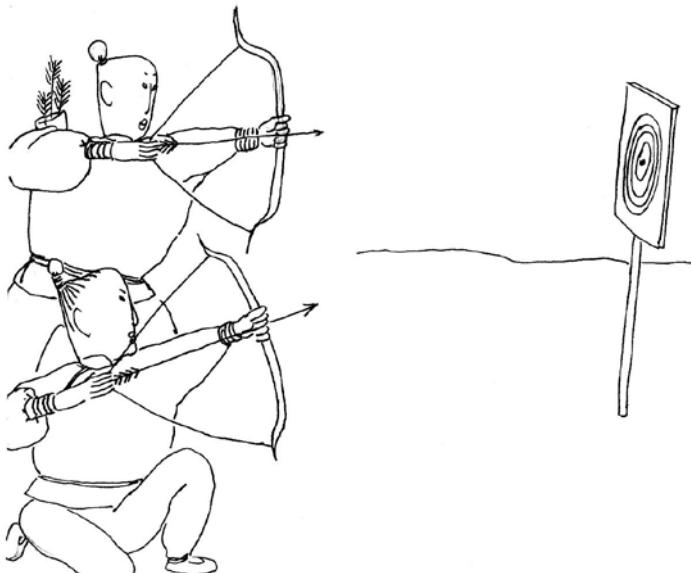
这条谚语告诉我们：只有勇于探索，不畏风险，才能取得成功。

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<sup>①</sup>之毫厘<sup>②</sup>, 失<sup>③</sup>之千里<sup>④</sup>

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)