

# 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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# 歇后语 101

**101 Chinese Two-Part Allegorical Sayings**

ǎizi pá lóutī——bù bù dēng gāo

1. **矮子爬楼梯——步步登高**

**A dwarf climbing a ladder—rising higher with each step**



个子矮的人想高一些，有一个很好的办法，就是爬梯子，爬一步高一步，这就是“步步登高”。

这个歇后语用来比喻人的官职、地位等由低到高步步提升；也比喻人的生活越来越好或成绩不断提高等。（含褒义）

A good way for a dwarf to rise higher is to climb a ladder. Each step he takes will make him look more exalted.

Often used commendatorily, this expression means rising in rank or position step by step. It can also refer to the improvement of one's life or accumulation of achievements.



Bā xiān guò hǎi—gè xiǎn shéntōng

## 2. 八仙过海——各显神通

**The Eight Immortals cross the sea—each displaying their unique power**



“八仙”是道教传说中的八个神仙：汉钟离、张果老、韩湘子、铁拐李、吕洞宾、曹国舅、蓝采和、何仙姑。有一次，八仙一同渡过大海，渡海时，他们各自展示出一套神奇的本事。

这个歇后语用来比喻在做某事时，各人有各人的一套办法；或者各人施展各人的才能，互相比赛。

The Eight Immortals of Taoism in Chinese folklore are: Han Zhongli, Zhang Guolao, Han Xiangzi, Tieguai Li, Lü Dongbin, Cao Guojiu, Lan Caihe and He Xiang. Once when they were crossing the sea together, they soared over it, each using his or her magic power.

This allegory is used to describe individuals who vie with each other by showing off their special abilities, or each of whom has a unique way of accomplishing tasks.

Bàntiānkōng li guà kǒudai——zhuāng fēng

3. **半天空里挂口袋——装疯(风)**

**Hanging a bag in mid-air—holding the wind  
(feigning madness)**



这是一个谐音的歇后语。在半空中挂上一个大口袋，能用来干什么呢？只能用来装风。“疯”与“风”谐音，“装风”就变成“装疯”。

“装疯”指一个人故意装作疯癫痴呆的样子。  
(含贬义)

When a bag is hung in mid-air, what can it hold?  
Only the wind. In Chinese, to hold the wind 装风 and  
to feign madness 装疯 sound the same.

This refers to someone who pretends to be insane.

Bànyè li tōu táo chī——zhǎo ruǎn de niē

#### 4. 半夜里偷桃吃——找软的捏

**Stealing peaches at midnight—picking only  
the soft fruits**



生桃子不好吃，又酸又硬。成熟了的桃子一般都是软的，很甜很好吃。假如有一人，半夜里去偷桃，看不清哪个熟了哪个没熟，只好先捏一捏，软的桃子就是熟的。

这个歇后语用来比喻专门欺负弱小者，也就是“欺软怕硬”。(含贬义)

The raw peaches, hard and sour, are unpleasant to the taste, while ripe peaches are naturally soft and sweet. If a person stealing peaches at midnight in the darkness, he can only go by feel to find the soft ones.

This is a way of describing those who bully the weak but cower before bullies.

Biǎndan méi zā—liǎng tóu shī tā

### 5. 扁担没扎——两头失塌

**A shoulder pole carelessly loaded—both loads  
will fall off**



扁担是用来挑东西的一种简单的工具。扁担的两端如果不扎住，挑起重担，两头的东西就会滑下去，叫做“两头失塌”。

这个歇后语用来比喻本想得到两个收获，结果却是两头落空。（含贬义）

When the loads at the ends of a shoulder pole are not attached properly, they will fall off.

This expression is used to allude negatively to those who want to kill two birds with one stone, only to end up losing both birds.