

**A**  
**PRACTICAL**  
**CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY**  
**OF IDIOMS**

**实用**

**汉英**  
**习语词典**

张春柏 主编

**A PRACTICAL**  
**CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY**  
**OF IDIOMS**

中国出版集团 东方出版中心

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# 实用

# 汉英习语词典

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## 前 言

本词典是一本中型的汉英习语词典,共收各类汉语习语(包括成语、谚语和俗语)五千余条。从某种意义上说,本词典是对现有的汉英习语词典的一种整理和修正。根据编者现察,现有的同类词典主要有以下几个问题:

一、条目的选择有一定的随意性,如有的词典连“亡羊补牢”和“班门弄斧”这样普通的成语都没有列入,这显然是在筛选条目时心中无数,没有预先定下“规矩”所致。

二、译文混乱,没有统一的原则,如有时只提供一种译文,有时则多多益善;有时只有直译,没有意译;有时只有意译,没有直译;有时则只列出英语中的对等习语。不少人以为,对等的习语(如果有的话)是翻译时的最佳选择,在没有对等习语的情况下才应考虑采用意译或直译的方法。其实,这是一种误解。事实上,每一种译文都有其优点和缺点。在翻译实践中,具体译文的使用取决于许多因素,如文本的类型、文体、读者、释译的目的等,不可一概而论。

三、对所提供的译文没有进行合乎逻辑的分类和排列,有时直译在前,意译在后;有时意译在前,直译在后,最后是英语中对等的习语……总之,给人一种混乱无序的感觉。

……

本词典在解决上述问题方面作了一些努力。首先,在条目的选择上,本词典基本上收入了《现代汉语词典》里所有的习语并适当增加了一些其他习语。其次,对每一个条目,本词典尽量收入直译、意译和对等的习语三种不同译法,有时每种译法可能有好几种不同的译文,供读者选择。但是,由于有些汉语习语很

难甚至无法直译成英语,有些汉语习语在英语中没有对等的习语,所以并非每个条目都提供了三种不同的译法。此外,在三种不同译法的排列上,本词典采取了直译—意译—对等习语的排列顺序。直译告诉读者该汉语习语的本意;意译是对习语的解释;而对等的习语则为读者提供了英语中更为“地道”的表达方式。

总而言之,本词典是在汉英词典的编纂方面的一次新的尝试,目的是向读者奉献一本较之现有的同类词典更为实用的汉英习语词典。但是,由于编者的水平所限,很可能还有不少错漏之处,敬请读者指正。

编者

2003年6月

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## A

## 【哀兵必胜】

An army with righteous indignation is bound to win; The oppressed (distressed) will rise to win.

## 【哀而不伤】

mournful but not distressing; deeply felt but not sentimental; in moderation; temperate

## 【哀鸿遍野】

Starving geese swarm above the land; Starving people fill the land; Famished refugees swarm a land. [例]看到这种哀鸿遍野的景象,真是凄惨。It's miserable to see *starving people moaning everywhere*.

## 【哀久自灭】

Sorrow fades away with the passage of time; Time blunts the edge of sorrow.

## 【哀莫大于心死】

No grief is greater than a dead heart; There is no grief so great as that for a dead heart; Despair is the greatest sorrow. [例]哀莫大于心死,所以她才会如此憔悴。Despair is the greatest sorrow. That's why she had such a haggard face.

## 【挨门逐户】

go from house to house (from door to door); leave no house unvisited (unsearched) [例]日本鬼子包围了村子,挨门逐户地搜查那位受伤的游击队员。The Japanese soldiers surrounded the village and *searched all the houses* for the wounded guerrilla.

## 【爱不释手】

love (like) something so much that one cannot part with it; be too fond of something [例]那件玩具非常可爱,人人都

爱不释手。That toy was so lovely that *no one could bear to put it down*.

## 【爱莫能助】

be glad but powerless to render service; feel sorry that one is not in a position to help; be sympathetic but unable to help; not be able to help even if one would like to [例]对不起,我实在是爱莫能助。I'm sorry. *I'd love to help you but my hands are tied*.

## 【爱钱如命】

love money like one's life; extremely miserly and stingy; Misers put their back and their belly into their pocket.

## 【爱屋及乌】

extend the love for a house to the crows on it; extend one's love of somebody to other people or things related to him or her; love one thing on account of another; Love me, love my dog. [例]他是如此地爱她,以至于爱屋及乌,连她的缺点都一并接受。He loves her so much that he *extends the love to all her weaknesses*.

## 【安邦定国】

bring peace and stability to the country

## 【安分守己】

abide by law and behave oneself; be content with one's lot; Let the cobbler stick to his last. [例]他一向是个安分守己的公民,遵守各种法规。He is always a *law-abiding* citizen; he observes all the laws and regulations.

## 【安居乐业】

live and work in peace and contentment; live (enjoy) a prosperous and contented life [例]在战争时期我们怎么能过上安居乐业的生活? How can we *enjoy a*

*prosperous and contented life in wartime?*

**【安贫乐道】**

be contented in poverty and take delight in wisdom; live contentedly as a poor scholar

**【安然无恙】**

without any disease; safe and sound; sound in life and limb; fall on one's feet  
[例]那个男孩从着火的大楼里跑了出来,安然无恙地回到了家。The boy returned home *safe and sound* from the burning building.

**【安如泰山】**

as secure as Mount Taishan; as solid as a rock; be not in the slightest danger

**【安身立命】**

have shelter and feel secure; live in peace and feel at ease; settle down and get on with one's pursuit

**【安于现状】**

be content with the present state of affairs; be reluctant to move forward; be reluctant to take actions to improve what one has  
[例]我的姑姑不是个安于现状的人,她什么新鲜事都想试一试。My aunt is not *content with her state*; she is willing to try every novel thing.

**【安之若素】**

be as calm as usual; bear hardships, etc. with equanimity; regard wrongdoing with indifference

**【按兵不动】**

keep troops entrenched; take no action; hide one's time [例]在没有摸清对手的情况之前,我们还是按兵不动为好。We'd better *take no action* till we know clearly about our opponents.

**【按部就班】**

do something step by step; proceed in an orderly manner; keep to fixed ways of doing things; learn to say before you sing; creep before you walk [例]只有按部就

班地作全面的检查,才能找出程序中的问题。You have to go through the entire program *step by step* to find out where the trouble lies.

**【按图索骥】**

look for a steed with its picture; try to locate something by following up a clue

**【暗渡陈仓】**

pass the County of Chencang secretly; do one thing under cover of another

**【暗箭伤人】**

wound somebody with an arrow from behind; stab somebody in the back; speak ill of somebody behind his back [例]我没料到他当面挺有礼貌,背地里却暗箭伤人。I haven't expected that he is polite to my face, but will *stab me in the back*.

**【暗送秋波】**

ogle (send) autumn waves stealthily; convey one's love by stealing a look; make eyes at somebody

**【暗无天日】**

complete darkness; in the dark days; total absence of justice

**【黯然失色】**

fall into the shade (shadow); be overshadowed (outshined); dwarf (pale) somebody (into insignificance); take the guilt off the gingerbread [例]她的聪慧令所有的同学都黯然失色。All her classmates *were overshadowed* by her cleverness.

**【昂首阔步】**

march forward with one's chin up; step along in high spirits [例]他昂首阔步地走在队伍的前头。He *marched forward with his chin up* in the front of the procession.

**【嗷嗷待哺】**

cry piteously for food [例]她不忍心抛弃嗷嗷待哺的婴儿。She did not have the heart to abandon the baby *crying for food*.

*piteously*.

【傲然屹立】

stand firmly and proudly; be firm and un-

shakable [例]那棵松树傲然屹立于山颠。The pine tree *stood firmly and proudly* at the mountaintop.

## B

## 【八九不离十】

nine times out of ten; pretty close; very near; about right; ten to one

## 【八面玲珑】

be smooth and slick (in establishing social relations); (of character) manage to please everybody; (of speech) cover all sides beautifully; tactful; diplomatic; be a good mixer; be all things to all men [例] 有玛吉在晚会中很好, 她是个非常八面玲珑的人。It's always good to have Maggie in a party, for she is such a good mixer.

## 【八面威风】

an awe-inspiring reputation extending in every direction; make magnificent appearance; a commanding presence; an aura of awesome might

## 【八仙过海, 各显其能】

like the Eight Immortals crossing the sea, each one showing his or her special prowess; try to outshine each other; vie with each other [例] 候选人为了赢得更多的选票, 真是八仙过海, 各显其能。The candidates tried to outshine each other so as to win more votes.

## 【八字还没一撇】

not even the first stroke of the character is in sight; There's not the slightest sign of success yet; Things aren't even starting to take shape yet.

## 【拔刀相助】

draw a sword and render help; take up the cudgels against an injustice

## 【拔苗助长】

try to help the shoots grow by pulling them upward; spoil things by excessive enthusi-

asm or by undue haste

## 【跋山涉水】

scale mountains and ford streams; make a long and difficult journey; trek a long way; trudge over a long distance [例] 地质勘探队员们跋山涉水, 不畏艰险, 为祖国寻找地下宝藏。The geological prospecting workers travel over mountains and rivers, braving all hardships to discover the underground treasures for the country.

## 【白璧微瑕】

a flaw in a white jade; a slight blemish in man's good character; a slight defect in a person of integrity

## 【白璧无瑕】

flawless white jade; impeccable moral integrity; no blemish in one's good character

## 【白费口舌】

to speak or to argue with no result; do nothing by talking; waste one's breath (words) [例] 她的主意已定, 你就别白费口舌去劝她了。Since she has made up her mind, you needn't waste your breath trying to persuade her.

## 【白费力气】

waste one's energy; be a fool for one's pains; waste effort on; draw a blank; run one's head against a brick wall

## 【白驹过隙】

(life is short) like a white pony's shadow across a crevice; time passes swiftly; in a split second; Time flies. [例] 白驹过隙, 转眼他到美国已十年了。Time flies. He has been in America for ten years before he realizes it.

## 【白面书生】



pale - faced young scholar; inexperienced in life [例]他是个白面书生,手无寸铁,又能有啥办法呢? He is a *pale - faced intellectual* with no weapons in his hands. What can he do?

## 【白日见鬼】

see ghosts in broad daylight; have a fantasy; pure fantasy; absurd; imaginary; impossible

## 【白日做梦】

dream daydreams; daydream; indulge in wishful thinking; cherish a pipe (fond) dream; build castles in the air

## 【白手起家】

build up from nothing; start empty - handed; self - made; start from scratch [例]那个成功的商人白手起家。The successful businessman *built up his fortune from scratch*.

## 【白头偕老】

(of married couple) reach old age together; remain a devoted couple to the end of their lives; live to ripe old age in conjugal bliss

## 【白纸黑字】

black characters on white paper; (written) in black and white; what has been put down in black and white

## 【百步穿杨】

shoot an arrow through a willow leaf a hundred paces away; shoot with great precision (with pin - point accuracy)

## 【百尺竿头,更进一步】

make still further progress; keep forging ahead; take one more step forward [例]父亲鼓励他的孩子们,在新的一年里,在学业上百尺竿头,更进一步。The father encouraged his children to *make further progress* in their studies in the new year.

## 【百川归海】

all rivers flow to the sea; all things tend in one direction

## 【百读不厌】

never get tired of reading; be worth reading a hundred times [例]经典的作品百读不厌,因为它们包含着一些永恒不变的真理。Classics are worth reading a hundred times because they hold certain truths that remain valid through the ages.

## 【百发百中】

a hundred shots, a hundred bull's eyes; hit the mark every time; shoot with unflinching accuracy; Every shot tells. [例]他的枪法已达到了百发百中的水平,这可是远近闻名的。He has reached the level of *making every shot tell*, which is known to all.

## 【百废俱兴】

all neglected tasks are being undertaken; full - scale reconstruction is under way [例]数年的战争之后,这个国家百废俱兴。After years of war, a *full - scale reconstruction is under way* in the country.

## 【百感交集】

all sorts of feelings well up in one's heart; a multitude of feelings surges up; with mingled feelings; crowd upon one's mind [例]多年后,他回到家乡,看到家乡发生了巨大的变化,真是令他百感交集。Years later, when he returned to his hometown and saw that great changes had taken place there, he *was really moved by a mixture of feelings*.

## 【百花齐放,百家争鸣】

let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend

## 【百嘴莫辩】

a hundred mouths cannot explain it away; difficult to get at the truth

## 【百孔千疮】

a hundred holes, a thousand scars; in a

disastrous state; riddled with gaping wounds; afflicted with all ills

【百里挑一】

Only one in a hundred was chosen; one in a hundred; cream of the crop [例]那些能通过考试进入大学的学生们可都是百里挑一的。Those students who can pass the entrance examination and be admitted to the university are all *cream of the crop*.

【百炼成钢】

be toughened and hardened into steel; be tempered (steeled) in repeated struggles; be put through the mill

【百年大计】

a grand hundred-year plan; a project of vital and lasting importance; an undertaking of fundamental importance for generations to come [例]此项建设是百年大计, 在施工中一定要做到质量第一。The construction is *a project of vital and lasting importance*, so in the course of construction, we should always put quality first.

【百思不解】

remain puzzled after pondering over sth. a hundred times; remain perplexed despite much thought; can't figure out; incomprehensible; unfathomable [例]到底那个魔术师是如何从锁着的柜子里出来的, 小男孩百思不解。The little boy just *can't figure out* how the magician could escape from the locked cupboard.

【百闻不如一见】

It is better to see once than hear a hundred times; One look is worth a thousand words; Seeing is believing; To see is to believe.

【百无禁忌】

no restrictions of any kind here, in the way of taboo or things to be avoided;

Nothing is under taboo; no prohibitions of any kind; without any restraint; stop at nothing

【百无聊赖】

bored to death; utterly bored; bored stiff; sheer boredom; overcome with boredom [例]百无聊赖中, 她随手拿起一本时装杂志翻了起来。Just out of *sheer boredom*, she picked up a fashion magazine and began to leaf it through.

【百依百顺】

docile and obedient; obey in every way; all obedience; dance after (to) sb.'s pipe (piping, whistle); be at a person's beck and call

【百战百胜】

fight a hundred battles, win a hundred victories; emerge (come out) victorious in every battle; win battle after battle; ever-victorious; invincible [例]知己知彼, 方可百战百胜。Only when one knows his own strength and that of the enemy can he be *invincible in all battles*.

【百折不挠】

keep on fighting in spite of all setbacks; be unflinching in the face of setbacks; be undaunted by repeated setbacks; tenacity of purpose; indomitable; persistent; unremitting; persevering; unbending; never say die [例]她的成功是靠她百折不挠的努力才取得的。Her success is due to her *unrelenting effort*.

【百足之虫, 死而不僵】

A centipede does not topple over even when dead; Old institutions die hard.

【班门弄斧】

wield an axe at the door of Lu Ban the master carpenter; show off one's slight skill in front of an expert or master; teach granny how to suck eggs; teach fish how to swim [例]他是个文学家, 要在他面前

称起诗家来，那不是班门弄斧吗？He is a man of letters, if you call yourself a poet in his presence, would not it be something like *wielding an axe at the door of Lu Ban the master carpenter?*

【斑駁陆离】

mixed colours (hints); of many colours; motley - coloured; variegated (colors); many - hued

【搬弄是非】

make mischief; sow discord; tell tales; gossip [例]没有人喜欢住在我家隔壁的那个女人，她专爱到处搬弄是非。Nobody likes the woman living next door to me, for she enjoys *making mischief* everywhere.

【搬起石头砸自己的脚】

lift a rock only to have one's toes squashed; be hoist with (by) one's own petard; Harm set, harm get; He brings a staff to break his own head; He that mischief hatcheth, mischief catcheth.

【板上钉钉】

drive (knock) a nail in a board; no two ways about it; that clinches it; That's final; determined; The die is cast (thrown). [例]这事是板上钉钉了，他知道已无能为力了。Since *the die was thrown*, he knew he could do nothing more about it.

【半壁江山】

half of the country (land)—usu. referring to the unoccupied part of an invaded country; independent section of the country; the remaining land

【半斤八两】

half a pound of one and eight ounces of the other; not much to choose between the two; much of a muchness; be six of one and half a dozen of the other; tweedledee and tweedledum [例]一个巴掌打不响，

我看他俩都有错，半斤八两。It takes two to make a quarrel. It seems to me that there were faults on both sides, and it was a case of six of one and half a dozen of the other.

【半路出家】

become a monk or nun late in life; switch to a job one was not trained for; without solid foundation or training [例]对于摄影他是半路出家，算不上这个领域的专家。He *hasn't solid foundation* on photography, so he can't be counted as an expert in that field.

【半途而废】

stop (abandon, collapse, leave off, give up) halfway; do things by halves; leave sth. unfinished; fail to complete a thing [例]如果你总是半途而废的话，你这一生也不会有所作为的。If you always *give up halfway*, you won't get anywhere in your life.

【半推半就】

half refusing, half accepting; yield while pretending to reject; give way after making a show of declining; feigning to resist

【半信半疑】

half believe and half doubt; not quite convinced; be dubious of (about); half in doubt; doubtfully; take sth. with a grain of salt [例]我们对他们讲的这件离奇的事半信半疑。We took his fantastic story *with a grain of salt*.

【傍人门户】

live under sb.'s roof; be dependent on sb. for living; live at sb's mercy; depend upon sb's whims and pleasures [例]她不想一辈子都傍人门户，决意出去找份工作养活自己。She didn't want to *be dependent on others for a living* all her life and decided to find a job to support herself.

【包藏祸心】

cover up one's sinister motives; harbour evil (malicious) intentions; entertain rebellion; have ulterior motives [例]虽然他表面上为人热心,骨子里却是包藏祸心。Though he was very obliging and sweet on the surface, inside he *harbored evil intentions*.

#### 【包罗万象】

covering (embracing) everything under the sun; all-embracing; all-inclusive; encyclopedic; omnibus; comprehensive; wide-ranging [例]古董店里包罗万象,完全像是一个中国文化博物院。The curio shop *covers and contains everything* and it is just like a museum of Chinese culture.

#### 【饱汉不知饿汉饥】

The well-fed don't know how the starving suffer; One who is in comfortable circumstances knows not the bitterness of misfortune; The fat man knoweth not what the lean thinketh; He whose belly is full believes not him who is fasting.

#### 【饱经风霜】

have experienced years of wind and frost; have been through the vicissitudes of life; weather-beaten; storm-beaten; much-weathered; go through the mill [例]他在生活中饱经风霜,因而看上去比他的实际年龄要苍老些。He *has gone through all hardships in life* and looks older than his real age.

#### 【饱食终日,无所用心】

eat three square meals a day and do not work; be sated with food and remain idle; live like a parasite; become a mere vegetable; sit like a bump on a log; loaf about (around) [例]饱食终日,无所用心固然不对,但过度工作也是愚蠢的,对身体健康也有妨害。It is certainly wrong for a person to *eat his full and idle about all day long*, but it is also foolish to

overwork oneself.

#### 【报仇雪恨】

avenge oneself and cancel out one's hatred; glut one's revenge; wreak one's vengeance; pay off old scores; retaliate; take one's revenge (on sb.)

#### 【抱残守缺】

cherish the outmoded and preserve the outworn; be a stickler for ancient ways and things; be conservative; stick in the mud

#### 【抱恨终天】

regret sth. to the end of one's days; harbor an eternal sorrow; bitterly lament; regret forever [例]朋友的背叛使他抱恨终天。The betrayal of his friend made him *regret it to the end of his days*.

#### 【抱头鼠窜】

cover the head and sneak away like a rat; be frightened away; run wildly like cornered rats; scurry (scamper) off like a frightened rat; flee helter-skelter [例]在我军的攻势下,敌军抱头鼠窜。Attacked by our army, the enemy soldiers *scampered off like frightened rats*.

#### 【抱薪救火】

carry faggots to put out a fire; adopt a wrong method to save situation and end up by making it worse; do something counterproductive [例]他的所作所为犹如抱薪救火,事情变得更糟了。What he had done was just like *fighting by adding fuel in it* and ended up by making things even worse.

#### 【暴风骤雨】

violent (mighty) storm; hurricane; tempest; a war of elements

#### 【暴戾恣睢】

be brutal and do evils at will; extremely cruel and despotic; violently tempered; cross-grained; domineering; tyrannical [例]在晚年时由于所遭遇的挫折,他

变得暴戾恣睢。In his old age he became *violently tempered* due to the setbacks he had suffered.

**【暴露无遗】**

be thoroughly exposed; be completely unmasked; be completely brought to light [例]在大众面前,他们的阴谋暴露无遗。Their conspiracy was *thoroughly exposed* before the public.

**【暴殄天物】**

wasteful use of things from Heaven; a reckless waste of grain, etc.; wantonly destroy (waste) products of nature; waste natural products

**【暴跳如雷】**

stamp with fury; spring up in one's rage; fly into a rage; in a frenzy of rage; go on the rampage; hit the ceiling (roof); fly off the handle; blow one's top [例]在我告诉父亲我的所作所为后,他立刻暴跳如雷。When I told my father what I had done, he immediately *hit the ceiling*.

**【杯弓蛇影】**

mistaking the reflection (shadow) of a bow in the cup for a snake; extremely suspicious; self-created suspicion; be jittery with imaginary fears; be afraid of one's own shadow

**【杯盘狼藉】**

with wine glasses and plates spread all over a dining-table; stacks of cups and dishes—scene of big dinner; a glorious mess

**【杯水车薪】**

try to extinguish (put out) the fire of a cartload of firewood with a cup of water; an utterly inadequate measure; a useless attempt

**【卑躬屈膝】**

act servilely (obsequiously); cringe; go (come) with cap in hand to; subservient;

bow and scrape; lick sb.'s boots (feet, shoes, spittle) [例]为了维持生计,他不得不在主人面前卑躬屈膝。He had to *bow and scrape* before the boss in order to earn bread for his family.

**【悲愤填膺】**

be filled with grief and indignation; burning with indignation; with sadness and anger at heart; in righteous indignation [例]她的牺牲使大家悲愤填膺,大家发誓要为她报仇雪恨。Everyone was *filled with grief and indignation* at the news of her death, and pledged to take revenge for her.

**【悲欢离合】**

joys and sorrows, partings and reunions; checkered career; the sorrow of separation and the joy of reunion; vicissitudes of life

**【悲天悯人】**

bernean the state of universe and pity the fate of mankind; broadhearted kindness; feeling for universal compassion; have cosmic pity on; pity for all mankind

**【悲喜交集】**

grief and joy intermingled; mixed feelings of grief and joy; joy tempered with sorrow; mingled feelings [例]兄弟俩多年别离后终于重逢,真是悲喜交集。When the two brothers reunited after long years of separation, they had *mixed feelings of grief and joy*.

**【背道而驰】**

run in the opposite direction; run counter to; be diametrically opposed to; contradict the whole purpose of; draw further apart [例]与历史的发展方向背道而驰的人注定要失败。Those who *act contrary* to the trend of history are doomed to fail.

**【背井离乡】**

leave one's native place (esp. against one's will); abandon one's home; be far away

from home; exile [例]战争使许多人不得不背井离乡。The war forced many people *leave their native place*.

**【背水一战】**

fight with one's back to the river; fight to win or die; a death-struggle; put up a last-ditch struggle; burn one's bridge; have one's back to the wall; cross the Rubicon

**【背信弃义】**

go against one's words and obligations; break faith with sb.; break one's words; violate a treaty; perfidious; traitorous; treacherously; Punic faith; throw sb. over the bridge; play sb. false (foul) [例]对方领导人背信弃义,撕毁停战协定,重新点燃战火。Going against their words and obligation, the leaders of the other side tore up the truce agreement and rekindled the flames of war.

**【奔走相告】**

run around spreading the news; lose no time in telling each other the news; pass the news from one person to another (from mouth to mouth); pass on the word

**【本末倒置】**

take the branch for the root; put the incidental before the fundamental; turn things inside out (upside down); put the cart before the horse [例]售货员未送货竟先要收钱,我告诉他这是本末倒置。When the salesman wanted money for goods he hadn't delivered, I told him he was *putting the cart before the horse*.

**【本性难移】**

It is difficult to alter one's character; The leopard can't change his spots; The wolf may grow grey but never good.

**【笨鸟先飞】**

Clumsy birds have to start flying early; the slow need to start early (used as a modest

expression of one's need for caution)

**【逼上梁山】**

be driven to join the Liangshan rebels; be driven to revolt; be driven to drastic alternatives; be forced to do sth. desperate; be driven to extremity [例]他被逼上梁山才做出这一惊人之举。He was *driven to drastic alternatives* and took such a shocking action.

**【比比皆是】**

can be seen (found) everywhere; be great in number; they are everywhere; meet the eye everywhere

**【比肩继踵】**

shoulders to shoulders and heels to heels; be crowded with people; follow in the footsteps of another; crowd around; jostle each other [例]春节将至,商场里人特别多,比肩继踵,川流不息。With Spring Festival around the corner, the department store was *inundated with people* coming and going all the time.

**【比上不足,比下有余】**

fall short of the best but be better than the worst; can pass muster; contented to be middling; passable; tolerable

**【笔墨官司】**

controversy in writing; paper arguments; writing polemics; a battle of words

**【必恭必敬】**

reverent and respectful; extremely deferential; reverential; very polite; with hat in hand [例]这个年轻人对长辈总是必恭必敬。The young man is always very *reverent and respectful* to his seniors.

**【必由之路】**

the road one must follow or take; the only way; inevitable course [例]改革开放是中国成为世界强国的必由之路。The reform and open is *the necessary road* for China to become a strong nation in the

world.

**【闭关锁国】**

lock one's doors against the world; close the communications at the borders; closed door policy; a policy of seclusion

**【闭关自守】**

stop international intercourse for defence; close one's country to external contacts; shut oneself in; live in isolation; closed-door policy [例]清政府采取闭关自守的政策,结果只能使中国越来越落后。The Qing government adopted a *closed-door policy* which only resulted in increasing backwardness.

**【闭门羹】**

be denied entrance; find the door slammed in one's face; be left out in the cold; receive a cold-shoulder treatment

**【闭门思过】**

shut oneself up and ponder over one's mistakes; ponder over one's mistakes in solitude; reflect on one's misdeeds in private [例]他犯了个严重的错误,正闭门思过呢。He made a serious mistake and *was pondering over his misdeeds in solitude*.

**【闭门造车】**

make a cart behind closed doors; draw up impractical plans behind closed doors; work at some project without reference to the actual needs; impractical [例]你不作调查研究就写报告,犹如闭门造车。You are writing a report without making any investigations. It is just like trying to *make a cart behind closed doors*.

**【闭目塞听】**

shut one's eyes and stop up one's ears; be out of touch with reality; blind obstinacy; turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to; shut one's eyes and ears to

**【闭月羞花】**

(a dazzling beauty that) makes the moon hide itself and flowers close up for being ashamed; (a woman) be of charming appearance

**【敝帚自珍】**

value one's own old broom; cherish sth. of little value simply because it is one's own

**【筚路蓝缕】**

drive a cart in ragged clothes to blaze a new trail; endure great hardships in pioneer work; begin a great cause through difficulties; the pioneering spirit [例]如果没有那些筚路蓝缕的先锋,这个国家就不会有今天的局面。The country couldn't be what it is today without those pioneers who *braved hardships and difficulties*.

**【避繁就简】**

shun the complicated and tackle the simple; take the simple, less complicated way

**【避其锐气,击其惰归】**

avoid the enemy when he is fresh and strike him when he is tired and withdrawn [例]在战争中要避其锐气,击其惰归,以求灭杀其优势。In war, we should *avoid the enemy when he is full of vigor and strike when he is fatigued and withdrawn* in order to reduce his superiority.

**【避实就虚】**

dwell on the abstract to avoid real issues; stay clear of the enemy's main force and strike at his weak points; strike where the enemy is weakest

**【避重就轻】**

choose the light and avoid the heavy; avoid the important and dwell on the trivial; shirk the difficult and take the easy; keep silent about major charges while admitting minor ones [例]他工作中总是避重就轻,引起了同事的不满。In work he always *evades major responsibility*

and takes up the light, which arouses complaints in his colleagues.

【壁垒森严】

strongly fortified; strong defence preparations; closely guarded; sharply divided; an impassable barrier

【鞭长莫及】

The whip, though long enough, should not be applied to the belly of a horse; beyond one's ability (reach); too far away for one to be able to help; cannot do it as much as one would like to

【鞭辟入里】

cut to the quick; penetrating; trenchant; incisive

【变本加厉】

go even further; become aggravated; be further intensified; out do the previous ones; step up; go from bad to worse [例]侵略者完全违背了自己的诺言,更变本加厉地推行侵略扩张政策。The aggressors broke their promises completely, and intensified their efforts to push the policy of aggression and expansion.

【变幻莫测】

change unpredictably; unending changes; capricious; unpredictable; changeable

【变幻无常】

constantly changing; hop from one thing to another; fickle; changeful; erratic; capricious; flux and reflux; chop and change [例]每到夏季这一地区的天气就变幻无常。In summer, the weather in this district becomes quite changeable.

【遍地开花】

blossom everywhere; spring up all over the place; spring up like mushrooms

【遍体鳞伤】

one's whole body is covered all over with cuts and bruises; beaten black and blue; be a mass of bruises; be black and blue

all over

【标新立异】

uphold what is new and establish what is distinctive; start something new in order to be different; create something new and original; do something unconventional or unorthodox; strain after novelty (originality) [例]我们要敢于标新立异,去做前人没有做过的事。We should dare to blaze new trails and do something never attempted by people before.

【表里如一】

be the same outside and inside; be what one professes to be; think and act in one and the same way; conformity of profession and conduct; sincere; true to one's word [例]他这人一向表里如一,有什么说什么。He is a man of transparent sincerity and he always speaks straight from the heart.

【别出心裁】

have an unconventional idea; adopt an original approach; try to be different; create new styles (fashions)

【别久情疏】

Long absent, soon forgotten; Out of sight, out of mind; Far from eye, far from heart.

【别具一格】

have a unique (distinctive) style; in a class by itself; original in style (design); have a style of one's own [例]房间的装饰别具一格。The decoration of the room is original in style.

【别开生面】

open up a fresh outlook; do a thing in an unusual way; break a new path; start sth. original; in a novel way; break fresh ground

【别有天地】

There is another heaven or earth; a place of unique beauty; scenery of exceptional



charm; an altogether different world [例] 小花园里只见一脉清流,几丛翠竹,真是别有天地。In the small garden, there was to be seen a clear stream and several dense groves of emerald bamboo, which appeared to be *quite like a fairy land*.

**【别有用心】**

have another motive; have ulterior motives; with an ulterior object in view; have an axe to grind; harbor ulterior motives

**【彬彬有礼】**

in a civil manner; refined and courteous; well-mannered; polite; urbane

**【宾至如归】**

guests or customers come as if they have returned home; a home from home

**【冰冻三尺,非一日之寒】**

It takes more than one cold day for the river to freeze three feet deep; The trouble has been brewing for quite some time; It takes a long time to acquire a skill [例] 冰冻三尺,非一日之寒。他的技艺是多年练就的。Ice three feet thick is not due to one day's cold. His skills are acquired from years of practice.

**【冰炭不相容】**

Ice and charcoal cannot coexist; as incompatible (irreconcilable) as ice and hot coals; at loggerheads with each other (one another) [例] 他们两人曾经是好朋友,谁也搞不清他们近来为了什么这么冰炭不相容。They used to be good friends. No one knows why they became as *incompatible as ice and hot charcoal* recently.

**【冰天雪地】**

a world of ice and snow; all covered in ice and snow

**【冰消瓦解】**

melt like ice and break like tiles; vanish from the scene; melt away; disintegrate; dissolve [例] 通过谈心我们两人之间

的误会已冰消瓦解了。The misunderstandings between us *were cleared up* after a heart-to-heart talk.

**【兵不血刃】**

the edges of the swords not being stained with blood; win victory without firing a shot (striking a blow); achieve victory without fighting

**【兵不厌诈】**

Nothing is too deceitful in war; There can never be too much deception in war; All is fair in war.

**【兵贵神速】**

Speed is precious in war; Speed is most valuable in military affairs; Speed is a soldier's asset; Speed is what counts in war. [例] 兵贵神速一向被认为是一个重要的军事原则。That *speed is the soldier's asset* has always been known as one of the important military principles.

**【兵荒马乱】**

turmoil and chaos of war; the stresses and strains of a war; be completely in war [例] 在兵荒马乱的年月里,许多家庭妻离子散。In those *chaotic* years, countless families were broken up.

**【兵来将挡,水来土掩】**

confront soldiers with generals and stem water with earth; take such measures as the situation calls for; give tit for tat; measure for measure

**【兵连祸结】**

incessant wars and endless distress; ravaged by successive wars; continuous wars and turmoil; war-ridden; war-torn

**【兵临城下】**

The attacking army has reached the city gates; The city is under siege.

**【兵马来动,粮草先行】**

Food and fodder should go ahead of troops and horses; Proper preparations should be

made in advance; An army, like a serpent, goes on its belly; An army marches on its stomach.

【兵强马壮】

strong soldiers and sturdy horses; a well-trained and powerful army; well-equipped and well-trained troops with high morale

【并驾齐驱】

two horses galloping abreast; run neck and neck; keep pace with; keep abreast of one another; keep in step; keep up with; be on a par with

【并行不悖】

parallel and not contrary to each other; run parallel; not be mutually exclusive; can be carried out at the same time [例] 坚持四项基本原则实行改革开放是并行不悖的。Adherence to the Four Cardinal Principles and implementation of the policies of reform and opening to the outside world *are not mutually exclusive*.

【病从口入, 祸从口出】

Disease goes in by the mouth and trouble comes out of the mouth; mind your words when you speak; A closed mouth catches no flies; Into a shut mouth flies fly not.

【病急乱投医】

turn to any doctor one can find when critically ill; try anything when in a desperate situation

【病入膏肓】

the disease has attacked the vitals; be mortally ill; beyond cure; sick to the core; fatal disease; have no hope of recovery

【波澜壮阔】

surging forward with great momentum; unfolding on a magnificent scale; sweep ahead magnificently; tempestuous; torrential [例] 波澜壮阔的学生运动使反动派惊恐万分。The student movement

which *surged ahead in powerful waves* caused great panic among the reactionary circles.

【拨乱反正】

dispel chaos and restore peace; bring order out of chaos; set to right things which have been thrown into disorder; turn from heterodoxy to the right path

【拨云见日】

dispel (scatter) the clouds and see the sun; restore justice; redress wrong and restore justice; remove the cloud of suspicion [例] 与这个长者交谈后, 令这个年轻人有拨云见日之感。After having a talk with the respectful old man, the young was as enlightened as *beholding the sun blazing forth from a cloudy sky*.

【伯仲之间】

about the same; almost on a par; equally matched

【勃然大怒】

burst into a fit of temper; flare up; fly into a fury; fly off the handle; hit the roof (ceiling); blow one's top

【博大精深】

have both extensive knowledge and profound scholarship; broad and profound

【博而不精】

have wide but not expert knowledge; know something about everything; be Jack of all trades and master of none

【博古通今】

be versed in both ancient and modern knowledge; conversant with both ancient and modern learning; erudite and informed [例] 表姐, 你博古通今, 怎么连这出戏的名儿也不知道。Why, cousin, you are *well enough versed in ancient and modern literature* to know the title of that opera.

【博施济众】

help the public by bestowing liberally; in-

terested in charities

【博闻强记】

have wide learning and a retentive memory; have encyclopedic knowledge

【博学多才】

be possessed of great learning and manifold abilities; learned and versatile; erudite and talented

【捕风捉影】

catch the winds and grasp the shadow; make groundless accusations; speak or act on hearsay evidence; run after a shadow; trump up a story [例]他们对这一官员的指控并非完全捕风捉影。Their accusations of the official are not entirely *without foundation*.

【不白之冤】

a hidden grievance that cannot be disclosed; unrighted wrong; unredressed injustice [例]在反动派的统治下,不知有多少人蒙受不白之冤而被杀害。Nobody knows just how many people had been put to death on *unjust charges* under the rule of the reactionaries.

【不败之地】

in an invincible position

【不卑不亢】

neither cringing nor arrogant; cordial but independent; without being servile or bumptious

【不辨菽麦】

cannot tell beans from wheat; have no knowledge of practical matters; ignorant of common things; not know chalk from cheese [例]世上到处有不辨菽麦的人。There are people who *cannot tell wheat from beans* everywhere in the world.

【不成体统】

behave very badly; most improper; wildly; unseemly; indecent; undignified; not

be (look) a perfect sight [例]她这样年纪的女孩打扮成这个样子真是不成体统。It is really *unbecoming* for a girl of her age to be dressed in such a way.

【不逞之徒】

one who is discontented and makes troubles; reckless fellow; the unruly; desperado; a lawless gang; gangster

【不耻下问】

not feel ashamed to ask one's subordinates or inferiors; stoop to ask questions from common people; not above asking questions

【不辞而别】

leave without saying good - bye; leave without notice; depart without taking leave; take French leave [例]他晚饭后不辞而别,这令女主人大为不悦。He *took French leave* after the dinner, which made the hostess quite angry.

【不打不相识】

It takes a fight for people to get to know each other; Friends are often made after a fight; No discord, no concord; Out of blows friendship grows.

【不打自招】

confess without the application of torture; confess without being pressed; reveal unintentionally; a frank avowal; a self - confession; without being pressed; one lets the cat out of the bag

【不到长城非好汉】

He who does not reach the Great Wall is not a true man; not to stop until one's aim is attained

【不到黄河心不死】

not stop until one reaches the Huangbe River; not stop until one reaches one's goal; refuse to give up until all hope is gone; ambition never dies until there is no way out; see Naples and die

## 【不得而知】

can make nothing of it; unable to find out; there is no knowledge of it; unknown [例]对他们争吵的原因我不得而知。I *have no way to find out* the cause of their quarrel.

## 【不得人心】

go against the will of the people; not enjoy popular support; be unpopular; discredited

## 【不得要领】

fail to grasp the main points; could not bring the matter to a head; miss the point; beside the point; unable to make heads or tails of sth. [例]我给他讲了半天,他还是不得要领,依然不知这首诗的意义。I explained at great length but he just *failed to grasp the main points* and still didn't know the meaning of the poem.

## 【不登大雅之堂】

unqualified to take its place in the higher circles; not appeal to refined taste; in bad taste; unrefined; indecent; unrepresentable

## 【不动声色】

not to change one's voice and expression because of emotion; maintain one's composure; stay calm and collected; keep one's feelings to oneself; not turn a hair; not bat an eyelid

## 【不乏其人】

There is no lack of such people; Such people are not rare.

## 【不费吹灰之力】

as easy as blowing off dust; with no trouble at all; without the least effort; it's a walk-over; be able to do it on one's head; as easy as falling off a log [例]他不费吹灰之力就说服了她。He persuaded her into doing it *with no trouble at all*.

## 【不分彼此】

make no distinction between what's one's own and what's another's; share everything; be on very intimate terms; have things in common

## 【不分青红皂白】

make no distinction between black and white; not distinguish the right from the wrong; irrespective of right and wrong in a dispute; in a promiscuous manner; indiscriminately

## 【不分畛域】

make no distinction between the two frontiers; (of two people) share everything; not to treat persons in a different way

## 【不负所望】

succeed in doing well what is expected; answer (meet or come up to) sb.'s expectation; live up to expectations; cut the mustard; be up to the mustard; deliver the goods [例]他不负众望,在那场钢琴大赛中名列第一。He *lived up to our expectations* and bore away the bell in the piano contest.

## 【不尴不尬】

neither one thing nor the other; be hard put to it; nondescript; neither fish nor fowl; in a dilemma

## 【不甘示弱】

be reluctant to show weakness; yield no ground; refuse to admit being inferior; not to be outdone; hate to show the white feather

## 【不敢问津】

not to dare to make inquiries (as about prohibitively priced goods); dare not show any interest in; beyond the means of [例]这些商品价格昂贵,工薪阶层不敢问津。These commodities are expensive and *beyond the means of* salaried classes.

## 【不敢越雷池一步】

dare not go one step beyond the prescribed

limit; dare not exceed the utmost limits one can go; keep within the bounds

**【不攻自破】**

fall to the ground of itself without being attacked; (of some fallacy) cannot stand any refutation; collapse of itself; cave in by oneself [例]他对这一番言置之不理,因为他知道迟早会不攻自破。He just ignored the rumour, for he knew that sooner or later it would *fall off of itself*.

**【不共戴天】**

cannot share the same sky (with one's enemy); absolutely irreconcilable; have a deep-seated hatred for

**【不苟言笑】**

not inclined to talk and laugh; discreet (serious) in speech and manner; quiet and reserved; keep one's gravity [例]虽然他不苟言笑,但却是个很容易相处的人。Though he is *quiet and reserved*, he is easy to get along with.

**【不关痛痒】**

be completely indifferent to; of no consequence; irrelevant; insignificant

**【不过尔尔】**

just so-so; merely mediocre; just middling; not up to much

**【不寒而栗】**

shiver all over though not cold; tremble with fear; shudder; make sb.'s blood run cold; give sb. the creeps; make sb.'s hair stand on end

**【不合时宜】**

not tally with the circumstances of the time; incompatible with the present needs; improper to the occasion; untimely; ill-timed; inopportune; unseasonable; off time [例]他的建议不合时宜,没有被大家采纳。We didn't take his advice, which was *incompatible with the present needs*.

**【不欢而散】**

part with displeasure; break up unpleasantly; end on an unpleasant note; end in discord; part on bad terms [例]由于双方都不肯让步,谈判最终不欢而散。Since neither of the two parties would concede, the negotiation broke up in discord.

**【不即不离】**

be neither too familiar nor too distant; maintain a discreet distance; holding slightly aloof; be negatively friendly; keep sb. at arm's length

**【不计其数】**

unable to find the total number of them; countless; innumerable; beyond (out of) count; beyond compute

**【不假思索】**

without stopping to think; without thinking; be prompt to act or give an answer; spur-of-the-moment; without hesitation; readily; offhand; unthinkingly [例]她不假思索一口答应要帮他的忙。She promised to help him *without hesitation*.

**【不见棺材不落泪】**

not shed a tear until one sees the coffin; refuse to be convinced until one is faced with grim reality

**【不见经传】**

not to be found in the classics; not authoritative; unknown

**【不骄不躁】**

be neither conceited nor rash; guard against self-conceit and rashness; free from arrogance and rashness; be not proud or touchy [例]即使我们在工作中取得了一些成绩,我们也要保持谦虚谨慎,不骄不躁。Even though we have made some achievements, we should still remain modest, prudent and *free from arrogance and rashness*.

## 【不近人情】

be beneath the human touch; not amenable to reason; unreasonable

## 【不进则退】

no progress means retrogression; Move forward, or you'll fall behind; Complacency marks the start of regress; Not to advance is to go back. [例]学如逆水行舟,不进则退。Study is like sailing against the current: *either you go forward or you'll be left behind.*

## 【不经一事,不长一智】

You can't gain knowledge without practice; Wisdom comes from experience; In doing we learn; Experience is the mother of wisdom. [例]开始的时候不要怕出错,不经一事,不长一智。Don't be afraid of making mistakes at the start. *Wisdom comes from experience.*

## 【不经之谈】

absurd and groundless sayings; sheer nonsense; preposterous statement; cock - and - bull story

## 【不胫而走】

run without legs; spread like wildfire; get round fast; spread far and wide; circulate rapidly though not advocated [例]他考上了大学,这消息在全村不胫而走。He was admitted to university. *The news went the round of the whole village.*

## 【不拘小节】

neglect of minor points of conduct; no stickler for formality; unconstrained by formalities; not be punctilious; not bother about small matters

## 【不拘一格】

not conform (stick) to one pattern; not formalistic to one style (pattern); follow no set form (pattern)

## 【不绝如缕】

hang by a thread; very precarious; at a

critical condition; almost extinct; (of sound) linger on faintly

## 【不堪回首】

cannot bear to look back; cannot bear to think of the past; find it unbearable to recall; too sad to reflect

## 【不堪入耳】

offensive or intolerable to the ear; disgusting; revolting; ugly; vulgar

## 【不堪入目】

unbearable to have a look; not fit to be seen; disgusting; revolting

## 【不堪设想】

could not bear to think of it; dare not imagine; hard to imagine; dreadful to contemplate; unimaginable; inconceivable [例]如果他不及时发现你的这一错误的話,后果将不堪设想。If he hadn't found your mistake in time, the consequences would be too *ghastly to contemplate.*

## 【不堪一击】

cannot withstand a single blow; collapse at the first blow; too weak to stand competition or attack

## 【不堪造就】

hopeless of attainment by means of education; cannot be trained; not worth educating; hopeless to succeed in life; unpromising [例]在他的帮助下,这位曾经被大家公认是不堪造就的学生成了一名优秀生。With his help, the student who used to be considered *unpromising* by everyone became a top student.

## 【不可多得】

hard to come by; hard to get; rare; exceptional [例]他的这部小说被公认为一部不可多得的佳作。We all regard his novel as a piece of good writing which is *hard to come by.*

## 【不可救药】

too seriously ill to be cured with medicine; beyond (past) cure (remedy, reclaim); be past praying for; incurable; irremediable; incorrigible; hopeless

【不可开交】

be locked; be tied up; unable to get away; awfully busy; not having a moment one can call one's own; ineradicable; unmanageable; up to one's eyes (ears) (in the work); have one's hands full [例]最近他忙得不可开交。He has awfully been *up to his ears* in work recently.

【不可理喻】

incapable of being brought to reason; will not listen to reason; out of all reason; impervious to reason [例]他不可理喻, 坚持一意孤行, 结果给自己招来不少麻烦。He just *wouldn't listen to reason* and insisted on going his own way only to invite a lot of trouble for himself.

【不可名状】

unable to describe in words; beyond description; past expression; beggar description; have no words for sth.; ineffable; inexpressible; nondescript

【不可磨灭】

can never be erased; will endure for centuries; everlasting; indelible; ineffaceable; graven

【不可偏废】

not to stress one to the neglect of the other; without neglecting either; not to overlook either of the two

【不可企及】

beyond one's power of attainment; beyond (above) one's reach; cannot compare anywhere; lag far behind; unable to catch up with [例]他取得的成就是他同辈的人不可企及的。What he has achieved is *far beyond his peers' reach*.

【不可胜数】

too numerous to be counted; innumerable; beyond counting; beyond compute; countless

【不可收拾】

past redemption; out of hand; unmanageable; irremediable; hopeless

【不可思议】

beyond comprehension; out of one's depth; mysterious; be a miracle; unthinkable; inconceivable; unimaginable; incredible; cap the climax (globe) [例]他这么快就把一切安排好了, 真是不可思议。It is *incredible* that he could arrange everything in such a short time.

【不可同日而语】

not to be named on the same day with; there is no comparison between the two; not to be compared with; cannot be mentioned in the same breath [例]至于速度, 二者也不可同日而语。As for speed, *there is no comparison between the two*, either.

【不可望其项背】

be not fit to hold a candle to sb.; cannot hold a candle to sb.; not in the same street with sb.

【不可一世】

consider oneself unexcelled in the world; be insufferably arrogant; think nothing small of oneself; haughty airs; overbearing; swashbuckling

【不可逾越】

cannot exceed the limit; should not go beyond the limit of; insurmountable; insuperable; unbridgeable; impassable [例]那时, 这两个国家之间似乎存在着一条不可逾越的鸿沟。At that time, there seemed to be an *impassable* gulf lying between the two countries.

【不可终日】

be unable to carry on even for a single

day; be in a desperate situation; be on tenterhooks all the time

【不劳而获】

gain results without working for them; be idle and profit by other people's toil; obtain without any labor; unearned; reap where one has not sown

【不了了之】

settle a thing by leaving it unsettled; end up in nothing definite; conclude without conclusion; smother up; leave in status quo [例]这件事很重要,千万不可不了了之。This matter is of vital importance and mustn't be allowed to *take its own course*.

【不露神色】

not betray one's feelings, intentions, etc.; keep one's countenance; keep a straight face; keep one's own counsel

【不伦不类】

neither this species nor that class; beyond standard; nondescript; half and half; neither rhyme nor reason; neither fish nor fowl; neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring

【不落窠臼】

have an original style; not follow the old precedent; not fall into old ruts; free from the hackneyed precedent; unconventional; leave the beaten track [例]他写的这篇评论与众不同,不落窠臼。His commentary is different from all others and *have an original style*.

【不毛之地】

land that does not grow anything; barren (arid, sterile, waste) land; a bare and barren land; meagre (dead, poor) soil; unfruitful ground; desert [例]过去的**不毛之地**如今变成了一望无际的肥沃的田野。The formerly *barren land* has been turned into a boundless stretch of fertile

fields.

【不明不白】

with no clear reason whatever; inexplicable; unexplainable; obscure; doubtful [例]飞机不明不白的失踪,成了传播媒体揣测的话题。The *inexplicable* disappearance of the plane became a topic of speculation among the media.

【不名一文】

without a penny to one's name; without a rap; penniless; stonybroke; on the hocks; no the turf

【不谋而合】

agree without previous consultation; happen to hold the same view; happen to coincide with; be a coincidence [例]在访问日程问题上,他们的意见不谋而合。As far as the itinerary of the visit is concerned, they *happened to hold the same view*.

【不能自拔】

be so deeply involved that one can't get away; be inescapably caught in; be inextricably bogged down in; cannot extricate oneself; cannot get oneself away

【不念旧恶】

forget old grudges or grievances; discard (not to dig up) old animosities; forgive and forget; bear no malice; Let bygones be bygones; Let the dead bury the dead.

【不偏不倚】

avoid leaning to either side; without bias and without favour; impartiality and justice; without fear or favour; fair to all; even-handed; unbiased; impartial; hold the scales even [例]法官对这件事作了**不偏不倚**的处理,赢得了双方的赞赏。The judge's *even-handed* handling of the matter elicited praise from both sides.

【不平则鸣】



Where there is injustice, there will be an outcry; complaint comes when there is injustice; Man will cry out against injustice.

**【不破不立】**

Without destroying the old, one cannot build the new; No destruction, no construction; There's no making without breaking; To make you must break.

**【不期而遇】**

meet without expecting to; meet unexpectedly; meet accidentally (by chance); have a chance encounter; chance on (upon); come (run) across [例]我们十多年没见面了,想不到昨天在大街上不期而遇。We met by chance in the street yesterday after our separation of more than ten years.

**【不期而然】**

never thought it would happen but it did (happen); turn out contrary to one's expectations; happen without looking for it; happen unexpectedly; not as one thought it would happen

**【不情之请】**

my bold (presumptuous) request; my unreasonable demand

**【不求甚解】**

be content with superficial understanding; not seek to understand things thoroughly; have but little understanding of the nature of things; make no efforts to understanding the real thing [例]期末考试临近时他才开始后悔对所学的课程不求甚解。Only when the final exams were drawing near did he begin to regret being content with a superficial understanding of the courses he had taken.

**【不屈不挠】**

refuse to be cowed or submit; persevere in (at, with); bear up under affliction; with great fortitude; indomitable; dauntless;

steadfast; unswerving; unbending; tenacious; do-or-die [例]他为了自己的人生目标不屈不挠地努力着。He worked for his goals in life with great fortitude.

**【不容置喙】**

not allow others to butt in; not allow to cut in; not allow to interrupt (one's speech); brook no intervention [例]他讲话时从来都是不容置喙。He never allows others to butt in when he's talking.

**【不容置疑】**

allow of no doubt; be yond the shadow of a doubt; leave no room for doubt; without a shadow of doubt; undoubtedly; incontrovertible; unassailable

**【不入虎穴,焉得虎子】**

How can you catch tiger cubs without entering the tiger's lair? Nothing ventured, nothing gained; take necessary risk; Nothing is achieved without effort; He who would search for pearls must dive below; Nought venture, nought have.

**【不三不四】**

neither one thing nor the other; dubious; shady; indecent; nondescript; neither fish nor fowl [例]他结交了一些不三不四的人,这让他父母很担心。He made acquaintance with some disreputable guys, which made his parents really worried.

**【不塞不流,不止不行】**

There is no flowing without damming, and no motion without rest.

**【不上不下】**

suspended in midair; in a fix; up a gum tree

**【不甚了了】**

not to be too clear about sth.; not know much about sth.

**【不声不响】**

make no reply; without a word; silently; stealthily; furtively; quiet; as quiet as a mouse [例]到家时已是深夜,他蹑起脚尖不声不响地回到房间,惟恐把父母吵醒了。As it was already late in the night when he got home, he *silently* tiptoed to his room for fear that he might wake up his parents.

#### 【不胜枚举】

too numerous to mention individually; defy enumeration; cannot be enumerated one by one; beyond calculation

#### 【不胜其烦】

so bothersome as to be unbearable; be pestered beyond endurance; unable to bear; too much bother; extremely troublesome [例]她总是问他一些傻问题,让他不胜其烦。She kept asking him silly questions, which was *unbearable* to him.

#### 【不识大体】

be ignorant of the whole situation or the major principle; ignore the general interest; fail to see the larger issues; the failure of grasping the major principles [例]不识大体的人必然会斤斤计较个人得失。The *failure of grasping the major principles* is bound to lead one to think over only personal gains and losses.

#### 【不识时务】

ignorant of the present state of affairs or of the trend; be ignorant of the times; have no proper understanding of how things stand; not familiar with the current situation; behind the times; insensible

#### 【不识抬举】

not know how to appreciate favours; fail to appreciate sb.'s kindness; do not appreciate such help; not worth such help [例]他这人识抬举,下次我们不会再帮他了。He simply *doesn't know how to appreciate favours*. We won't help next time.

#### 【不时之需】

things which may come in handy; things which may be needed any time; a possible period of want or need; for emergency needs; provide against a rainy day [例]你最好存些钱以备不时之需。You had better save some money *for a rainy day*.

#### 【不食人间烟火】

stop eating the cooked food of the human world; out of touch with mundane affairs; above the material attractions of world

#### 【不速之客】

an unexpected (uninvited, unlooked-for) guest; a casual visitor; chance comer; crasher; gatecrasher

#### 【不痛不痒】

cause no pain, nor itch; scratching the surface; superficially; perfunctory; milk-and-water; wishy-washy [例]你的批评不痛不痒,没什么作用。Your criticism is *superficial* and won't come to anything.

#### 【不闻不问】

not bother to ask questions or listen to what is said; show no interest in sth.; be indifferent to sth.; pass over in silence; turn a blind eye to; shut one's eyes to [例]他对别人的事从来都不闻不问。He *neither cares to hear nor to inquire* about other people's affairs.

#### 【不务正业】

be unmindful of one's own work; not attend to one's duties; not engage in honest work [例]他不务正业,难怪老板把他开除了。He didn't *attend to his proper duties*, no wonder he was finally fired by his boss.

#### 【不相上下】

about the same; equally matched; more or less equal in strength; without much difference; balanced; nip and tuck; neck and neck; on a par with [例]两个候选

人的能力不相上下，选举的结果将很接近。It's going to be a close election, for the two candidates are of *about the same ability*.

【不肖子孙】

unworthy descendants; depraved coming generations

【不屑一顾】

not worth a single glance; not worth taking a look at; beneath one's notice; will not spare a glance for; wave aside; shrug off; cock a snook at; snap one's fingers at [例]大家对她的警告不屑一顾，结果却证明她是对的。All of us *waved aside* her warning, but it turned out that her warning was right.

【不修边幅】

not care about one's appearance; negligence of dress; slovenly; untidy

【不学无术】

not study and know nothing; have neither learning nor skill; be ignorant and incompetent; an ignoramus; uninformed; unread [例]这个年轻人不学无术，不会有出息的。The young man *is ignorant and incompetent* and won't get anywhere in his life.

【不言而喻】

understand without being told; it goes without saying that...; it stands to reason; tell its own story; speak for itself; matter - of - course; self - evident

【不厌其烦】

not mind the trouble one has to take; take great pains; be very patient; not feel annoyed to; willing to go to all the trouble; go out of one's way [例]她总是不厌其烦地回答学生提出的各种问题。She *never feels annoyed* to answer all kinds of questions raised by her students.

【不厌其详】

not sparing in furnishing the details of an account; dwell at great length; go into minute details; spare no details [例]爷爷总是不厌其详地给我们讲述他年轻时在海上的冒险经历。Grandpa *never feels bored* to tell us in full detail his adventures in the sea while he was young.

【不一而足】

it is by no means an isolated case; there are certainly more than one; similar cases are numerous; numerous

【不遗余力】

be unsparing in one's efforts; do one's utmost; spare no pains to do; do one's level best; go to all lengths; with all one's might; make every endeavor; to the best of one's ability; leave no stone unturned; move heaven and earth [例]如果你遇到什么困难找他的话，他会不遗余力帮你的。If you have some problems and turn to him, he'll *do his utmost* to help you.

【不以为然】

not think it is so; object to; take exception to; leave sth. out of consideration; come to a different conclusion; disapprove; disagree; not see eye to eye to [例]听了他对这出戏剧的分析，她不以为然地笑了笑。On hearing his analysis of the play, she gave a smile *disapprovingly*.

【不翼而飞】

take flight without wings; vanish all of a sudden; disappear without trace; take to itself wings; spread fast; spread fast as if on wings

【不亦乐乎】

what a delight it would be if...; Will not that also be pleasant? awfully; terribly; exceedingly; extremely [例]邻近期末，他们正为准备考试忙得不亦乐乎。This semester is coming to an end and they have been *terribly* busy preparing for the

examination these days.

**【不义之财】**

money obtained by dubious means; ill-gotten gains; the mammon of unrighteousness; misgotten wealth; filthy lucre

**【不由分说】**

without giving one the opportunity to explain; allow no explanation; leave no chance to explain; without listening to sb.'s protests; compulsorily [例]我回家迟了半个小时, 父母不由分说斥责了我。I came home thirty minutes later than usual, and my parents scolded me *without giving me the opportunity to explain*.

**【不由自主】**

cannot control oneself; beyond one's own control; lose mental control; in spite of oneself; involuntarily; cannot help doing

**【不约而同】**

take the same action or view without prior consultation; happen to coincide; act in concert with sb.; be a coincident; simultaneously; spontaneous

**【不在话下】**

needless to say; out of question; to say nothing of; be nothing difficult; be a cinch; go without saying [例]一星期完成这项任务对他来说不在话下。It's *nothing difficult* for him to get the job done in one week.

**【不在其位, 不谋其政】**

He who is not in any particular office, has nothing to do with plans for the administration of its duties; unwilling to comment on sth. which is not one's own concern; everyone should confine himself to his own duties

**【不择手段】**

use all kinds of (esp. vicious) means in one's power; go to every expedient; resort to every trick; stop at nothing; have no

scruples about; unscrupulously; by hook or by crook; by fair means or foul; tooth and nail [例]为了达到自己的目的, 她会不择手段。She will *go to every expedient* to accomplish her purpose.

**【不战而胜】**

win without fighting a battle; win hands down

**【不折不扣】**

without the slightest discount; to the full; one hundred percent; in full sense; in every sense; without any reservation; pure and simple; out and out; to the letter [例]不折不扣地执行命令是士兵的职责。It's a soldier's duty to carry out an order *exactly to the letter*.

**【不知底里】**

not know the details of a matter; know nothing of its essentials; not know the inside story

**【不知好歹】**

cannot distinguish between good and bad; not know good from bad; not know what's good for oneself; not appreciate a favour; graceless [例]她不知好歹, 没人愿意和她做朋友。Nobody is willing to make friends with her, for she *doesn't know good from bad*.

**【不知进退】**

not sure whether to advance or retreat; have no sense of propriety; not to know where to stop

**【不知所措】**

not know what to do; scarcely know where (which way) to turn; be all adrift; lose one's bearings; at a loss; out of one's wits; be all at sea; at one's wits' end [例]午饭时间来了不速之客, 使女主人不知所措。Some unexpected guests at lunch time *caught the hostess off balance*.

**【不知所以】**

not know the reason why it is so; unable to account for; without knowing whence; can make nothing of

**【不知所云】**

not know what is talked about; not know what sb. is driving at; make neither head nor tail of what's been said; unintelligible; incomprehensible

**【不知天高地厚】**

not know the height of the heavens or the depth of the earth; have an exaggerated opinion of one's abilities; not know what is what

**【不置可否】**

do not say "yes" or "no"; decline to comment; not express an opinion; be noncommittal; hedge; dodge [例]对这个问题他不置可否。He refused to express any opinion on the issue.

**【不治之症】**

incurable (fatal, irremediable) disease; a disease without remedy

**【不着边际】**

not to the point; wide of the mark; talk far off the mark (subject); impertinent; irrelevant; neither here nor there [例]他讲了一些不着边际的话, 没人知道他到底想说什么。What he said is *wide of the mark* and no one knows what he was driving at.

**【不自量力】**

overrate one's own abilities; go beyond one's depth; not have a proper measure of oneself; overreach oneself; put a quart into a pint pot

**【不足挂齿】**

not worth mentioning; of no importance; nothing to speak of [例]我为你做的那些事不足挂齿。What I have done for you is *not worth mentioning at all*.

**【不足为凭】**

cannot be taken as evidence; not to be taken as evidence; not prove the point; afford little evidence

**【不足为奇】**

nothing surprising; no wonder; nothing out of the common; not at all strange; be all in a day's work; Queen Anne is dead; The Dutch have taken Holland. [例]他不是第一次做出这种惊人之举, 不足为奇。This is not the first time for him to take such a shocking action. It's *nothing surprising*.

**【不足为训】**

not fit to be regarded as an example to follow; not worth learning from; not to be taken as authoritative; not to be taken as a guide (pattern)

**【布衣蔬食】**

coarse clothes and simple fare; a thrifty and simple life; live coarse

**【布衣之交】**

a friend one made when one was a commoner or in humble circumstances; friends in days of simple life

**【步步为营】**

advance gradually and entrench oneself at every step; consolidate at every step; make a stand at every step; a bastion at every step; take precautions at every step; act cautiously

**【步调一致】**

keep pace (step) with; march in step; act in unison; take concerted action

**【步履维艰】**

have difficulty walking; walk with difficulty; a little too heavy for one's feet to carry; hobble along

**【步人后尘】**

trail along behind others; follow in sb.'s footsteps; tread in the footprints of sb.; step into someone's shoes; come upon

sb.'s heels; follow in the wake of sb.  
[例]他决定步祖父和父亲的后尘,做个律师。He decided to *tread in the foot-*

*steps of his grandfather and father and be a lawyer.*

## C

## 【才高八斗】

embody eight - tenths of the talent in the world; endowed with extraordinary talents; extremely talented

## 【才华横溢】

One's talent flows horizontally; brim with talent; full of talent (wit); scintillating with wit; extremely talented

## 【才貌双全】

be both beautiful and accomplished; endowed with both beauty and talent; be as wise as fair

## 【才思敏捷】

have a facile imagination; be quick in creativeness

## 【才识(智)过人】

One's ability and insight excel the average; be gifted with talent and insight far beyond the average person

## 【才疏学浅】

wanting in ability and shallow in knowledge; have little talent and less learning

## 【才脱虎穴,又入龙潭】

jump out of the tiger's den into the dragon's pool; out of one trouble into worse trouble; from something bad to something worse; jump out of the frying pan into the fire

## 【才子佳人】

a brilliant scholar and a pretty girl; gifted scholars and beautiful ladies [例]这些书都差不多,左不过是些才子佳人,最没趣儿。There is sameness about all these tales. They're so stereotyped—all about *gifted scholars and beautiful ladies*.

## 【财大气粗】

A man of wealth breathes more audibly

than others do; He who has wealth speaks louder than others.

## 【财运亨通】

The road to wealth is wide open—wishing you prosperity; The luck for wealth is prosperous; All he touches turns to gold.

## 【采薪之忧】

having trouble in gathering firewood—a humble way of saying one is ill; a slight illness; indisposition

## 【餐风露宿】

eat in the wind and sleep in the dew; endure the hardships of an arduous journey or fieldwork

## 【残杯冷炙】

a scrappy dinner; remains of a meal; leftovers

## 【残兵败将】

discomfited troops and beaten generals; remnants of a routed, defeated army [例]消沉的全体职员犹如残兵败将。The demoralized staff were like *remnants of a routed army*.

## 【残羹剩饭】

crumbs from the table; leavings of a meal; leftovers; scraps

## 【残酷无情】

without pity; cruel; merciless; heartless; in cold blood [例]银行抢劫者准备残酷无情地射杀阻挡他们的任何人。The bank robbers planned to shoot in *cold blood* anyone who got in their way.

## 【残缺不全】

incomplete; fragmentary

## 【残渣余孽】

dross and remnant evils; the dregs of the old society; evil elements from the old so-

ciety

## 【蚕食鲸吞】

nibble away like a silkworm or swallow up like a whale; seize another country's territory by piecemeal encroachment or wholesale annexation; encroach on (upon); nibble and gobble [例]通过蚕食鲸吞,他们已将其全部领土吞并下来。Through *nibbling and gobbling*, they had its whole territory swallowed up.

## 【惨不忍睹】

too horrible to look at; could not bear the sight [例]在那些村庄里,凝固汽油弹造成的破坏景象惨不忍睹。In these villages, the destruction caused by napalm bombs was so appalling that one *could hardly bear the sight of it*.

## 【惨不忍闻】

too sad and shocking to the ear; heart-rending; horrified to learn that...

## 【惨淡经营】

keep (an enterprise, etc.) going by painstaking effort; take great pains to carry on one's work under difficult circumstances

## 【惨绝人寰】

tragic beyond compare in this human world; extremely tragic; most inhuman; unparalleled savagery [例]第二次世界大战期间,法西斯分子对革命人民实行惨绝人寰的大屠杀。In World War II, the fascists carried out a *most savage and inhuman* slaughter of the revolutionary people.

## 【惨无人道】

atrocities of which human beings are not capable of perpetrating; brutal and callous; cruel and inhuman; barbarous; inhuman [例]爷爷在解放前曾遭受惨无人道的迫害。My grandfather was subjected to *inhuman* persecution before liberation.

## 【惨无天日】

so dark, or full of suffering, that it is as if the sun were not in the sky

## 【惨遭不幸】

be killed in a cruel way; die a tragic death; meet a sad end

## 【灿烂夺目】

(of something) brilliant; gorgeous; magnificent; splendid; resplendent; bright

## 【仓皇失措】

be disturbed not knowing what to do; be panic-stricken; be scared out of one's wits; be disconcerted; lose one's head; catch sb. flat-footed [例]午餐时间突然来了大批客人,使得格林太太仓皇失措。Unexpected company at lunchtime *caught* Mrs. Green *flat-footed*.

## 【沧海横流】

The sea overflowed its coast; the chaos of the world; the changes and disorders of the times [例]沧海横流使许多人离开乡村,前往都市。The *changes and disorders of the times* brought about a mass exodus from the countryside to the city.

## 【沧海桑田】

Seas change into mulberry fields and mulberry fields into seas; Time brings great changes to the world; The world is changing all the time; the whirligig of time [例]沧海桑田,再过十年,你将无法辨认出那座城市。In ten years' time you won't be able to recognize the city at all. *The world is changing all the time*.

## 【沧海一粟】

(like) a grain afloat on the vast ocean; a very small portion of something vast; (of man) paltry, compared with heaven and earth; a drop in the bucket (ocean); a mite on an elephant; not amount to a row (hill) of beans [例]比起我们的需要量来说,这不过是沧海一粟罢了。It



would be *a drop in the ocean* compared to the amount we require.

**【沧海遗珠】**

a pearl dropped in the ocean; an unnoticed talent; an unknown talented man; one's talents are hidden in a napkin

**【藏龙卧虎】**

hidden dragons and crouching tigers; talented men still remained in concealment (obscurity)

**【藏器待时】**

store up a utensil until it is wanted; wait for the right moment to demonstrate one's ability; a talent waiting for timely use; bide one's time

**【藏头露尾】**

hide the head but show the tail; give a partial account of; speak evasively (equivocally); mince matters; get an inkling of [例]“不用藏头露尾,也不必保守秘密,”鲁宾夫人继续说道,“你瞧,一切我都知道了。”“It's of no use *mincing matters*, or making secrets, is it?” added Mrs. Lupine, “I know all about it, you see!”

**【藏污纳垢】**

serve as a dent or crevice for filth and dirt to collect in; shelter evil people and countenance evil practices; give refuge to evil elements [例]这家公司是藏污纳垢之地。The company is *a place infested with bad elements*.

**【操之过急】**

act with undue haste; act too hastily; too hasty; go off half-cocked; go off at half cock [例]1.现在就作决定似乎有点操之过急。It seems a little *too hasty* to make a decision right now. 2.编辑告诫瑟曼,在弄清全部事实之前,别操之过急报道这宗丑闻。The editor warned Thurman not to *go off half-cocked* and

write about the scandal until he found out all of the facts.

**【操纵自如】**

restraint or lenient as it pleases one; operate with facility; control as one likes; have an easy control in the matter; like wax in somebody's hand

**【草不除根,终当复生】**

If the roots are not hoed up, weeds will come up again; uproot evil; stamp out the source of trouble; eliminate the cause of

**【草草过目】**

read through roughly; give a cursory reading; skim through

**【草草了事】**

get through with sth. hastily; do sth. in a perfunctory manner; shuffle through one's work; throw (slap) together; lie down on the job; give a lick and promise [例]你没有把手洗干净,你只是草草了事而已。You didn't wash your hands. You just *gave them a lick and a promise*.

**【草草收兵】**

make a hasty retreat; declare the matter closed before it is thoroughly settled; wind up a matter hastily

**【草莽英雄】**

a hero of the bush; greenwood hero; outlaws of the marshes

**【草菅人命】**

treat human life as if it were not worth a straw; act with utter disregard for human life; make light of the lives of the people

**【草木皆兵】**

Every bush and tree looks like an enemy soldier; be in a state of extreme nervousness; be plagued by imaginary fears; be afraid of one's own shadow

**【草率从事】**

scamp one's work; do a job carelessly or perfunctorily; take hasty action; go it

blind; take it into one's head; take a notion [例]我不能草率从事。可别忘了,这是决定一万多镑款子得失的大事。I should not *go it blind*. Remember that's a matter of over ten thousand pounds at stake.

## 【侧耳倾听】

crane one's neck to listen; devour every word; hearken to; he all ears; hang on the words (lips) of; strain (prick up) one's ears

## 【侧目而视】

take a sidelong glance at; look askance at sb. (with fear or indignation); squint at

## 【恻隐之心】

sense of pity; a heart of sympathy; compassion; commiseration [例]恻隐之心,人皆有之。All humans have *sympathy for sufferers* of one kind or another; *Compassion* is common to all men.

## 【参差不齐】

not uniform; not on the same level; uneven; untrimmed; vary; irregular [例]这些产品的品质参差不齐。The quality of these produces is *not uniform*.

## 【层出不穷】

appear layer upon layer without end; spring up one after another; emerge in an endless stream; come thick and fast; never-ending [例]困难层出不穷,但动摇不了他继续钻研的决心。Difficulties *sprang up one after another* but in no way could they shake his determination to continue probing.

## 【层见叠(迭)出】

appear repeatedly; occur frequently; frequently seen and occurred; of repeated occurrence

## 【层峦叠嶂】

peaks rising one higher than another; layer upon layer of mountains; range upon range

of hills

## 【曾几何时】

before long; not long after; not long since; in none too lengthy a period

## 【曾经沧海】

have sailed the seven seas; having seen and experienced much; have experienced great things; have seen much of the world

## 【差强人意】

just passable; barely satisfactory; fair; just so - so; leave much (a lot, a great deal, something) to be desired [例]他这回定的计划可以说是差强人意。The plan he worked out this time may be said as *just passable*.

## 【差之毫厘,谬以千里】

An error the breadth of a single hair can lead you a thousand li astray; A small discrepancy leads to a great error; The slightest divergence leads far astray; A miss is as good as a mile; One false move may lose the game. [例]计算中稍有粗心大意,就会差之毫厘,谬以千里。Just be a little careless in the calculation and you are sure to *make great errors due to slight discrepancies*.

## 【插翅难飞】

unable to fly away even if given wings; no way to escape; wholly impossible to make one's escape; bring to bay

## 【插科打诨】

(of an actor) make impromptu comic gestures and remarks; makes gags; cut in a joke; jesting; buffoonery

## 【茶余饭后】

over a cup of tea or after dinner; in one's spare hours; at one's leisure [例]茶余饭后,他总是读点小说作为消遣。At his *leisure*, he would read novels as a pastime.

## 【查无实据】

investigation reveals no evidence (against the suspect); investigations show no evidence (for it) [例]他的罪查无实据,他清白了。He came out clean. *The investigation revealed no evidence against him.*

【察言观色】

carefully weigh up a person's words and closely watch his expression; watch a person's every mood; measure his attention; read sb's face [例]她是一位成功的女销售员,因为她善于对顾客察言观色。She is a successful salesgirl because she is good at *watching customers' every mood.*

【姹紫嫣红】

brilliant purples and reds; a blaze of color; beautiful flowers; coquettish gaily; dressed maidens [例]公园里百花盛开,姹紫嫣红,十分绚丽。With lovely flowers everywhere, the park is *a blaze of color.*

【拆穿西洋镜】

expose sb.'s tricks; nail a lie to the counter; strip off the camouflage; give the show away; The game is up.

【拆东墙,补西墙】

pull down the east wall for bricks to repair the west wall; reinforce one place at the expense of another; resort to a makeshift solution; take from one person to pay another; rob Peter to pay Paul [例]在一堂课上去准备另一门的课可真是拆东墙补西墙。Trying to study a lesson for one class during another class is like *robbing Peter to pay Paul.*

【拆烂污】

(a localism used in Shanghai and its environs) be negligent of one's duties do sloppy work; mess things up; foul up (a plan, business, etc.)

【拆墙角】

weaken the base of a wall by removing

some of the bricks; undermine; pull away a prop; subvert or weaken insidiously; cut the ground from under [例]保罗想做队长,但有人拆墙角说亨利才是全队的最佳队员。Paul wanted to be captain but someone *cut the ground from under him* by saying that Henry was the best player on the team.

【豺狼成性】

be fierce and cruel in disposition like a jackal or a wolf; wolfish (in nature); rapacious and ruthless; as brutal as beasts

【豺狼当道】

A wolf stands astride the road; bad person in power; evil men usurp authority

【馋涎欲滴】

mouth drooling with greed; covet for; make one's mouth water; lick (smack) one's lips [例]看到摆在面前的糖果,孩子们个个馋涎欲滴。The children *licked their lips* at the sight of the sweets laid out before them.

【缠绵悱恻】

(with) tender and romantic sentiment; (of writing) exceedingly sentimental; inextricable and commiserative

【谄上欺下】

fawn on those above and bully those below; snobbery; snobbish

【猖獗一时】

run wild for a time; on the rampage for a time; (of bandits) grow bold

【长此以往】

if things go on like this; if things continue this way; if always going on like this [例]长此以往,我们不久将发现自己陷于困境中。If *things continue this way*, soon we are going to find ourselves in hot water.

【长话短说】

to make a long story short

## 【长久之计】

a long-term plan (policy); a permanent solution; take the long view; in the long view

## 【长眠不起】

sleep the sleep that knows no waking; die; take one's last sleep; sleep the eternal sleep; pass away

## 【长命百岁】

(used to express good wishes for a child) live to be a hundred; live to a ripe old age; many happy returns (of your birthday)

## 【长(成)年累月】

over the years; (for) months and years; for years on end; all the year round; year in and year out [例]勘探队员长年累月在各地寻找地下宝藏。 *Year in and year out*, our prospectors travel far and wide, looking for mineral deposits.

## 【长篇大论】

incessant and eloquent discourse (used sarcastically); a lengthy speech or article; a ponderous thesis; long-windedness; long-winded tirade [例]写文章,说话要简明扼要,不要长篇大论,空话连篇。 In writing or speaking, we have to be concise and to the point, and never get lost in *long-windedness* or verbiage.

## 【长驱直入】

make a swift and uninterrupted advance over a great distance; drive deep (straight) into; penetrate inland unchecked; advance unchecked

## 【长生不老】

live forever and never grow old; be alive for evermore; perpetual rejuvenation; ever-living

## 【长途跋涉】

(make) a long and arduous journey; trudge over a long distance; march; a long

haul (pull)

## 【长袖善舞】

Long sleeves are an advantage in a dance; be resourceful; have something going for one

## 【长吁短叹】

heave sighs, short and long; sigh incessantly (deeply); whine; moan and groan; sighs and groans

## 【肠肥脑满】

with a fair round belly and a swelled head; potbellied; the idle rich; (as) fat as butter (a pig)

## 【常备不懈】

be constantly in readiness and never for a moment in relaxation; be always (ever) on alert; maintain constant vigilance; be ever prepared (against war); keep one's powder dry; be on one's toes all the time

## 【畅所欲言】

say freely what one thinks without reserve; speak without any inhibitions; speak out freely; express oneself with zest and gusto; speak one's mind; say (out) one's say; have one's say [例]在一个真正的民主国家,人民可以畅所欲言。 In a truly democratic country, people can *speak out freely*.

## 【畅通无阻】

meet no obstacle wherever one goes; advance unimpeded; go off without a hitch; have a free access to; the road is clear; in the clear

## 【唱独角戏】

put on a one-man show; do the work all by oneself; do a thing alone; go it alone [例]即使没有人愿意帮助我,我也还是乐意唱独角戏。 Even if no one is willing to help, I'm willing to *go it alone*.

## 【唱对台戏】

put on a rival show; act the opposite; set

oneself up against; enter into rivalry (with); vigorously oppose; sing (whistle) a different tune; sing a new tune [例]当隔壁邻居开了一家和我们家类似的商店后,我们就开始唱对台戏。When the next door neighbor set up a store similar to ours, we *entered into rivalry*.

**【唱反调】**

sing a tune opposite to that of sb.; deliberately speak or act contrary to; sing (whistle) a different tune; sing a new tune

**【唱高调】**

use high - flown words; affect a high moral tone; chant hemphastic words; high - sounding [例]政客的演说充满着唱高调的言论。The politician's speech was full of *high - sounding words*.

**【超尘拔俗】**

rise above this mortal world—said of the high religious attainment of Buddhist; ultra - mundane; above the average; a well - cultivated mind [例]我知道这个男孩有一天将会飞黄腾达,因为他的智力超尘拔俗。This boy is going to be successful someday, I know because his intellect is *above the average*.

**【超群绝伦】**

far surpassing those of one's fellows; cut (make) a conspicuous (good, great) figure; beyond compare; preeminent; be at the top of the ladder (tree); lick (all) creation; lick everything

**【超然物外】**

be above worldly considerations; hold aloof from the world; keep out of; stay away from the scene of contention; keep oneself unspotted from the world

**【车到山前必有路】**

The cart will find its way round the hill when it gets there; Things will eventually sort themselves out; There are more ways

to the wood than one; In the end things will mend; cross one's bridges when one comes to them

**【车水马龙】**

Carriages move on like a stream and horses file past like a long dragon; (descriptive of) a heavy traffic; be thronged with visitors

**【车载斗量】**

enough to fill carts and be measured by the *dou*; common and numerous; a great deal; plentiful; immense quantities; Here's no vanity.

**【扯后腿】**

pull hind legs; be a hindrance to sb.; impede one's progress; hold sb. back from action; he a drag on sb.; set (knock) back on one's heels [例]珍在校成绩一直很好,直到生病扯她后腿使她退步。Jean was doing very well in school until sickness *knocked her back on her heels*.

**【彻头彻尾】**

from beginning to end; from head to foot; thoroughly; completely; sheer; utter; downright; through and through; out and out; every inch; to the fingertips; to the back - bone; dyed - in - the - wool; of the deepest dye

**【彻夜不眠】**

lie awake all night; sit up all night; spend a sleepless night

**【沉默寡言】**

incommunicative; taciturn; reticent; reserved; (a man) of few words; (as) dumb as oyster; an oyster of a man

**【沉思冥想】**

think deeply or profoundly; think long and hard; lost in thought; ponder; meditate; beat one's brains (out); cudgel one's brains; in a brown study; put on one's thinking cap

## 【沉吟不决】

mutter to oneself, unable to make up one's mind; be undecided; hesitate to decide; irresolute; back and fill; be in two (twenty) minds; have two minds

## 【沉冤莫白】

have no chance to right the wrong one has suffered; suffer a grievous wrong; a deep grievance; wrongs that cannot be redressed [例]他们家的沉冤莫白,可能永远无法洗清。The deep grievance of their family might never be cleared up.

## 【沉渣泛起】

The dregs came to the surface; The dregs of society gain an upper hand.

## 【陈陈相因】

persist in the old ways without any change or improvement; follow a set routine; stay in the same old groove; keep on doing the same thing over and over again; follow the beaten track; move in a rut; harp on the same string; toe the mark (line)

## 【陈词滥调】

hackneyed and stereotyped expressions; old stuff; worn-out lingo; often-repeated trash; truism; hoary platitude; cliché [例]作文一定要避免陈词滥调。When writing a composition, one must avoid using worn-out lingo.

## 【陈谷子,烂芝麻】

old millet and stale sesame; stale topics of conversation; stale old yarn

## 【陈规陋习】

outdated conventions and bad customs; outworn customs and bad habits [例]对陈规陋习要逐步加以改革。Outdated conventions and bad customs are to be reformed step by step.

## 【陈言务去】

rid an article of hackneyed phrases (old stuffs, worn-out lingo, clichés); boil

down

## 【晨钟暮鼓】

the morning bell and the evening drum (in a monastery); timely exhortations to virtue and purity

## 【称体裁衣】

fit the dress to the figure; live within one's means; cut one's coat according to one's cloth

## 【称心如意】

of the sort one very much likes or approves of; strike the fancy of; be well-satisfied; to the satisfaction of; desirable; after one's own heart; to one's liking (taste); catch sb's fancy

## 【趁(乘)风扬帆】

hoist sail while the wind blows; take advantage of a favorable situation; trim one's course; seize (take) time by the forelock; Hoist sail while the wind is fair; take occasion to do sth.

## 【趁火打劫】

loot a burning house; take advantage of sb's misfortune to do him harm; go on (upon) the scamp; fish in troubled waters [例]我们应该帮助他渡过这一难关,而不应该趁火打劫。Instead of taking advantage of his misfortune, we ought to help him to turn the corner.

## 【趁热打铁】

seize (take) time by the forelock; do sth. while conditions are favorable; Strike while the iron is hot; Make hay while the sun shines; Hoist sail while the wind is fair; take occasion to do sth. [例]不要浪费一分一秒,趁热打铁马上前进吧。Don't waste a moment, take time by the forelock and go ahead now.

## 【趁虚而入】

attack where the enemy is weak or unguarded; act when sb. is off guard; get a

chance to step in; sneak in; break through (at a weak point)

【称孤道寡】

style oneself king; act like an absolute ruler; rule the roost

【称王称霸】

declare oneself prince or overlord; act like an overlord; play the despot; domineer over; seek hegemony; play the bully; ride (trample, walk) roughshod over sb. (sth.); throw one's weight about [例]任何国家都不应该在任何地区称王称霸,把自己的意志强加于人。No country should *seek hegemony* in any region or impose its will upon others.

【称兄道弟】

address each other as brothers; fraternize with; be on intimate terms; be (become, remain) as thick as thieves

【瞠乎其后】

stare helplessly at the vanishing back of the runner ahead; despair of catching up; be nowhere [例]这位赛车手在沙漠中迷路之后,在这场比赛中就瞠乎其后者了。The racing driver *fell far behind* in the race after he lost his way in the desert.

【瞠目结舌】

with one's eyes wide open and one's tongue sticking to one's mouth; stare tongue-tied (dumb-founded); be struck dumb (by fear or surprise); stand aghast; one's jaw drop (a mile) [例]汤姆得知他赢得了奖品时,惊奇得瞠目结舌。Tom's *jaw dropped a mile* when he got to know that he won the prize.

【成败利钝】

success or failure; be successful or not; one must go on, for better or for worse; one must carry on, regardless of the consequence; take the bad (bitter, rough) with the good (sweet, smooth) [例]他决

心将此事进行到底,决不半途而废,成败利钝在所不计。He was determined to carry the matter through to the end irrespective of *success or failure* and would never give it up halfway.

【成家立业】

get married and start one's career; earn your own living; be independent; settle down; stand on one's own (two) feet

【成名成家】

seek (obtain) fame and become an expert; establish one's reputation as an authority; make one's mark; make a name for oneself

【成千成万】(又作:成千累万,成千上万)

thousands and thousands of; thousands upon thousands; thousands and tens of thousands

【成群结队】

band together; in crowds (thongs, flocks, groups); waves of; trooping along

【成人之美】

help (assist) another to succeed; help sb. to fulfil his wish; aid sb. in doing a good deed; bring romance to a happy ending [例]她想继续学习,这个想法不错!你应该成人之美。She wants to continue her studies. It's a good idea. You should *help her fulfill her wish*.

【成仁取义】

die to preserve one's virtue intact; die for a just cause; lay down one's life for the cause (country)

【成事不足,败事有余】

(of a person) not good enough to accomplish anything, but more than enough to spoil things; (of sb.) idle and useless; absolutely of no use, good or help; good for nothing; worse than useless; a bull in a china shop

【成则为王,败则为寇】

Legitimacy belongs to the victor; Successful crime is called virtue; Losers are always in the wrong; Nothing succeeds like success.

**【成竹在胸】**

have a preconceived idea before doing something; have ready plans in one's mind; belief and trust in one's own powers; have a card (an ace) up one's sleeve

**【诚惶诚恐】**

be struck with awe; with reverence and awe; in fear and trepidation

**【诚心诚意】**

whole-heartedly; earnestly and sincerely; with one's whole heart; from the bottom of one's heart; with all one's heart; honest - to - goodness [例] 由于制造了污染问题, 那家公司诚心诚意的向大众致歉。The company *whole-heartedly* apologized to the public for creating the pollution problem.

**【承上启下】**

form a connecting link between the preceding and the following (as in a piece of writing); connect with the foregoing and carry forward a new paragraph

**【承先启后】**

serve as a link between past and future; inherit the past and usher in the future

**【城门失火,殃及池鱼】**

When the city gate catches fire, the fish in the moat suffer; in a disturbance innocent bystanders get into trouble

**【城下之盟】**

a treaty concluded with the enemy who have reached the city wall; a treaty signed under coercion; terms accepted under duress; capitulate to the enemy

**【乘风破浪】**

ride the wind and cleave (break) the waves; brave the wind and the waves; ride

(over) the waves; ride on the wind; a smooth and swift sailing; make a dauntless advance

**【乘风转舵】**

see how the wind blows and turn the rudder accordingly; trim one's course (sails) to the wind; avail oneself of an opportunity; take occasion to do sth.; Strike while the iron is hot; Make hay while the sun shines; see which way the cat jumps; see how the wind blows

**【乘机行事】**

avail oneself of an opportunity; know the time of the day; Make hay while the sun shines; Strike while the iron is hot; take occasion to do sth.

**【乘其不备】**

gain an advantage over sb. because he has not been alert to the possibility of this happening; take advantage of sb.'s unpreparedness; surprise and disconcert sb.; catch sb. napping; catch (take) sb. unawares (off his guard)

**【乘人之危】**

take advantage of sb.'s plight (trouble, precarious position); capitalize on sb.'s difficulties

**【乘胜前进】**

advance from one victory to another; advance on the crest of a victory; push on in the flush of victory

**【乘胜追击】**

exploit a victory by hot pursuit; follow up a victory

**【乘兴而来,败兴而归】**

set out cheerfully and return disappointed; come with great enthusiasm and return disappointed

**【乘兴而来,兴尽而返】**

arrive in high spirits and depart after enjoying oneself to one's heart's content; ar-



rive in high spirits and depart well content

【惩前毖后】

learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones; take a lesson from the past and avoid future mistakes; To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

【惩一儆(戒)百】

punish one as a warning to a hundred (in order to warn many); punish someone publicly (to show what happens when someone does wrong); make an example of sb. [例]老师公开处罚那个在考试中作弊的学生以惩一儆百。The teacher made an example of the boy who copied from another student during a test.

【逞性妄为】

give free rein to one's passions and do something rash; act recklessly; unrestrained behavior; give oneself up to; take one's own course; have free rein; run riot

【吃不了兜着走】

get more than one bargained for; land oneself in serious trouble; be made to smart for it

【吃喝玩乐】

wine, dine and enjoy oneself; (indulge in) gluttony and pleasure - seeking; idle away one's time in pleasure - seeking; eat, drink and be merry

【吃苦耐劳】

bear hardships and stand hard work; be inured to hardships; hard - working

【吃苦在前,享乐在后】

be the first to bear hardships and the last to enjoy comforts

【吃里爬外】

live off one person while secretly helping another; plot treason to one's own country; traitorous; a traitor to one's country; turn one's coat; sell the pass; sell down the river

【吃力不讨好】

do a hard but thankless job; one's efforts go unappreciated; be a fool for one's pains; get (receive, possess) more kicks than ha'pence (halfpence) [例]编辑一本现代诗集是吃力不讨好的事,我再不会干了。There's more kicks than halfpence in editing a collection of contemporary verse. I'll never do it again.

【吃软不吃硬】

yield to the weak but not the strong; be open to persuasion, but not to coercion; easier led than driven

【吃一堑,长一智】

A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit; learn to one's cost; in doing we learn; Experience must be bought; Experience teaches; Burnt child dreads the fire; Once bitten, twice shy.

【吃着碗里,瞧着锅里】

While eating one dish, he keeps watching for next; be insatiably greedy; one's eyes are bigger than his belly (stomach)

【痴人说梦】

a fool's talk; idiotic nonsense; lunatic ravings; tell fantastic tales; talk fantastic nonsense [例]他的一切想法都只是痴人说梦。All his ideas are but a fool's talk.

【痴心妄想】

hope madly; daydream; fond dream; whistle for; cry for the moon; rainbow hunt; a pipe dream; wishful thinking [例]她希望成为环球小姐的愿望全是痴心妄想。Her wish to become the new Miss Universe is all wishful thinking.

【嗤之以鼻】

give a snort of contempt; despise; sniff (sneer) at; be contemptuous of; make (pull) a long nose at; cock a snook at; turn up one's nose at [例]他对那个建议

嗤之以鼻，根本不愿意听。He just *thumbed his nose at* the suggestion and refused to listen.

【魑魅魍魉】

demons and devils; freaks and goblins; bad people or elements of various kinds; all sorts of evil spirits

【驰名中外】

be renowned (well known) both at home and abroad

【迟疑不决】

hesitate to make a decision; be irresolute; be undecided; be in two minds; sit on the fence; at loose ends [例]他对于是否接受这个提议仍然迟疑不决，你最好改天再来。He is still *undecided* as to whether to accept the offer or not. You'd better come back another day.

【持平之论】

a fair argument; an unbiased view; a conciliative opinion; be fair to say; give the devil his due

【持之以恒】

persevere in; keep it up; have perseverance; stick to

【踟躇不前】

hesitate to move forward; waver in determination; tarry to go forward; hang back (off behind) [例]玛丽给小女孩糖吃，但她踟躇不前。Mary offered the little girl candy, but she was shy and *hung back*.

【尺短寸长】(尺有所短，寸有所长)

Sometimes a foot may prove short while an inch may prove long; Every person has his weak points as well as strong ones; Every person is useful according to his ability.

【尺幅千里】

a panorama of a thousand *li* on a one *chi* scroll; rich content within a small compass

【赤膊上阵】

go into battle stripped to the waist; come out into the open; throw away all disguises [例]他终于赤膊上阵，并且开始支持反核武器的运动。He finally *came out in the open* and began to support the antinuclear weapons movement.

【赤胆忠心】

a red heart of complete dedication; utter devotion; extreme loyalty; wholehearted dedication; ba a true blue

【赤地千里】

a thousand *li* of barren land; thousands of miles of cracked, parched and deserted land; a scene of utter desolation (after drought, pests, etc.) [例]蝗灾过后，那个农场赤地千里。After the locust swarm had left, the farm was a *scene of utter desolation*.

【赤贫如洗】

in abject (dire) necessity; in extreme poverty; utterly destitute; poverty-stricken; be as poor as a church mouse; (as) poor as a rat

【赤身裸体】

with no clothes on; completely naked; in one's birthday suit

【赤手空拳】

armless; unarmed; bare-handed; with naked fists

【赤子之心】

child's heart in a man; the pure (innocent) heart of a newborn baby; utter innocence; pure-hearted [例]不是你不够老成，是你还没有失掉你常说的“赤子之心”。It isn't that you are immature. Only you haven't quite outgrown that "*child's heart in a man*" about which you yourself have often spoken.

【叱咤风云】

commanding the wind and the clouds; all-powerful; shaking heaven and earth;

earthshaking [例] 麦克阿瑟将军在第二次世界大战时叱咤风云。General MacArthur was *all - powerful* in World War II.

**【充耳不闻】**

stuff one's ears and refuse to listen; pay no heed (attention) to (what one hears); be oblivious of; turn a deaf ear to; close (shut, stop) one's ear to; brush off [例] 他对所有的警告都充耳不闻。He *turns a deaf ear to* all warnings.

**【冲锋陷阵】**

charge and shatter enemy positions; charge (press) boldly forward; charge against enemy fire; charge the enemy lines

**【冲昏头脑】**

become dizzy (giddy) with; be eaten up with; turn one's head; be carried away; go to one's head

**【冲决罗网】**

break through all snares and traps; smash trammels; throw off one's chains

**【冲口而出】**

say the first thing that comes into one's head; say sth. without thinking; blurt sth. out; sth. escape one's lips; One's tongue runs before one's wit.

**【重操旧业】**

return to one's old trade; resume one's old profession (occupation); ladle one's soup out of the old pot; go back to the salt mines

**【重打锣鼓另开张】**

reopen a business to the beating of gongs and drums; start all over again; make a fresh start [例] 因为前功尽弃了, 他得重打锣鼓另开张。He would have to *start all over again*, for all his previous efforts were wasted.

**【重蹈覆辙】**

follow the track of the overturned cart; fol-

low the same disastrous road; go the way of; recommit the same error; fall into the rut [例] 他妈妈担心他会重蹈他哥哥的覆辙, 弄得债台高筑。His mother was worried that he would *go the way of* his elder brother, who had got heavily into debt.

**【重规叠矩】**

stick to convention; follow the custom; toe the line (mark); by line and level; by rule and line

**【重见天日】**

once more see the light of day; be delivered from imprisonment, oppression or persecution; see justice again

**【重起炉灶】**

begin all over again; start again from scratch; make a fresh start

**【重温旧梦】**

recall the past sweet dream (experience); revive an old dream; relive an old experience; renew the old romance; a return to the good old days

**【重修旧好】**

renew cordial relations; become reconciled; make up a quarrel; pass the sponge over; bury the hatchet

**【重整旗鼓】**

rally one's forces (after a defeat); regroup for battle; dig up the hatchet; lick one's wounds; pull oneself together; come back [例] 不要因为失败而气馁, 重整旗鼓继续试下去。Don't let the failure discourage you, *pull yourself together* and try again.

**【宠辱不惊】**

remain indifferent whether granted favors or subjected to humiliation; be unmoved either by favor or disgrace

**【抽肥补瘦】**

take from the fat to pad the lean; take

from those who have too much and give to those who have too little

【抽薪止沸】

take out the firewood to stop the pot boiling; take drastic measures to stop sth.; strike at the root of the trouble; Take away fuel, take away flame (fire).

【愁肠百结】

weighed down with anxiety; with anxiety gnawing at one's heart; broken-hearted

【愁眉不展】

with a worried frown; knit (bend) one's brows; have a gloomy countenance; woe-begone; sullen; preoccupied; a cloud on (upon) one's brow; pull (draw, make, wear) a long face; look blue [例]我不知道她今天怎么了,她似乎为了什么事而愁眉不展。I don't know what's wrong with her today. She seems *preoccupied* with something.

【愁眉苦脸】

have a worried look; an agonized look; a distressed expression; a black face; woe-begone; a face as long as a fiddle; pull (draw, make, wear) a long face; look blue

【愁容满面】

look extremely worried; have a mournful countenance; woe-begone

【踌躇满志】

enormously proud of one's success; elated with success; puffed up with pride; smug with pride; complacent; self-satisfied; like the cat that ate (swallowed) the canary; like the cat that stole the cream [例]她得奖后踌躇满志地回家。When she won the prize, she went home looking *like the cat that swallowed the canary*.

【丑态百出】

cut a contemptible figure; act like a buf-

foon; behave in a revolting manner; utterly ridiculous; make an ass (a fool) of oneself

【臭名远扬】

one's ill repute has spread far and wide; of bad (ill) repute; notorious; infamous; The evil that men do lives after them.

【臭名昭著】

conspicuous for one's ill name; foul reputation; of bad (ill) reputation; arrant; ill-famed; notorious; infamous

【臭气熏天】

stink to the skies; reek to high heaven

【臭味相投】

share the same rotten tastes, habits, etc.; people of the same ilk like each other; like drawn to like; be two of a kind; be birds of a feather; have common ground between

【出尔反尔】

promise and then deny in succession; contradict oneself; inconsistent; go back on one's words; blow hot and cold; chop and change; sing (whistle) a different tune [例]男同学对于安的出尔反尔的做法都将不敢领教。The boys will get tired of Ann's *blowing hot and cold*.

【出乖露丑】

show off in public and expose one's weak point; show up badly; cut a miserable figure; make an exhibition (a fool or spectacle) of oneself

【出乎意料】

exceeding one's expectations; against (contrary to) one's expectations; to one's surprise; unexpectedly; beyond expectations; out of the blue; out of a clear (blue) sky; all of a sudden [例]出乎意料的是在最后一分钟乔尼接了一个传球触地得分。At the last minute Johnay *came out of the blue* to catch the pass and

score a touchdown.

【出口成章】

words flow from the mouth as from the pen of a master; make a polished impromptu speech; talk with adroit phrases; say easily without trying hard; talk like a book; have the gift of tongues (the gab); toss off [例]晚宴中她出口成章滔滔不绝地说了许多漂亮话。She *tossed off* smart remarks all during dinner.

【出口伤人】

speak biting; offend by rude remarks; have a bitter tongue; put one's foot (one's mouth) in it

【出类拔萃】

stand out from one's fellows; out of the common run; among the select best; pre-eminent; outstanding; head and shoulders above others; the flower of the flock; cream of the crop; play first fiddle; run away with [例]其中又见林黛玉是个出类拔萃的,便更与黛玉亲敬异常。Noticing too that Daiyu *stood out from the rest*, she treated her even more affectionately.

【出没无常】

appear and disappear unexpectedly (without regularity); appear unpredictably (at intervals); inconstantly; unpredictable in one's movement [例]最使那儿的敌军感到头疼的是游击队出没无常。It was the biggest headache for the enemy troops there that the guerrillas might *appear unpredictably*.

【出谋划策】

give counsel; offer advice; mastermind a cunning scheme; hatch a plot (conspiracy, plan, scheme)

【出其不意】

take sb. by surprise; all of a sudden; catch one napping (off guard, unawares);

have sb. over the barrel; catch sb. flat-footed

【出奇制胜】

defeat one's opponent by a surprise move; make a successful surprise raid; win by novelty; Fabian policy (tactics); catch a weasel asleep

【出人头地】

stand a head above others; stand out among others; tower above others; rise from the ranks; come up (rise) in the world; be head and shoulders above; make one's mark [例]迈克很快就出人头地。从印度回来后几年的时间他便成了美国最有名的作家。Mike quickly *made his mark*. Within a few years of his return from India, he was reckoned the most popular writer in America.

【出入相抵】

income and expenses just balance; keep expenses within one's income; live within one's means; make both ends meet

【出神入化】

the ultimate highest state of resembling nature itself; reach the acme of perfection; be superb; extremely miraculous; true to life

【出生入死】

brave untold dangers; risk one's life; go through hell and high water; take one's life in one's hands

【出师不利】

lose the first battle; be thwarted at the very beginning; a bad beginning; get off on the wrong foot

【出水芙蓉】

a lotus flower when fully open; a pretty girl

【出污泥而不染】

(of water lilies) come out of the mud unsoiled; remain undefiled in spite of general

corruption, vice, etc.; keep oneself unspotted from the world

【出言不逊】

use rude language; speak insolently (harshly); speak carelessly and rudely; put one's foot in it; put one's foot in one's mouth [例]他批评白手起家的人时,因出言不逊而伤到了也是白手起家的琼斯。He *put his foot in it* with his remark about self-made men, because Jones was one of them.

【出洋相】

make oneself a laughingstock for all; make a fool (spectacle, an exhibition) of oneself; cut a sorry (miserable) figure; bear the cap and bells

【初出茅庐】

just come out of one's thatched cottage; be at the beginning of one's career; fledging; novice; a mere tyro at one's job; [法] *debut*; (as) green as grass (a gooseberry); a green hand; a greenhorn or suckling; wet behind the ears; a babe in the woods

【初具规模】

give signs of future shape or development; take shape

【初露锋芒】

display one's talent for the first time; show primarily one's talent; begin to shine [例]年轻的钢琴家在钢琴比赛中初露锋芒。The young pianist *displayed his talent for the first time* in the piano contest.

【初生牛犊不怕虎】

Newborn calves are not afraid of tigers; Young people are fearless.

【除暴安良】

get rid of bullies and bring peace to good people; weed out the wicked and let the law-abiding citizens live in peace

【除旧布新】

do away with the old and set up the new; ring out the old, ring in the new; eliminate the old to make way for the new

【锄强扶弱】

get rid of the strong and help the weak; fight for the weak against the strong [例]他形容自己是现代罗宾汉,因为他喜欢锄强扶弱。He described himself as a modern-day Robin Hood, because he enjoys *getting rid of the strong and helping the weak*.

【处心积虑】

deliberately plan (to achieve evil ends); brood over a scheme for a long time; seek by all means; incessantly scheme; rack one's brains; be bent on; set one's heart (mind) on

【处之泰然】

take things calmly; remain unruffled; take things as they are (come); take it easy; keep one's head; not turn a hair; without batting an eye (eyelash) [例]不要将自己逼得太紧,你最好处之泰然。Don't push yourself too hard. You'd better *take it easy*.

【触机即发】

ready to shoot at the pull of the trigger; ready to start fighting; very much opposed to each other; at sword's point

【触景生情】

recall old memories at familiar sights; the scene touches (strikes) a chord in one's heart; the scene brings back memories

【触类旁通】

grasp a typical example and you will grasp the whole category; reason (comprehend) by analogy; draw an analogy; draw parallels from inference [例]读书时,你最好触类旁通,而不要死记硬背。You'd better *comprehend by analogy* instead of memorizing when you are studying.

## 【触目皆是】

can be seen everywhere; (of sth.) meet the eye everywhere

## 【触(怵)目惊心】

What meets one's eye strikes dread, terror into one's mind; be startled at seeing; a ghastly sight; appalling; shocking; startling; horrifying

## 【揣情度理】

make an intelligent (reasonable) appraisal of the situation; weigh the pros and cons; put two and two together [例]揣情度理后,他发现只有一个决定可做。He had *put two and two together* and the facts seemed to permit only one decision.

## 【穿凿附会】(又:牵强附会)

give strained interpretations and draw far-fetched analogies; stretch the meaning; twist one's words; force words into a sense; draw a forced analogy; far-fetched

## 【穿针引线】

put thread through needle; go between; act as a go-between; try to make a match

## 【川流不息】

flowing past in an endless stream; a continuous flow of; never-ending [例]每当休假旅游旺季,游人川流不息。During the holiday season, there is a *continuous flow of* tourists.

## 【传宗接代】

have a son to carry on his family name; carry on the ancestral line; keep the family tree alive

## 【船到桥头自然直】

You will cross the bridge when you get to it; Don't cross the bridge before you come to it; Don't worry about future events or trouble before they happen; In the end things will mend.

## 【串通一气】

gang up; collude with; collaborate; be in collusion with; hand in glove with; hand and glove; in league with [例]法官与其他高职人员有时与歹徒串通一气搞欺诈。Judges and others in high office sometimes are *hand in glove with* gangsters to cheat and steal.

## 【疮痍满目】

Everywhere a scene of devastation meets the eye; war-torn; war-scarred; in a state of devastation

## 【吹毛求疵】

blow aside the fur to seek for a blemish; take sb. to task; cavil (carp) at; be capricious (censorious); hair-splitting; fault-finding; find fault with; split hairs; pick holes (a hole) in sb's coat; find quarrel in a straw; haul (rake) over the coals [例]约翰喜欢吹毛求疵,总是为鸡毛蒜皮的小事争论。John is always *splitting hairs*; he often starts an argument about something small and unimportant.

## 【垂帘听政】

(of an empress or empress dowager) hold court from behind a screen; attend to state affairs; supervise administration; be (become) the power behind the throne; pull wires (strings)

## 【垂手而(可)得】

get or win sth with hands down; get sth without lifting a finger; easy to obtain; within easy reach; win hands down; win in a walk (breeze); at one's fingertips

## 【垂死挣扎】

flounder desperately before dying; put up a last-ditch (deathbed) struggle; last thrusts; desperate fling; a dying kick; the last ditch [例]这些暴动者垂死挣扎,企图冒死动摇政府。The insurgents *put up a last-ditch struggle* to destabilize

the government.

【垂头丧气】

hang (bury) one's head in dejection; lose one's heart; hang (down) one's head; in low spirits; crest-fallen; dejected; down in the dumps (mouth); with the tail between the legs; cast down [例]查理比赛失败后,很是垂头丧气。Charles felt *cast-down* when he lost the race.

【垂涎三尺】

spittle three feet long; one's mouth waters at (for, after); have one's mouth made up (for sth.); drool with envy; covet for; make one's mouth water

【垂涎欲滴】

make one's mouth watery; lick (smack) one's lips; keep a covetous eye on; covet for; make one's mouth water [例]他对董事长的职位垂涎欲滴。He *kept a covetous eye on* the office of the president.

【捶胸顿足】

beat one's breast and stamp one's feet; (pretend to) express remorse for what one has done; acknowledge one's mistakes etc.; beat one's breast

【春风满面】

look well and prosperous; appear healthy and happy and lucky; look like a million dollars

【春风化雨】

life-giving spring breeze and rain; salutary influence of education; the kindly influence of a good teacher; One's mantle falls on somebody.

【春光明媚】

a sunlit and enchanting scene of spring; with spring in all its brightness and charm; bright spring days

【春意盎然】

Spring is very much in the air.

【唇齿相依】

as closely related as the lips and the teeth; be closely related and mutually dependent; close interdependence; cast one's lot with somebody; throw in one's lot with somebody [例]我们两国是唇齿相依的友好邻邦。Our two countries are good neighbors *as closely related as lips and teeth*.

【唇枪舌剑】

engage in a battle of words; handy words with; repartee; heated verbal exchange (debate); cross swords with

【唇亡齿寒】

When the lips are gone, the teeth will be exposed to the cold; If one (of two interdependent things) falls, the other is in danger; share a common lot; throw in one's lot with [例]吴蜀乃唇齿也,“唇亡则齿寒”。Wu and Shu were as close as are one's lips to one's teeth, and *when the lips are gone the teeth are cold*.

【鹑衣百结】

shabbily dressed; ragged and patched clothing; be out at elbows (heels) [例]那名逃兵鹑衣百结地出现在他的指挥官面前。The army deserter appeared in *rags* before his commander.

【蠢蠢欲动】

ready (eager) for action; itch for action; restless and about to make trouble; gird up one's loins [例]已故总统的丧期过后,反对党现在又蠢蠢欲动了。After the mourning period for the late president, the opposition is now *about to make trouble*.

【绰绰有余】

more than enough (sufficient); aplenty; have enough and to spare [例]储存在地窖中的谷物,可维持一年而绰绰有余。The grain stored in the silos is *more than sufficient* to last a year.

【绰约多姿】

(of a girl) graceful and attractive; charm-



ingly delicate

【词不达意】

The words fail to convey the idea; The language fails to express the meaning.

【慈眉善目】

a benignant look; a benevolent and kind countenance; have one's heart in the right place

【此地无银三百两】

No 300 taels of silver buried here (the sign put up by the man in the folk tale over the place where he had hidden the money); a clumsy denial results in self-exposure; self-exposing; give oneself away

【此起彼伏】

rising here and subsiding there; rise one after another; arise in succession; in a wavelike fashion; ebb and flow

【此一时,彼一时】

things are now different from what they were; The shoe is on the other foot; There are no birds of this year in last year's nest.

【刺刺不休】

talk incessantly; chatter on and on; a chatterbox; talk a dog's (horse's, donkey's) hind leg off; chatter like a magpie; talk one's head off; talk nineteen to the dozen; shoot off one's mouth (face)  
[例]那个老头儿只要有人听就刺刺不休。The old man will *talk a donkey's hind leg off* if he can get anyone to listen to him.

【聪明才智】

intelligence and wisdom; wisdom and ability (resourcefulness); a feast of talent

【聪明反被聪明误】

Clever people may be victims of their own cleverness; Cleverness may overreach itself; hoist with one's own petard; make one's bed and lie in it

【聪明一世,糊涂一时】

clever all one's life but stupid this once; A lifetime of cleverness can be interrupted by moments of stupidity; Smart as a rule, but this time a fool; Every man has a fool in his sleeve; (Even) Homer sometimes nods; No man is wise at all times.

【从容不迫】

with an easy self-possessed mien; confidently and without haste; with ease; by easy stages; leisurely; unhurriedly; take one's time; take things in one's stride; take it (things) easy; go easy; (as) cool as cucumber

【从长计议】

give the matter further thought and discuss it later; take more time to consider it; need further consideration; talk over sth. at length

【从井救人】

jump into a well to save somebody who's fallen in; risk one's life without doing others any good; try to do a good deed in the wrong way

【从善如流】

follow good advice as naturally as a river follows its course; readily accept good advice; give the ready ear to wise counsel

【从心所欲】

do as one pleases; follow one's heart's desire; give oneself up to; run riot; go one's way; have free rein; at will

【从中渔利】

profit from; reap profit from; cash in on; fatten on (upon) the sweat (labor, efforts) of

【从中作梗】

make things difficult for sb.; bottleneck; throw in a (monkey) wrench; put a spoke in sb's wheel; come between [例]他希望寻找机会从中作梗,破坏班上的计划。He hoped to see the class plan fail and

looked for a chance *to throw a wrench in the machinery*.

【粗茶淡饭】

plain tea and simple food; humble (simple, homely) fare; bread and water (cheese) [例]主人告诉我们,他们只有粗茶淡饭,而事实上一顿盛宴已为我们准备好了。The host told us that they had just *plain tea and simple food* when in fact a feast had been prepared for us.

【粗手笨脚】

have a hand like a foot; awkward; clumsy; ham-handed; with (have) a heavy hand; be all thumbs

【粗心大意】

be careless in; negligent; inadvertent; careless and heedless

【粗枝大叶】

done in broad strokes or rough outline; crude and careless; perfunctory; in a slipshod (cursory) manner; slapdash; sloppy; with a heavy hand

【粗制滥造】

crudely made; manufacture in a rough and slipshod way; turn out rough and slipshod work

【促膝谈心】

sit side by side and talk intimately; have an intimate chat together; [法] tete - a - tete; have a heart - to - heart talk (with)

【摧枯拉朽】

(as easy as) crushing dry weeds and smashing rotten wood; easily overcome; sweep away all obstacles in the way; all-powerful

【存而不论】

keep a problem for later discussion; be left undiscussed; shelve (a plan or a problem); leave hanging (in the air); leave the question open; sleep on [例]由于时

间关系,这个问题暂时存而不论,先讨论下一个吧。For time's sake, this question may be *left undiscussed* for the time being. Let's take up the next one.

【存亡绝续】

survive or perish, preserve or destroy; at a most critical moment; be upon death; be at stake; between life and death; when the chips are down [例]那个小国被敌人团团围住,面临存亡绝续的关头。Totally surrounded by the enemy, the little country's fate is *at stake*.

【寸步不离】

follow sb. closely; not move a step from; keep close to; trail after; at one's heels; on (upon) one's heels [例]这男孩厌烦小弟弟整日地跟他寸步不离。The boy got tired of having his little brother *at his heels* all day.

【寸步不让】

refuse to yield an inch; not to yield a single step; fight every inch of the way; not to make the slightest concession; stand firm (four - square); stand (hold) one's ground [例]要不是我寸步不让,坚持要把我的计划贯彻到底的话,我们不会取胜的。If I had not *stood firm* and insisted that my plan would be carried through, we would not have won.

【寸步难行(移)】

difficult to move a single inch (step); not progress, develop, or take positive action; stand still; have hard (rough, tough) sledding; be at a dead end [例]当史密斯先生刚开始做生意时,曾有一度是寸步难行,但是随后便改善了。When Mr. Smith started his new business, he *had tough sledding* for a while but things got better.

【寸金难买寸光阴】

An inch of gold cannot buy an inch of

time; Money cannot buy time; Time is more precious than gold; Time and tide wait for no man.

**【蹉跎岁月】**

let time slip by without accomplishing anything; squander or waste one's time; idle (trifle, dally) away one's time

**【厝火积薪】**

put fire under piles of firewood — a hidden danger; great danger remained in concealment; in imminent danger; sit on a volcano

**【措手不及】**

be caught unprepared (unawares); be taken by surprise; be too late to do anything about it; put (throw) somebody off

his guard; have somebody over the barrel

**【措置裕如】**

manage one's affairs easily and leisurely; handle with ease; deal with sth. in a calm and adequate way; give as good as one gets [例]只有头脑清醒经验丰富的人才能在应付紧急情况时措置裕如。 Only those who are clear-headed and well experienced can be expected to *deal with an emergency in a calm and adequate way.*

**【错综复杂】**

intricate; complex; very complicated; perplexed; enough to puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer; wheels within wheels; the raveled (tangled) skein

## D

## 【答非所问】

give an irrelevant answer; off the subject, beside the point (question); out in left field; neither here nor there

## 【达官贵人】

high officials and noble lords; people who have important positions, higher-ups; VIPs

## 【达人知命】

a wise person understand the will of Heavens; see everything as good and pleasant; look at the world through rose-colored spectacles

## 【打抱不平】

come to the defense of the weak; take up the cudgels for the weak; stand up for; go to bat for; side with; back up [例] 看见不平的事, 他总爱打抱不平。He absolutely hates injustice and, when he comes across any, he is sure to *come to the defense of the weak*.

## 【打笔墨官司】

engage in a paper polemic with; polemics on paper

## 【打草惊蛇】

beat the grass and frighten away the snake; act rashly and alert the enemy; put an enemy on guard by acting prematurely; wake a sleeping wolf

## 【打成一片】

identify oneself with; become one with; merge with [例] 在夏令营中, 所有人都打成一片。Everyone *identifies themselves with each other* in the summer camp.

## 【打得火热】

be on intimate terms; chum up with; fraternize; hobnob with; (as) thick as thieves

[例] 她为了取得所需要的证据, 和那名嫌疑犯打得火热。To get the evidence that she needed, she *chummed up with* the suspect.

## 【打躬作揖】

fold the hands and make deep bows; do (make) an obeisance to sb.; beg humbly; bow and scrape

## 【打家劫舍】

loot; plunder; rob; raven about

## 【打开天窗说亮话】

frankly speaking; Let's not mince matters; put all cards on the table; call a spade a spade; in no uncertain terms [例] 打开天窗说亮话, 我认为那个计划不会成功。*Frankly speaking*, I don't think the plan will work out.

## 【打落水狗】

beat a drowning dog; completely crush a defeated enemy; hit (kick) the man when he is down

## 【打破常规】

break free from conventions; break the routine; go off (leave) the beaten track; break ground [例] 这所学校的阅读课打破常规, 让学生从上下文中了解词句的意义。The school *broke new ground with* reading lessons to teach students to guess the meaning of new words from the context.

## 【打破沉默】

interrupt a natural or normally continuous period of silence; do or say sth. to remove or reduce social awkwardness or tension, esp. at a first meeting; break the ice; break the silence

## 【打破沙锅问到底】

never be satisfied until one knows everything; fine out the real cause of; inquisitive; get to the bottom of [例]那个小男孩老爱问为什么,老爱打破沙锅问到底。The little boy always asks why and he'll never be satisfied until he knows everything.

#### 【打入冷宫】

(originally of a monarch) banish a disfavored queen or concubine to the cold palace; throw into limbo; leave sb. out in the cold; put on the back shelf [例]那位总统为了挽回颜面,将那名犯了错误的部长打入冷宫。In order to save face, the president put the erring minister to the back shelf.

#### 【打退堂鼓】

draw back; give up; cry off; beat a retreat; back down (out); draw (pull) in one's horns; show the white feather

#### 【打肿脸充胖子】

slap one's face until it is swollen in an effort to look imposing; puff oneself up to one's own cost; an impudent attempt to represent the defeat as a victory; keep up appearances; a jackdaw in peacock feathers

#### 【大材小用】

put the fine timber to small use; use talented people for trivial tasks; waste or misuse of materials or talents; employ a steam engine to crack a nut; shoot sparrows with artillery; break a butterfly (fly) upon the wheel

#### 【大吃一惊】

be startled (astounded at); be taken aback; knock (throw) for a loop; one's eye pop out; jump out of one's skin; take one's breath away

#### 【大处着(落)墨】

concentrate on the key points; pay atten-

tion to the important points

#### 【大处着眼,小处着手】

keep the general goal in sight while take the daily tasks in hand; Great oaks from little acorns grow.

#### 【大吹大擂】

blow the trumpet and beat the drum vigorously; brag about; boast of; make (raise) a great fanfare about; talk big; (all) sb.'s geese are swans; blow one's own trumpet

#### 【大慈大悲】

infinite compassion and mercy; infinitely merciful (compassionate); benevolent; charitable; have a heart of gold

#### 【大刀阔斧】

with a great knife and a broad axe; deal with a matter summarily without regard to details; bold and resolute; drastic; cut the Gordian knot; take the bull by the horns; hammer and tongs [例]新桥的修建工作上个月由于天气原因停了下来,面现在工人们又大刀阔斧干起来了。Work on the new bridge was suspended last month due to the bad weather, but now the workmen have gone at it again hammer and tongs.

#### 【大敌当前】

be confronted by the sworn enemies; faced with a formidable foe; in the face of arch enemies [例]大敌当前,他鼓足勇气去进行一场长期战斗。Confronted with a formidable enemy, he mustered up his courage for a long drawn-out fight.

#### 【大地回春】

Spring returns to the earth; Spring is here again; the first flush of spring

#### 【大动干戈】

go to war; get into a fight

#### 【大而无当】

big (large) but impractical; unwieldy; a useless whale

## 【大发慈悲】

show mercy; for mercy's sake

## 【大发横财】

amass fabulous fortunes; get huge gains by foul means; strike it rich; make fast (quick) buck; coin (mint) money; when one's ship come in

## 【大发雷霆】

go (fly) into a rage; bawl at sb. angrily; furious with sb. at sth.; flare up; hit the ceiling (roof); fly (go, slip) off the handle; one's blood boils; blow one's top (stack) [例]当我告诉父亲我把车子撞毁时,他大发雷霆。When I told my father that I had smashed the car, he *flew into a rage*.

## 【大放厥词】

talk a lot of nonsense; talk wildly; loose one's tongue; talk through one's hat; shoot off one's mouth (face) [例]虽然那个人一点都不懂经济学,却大放厥词。The man *talked a lot of nonsense* though he knew nothing about economics.

## 【大腹便便】

potbellied; big-bellied; as fat as butter; corpulent; paunchy

## 【大功告成】

(of a task, work or project) be accomplished; crowned with success; come off with flying colors; make it; round off

## 【大公无私】

just and selfless (fair); without personal or selfish consideration; unselfish; not make chalk of one and cheese of the other

## 【大海捞针】

fish for a needle in the ocean; very hard to find sb. or sth.; search (look) for a needle in a haystack [例]想要在这个大城市中找到他,简直是大海捞针。Trying to find him in this big city is like *searching for a needle in a haystack*.

## 【大旱望云霓】

long for a rain cloud during a drought; look forward to relief from distress

## 【大惑不解】

be extremely puzzled; in a state of bewilderment (perplexity); be at a loss; be (all) at sea; unable to make head or tail of sth.

## 【大惊失色】

get such a big scare that color goes out of one's face; have a blue fit; turn pale with fright; gray-faced with fright; jump out of one's skin; white (green) around the gills; throw one's hands in horror

## 【大惊小怪】

be surprised (alarmed) at sth. perfectly normal; make a fuss (over sth.); fussy; fuss about; a storm in a teacup; a tempest in a barrel (bucket, teapot); much ado about nothing [例]当儿子的鞋子上沾上了泥土时,那位女士大惊小怪。The lady *raised a storm in a teacup* when her son had dirt on his shoes.

## 【大局已定】

not to be changed; finally decided; The result is certain; all over but the shouting; The die is cast; water over the dam; water under the bridge [例]约翰和汤姆都想获得珍,但约翰职位晋升后,此番角逐遂大局已定。John and Tom both tried to win Jane, but after John's promotion it was *all over but the shouting*.

## 【大开绿灯】

give sb. the green light; leave the door wide open to; pave the way for

## 【大开眼界】

widen one's horizon; feed one's sight; eye-opening; be an eye-opener; be (find) a feast for the eyes

## 【大名鼎鼎】

be widely known; enjoy great celebrity;

famous; celebrated; well-known; a big (great) card; of great name (celebrity); a name to conjure with

**【大谬不然】**

entirely wrong; grossly mistaken; a gross error (blunder); a serious blunder; The shoe is on the other foot [例]他针对那次事件所作的评论,大谬不然。His remark about the event was *entirely wrong*.

**【大难不死,必有后福】**

He who survives a calamity is bound to be doubly blest.

**【大难临头】**

be faced with imminent disaster; with great disaster hanging over one

**【大逆不道】**

monstrous crime; treason and heresy; greatest outrage; worst offence; impudent insubordination; high treason [例]在封建社会里,稍稍背离成规就可能被视为大逆不道。In the feudal society, a slight deviation from established rules might be looked upon as a *monstrous crime*.

**【大器晚成】**

Great vessels are long in reaching completion; Great minds mature slowly; Great talents take time to mature.

**【大巧若拙】**

Great skill seems awkward; Capable man appears stupid; Still waters run deep; Who knows most says least; Still waters have deep bottoms.

**【大权独揽】**

centralize power in one man's hands; arrogate all authority to oneself; rule the roost (roost)

**【大权旁落】**

power has fallen into the hands of others; let power pass into others' hands [例]那

家公司由于管理不善,以致大权旁落。Due to mismanagement the company's *power has fallen into the hands of others*.

**【大煞(杀)风景】**

mar the beautiful scenery; dampen the spirit; spoil the fun; sink the spirits of; mar the pleasure of; put a wet blanket on; throw a wet blanket over; a fly in the ointment [例]在美丽的风景区看到垃圾,真是大煞风景。Seeing garbage in beautiful scenery really *dampened my spirit*.

**【大声疾呼】**

shout at the top of one's voice; raise a cry of warning; loudly appeal to the public

**【大是大非】**

cardinal questions of right and wrong; major issues of principle; right and wrong on issues of major importance [例]在大是大非的问题上,我们必须立场坚定旗帜鲜明。We must have a firm and clear-cut political stand on *major issues of right and wrong*.

**【大势所趋】**

the trend of the times; the general course of development; as things are going generally [例]一个更多元的社会是大势所趋。A more pluralistic society is a *trend of the times*.

**【大势已定】**

What happened in the past cannot be changed; The lot is cast; come to stay; What's done is done; The milk is spilt; water over the dam; water under the bridge

**【大势已去】**

not much can be done about it now; The game is as good as lost; it is all up with sb.; one's day has gone

**【大事化小,小事化了】**

turn big problems into small ones, and small ones into no problems at all; mini-

mize big scandals and overlook minor ones

【大手大脚】

with big hands and feet; wasteful; extravagant; free; spend money like water; spend (money) like a sailor; burn a hole in one's pocket; Fool and his money are soon parted.

【大书特书】

write volumes about; record at length; boast about; write home about [例]玛丽的世界博览会之行,真值得大书特书。Mary's trip to the World's Fair was something to *write home about*.

【大庭广众】

(on) a public occasion; (before) a big crowd; (before) the people at large; in broad daylight; in public [例]他想在大庭广众下出我的丑,但我揭穿了他的谎言,扭转了局面。He tried to humiliate me *on a public occasion*, but I turned the tables on him by exposing the falsity of his words.

【大同世界】

a world of universal harmony; the realm of Great Harmony (an ideal or perfect society); Utopia; somewhere above the rainbow

【大同小异】

largely identical but with minor differences; very much the same; for the most part alike; much of a muchness; much (about) the same

【大为失策(算)】

fail to consider as one of the things, which might change a situation; not think about; reckon without; leave out of account [例]班上的野餐委员会为沙滩宴会制定了详细的计划,但大为失策的是他们没有想到天气会变坏。The committee for the class picnic party made careful plan for a beach party, but they *reckoned without*

a sudden change in the weather.

【大喜过望】

be delighted that things are better than one expected; be overjoyed at; beyond one's wildest expectation [例]我们大家对这个结果都大喜过望,因为它比我们期望的要好得多。All of us *were overjoyed at* the result, as it was much better than we expected.

【大显身手】

display one's talents or skill to the full; cut a dashing (brilliant) figure; distinguish oneself; come out strong; give a good account of oneself; a feast of talent

【大显神通】

give full play to one's remarkable skill or abilities; show what one is capable of; show one's magic power

【大相径庭】

be far apart; widely divergent; be at odds with; entirely different (contrary); (as) wide as the poles apart (asunder); as different as chalk is from cheese; a far cry from [例]他的行动和我对他的理解如此大相径庭,使我百思不得其解。I racked my brain, but could in no way account for an action so *entirely different* from my conception of him.

【大兴土木】

go for large - scale construction; build many new buildings; a great bustle of masons and carpenters [例]政府为了要刺激经济,大兴土木。In order to stimulate the economy, the government *went for large - scale construction projects*.

【大言不惭】

boast without shame; insolent enough to say; have the effrontery to brag; turn geese into swan; blow one's own trumpet; talk big

【大摇大摆】



take big, swinging steps; strut; swagger;  
give oneself airs

【大义凛然】

inspiring awe by upholding justice; with a  
strong sense of righteousness

【大义灭亲】

place righteousness above family loyalty;  
cut off consanguinity for the sake of righ-  
teousness

【大有可为】

have bright prospects; have a brilliant fu-  
ture; be well worth doing

【大有文章】

there's more behind; there is much finesse  
in...; (and) thereby hangs a tale; There's  
more to it than meets the eye.

【大有作为】

be able to develop one's ability to the full;  
have full scope for one's talents; much can  
be accomplished

【大鱼吃小鱼】

the great fish eat up the small; with the  
small interests ruined by the big interests;  
survival of the fittest; law of the jungle  
[例]今天大公司的优势,说明了大鱼  
如何吃小鱼。The preponderance of big  
companies today illustrates how *the great  
fish eat up the small*.

【大雨如注】

the rain is pelting down; rain cascades  
from the heaven; rain cats and dogs; rain  
buckets; rain pitchforks

【大张旗鼓】

with a big display of flags and drums; on a  
grand (large) scale; with a great fanfare;  
give wide publicity (to); in a big way  
[例]这个城市正在大张旗鼓地开展群  
众卫生运动。The city is carrying out  
mass health campaigns *in a big way*.

【大智若愚】

a man of great wisdom often appears

slow-witted; Still waters run deep; Who  
knows most says least; Pride apes humili-  
ty; Still waters have deep bottoms.

【大做文章】

turn out much propaganda (about); make  
a big issue (of); make a fuss (about);  
blow up [例]报纸周刊拿他的演艺才  
能大做文章,而事实上他的才能平平。  
*His abilities as an actor have been greatly  
blown up by the weekend press; in fact,  
they are quite modest.*

【呆若木鸡】

(as) dumb as a wooden chicken; trans-  
fixed (with fear or amazement); stand like  
a log; dumbstruck; strike sb. dumb  
(speechless) [例]小男孩被魔术师耍  
的把戏弄得呆若木鸡,吓得连气也不  
敢出。*Transfixed with the tricks per-  
formed by the magician, the little boy was  
too terrified to breathe.*

【呆头呆脑】

dull-looking; thickheaded; muddlehead-  
ed; idiotic; weak in the head; have a  
thick head; have nothing between one's  
ears; have a screw loose

【代拆代行】

be authorized to open letters and act (dur-  
ing one's superior's absence); act for one's  
superior; take up the capacity of an offi-  
cial who is on leave; fill in for sb.; pinch-  
-fit

【代人受过】

take the blame for others; be made the  
scapegoat for sb.; leave holding the bag  
(sack); carry the can; take the rap [例]  
那不是我的错,我不能代人受过。*It's  
not my fault. I can't take the blame for  
others.*

【代人捉刀】

write (an article, letter, etc.) for some-  
body else; ghostwrite for others; a ghost-

writer

【戴罪立功】

atone for one's crimes by doing good deeds; redeem oneself by good service

【待机而动】

wait for one's opportunity; bide one's time

【待价而沽】

wait for the right price to sell; wait for the highest bid; sell when the price is attractive [例]他们并非不想出售那块土地,他们只是待价而沽罢了。It is not that they don't want to sell the land, they are merely *waiting for the right price to sell*.

【待理不理】

listen to sb. halfheartedly; a lukewarm reception; give the cold shoulder to sb.; brush sb. off; keep one's distance from

【待人接物】

the way one gets along with people; the way one conducts oneself in relation to others [例]孔夫子留给我们许多待人接物的训示。Confucius left us many lessons about *the way one gets along with people*.

【单刀直入】

plunge the dagger home; speak out without beating about the bush; come straight to the point; point-blank; downright; cut the cackle (and come to the horses) [例]他有什么意见就单刀直入地说,从来不绕弯子。When he had anything to complain, he would *come directly to the point* and never did it in a roundabout way.

【单枪匹马】

go to battle single-handed; all by oneself; all alone; single-handed

【单相思】

unrequited love; carry a (the) torch

【担惊受怕】

be in a state of anxiety (apprehension); feel alarmed; have kittens; on pins and needles

【殚精竭虑】

meditate deeply on; tax one's ingenuity; do one's level best; beat one's brains out; rack one's brains

【胆大包天】

audacious in the extreme; extremely audacious; heaven-daring [例]那些窃贼真是胆大包天,竟敢在警察局前面偷车。The thieves were so *audacious in the extreme* as to steal cars in front of the police station.

【胆大妄为】

reckless; act in a foolhardy manner; daredevil; rush in where angels fear to tread

【胆大心细】

bold but cautious; show courage and prudence; brave but not reckless

【胆小如鼠】

as cowardly as a mouse; yellow-bellied; chicken-hearted; cowardly; timid; (as) timid as a hare (rabbit, mouse); can't say boo to a goose; afraid of one's own shadow [例]那个家伙表面上气壮如牛,实际上却是胆小如鼠。That fellow is outwardly fierce as a bull, but inwardly *timid as a mouse*.

【胆战(颤)心惊】

strike terror into the heart of; terror-stricken; tremble with fright (fear); be all of a jump; shake (shiver) in one's boots; make one's blood curdle [例]那部恐怖片令观众胆战心惊。The horror film *struck terror into the hearts of* the audience.

【淡泊明志】

show high ideals by simple living; live a simple life, showing one's true goal in life

【淡然处之】

treat with indifference; take things coolly; give sb. the cold shoulder; turn the cold shoulder on; take things as they are [例] 他原以为他的妻子会勃然大怒, 然而她只是淡然处之。He thought his wife might hit the roof, yet she just *gave him the cold shoulder*.

【弹尽粮绝】

run out of ammunition and food supplies

【弹丸之地】

a place as small as a pellet; a small bit of land; a very tiny place; a small clod of earth

【当场出彩】

right on the stage some red coloring matter spurts out to simulate bleeding; give the whole show away on the spot; make a spectacle of oneself

【当机立断】

decide on the moment (spot); decide promptly and opportunely; make a prompt decision; take the bull by the horns; think on one's feet

【当家作主】

be master in one's own house; be the master of one's own affairs, destiny or fate [例] 你自己的命运由你自己当家作主。假如你相信什么, 它就会实现。You *are the master of your own destiny*. If you believe in something, then it can come true.

【当局者迷, 旁观者清】

The spectators see the chess game better than the players; Those closely involved cannot see as clearly as those outside; The onlooker (spectator, looker - on) sees most (more) of the game.

【当仁不让】

not decline to shoulder a responsibility; take it as one's obligation; take on (upon) oneself; The buck stops here. [例] 在中

国社会, 年长的兄弟在需要担负责任时, 都当仁不让。Elder siblings in Chinese society *do not decline shouldering a responsibility* when it is called for.

【当头棒喝】

a blow on the head; arouse a person from his stupidity; give a timely warning; issue a strong warning; read the riot act to sb.

【当务之急】

a pressing matter of the moment; a task of top priority; urgent matter [例] 目前的当务之急是将她送到医院。The *urgent matter* right now is getting her to the hospital.

【当一天和尚撞一天钟】

So long as one remains a bonze, one goes on tolling the bell; do the least that is expected of one; do just enough to get by; follow a routine

【当之无愧】

be worthy of (the title, honor); merit (deserve) the reward; deserve well of; be well qualified for; worth one's salt [例] 在那家公司服务了二十年, 这次晋升他当之无愧。Having served the company for twenty years, he *was worthy of* the promotion.

【党同伐异】

defend those who belong to one's own faction and attack those who don't; be narrowly partisan

【挡箭牌】

a shield against arrows; an excuse; a pretext

【荡检逾闲】

be broken from moral bonds; licentious in conduct; run riot; sow one's wind oats

【当耳边风】

look upon it as a wind blowing past the ear; take no serious heed to; turn a deaf ear to; like water off a duck's back; in

(at) one ear and out(at) the other; brush off [例]你跟他说什么,他都当耳边风。Everything you say to him goes in one ear and out the other.

【刀耕火种】

slash - and - burn cultivation; farm by the slash - and - burn method

【刀光剑影】

the glint and flash of cold steel; (of a murderer or an evildoer) is about to act; the scene of a fierce fight [例]由于敌对的两帮派间的紧张状态上升,刀光剑影依稀可见。With tensions mounting between the two rival gangs, *the glint and flash of cold steel* was already visible.

【刀枪入库,马放南山】

put the weapons back in the arsenal and graze the war horses on the hillside; relax vigilance against war

【刀山火海】

a mountain of swords and a sea of flames; most severe trials; most dangerous places; at all hazards

【刀子嘴,豆腐心】

sb. is not so dangerous, bail - tempered, aggressive, etc. as he gives the appearance of being; His bark is worse than his bite; more bark than bite

【蹈常袭故】

follow mere routine; go on in the same old way; be a slave to old methods of doing things; toe the line (mark); move (run) in a rut; follow the beaten track

【倒戈相向】

turn one's spear backward; become a turncoat; change sides in a war; transfer one's allegiance; turn one's coat; sell the pass; sell down the river

【倒背如流】

can even recite sth. backwards fluently; know sth. thoroughly by heart; rattle

(reel) off [例]罗杰七岁时能将各州州名倒背如流。When Roger was seven, he could *rattle off* the names of all the states in alphabetical order.

【倒打一耙】

turn about and hit sb. with a rake; make unfounded counter - charges; put the blame on one's victim; recriminate

【倒行逆施】

go against the tide of history; turn back the wheel of history; push a reactionary policy; perverted action; set back the clock; put the cart before the horse [例]任何企图倒行逆施的人都是注定要失败的。Anyone who attempts to *go against the tide of history* is doomed to failure.

【道不拾遗,夜不闭户】

No one picks up and pockets anything found on the road, and doors need not be locked at night; Honesty prevails throughout society.

【道地地地】

one hundred per cent; down - right; thoroughly; completely; out and out; through and through; to the core; dyed - in - the - wool

【道高一尺,魔高一丈】

As virtue rises one foot, vice rises ten; The more illumination, the more temptation; Where God has his church, the devil will have his chapel; The weeds overgrow the corn.

【道貌岸然】

pose as a person of high morals; assume the appearance of a man of integrity; pretended to be good (but really is bad); sanctimonious

【道听途说】

information picked up in the course of one's travels; hearsay; market gossip; rumor; gossip; on the grapevine; a traveler's

tale [例]她的道听途说轻易地找到了听众。Her *hearsay accounts* found easy and ready listeners.

**【到什么山,唱什么歌】**

sing different songs on different mountains; adapt oneself to an occasion; When in Rome do as the Romans do; Being on sea, sail; being on land, settle.

**【德才兼备】**

have both ability and political integrity; equal stress on integrity and ability [例]那位校长在周会中勉励学生要德才兼备。The president encouraged the students to *put equal stress on integrity and ability* at the weekly meeting.

**【德高望重】**

be of noble character and high prestige; enjoy high prestige and command universal respect; celebrated and greatly honored

**【得不偿失】**

The gain does not recompense for the loss; the loss outweighs the gain; gains cannot offset losses; The game is not worth the candle; pay too dear for one's whistle; not worth powder and shot; get more kicks than halfpence (ha'pense); Give a lark to catch a kite. [例]他在研究报告中指出,分公司的营运中有得不偿失的现象。In his research studies, he pointed out that *the loss* in the subsidiary's operations *outweighed the gain*.

**【得此失彼】**

gain in one thing and lose in another; cannot have both; must choose one; can't eat one's cake and have it; lose on the swings what you make (gain) on the roundabouts

**【得寸进尺】**

reach out for a yard after taking an inch; The more one gets, the more he wants to have; be insatiable; ever - greater demands; Give him an inch and he'll take an

ell (a foot, a yard, a mile); impose on [例]你可以到艾伦家的游泳池游泳,只要你不得寸进尺把你的朋友都带去。You may swim in the Allens' pool so long as you do not *impose on* them by bringing all your friends.

**【得道多助,失道寡助】**

a just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little support

**【得过且过】**

muddle along; let things drift; be satisfied with; dilly - dally; drift along; make do (with); make shift with; catch - as - catch - can [例]1. 如果你总是像这样敷衍了事,得过且过,那你一生都会一事无成。If you keep working perfunctorily and *muddling along* like this, you'll get nowhere in your life. 2. 瑞普·范·温克每天迷迷糊糊地得过且过。Rip van Winkle seems to have led a *catch - as - catch - can* life.

**【得陇望蜀】**

covet Sichuan after capturing Gansu; have insatiable desires; one conquest breeds appetite for another; Give him an inch and he'll take a mile; Appetite comes with eating; Much will have more.

**【得胜回朝】**

return with flying colors; return in triumph; win the day (field)

**【得天独厚】**

be richly endowed by nature; abound in gifts of nature; enjoy exceptional advantages; a land flowing with milk and honey [例]海南岛得天独厚,天然资源丰富。Hainan Island *is richly endowed by nature* and abundant in natural resources.

**【得心应手】**

what the mind wishes the hands are able to do; with facility; with high proficiency; in a masterly way; serviceable; handy; in

one's element; at one's fingertips; as clay in the hands of the potter [例]他善于敏锐地抓住事物的本质,得心应手地解决各种错综复杂的问题。He was quick in grasping the essence of matters and solving all kinds of complex problems in a *masterly way*.

## 【得意忘形】

lose all bearings in the moment of pride and satisfaction; get dizzy with success; be beside oneself with joy (glee); go wild with joy; elated; complacent; turn one's head; walk on air; ride a high horse; on the high rope; on cloud nine; carry (hold) one's head high

## 【得意洋洋(扬扬)】

be immensely proud; be heaved with joy; erect (elevate) one's crest; look triumphant; with smug satisfaction; jubilant; flushed; have one's nose in the air; ride a (one's) high horse; walk on air; feel one's oats

## 【得鱼忘筌】

forget the trap as soon as the fish is caught; forget the means by which the end is attained; forget the things or conditions which bring one success; ungrateful; When the fish is caught the net is laid aside; kick down the ladder [例]他一当上经理就得鱼忘筌,抛弃了过去的朋友。As soon as he became manager of the company he *kicked down the ladder* and turned his back on his former friends.

## 【登峰造极】

attain to perfection; reach the peak (acme) of perfection; have a very high level (of scholastic attainment or technical skill); reach the limit; at the zenith of; to the nth degree; ne plus ultra [例]他的事业由于这本书的出版而达到登峰造极。He has *reached the summit* of his ca-

reer by publishing this book.

## 【登堂入室】

pass through the hall into the inner chamber; reach a higher level in one's studies or become more proficient in one's profession; gain the mastery of; make one's way in the world

## 【灯蛾扑火】

a moth, fluttering about a flame, tries to put it out; a suicidal act; self-destruction; a futile attempt

## 【灯红酒绿】

red lanterns and green wine; scene of debauchery; bright wine banquet; a dissipated and luxurious life; be (go, live) on the loose

## 【灯火辉煌】

brilliantly illuminated; be ablaze with lights; brightly-lit

## 【等而下之】

lower down; from that grade down [例]好的尚且如此,等而下之的就不必说了。Even those higher up are not worth much, to say nothing of those *lower down*.

## 【等量齐观】

treat two different things in the same manner; be regarded as equal (in value or merit, etc.); equate with; match; draw a parallel between; on a (one) footing; on an equal footing; on a par with [例]这完全是两码事,它们的重要性怎么能等量齐观呢? These are two entirely different things. How could they *be regarded as equal* in importance?

## 【等闲视之】

regard as unimportant; treat lightly or casually; take it lightly; make light (nothing, little) of; think little of; write off; brush off [例]不要以为队上的球员年轻而等闲视之。Don't *write the team off*, just because the boys on the team are

young.

【低三下四】

humble; mean; low and menial; lowly; servile; cringing; obsequious; go down on one's knees; eat dirt; bow and scrape

【低声下气】

soft-spoken and submissive; meek and subservient; humble oneself; obsequious; eat the leek; eat dirt; bow and scrape; with downcast eyes; with bated breath; a tame spaniel [例]我宁可死也不愿低声下气去向他求情。I would rather die than go and ask a favor of him *with bated breath*.

【低首下心】

bow one's head in humility; obsequiously submissive; humble oneself; bow and scrape; eat dirt

【低头认罪】

hang (bow) one's head and acknowledge one's guilt; confess; admit one's guilt; plead guilty; eat humble pie; own up

【滴水不漏】

watertight; leakproof; form a satisfactory whole; fit together; hang together [例]杰克编造的缺席原因看来是滴水不漏的。Jack's story of why he was absent from school seems to *hang together*.

【滴水成冰】

(so cold that) dripping water freezes; freezing cold; ice cold; hard (sharp) frost [例]尽管是滴水成冰的天气,他依然照常巡逻。He would make his usual rounds in spite of the *freezing cold* weather.

【滴水穿石】

Water constantly dripping wears holes in stone; persevere with your task and you'll succeed; Little strokes fall great oaks; Constant dropping (dripping) wears (will wear) away a stone; With time and pa-

tience the leaf of the mulberry (tree) become satin. [例]虽然学会说流利的英文是一件困难的事,但她知道滴水会穿石。Although learning to speak fluent English is difficult, she knew that *little strokes fell great oaks*.

【抵羊触藩】

a ram bucking a hedge; have two choices, neither of which is satisfactory; (to be) on the horns of a dilemma

【涤瑕荡秽】

remove the flaw and wash away the dirt; eradicate bad habits and customs; get rid of a bad practice

【地大物博】

a big country abounding in natural wealth; (with) vast territory and rich (abundant) resource

【地广人稀】

a small population over a large area of land; a scarcely (sparsely) populated area; much land and few people [例]这个地广人稀的地区很快就被开发让移民进入。The *sparsely populated area* was soon opened up for immigration.

【地利人和】

have topographical advantages and enjoy popular support; have the best chance of winning; have all the advantages; hold all the trumps

【颠倒黑白】

confound black and white; confuse right and wrong; give false accounts of; misrepresent; turn (talk) white into black; prove that black is white and white is black; stand truth on its head [例]你们这样颠倒黑白,难道能够掩饰或改变事情的真相吗? Is it possible for you to conceal or alter the truth about the matter by *talk-ing white into black*?

【颠倒是非】

confound (reverse) right and wrong; turn things upside down; confuse truth and falsehood; pervert the truth; distort; reversal of the truth; stand facts on their heads; turn white into black

【颠沛流离】

drift from place to place; homeless and miserable; wander about in a desperate plight; lead a vagrant life; drift from pillar to post [例]他颠沛流离度过了大半辈子。He spent the greater part of his life *wandering about in a desperate plight*.

【颠扑不破】

able to withstand heavy battering; (of truth or theory) stands despite time and argument; irrefutable; unshakable; incontrovertible; indisputable; stand the test of time

【颠三倒四】

incoherent; disorderly; confused; topsy-turvy

【掂斤播两】

engage in petty calculations; be calculating in small matters; make a fuss over trifles; argue about little details

【点金成铁】

touch gold and turn it into iron; (a depreciatory phrase used when correcting or revising compositions for another) miscorrect a piece of writing; damage the beauty of the original work

【点石(铁)成金】

touch a stone and turn it into gold; turn a crude essay into a literary gem; the golden touch in writing by dexterous use of a word [例]要不是你点石成金,我写的那篇文章是拿不出去的。The article I wrote would be unpresentable without your *golden touch*.

【点头哈腰】

bow unctuously; with much bowing and

nodding; bow and scrape [例]老仆人在主人面前点头哈腰,十分顺从,竭力讨好。The old servant  *bowed and scraped* before the master, too obedient and eager to please.

【点头之交】

have a slight acquaintance with sb.; have a nodding (bowing) acquaintance with [例]我和他不仅仅是点头之交。I *have more than a nodding acquaintance with him*.

【雕虫小技】

insignificant skill (esp. in writing); the trifling skill of a scribe; literary skill of no high order

【雕梁画栋】

carved beams and painted rafters; a richly ornamented building

【刁钻古怪】

sly and capricious; wily and eccentric; cunning and peculiar

【调兵遣将】

appoint commanders and deploy soldiers; transfer (move) troops; deploy forces; dispose manpower

【调虎离山】

lure the tiger out of the mountains; lure the enemy away from his base; make the opponent leave his advantageous position by stratagem

【掉以轻心】

lower one's guard; let down one's guard; treat sth. lightly; with casual attitude; heedless; brush off; make light (nothing) of

【吊儿郎当】

loiter away (one's time); dilly-dally; take a devil-may-care attitude; careless and casual; slovenly; idle (fool) about; harum-scarum; free and easy [例]杰克是个吊儿郎当的人,你无法



期望他会做好什么事情。Jack is such a *harum - scarum* boy that you can never depend on him to do anything right.

【叠床架屋】

pile one bed upon another or build one house on top of another; needless duplication; senseless piling up of phrases

【喋喋不休】

talk endlessly; chatter away; rattle away (on, along); garrulous; talk sb.'s ear (head) off; chatter like a magpie; loose one's tongue; talk nineteen to the dozen; talk a horse's (donkey's) hind leg off; talk the bark off a tree

【丁是丁,卯是卯】

keep Ding (a Heavenly Stem) distinct from Mao (an Earthly Branch); a tenon is a tenon, a mortise is a mortise; be scrupulous; be conscientious and meticulous

【鼎鼎大名】

a great reputation; illustrious; be a name to conjure with

【鼎新革故】

establish the new and abolish the old; discard the old ways of life in favor of the new; drop old habits and reform

【鼎足之势】

stand like the three legs of a tripod; tripartite confrontation; tripartite balance of forces [例]三国时期,魏、蜀、吴各据一方,形成鼎足之势。During the Three Kingdoms Periods, Wei, Shu and Wu each occupied a part of China, forming a *tripartite confrontation*.

【顶礼膜拜】

prostrate oneself in worship; (used derogatorily) make a fetish of; pay homage to; pay obeisance to; throw oneself at someone's feet

【顶天立地】

of gigantic stature; be absolutely fearless; upright and high-minded; of indomitable spirit

【丢盔卸(弃)甲】

throw away one's helmet and coat of mail; throw away everything in headlong flight; run away helter-skelter; fly pell-mell

【丢三落四】

forgetful; scatterbrained; he always forgetting things; have a memory (head) like a sieve

【丢卒保车】

give up a pawn to save a chariot; sacrifice minor things to save major ones; throw a sprat to catch a mackerel (whale)

【东奔西跑】

run around here and there; bustle about; rush around (about); (be driven) from pillar to post; bat around [例]那些护士东奔西跑,对伤员施予急救治疗。The nurses were *rushing about* to give first aid treatment to the injured.

【东倒西歪】

tumble on the east and lurch on the west; walk unsteadily; dilapidated; rickety

【东风吹马耳】

like the east wind blowing at the ear of a horse; pay no attention; without any effect; like water off a duck's back; in one ear and out the other; turn a deaf ear to

【东风压倒西风】

The East Wind prevails over the West Wind; the revolutionary forces have prevailed over the reactionary forces

【东拉西扯】

pull one way and drag another; drag in all sorts of irrelevant matters; talk at random; ramble; irrelevant talk; beat about (around)

【东鳞西爪】

a dragon scale from the east and a dragon

claw from the west; bits and pieces; fragments; odds and ends; dribs and drabs  
[例]他只能设法得到整个故事的东鳞西爪。He only managed to pick up *odds and ends* of the whole story.

**【东拼西凑】**

put together (money, etc) from different sources; scrape together; knock together; do patchwork (in writing); scratchy [例]那对新婚夫妇东拼西凑,才凑足了在郊外买一间小公寓的钱。The newly wed couple *scraped together* enough money to buy a small apartment out in the suburbs.

**【东山再起】**

return to a previous stage; get re-established (rehabilitated); stage (make) a comeback; come back; bob up like a cork [例]过了多年默默无闻的生活,这位名噪一时的影星出人意料地东山再起。After many years of obscurity, the once-famous film star *made an unexpected comeback*.

**【东施效颦】**

Dongshi, an ugly woman, knitting her eyebrows in imitation of the famous beauty Xishi, only to make herself uglier; blind imitation with ludicrous effect; play (act) the ape; imitate awkwardly; a jackdaw in peacock's feathers; take a leaf out of somebody's book

**【东食西宿】**

be lodged in one place and board in another place; go wherever profit is; care only for gain; make full use of the advantages offered; know which side one's boat is buttered on

**【东逃西窜】**

flee in all directions; be driven from one resource to another; be driven from pillar to post

**【东袭西抄】**

make a surprise attack on the enemy on the east and harass them on the west; copy others; plagiarize from different sources

**【东张西望】**

look east and west; look (gaze, peer) around; pry about; scrounge [例]那个女孩提着行李,在站台上东张西望,看不见有接她的人。With her luggage in her hands, the girl stood on the platform *looking around*, but apparently no one had come to meet her.

**【懂事明理】**

have good sense; sensible; intelligent; have a good head on one's shoulders

**【洞达事理】**

be sensible; have a good head on one's shoulders

**【洞房花烛】**

wedding festivities; wedding

**【洞见症结】**

see clearly the symptoms of an illness with their minute details; see clearly the crux of the matter; get to the heart of the problem

**【洞若观火】**

see sth. as clearly as a blazing fire; (as) clear as day; (as) plain as a pikestaff; be level-headed; (as) plain as the nose on your face; clear-eyed

**【洞天福地】**

blessed spot; fairyland; the land of the fairies; a land flowing with milk and honey

**【洞烛其奸】**

see through sb.'s tricks (treachery); know one's villainy fully

**【动荡不安(定)】**

in turmoil; turbulent; in flux; unstable; tempest-tossed [例]中东形势仍然动荡不安。The situation in Middle East is still in a state of *flux*.

【动人肺腑】

move sb. deeply; touch sb. to the depths of his soul; touch sb.'s heart; speak to the heart; bring (come, go) home to sb.'s heart

【动人心弦】

tug at one's heartstrings; be deeply moving (touching); stir up one's inmost feelings; touch the right chord; ring bells

【动辄得咎】

be blamed for every move (for whatever one does); be frequently taken to task; a clay pigeon

【动辄发怒】

fly into a rage on the slightest provocation; take offence at trifles; be prone to anger

【栋梁之材】

ridgepole and beam; a man of tremendous promise; a pillar of society

【兜圈子】

go around in circles; talk in a roundabout way; without any progress; beat about the bush; go in circles (a circle)

【抖擞精神】

brace (oneself) up; poll oneself together; buck up; perk up [例]别因失败而气馁,抖擞精神,继续试下去。Don't let failure discourage you, *pull yourself together* and try again.

【斗志昂扬】

be very strong in fighting will; have high morale; show fight; combative; have plenty of fight in one

【豆蔻年华】

a blooming girl; an adolescent girl; teenage of girls

【豆剖瓜分】

split poapods and cut melons into slices; divide up (land, territory, etc.); be partitioned

【独霸一方】

be a local despot; lord it over a district; wield absolute power in a district

【独步一时】

set the pace for the generation; be unequalled in one's generation; have no equal in one's time [例]六十年代时,甲壳虫乐队独步一时。The Beatles *set the pace for a whole generation* in the sixties.

【独(别)出心裁】

show originality; create new styles (fashions); original; unique; ingenuity; out of one's own head; off-center [例]这些花鸟的设计别出心裁,栩栩如生。These flowers and birds are *original* in designs and look very life-like.

【独当一面】

take charge of a department (locality); shoulder responsibility alone; manage on one's own

【独到之处】

originality; specific characteristics; special merits; distinctive qualities; have one's own knack (in)

【独断专行】

make arbitrary decisions and take peremptory actions; act arbitrarily; high-handed; overbearing; go (take) one's own way; a law unto oneself; take the bit in one's mouth (teeth)

【独具慧眼】

discern what others don't; can see what others cannot; have an eye for

【独具匠心】

have an unequalled inventive mind; have originality; show ingenuity; possess mental strategy alone; creative

【独(别)具一格】

of a unique style; be original in style; in a class by itself; have a style of one's own

【独木不成林】

One tree does not make a forest; One per-

son alone cannot accomplish much; It cannot be done single - handed; One swallow does not make a summer. [例]独木不成林, 你不该把自己逼得太紧。You shouldn't push yourself too hard. *It cannot be done single - handed.*

【独木难支】

One log cannot prop up a tottering building; One person alone cannot save the situation; One cannot sustain the adversity all by oneself.

【独辟蹊径】

open a new road for oneself; develop a new style (method) of one's own; break fresh (new) ground; carve out one's (a) way; blaze a trail

【独善其身】

pay attention to one's own moral uplift without thought of others; attend to one's own virtue in solitude; maintain one's own integrity (during chaotic time); keep oneself unspotted from the world

【独树一帜】

fly one's own colors; create a separate school in; develop a school of one's own; take a course (line) of one's own; strike out a line for oneself [例]针灸麻醉在世界医学上真可谓独树一帜。Acupuncture anesthesia does *take the course of its own* in the medical science of the world.

【独一无二】

unmatched; unparalleled; unique; singular; in a class by itself; the one and only

【独占鳌头】

come out first; head the list of successful candidates; be the champion; bear (carry) off the palm; take the cake; second to none

【睹物思人】

seeing the thing one thinks of the person; the thing reminds one of its owner; Things

have their associations.

【度日如年】

pass a day as if it were a year; days wear on like years; see the days creep by like years; time hangs (lies) heavy on one's hands

【妒贤嫉能】

be jealous of the worthy and able; envy someone better or abler than oneself

【杜(闭)门谢客】

shut one's door and decline seeing visitors; lock oneself up in one's room; close one's door to visitors; live in complete seclusion

【端倪可察】

have an inkling of the matter; have found a clue to sth.

【短兵相接】

fight with short weapons; fight at close quarters; in close combat; engage in hand - to - hand fight; fight hand to hand

【短小精悍】

(of a person) not of imposing stature but strong and capable; (of a piece of writing) short and pithy; terse and forceful; short and to the point; not waste words

【断编残简】

broken chapters and paragraphs; stray fragments of text; incomplete parts of ancient scripts

【断断续续】

in (by) snatches; intermittently; disjointedly; off and on (on and off); by fits and starts [例]他断断续续地从事发明已经很多年了。He had worked on the invention *by fits and starts* for several years.

【断垣残壁】

broken (ruined, tumbledown) walls; debris; a desolate scene

【断章取义】

quote a remark out of its context; take (quote) out of context; make a deliberate

misinterpretation out of context; garble a statement, etc.; a garbled quotation; distort [例]那位市长控告那家报社诽谤,因为他们将他的话断章取义。The mayor sued the newspaper for slander because they *garbled his words*.

**【断子绝孙】**

may you die without sons; may you be the last of your line

**【堆积如山】**

pile up like a mountain; lie in a heap; mountains of; piled up mountain - high

**【对答如流】**

answer as quickly as the flowing of water; answer fluently; answer up to; be ready at repartee; a glib reply; have a ready tongue; quick on the trigger [例]在班里的讨论会上,约翰总是对答如流。In class discussions, John is always *quick on the trigger*.

**【对牛弹琴】**

play the lute to a cow; choose the wrong audience; attempt to explain deep truths to a dull person; preach to deaf ears; cast pearls before swine; whistle jigs to a milestone; talk over people's heads [例]你应该更平易地向他们解释。你刚刚只是对牛弹琴。You should have explained it to them more simply. You were just *talking over their heads*.

**【对事不对人】**

concern oneself with facts and not with individuals

**【对症下药】**

suit the remedy to the case; solve problems according to objective realities; find a specific way (to solve) [例]问题在哪里你都不知道,你怎么能对症下药解决问题呢? How can you *find a specific way* to solve the problem without knowing where the trouble lies?

**【顿开茅塞】(又作:茅塞顿开)**

the obstructing rushes at once removed; be suddenly enlightened by (one's words, etc.); at once become enlightened (awakened); dawn on sb.; see the light [例]你的话使我茅塞顿开。Your words made me suddenly *see the light*.

**【多才多艺】**

gifted (talented) in many ways; of varied attainments; versatile; all - round; many - sided; a man of parts

**【多愁善感】**

(a person) of a melancholy disposition; sentimental; mushy

**【多此一举】**

do sth. which is unnecessary or superfluous; make an unnecessary move; superfluous action; uncalled - for; water one's grass after a good rain; carry coals to Newcastle; carry (bring, send) owls to Athens; gild (paint) the lily

**【多多益善】**

The more the better; Plenty is no plague; The more, the merrier.

**【多管闲事】**

show impolite curiosity into; meddle; a busybody; nosy; snoop; have an oar in every man's boat; have a finger in every pie; poke (stick) one's nose into

**【多快好省】**

achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results

**【多谋善断】**

a man of resource and good judgement; resourceful and decisive; sagacious and resolute

**【多难兴邦】**

Deep distress resurrects a nation; Much distress regenerates a nation.

**【多事之秋】**

an eventful year (period); troubled times;

a year of many troubles

【多行不义必自毙】

If one keeps on doing unrighteous deeds, he is bound to come to ruin; Give a rogue enough rope and he will hang himself; The wages of sin is death; They that live by the sword shall perish (die) by the sword.

【多一事不如少一事】

To have one thing less is better than to have one thing more; the less trouble the better; avoid trouble whenever possible; Let the sleeping dogs lie; let things slide; keep one's nose clean

【多嘴多舌】

gossipy and meddlesome; long-tongued; loquacious; talkative; wag one's tongue

【咄咄逼人】

with an overbearing attitude; ferociously;

aggressive; insolent; threatening; pressing  
[例]现在的形势咄咄逼人。我们要努力赶上去。The present situation is *pressing*. We must work hard to catch up with others.

【咄咄怪事】

monstrous absurdity; out of the ordinary; strange indeed; isn't it absurd that...? beat all; beat the Dutch; The devil rides on a fiddlestick. [例]约翰在他的车库地下发现一个装满钱的盒子。真是咄咄怪事! John found a box full of money buried in his garage. Doesn't that *beat all*!

【躲躲闪闪】

dodge; hedge; equivocate; skulk; be evasive

## E

## 【阿其所好】

pander to sb.'s weaknesses; play up to sb.'s whims

## 【阿谀逢迎】

flatter and toady to; act as the yesman; stoop to flattery; curry favour with; lick sb.'s spittle (boots, feet, shoes) [例]下级不应该对上级阿谀逢迎,无原则地服从。People at the lower levels should not *curry favour with* their superiors or to be obedient to them in an unprincipled way.

## 【颡手称庆】

place one's hand on one's forehead in joy; be overjoyed for being lucky; thank one's lucky stars

## 【恶贯满盈】

one's iniquities are full; have committed countless crimes and deserve to be severely punished; face retribution for a life of crime [例]那个罪犯恶贯满盈,总有一天会被正法。The criminal who *has committed countless crimes* will be executed someday.

## 【恶人自有恶人磨】

A wicked person will be afflicted by a similar personality; Bad men always find their match; The great thieves punish (hang) the little ones; Where vice is, vengeance follows.

## 【恶事传千里】

Scandal travels a thousand miles; Scandal spreads apace; Bad news has wings; Ill news flies fast. [例]自古道:“好事不出门,恶事传千里。”There is an ancient saying, “Good deeds are never heard of outside the door, but *bad*

*deeds are proclaimed for three hundred miles.*”

## 【恶衣恶食】

coarse food and clothing; a thrifty and simple life

## 【恶语伤人】

attack people with vicious words; slander viciously; give sb. (a lick with) the rough side of one's tongue [例]他恶语伤人,却无损我分毫。He *attacked me with vicious words*, but could not hurt me in the least.

## 【恶作剧】

an ill-willed trick; a trick played upon one person to give amusement to others; a practical joke; play a prank on sb. [例]对残疾人做恶作剧是不道德的。To *play tricks* on disabled people is very immoral.

## 【饿虎饥鹰】

a hungry tiger or eagle; a fierce and greedy person

## 【饿虎扑食】

pounce on the prey like a hungry tiger; act swiftly and eagerly [例]那些淘金者如饿虎扑食般地冲向闪闪发光的黄金。The gold-diggers rushed to the glittering gold like *hungry tigers pouncing on their prey*.

## 【饿草载道】

the streets strewn with the bodies of the starved; with lots of people starving to death [例]水灾之后,该地饿草载道。After the flood, this place was *strewn with lots of bodies of the starved*.

## 【遏恶扬善】

repress evil and encourage good; overlook

other people's weaknesses and extol their virtues

【恩断义绝】

break off the ties of affection or friendship; be through with sb.

【恩将仇报】

return evil for good; to requite kindness with enmity; be ungrateful and act contrary to justice; bite the hand that feeds one [例]他的叔叔将他抚养成人,而他却恩将仇报。He *requited kindness with enmity* towards his uncle who had brought him up.

【恩深义重】

deep favour and weighty righteousness; The spiritual debt is deep and great; profound and great in kindness [例]我们决不会忘记对我们恩深义重的人。We should never forget the people whom we owed *deep and great spiritual debt* to.

【恩同再造】

a favour as merciful as if having rebuilt one's character; one's goodness has made; a favour tantamount to giving sb. a new lease of life

【恩威并行】

employ both kindness and severity; justice tempered with mercy; severity well tempered with gentleness; apply the carrot and stick judiciously

【恩怨分明】

Kindness and hatred are clearly distinguished

【恩重如山】

kindness as heavy as mountains; a profound debt of gratitude

【儿女情长】

Long is the love between man and woman; be immersed in love [例]英雄气短,儿女情长。Brief is the spirit of a hero, but *love between man and woman is long*.

【而立之年】

thirty years of age; the year in life at which a person should be independent [例]他已到了而立之年,做事还像个孩子。Thirty years old as he is, he still acts like a child.

【尔虞我诈】

You practise deception on me, and I do the same on you; mutual deception [例]他们是离心离德,尔虞我诈。They are divided among themselves, *cheating and deceiving each other*.

【耳边风】

a puff of wind passing by the ear; a piece of unheeded advice; turn a deaf ear to; go in one ear and out the other [例]1. 前些天我劝你换个工作,你只当耳边风,现在你下了岗,我们该怎么办? Some time ago I tried to persuade you to change a job, but you let my words *flit by like a puff of wind*. Now you are laid off. What should we do? 2. 你们千万别把我的警告当作耳边风。You'd better not *turn a deaf ear to my warning*.

【耳鬓厮磨】

ear to ear and temple to temple; be intimate with each other [例]他是我耳鬓厮磨一起长大的好友。He has *been my intimate friend* since childhood.

【耳聪目明】

have sharp ears and eyes; have a thorough grasp of the situation

【耳目一新】

fresh and new to both the ear and eye; find sth. fresh and new; find oneself in an entirely new world [例]他们一到马来西亚就感到耳目一新。They *found themselves in an entirely new world* the moment they arrived in Malaysia.

【耳濡目染】

ears soaked and eyes dyed; be impercepti-



bly influenced by what one constantly sees and hears; to take in the impact of circumstances [例]在这样的家庭里耳濡目染,孩子很快就爱上了艺术。In such a family, the child *took in the impact of circumstances* and was fond of art immediately.

**【耳提面命】**

hold one by the ear in sb.'s presence and give instructions; give earnest advice; talk to sb. like a Dutch uncle

**【耳软心活】**

soft ears and lively mind; be pliant and ready to believe anything; credulous and pliable

**【耳食目视】**

the things which one sees with one's ears and eats with one's eyes; pursue impractical things while losing their essence

**【耳熟能详】**

What has been frequently heard can be repeated in detail; have heard many times; be very familiar

**【耳听八方】**

listen to the sounds from all the directions;

be extremely alert; with ears strained; be all ears [例]我们要在训练时眼观六路,耳听八方。We must be *all eyes and all ears* in the training.

**【耳闻不如目见】**

Hearsay is not equal to observation; Seeing for oneself is better than hearing from others; Seeing is believing.

**【耳闻目睹】**

bear with one's ears and see with one's eyes; what one hears and sees; have seen and heard sth. oneself [例]如果你把耳闻目睹的都写下来,一定是本很有趣的书。If you write down *what you've heard and seen*, it must be a very interesting book.

**【二人同心,其利断金】**

If two persons are with one heart, their power will be as great as a sharp sword that can cut through metal; If two persons are of the same mind, their combined determination will overcome all obstacles.

**【二三其德】**

be in two or three minds; of changeable character

## F

## 【发奋图强】

work assiduously with a will to make the country strong; rise in great vigour; strive for national prosperity; work hard and aim high [例]康有为劝光绪皇帝发奋图强,变法维新。Kang Youwei asked the Emperor Guang Xu to *bring himself to make the country strong* through political reform.

## 【发愤忘食】

be so immersed in work as to forget one's meals; be remarkably diligent [例]很多学生在发愤忘食地学习。Many students are *studying so hard as to forget their meals*.

## 【发号施令】

issue orders; order people about; order sb. as one fancies; dictate one's terms to; to boss; call the tune [例]你有什么资格向别人发号施令? What right do you have to *order people about*?

## 【发聋振聩】

stir the deaf and enlighten the blind; awaken muddled and apathetic people; enlighten the benighted

## 【发人深省】

set people thinking; prompt sb. to deep thought; provide food for (deep) thought; thought - provoking; call for (stimulate) deep thought [例]他话讲得不多,可是语重心长,发人深省。His words, though quite brief, are earnest enough to *stimulate deep thought*.

## 【发扬光大】

glorify; make sth. greater; carry forward; bring to greater height of development [例]好传统和好作风要在整个中华民

族中发扬光大起来,一代一代地传下去。The fine tradition and style of work should *be carried forward* throughout the Chinese nation and be handed down from generation to generation.

## 【罚不当罪】

the punishment not in keeping with the crime; The punishment exceeds the crime; be unduly punished

## 【法力无边】

have boundless supernatural power; have the tremendous power which cannot be estimated

## 【法外施恩】

bestow favour beyond the limits of the law; be lenient beyond the limits of the law

## 【翻江倒海】

overturn a river and upset the sea; accomplish sth. requiring great strength; with a gigantic and vigorous force; overwhelming; stupendous [例]革命以翻江倒海之势席卷全国。The revolution swept across the land *with a gigantic and vigorous force*.

## 【翻来覆去】

toss and turn; again and again; repeatedly [例]1.她在床上翻来覆去睡不着。She *tossed and turned* in bed, unable to sleep. 2.这样的话,老师翻来覆去不知说过多少遍了。The teacher has been saying this *over and over again*.

## 【翻然悔悟】

wake up to one's error quickly; a drastic change in one's mind which brings one to sincere repentance [例]我希望这些事实能使你翻然悔悟,弃旧图新。I hope that these facts may *bring you to sincere*

*repentance* of your past and start afresh.

【翻山越岭】

cross over mountain after mountain; to make a long, arduous journey

【翻天覆地】

overturn the sky and the earth; a tremendous change; earth - shaking; epoch - making [例]解放至今中国发生了翻天覆地的变化。China has undergone an *earth - shaking* change since liberation.

【翻箱倒柜】

overturn boxes and chests; have a thorough search of one's luggage or of one's room; overturn things in a thorough search [例]特务们冲进他的房间翻箱倒柜地搜索了一遍,但没有发现任何可疑的东西。The special agents broke into his room and *overturned boxes and chests* but couldn't find anything suspicious.

【翻云覆雨】

produce clouds with one turn of the hand and rain with another; keep shifting one's ground; shifty; given to playing tricks; to play fast and loose; to blow hot and cold [例]他老是翻云覆雨的,不知道他在干什么勾当。He is always *blowing hot and cold*. We don't know what he is up to.

【凡夫俗子】

mortal men and vulgar persons; ordinary people

【繁荣昌盛】

thriving and prosperous; flourishing; flowering; prosperity [例]祖国日益繁荣昌盛。Our country is growing more *prosperous* every day.

【繁文缛节】

complicated rules and ceremonies; unnecessary and over - elaborate formalities; official circumlocution; red tape [例]1. 不要管这些繁文缛节啦!就叫我的名字吧。Don't care too much for such *compl-*

*cated rules*. Just call my first name. 2. 繁文缛节太多,我都不想再出国了。Since there are too many *unnecessary formalities* involved, I have given up trying to go abroad.

【反唇相讥】

reply defiantly and ridicule others; answer back sarcastically; throw back an insinuation; recriminate; to do back - chat; talk back [例]老师的批评他听不进,甚至反唇相讥。He not only ignored the criticism of his teachers but went so far as to *answer back sarcastically*.

【反唇相稽】

reply defiantly and find fault with others; turn against another in recrimination; retort; answer back

【反复无常】

be vacillating in attitude and lack constancy; change one's mind constantly; change like a weathercock; changeable; capricious; play fast and loose; blow hot and cold [例]这个人反复无常,很不可靠。This fellow is always *changing his attitude*; he is very unreliable.

【反戈一击】

turn one's weapon around and strike; turn against those one has wrongly sided with

【反躬自省】

turn inwards and examine one's own errors; examine one's conscience; make a self - examination; introspection [例]你要老老实实反躬自省,否则还是要犯这类错误的。You should *examine yourself* honestly, or you will make such mistakes again.

【反客为主】

turn from a guest into a host; gain the initiative; turn passivity into activity

【反面无情】

turn against sb.; forget sb.'s help (kind-

ness); give sb. the cold shoulder

【反其道而行之】

act in a diametrically opposite way; act in opposition to [例]他们总是和我们反其道而行之。They always *act in opposition to us*.

【反求诸己】

reflect and try to find fault in oneself; seek the cause in oneself (instead of in sb. else); self-examination

【反眼不识】

not know sb. in a trice; turn against a friend

【返本还源】

return to the original place; restore to the fundamental thing

【返老还童】

return to boyhood from old age; rejuvenate in old age; recover one's youthful vigor; a renew of youthfulness [例]我要是能返老还童该多好。I wish I *were young again*.

【返朴归真】

return to original nature; drop all affection return to original purity and simplicity

【犯上作乱】

defy one's superiors and start a rebellion; rebel against authority

【泛泛而谈】

spoke in general terms; talk in generalities [例]他只是泛泛而谈,没有细说。He only *talked* about it *in general terms* and didn't go into details.

【泛泛之交】

a casual (bowing, nodding, speaking) acquaintance; be on speaking terms with

【泛滥成灾】

disaster caused by flooding; (of bad things) be widespread and uncurbed; be swamped by sth. [例]那年这里洪水泛滥成灾,许多人流离失所。After the

*disaster caused by flooding*, many people here were without a roof over their heads.

【方便之门】

a favour or break for someone; convenience; the door is thrown wide open for

【方寸之地】

a place of a square inch; the heart

【方枘圆凿】

a square tenon for a round mortice; be incompatible with; at variance with each other; a square peg in a round hole

【方兴未艾】

be rising and do not stop; be on the upgrade; be in the ascendant; just start to grow [例]自由与和平的力量方兴未艾。The forces of freedom and peace *are in the ascendant*.

【防不胜防】

be impossible to guard against; be impossible to defend effectively; indefensible

【防患未然】

prevent trouble before it happens; take preventive measures (against possible trouble); crush sth. evil in the egg; nip sth. evil in the bud [例]与其补救于已然,不如防患于未然。Prevention is better than cure.

【防微杜渐】

check evil before it has a chance to spread; check at the outset; crush sth. evil in the egg; nip sth. evil in the bud

【放长线,钓大鱼】

throw a long line to catch a big fish; adopt a long-term plan to secure sth. big

【放荡不羁】

be unconventional and unrestrained; lead a fast (licentious) life; be easy in one's morals; dissolute; be on the loose; have one's fling; sow one's wild oats [例]他不是那种放荡不羁的年轻人。He is not the kind of young man who *sows a lot of*

*wild oats.*

【放虎归山】

let the tiger return to the mountain; allow the enemy to escape and breed calamities for the future; lay by trouble for the future; cause calamity for the future

【放浪形骸】

be unrestrained in one's actions; be on the loose; have one's fling

【放任自流】

let alone; let things take their own course; permissive; let things slide; give rein to [例]对孩子不能放任自流。Children should not *be left to follow their own path completely.*

【放下屠刀,立地成佛】

put down the butcher's knife and become Buddha; A wrongdoer achieves salvation as soon as one gives up evil.

【放之四海而皆准】

be valid everywhere; be universally applicable [例]马列主义是放之四海而皆准的普遍真理。Marxism - Leninism is a *universally applicable* truth.

【飞短流长】

spread embroidered stories and malicious gossip; flying rumours

【飞蛾扑火】

a moth flying into the fire; bring destruction upon oneself; seek one's own doom [例]假如他们胆敢侵入我国,那就是飞蛾扑火,自取灭亡。If they dare to invade our country, they would be like *moths flying into the flame* only to seek their own doom.

【飞黄腾达】

Fei Huang, a divine horse, runs like wind; get rapid promotion or sudden success in one's career; climb up the social ladder rapidly; win one's spurs; make one's way in the world [例]他的写作生

涯会有飞黄腾达的一天吗? Would he have the day when he would *make a rapid advance* in his writing career?

【飞禽走兽】

birds and beasts; fowls and beasts

【飞沙走石】

sand flying about and stones hurtling through the air; a great sandstorm; blow great guns [例]突然间,万里晴空变得狂风怒吼,飞沙走石。A clear sunny sky would suddenly be blotted out by *flying sands* and blowing wind.

【飞檐走壁】

climb walls and leap onto roofs; one's excellent military arts [例]他在少林寺出家时学会了一身飞檐走壁的本领。When he was a monk in the Shaolin Temple, he learned the skill of *climbing walls and leaping onto roofs.*

【飞扬跋扈】

be arrogant and unruly; be arbitrary and supercilious; throw one's weight about; lord it over (sb.)

【飞针走线】

flying needle and running thread; do the needlework very skillfully; sew quickly

【非驴非马】

neither ass nor horse; be a nondescript; be neither grass nor hay; be neither fish nor fowl

【非亲非故】

neither relatives nor acquaintances; a perfect stranger; neither kith nor kin [例]你和我非亲非故,为什么帮我? You are *neither my relative nor my friend.* Why have you helped me?

【非同小可】

no trivial matter; an important matter or a serious case; in no ordinary degree; no laughing matter [例]这件事非同小可,我们要从长计议。This is *no trivial*

*matter*; we must give it further consideration.

【肥头大耳】

a fat head and big ears; be very fat

【匪夷所思】

It is more than what ordinary people can think of; fantastic; unimaginably queer

【斐然成章】

show striking literary merit; well - cultivated; beautifully composed

【肺腑之言】

words from the bottom of one's heart; confidential conversation; hearty talk

【废寝忘食】

forget to eat and sleep; be deeply absorbed in work or study

【沸沸扬扬】

be wildly discussed; like wildfire; in a hubbub [例]消息沸沸扬扬地传开了。The news spread *like wildfire*.

【费尽心机】

exhaust all mental efforts; exert one's powers of thought to the utmost; tax one's ingenuity; take great pains to; painstakingly; rack one's brain (in scheming); leave no stone unturned [例]尽管他费尽心机,还是没有获得提升的机会。Although he *racked his brains* about it, he didn't get the chance of promotion.

【分崩离析】

(of a country or a group) to be split and disintegrated; fall to pieces; come apart; disintegrate [例]反动政权正分崩离析。The reactionary regime *was disintegrated*.

【分道扬镳】

jerk the reins and ride on separate routes; go by different roads (due to difference in interest or aim); each going his own way; part company with [例]他总是不听我的劝告,我只好和他分道扬镳。I could but *part company with* him as he always

turned a deaf ear to my advice.

【分毫不爽】

not deviating a hair's breath; not a tiny bit of difference; perfectly exact; without the slightest error; just right

【分门别类】

put into different categories; classify

【分秒必争】

seize every minute and second; make the best use of time; every second counts; not a second is to be lost; race against time [例]我们决不能松懈,现在要分秒必争。We mustn't relax since *every second now counts*.

【分庭抗礼】

a meeting between guest and host on equal terms with one standing opposite the other in the courtyard; act independently and defiantly; make rival claims as an equal; match oneself with; stand up to sb. [例]在会上,连小国也敢与大国分庭抗礼。At the conference, even the minor countries dared to *stand up to* the major ones.

【分我杯羹】

share a bowl of flesh soup; take a share of the spoils or profits; have a finger in the pie

【纷纷扬扬】

numerous and confused; drift profusely and disorderly [例]他回家的路上,天纷纷扬扬下着大雪。On his way home, snow *was drifting profusely*.

【纷至沓来】

come in a continuous stream; keep pouring in; be deluged with; come in a throng; come thick and fast; be as thick as hail [例]博物馆开放后,参观的人纷至沓来。After the museum was opened to the public, visitors *came in great numbers*.

【焚膏继晷】

burn oil to prolong the day; work very

hard late at night; burn the midnight oil

【焚书坑儒】

burn books and bury scholars alive; devastation of culture and persecution of intellectuals [例]秦始皇焚书坑儒的错误不应重犯。The First Emperor of Qin's mistake of *burning books and burning scholars alive* shouldn't be committed again.

【粉墨登场】

make oneself up and go on stage; embark upon a political venture; to pose as a big shot and enter upon the political scene

【粉身碎骨】

grind one's body to powder and smash one's bones to pieces; have one's body smashed to pieces; die the most cruel death; utterly crushed; utter destruction; ground to dust [例]你要是再这样固执,到头来只会撞得粉身碎骨。If you continue to be so stubborn, you'll end up in *being crushed*.

【粉饰太平】

whitewash sth. to make it peaceful; present a false picture of peace and prosperity; to pretend that everything is going well; put a good face upon sth.

【奋不顾身】

dash ahead regardless of one's safety; disregard one's own safety; at the risk of one's life; selfless heroism [例]他奋不顾身地冲进熊熊烈火中抢救困在屋子里的人。Disregarding his own safety, he plunged into the leaping flames to rescue those trapped inside.

【奋发图强】

go all out to make the country strong; rise in great vigour; strive to be strong

【奋发有为】

resolve to do some great things; be enthusiastic and press on; be promising and

diligent in one's work

【奋起直追】

rise up in a bounce and try to catch up with sb.; do all one can to catch up; press ahead to overtake; pull up with a supreme effort [例]我们虽然经济落后,但要奋起直追,赶上高度发达国家。Though we are economically backward, we must *do all we can to catch up with* the highly developed countries.

【奋勇当先】

muster one's courage and stand in the forefront; fight bravely in the van; to take a vigorous lead

【愤愤不平】

indignant and disturbed; feel aggrieved; be resentful of; nurse a grievance

【愤世嫉俗】

feel resentful and disgusted at the living reality of society; detest the world and its ways; be cynical; be misanthropic

【丰富多彩】

be rich and colourful; be rich and varied; be rich in variety [例]明天将举行丰富多彩的节日活动。Varied and colorful festival activities will be held tomorrow.

【丰功伟绩】

great contributions and heroic deeds; great achievements; a great stock of merit; valiant records; magnificent (gigantic, tremendous) contributions [例]人民永远不会忘记他们的丰功伟绩。The people will never forget the *great contributions* they have made.

【丰衣足食】

have ample food and clothing; be well-off; to lead a comfortable life; be well-provided; (be) well-fed and well-clothed [例]自己动手丰衣足食。Let's produce *ample food and clothing* with our own hands.

## 【丰姿绰约】

agreeable manners; charming in manner

## 【风餐露宿】

eat in the wind and sleep in the dew; to brave the wind and dew; endure the hardships of an arduous journey or fieldwork [例]他一路风餐露宿,终于回到了故乡。 *Braving the wind and dew*, he returned to his hometown at last.

## 【风尘仆仆】

be dusty after one's journey; look travel-stained; have endured the hardships of a long journey; to be travel-worn and weary. [例]为了公司的业务,他整年风尘仆仆来往于全国各地。 He has been *travel-worn and weary* to travel throughout the country for the business of his company.

## 【风驰电掣】

swift as the wind and quick as lightning; pass swiftly; as quick as a flash; at (with) lightning speed; flash like lightning; (口语) burn up the road; (俚语) like a bat out of hell [例]火车风驰电掣地向前飞奔。 The train rushed on at *lightning speed*.

## 【风吹草动】

grass bends as wind blows; a rustle of leaves in the wind; a sign of disturbance or trouble; state of unrest; sensitive to slight upsets [例]一有风吹草动,他就惊慌失措。 He will fly into a panic at *the mere rustle of leaves in the wind*.

## 【风吹浪打】

be blown by the wind and beaten by the waves; harsh tests and trials

## 【风吹雨打】

The wind blows and the rain beats down; be battered by wind and rain; be exposed to the weather; suffer setbacks or hardships; storm-beaten

## 【风刀霜剑】

the wind and frost being cold as if piercing into one's skin; bitterly cold; adverse situation

## 【风风雨雨】

wind and rain; disturbances; rumours

## 【风和日丽】

The wind is gentle and the sun is radiant; warm and sunny weather; a very fine day [例]又是风和日丽的时节。 It was a time of *sunshine and gentle breezes*.

## 【风花雪月】

wind, flowers, snow and moon; the sceneries of four seasons; the subject matter of sentimental writing

## 【风华正茂】

at life's full flowering; in one's prime; in the very flush of youth [例]你们是风华正茂大有前途的青年。 You are very promising young men *in your prime*.

## 【风卷残云】

The wind rolls away the scattered clouds; make a clean sweep of what is left; polish a meal; wipe out at one swoop

## 【风流人物】

truly great men; a romantic person; gay, stylish men; an original genius

## 【风流倜傥】

talented and unconventional in life style; casual and elegant bearing

## 【风马牛不相及】

When a horse and a cow are in beat, they have nothing to do with each other; have nothing in common with; be totally unrelated; as different as chalk and cheese; beside the point; neither here nor there [例]他往日的荣誉和今天的罪行是风马牛不相及的。 His past honor *has nothing in common with* his crime today.

## 【风靡一时】

be popular for a time; be in vogue; be in



fashion; bring into vogue; be all the rage  
[例]前些年这首歌曾风靡一时。This song was *all the rage* a few years ago.

#### 【风平浪静】

The wind has subsided and the waves have calmed down; calm and tranquil; peaceful and free from troubles; plain sailing [例] 1. 今夜海上风平浪静。The wind has subsided and the waves have calmed down at the sea tonight. 2. 他的生活总是风平浪静。His life has always been *peaceful*.

#### 【风起云涌】

The wind is rising and the clouds are gathering; roll on with full force; A lot of big events take place one after another; surge forward; tempestuous growth; gain momentum to spread like a storm [例]工人斗争风起云涌。The struggle of the workers is *surging forward*.

#### 【风声鹤唳】

the sound of the wind and the cry of cranes; apprehend danger in every sound; to be so panic-stricken as to be frightened by the slightest sound; in a state of fear and turmoil; a fleeing army's suspicion of danger at the slightest sound [例]不要风声鹤唳,草木皆兵。Don't *apprehend danger in every sound*.

#### 【风调雨顺】

gentle breeze and timely rain; proper amount of rain and wind; favourable (seasonable) weather for the crops; (a) year of bumper harvests; (a) year of good crops [例]去年全国风调雨顺,获得了丰收。There was *favourable weather for crops* in the whole nation last year and people got in a rich harvest.

#### 【风土人情】

local manners and customs; local conditions and customs; manners and customs

#### 【风言风语】

groundless gossip; rumor; slanderous gossip; groundless, satiric remarks [例]不要相信外面的风言风语。Don't believe people's *groundless gossip*.

#### 【风雨交加】

Wind and rain come at the same time; windy and rainy; a rainstorm; a storm of wind and rain [例]那场车祸发生在风雨交加的夜晚。The accident happened on a *windy and rainy* night.

#### 【风雨飘摇】

be swaying in the wind and rain; be buffeted about in the midst of a raging storm; be in a precarious and unstable situation; tottering; unstable; tossing [例] 1. 整个国家处于风雨飘摇之中。The whole country was *in a precarious situation*. 2. 即使处于风雨飘摇之中,他也保护着那个孩子。He kept protecting the child even when they were *buffeted about in the midst of a raging storm*.

#### 【风雨如晦】

wind and rain sweeping across a gloomy sky; a grim situation; anarchical times

#### 【风雨同舟】

be in the same storm-tossed boat; stand together through storm and stress; pull together for a common cause; share a common fate; stand together through thick and thin; cast (in) one's lot with [例]他们过去是风雨同舟的战友。They were ever old comrades in arms who had *stood together through thick and thin*.

#### 【风雨无阻】

stopped by neither wind nor rain; regardless of the weather; in all kinds of weather; rain or shine

#### 【风云变幻】

unexpected change of wind and clouds; a sudden change in the weather; a constant

change in the political situation; an unstable situation that changes rapidly; a changeable situation; rapid changes in the situation [例]当时政局风云变幻,混乱不堪。At that time the political situation was *unstable* and in utter disorder.

【风云不测】

the unpredictable change of wind and clouds; a sudden change of fortune

【风云突变】

the sudden burst of wind and clouds; the sudden burst of a storm; a sudden change in the situation

【风烛残年】

get old and ailing like a candle guttering in the wind; the remainder of one's life; the short time left for aged people; the decline (lees) of life; be on one's last legs; have one foot in the grave

【封官许愿】

offer official posts and make lavish promises; promise high posts and other favours out of ulterior motives

【封妻荫子】

confer titles on wives and grant privileges to descendants; perform exploits and bring honour to the family name; get one's wife and children rewarded by heritage

【峰回路转】

The path winds through high peaks; an unexpected turn in the situation or one's fate; make an abrupt transition (in writing)

【烽火连天】

Flames of battle reach the sky; Flames of battle rage everywhere; continuous wars; war clouds spread everywhere [例]这个故事发生在烽火连天的战争年代。The story took place in the years when *flames of battle raged everywhere*.

【锋芒毕露】

make a full display of the point or edge of a knife or sword; make a showy display of one's abilities; be proud and fond of showing off; make oneself too remarkable; become ostentatious; show one's horns (claws) [例]老师告诫他不要太锋芒毕露。The teacher warned him not to *make a showy display of his abilities*.

【蜂拥而上】

press forward in swarms; surge forward; rush forward in crowds; swarm forward

【逢场作戏】

perform when one comes across an occasion; join in the spirit of the occasion; take part in mere accidental amusement; play along on rare occasions [例]他这样做只不过是逢场作戏,你别当真。He just *played it along on the occasions*. You should not take it seriously.

【逢凶化吉】

turn ill luck into good; come victorious out of a crisis; fall on one's feet; luck out [例]这事能逢凶化吉,都亏他。Thanks to him, this matter *came victorious out of the crisis*.

【凤毛麟角】

(as precious and rare as) phoenix feathers and unicorn's horn; extraordinary and unusually excellent person or thing; rarity of rarities; rare and precious things or persons; one in a thousand; a black swan; a blue rose [例]像这样年轻有为的科学家真是凤毛麟角。The scientist, so young and promising, is *as precious and rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn's horns*.

【奉公守法】

carry out official duties and observe the laws; be just and respect the law; be law abiding [例]这名官员向来奉公守法。The official has been a *law-abiding*

man.

【奉若神明】

regard sb. as the god; worship sb. or sth.; regard sth. as omniscient; revere sth. as sacred; deify; sanctify; put (set) sb. upon a pedestal; make a fetish of sth.

【佛口蛇心】

the words of Buddha and the heart of a serpent; have good words but a wicked heart; a villainous hypocrite; honeyed words but evil intent; Velvet pans hide sharp claws.

【夫唱妇随】

The husband sings and the wife accompanies; conjugal felicity; domestic harmony

【夫子之道】

The master speaks of himself; The master exposes himself (through strictures on others, which apply to himself); one speaks (highly) of oneself

【敷衍了事】

finish up a matter perfunctorily; carry out one's duty in a slipshod manner; muddle (shuffle) through one's work; rough - and - ready; slight over; play at sth.; skimp one's work [例]他办事认真,从不敷衍了事。He is very conscientious and never muddles through his work.

【敷衍塞责】

do sth. perfunctorily and evade responsibility; make a show of doing one's duty; be half-hearted about sth.; muddle with one's duty; give a lick and a promise; lie down on the job

【芙蓉出水】

a hibiscus rising out of water; a lotus flower when fully open; fresh and loveable writing or the natural beauty of women

【扶老携幼】

to support the old people and hold the children by the hand; assist the aged and

young; bring along the old and the young [例]村民们扶老携幼,在路口迎接来访的客人。The villagers, *helping the old and guiding the young*, received the visitors at the crossing.

【扶弱抑强】

support the weak and curb the violent; fight for the weak against the strong; restrain the powerful and help the weak

【扶危济困】

support those in distress and aid those in misery; help those in difficulty [例]罗宾汉与他的好汉们扶危济困,得到人民热情的支持。As Robin Hood and his merry men *supported those in distress and aided those in misery*, they won enthusiastic support among the people.

【扶摇直上】

soar on the wings of a cyclone; rise directly to a high position; be promoted quickly in official career; rise steeply; skyrocket; shoot up; soar up; a rapid rise in (price); mount on the wings of the typhoon [例]他在公司里扶摇直上,现在已经是副总经理了。He is *promoted quickly* in the company now he has become the vice general manager.

【扶正祛邪】

support the right and get rid of the evil

【拂袖而去】

lick the sleeve and go away; leave in anger; turn away in distaste; go off in a huff; fling off; shake the dust off one's feet [例]他一句话也没说就拂袖而去。He *turned away in distaste* without saying anything.

【浮光掠影】

floating light and passing shadow; skim over the surface; have a dim impression which vanishes easily; be in a hasty and casual manner; cursory

## 【浮生若梦】

The fleeting life is like a dream; Life is but an empty dream.

## 【浮想联翩】

Many ideas crowd into one's mind one after another; Thoughts throng one's mind; have one imagination after another; indulge in a train of thoughts

## 【浮云朝露】

passing clouds and morning dew; Life is very short; not lasting; Life is like an empty dream.

## 【桴鼓相应】

The drum sounds when beaten with a drumstick; echo in close co-ordination; work in perfect co-ordination

## 【福过灾生】

Extreme happiness will cause disaster; Extreme joy begets sorrow; Too great pleasure will cause sadness.

## 【福如东海】

happiness as immense as the eastern sea; have boundless fortune [例]祝您福如东海,寿比南山。May your fortune as boundless as the East Sea and may you live a long and happy life.

## 【福寿双全】

enjoy both happiness (felicity) and longevity; happiness and longevity each in completeness

## 【福至心灵】

When fortune comes, one's mind is alert; The mind becomes intelligent at the approach of happiness; Luck brings wisdom.

## 【抚孤恤寡】

bring up the orphans and look after the widows

## 【抚今追昔】

recall the past and compare it with the present; reflect on the past in the light of the present

## 【抚掌大笑】

clap hands and laugh aloud; be elated or complacent

## 【俯膺顿足】

beat one's chest and stamp one's foot; be so grieved that one loses self-control

## 【俯拾即是】

stoop and pick it up; be obtainable everywhere; be extremely common; can be found everywhere

## 【俯首帖耳】

hang the head and droop the ears; be docile and obedient; be servile; docilely obey [例]我真讨厌他那一副俯首帖耳、惟命是从的嘴脸。I am really disgusted with his servile expressions of praise for the employer.

## 【俯首听命】

bend one's head while listening to the orders; hear and obey submissively; bend one's neck; (to) be at sb.'s beck and call

## 【俯仰由人】

The bending or lifting of one's head is controlled by others; submit to others' whim and will; be twisted round other's finger; live under the thumb of others; ho led by the nose; be at one's mercy; be at sb.'s beck and call

## 【俯仰之间】

the time between the bending and the lifting of one's head; in a short moment; in an instant; in the twinkling of an eye; in a flash; in a trice

## 【釜底抽薪】

take away the firewood from under the cauldron; take drastic measures to strike at the source of a problem; a fundamental solution; go to the root of the matter; cut the ground from under one's feet [例]釜底抽薪才是解决问题的根本方法。The basic way to solve the problem is to

*take away firewood from under a cauldron.*

【釜底游鱼】

a fish swimming in a cauldron; a person whose fate is sealed; (be) near one's end; one's doom is sealed; (like) a rat in a hole [例]到了这儿,你就成了釜底游鱼,别多想逃走。You are like a fish in a cauldron after you come here. It's no use trying to escape.

【釜中之鱼】

a fish in the bottom of a cauldron; a person whose fate is sealed, to be in imminent danger; without hope of escape; (like) a rat in a hole

【辅车相依】

the cheekbone and the gam being interdependent; rely on one another; (as) close as the jowls and jaws; be dependent on each other

【父母之邦】

one's mother country

【父母之命,媒妁之言】

parents' order and matchmakers' words; make a match by parents' orders and matchmakers' words; old-fashioned marriage; an arranged marriage

【付之东流】

be carried away by the eastward-flowing water; be lost forever; all one's efforts are wasted; throw to the winds; leave a matter to chance; come to naught; go up in smoke [例]一场大火使他的全部手稿都付之东流。In the big fire, all his manuscripts were lost forever.

【付之一炬】

commit sth. to the flames; set fire to sth.; be burnt down [例]她临死前将全部信件付之一炬。She committed all her letters to the flames before her death.

【付之一笑】

dismiss with a laugh; not be worth consid-

ering; carry off with a laugh; laugh it off

【负荆请罪】

carry a rod on one's back and ask for punishment; make a humble apology; apologize; make amends to [例]我今天是向你负荆请罪的。I am here to make amends to you today.

【负隅顽抗】

fight stubbornly with one's back to a precipice; put up a desperate struggle; resist stubbornly; make a last-ditch fight [例]敌人在被消灭之前总是负隅顽抗的。The enemies would resist stubbornly before they are wiped out.

【负重致远】

carry heavy burdens over a great distance; be able to shoulder heavy responsibilities; be able to accomplish arduous tasks

【妇人之仁】

women's soft nature; petty kindness

【附庸风雅】

(of landlords, merchants, etc.) mingle with men of letters and pose as a lover of culture; seek poetry and literature

【赴汤蹈火】

go into boiling water and walk on fire; defy all difficulties and dangers; go to the stake; go through hell; go through fire and water; go through thick and thin [例]他愿为家人的性命而赴汤蹈火。For the life of his family members, he is willing to go through fire and water.

【赴险如夷】

walk on a dangerous road as if it were smooth; defy hardship and danger; take the bull by the horns

【富贵浮云】

regard both wealth and rank as floating clouds

【富贵荣华】

high position and great wealth; wealth and

honour [例] 富贵荣华都是身外之物。  
*High position and great wealth are mere worldly possessions.*

**【富国强兵】**

make one's country rich and build up its military power; make a country rich and strong

**【富可敌国】**

One's personal wealth is equal to that of the country; be extremely rich

**【富丽堂皇】**

be beautiful and imposing; magnificent; gorgeous; splendid; in a majestic splendour [例] 整个大厅布置得富丽堂皇。  
*The whole hall was beautifully and imposingly decorated.*

**【腹背受敌】**

be attacked front and rear; be attacked from all sides; between hammer and anvil; between the upper and nether millstones; between two fires [例] 那次战役我们腹背受敌, 所以伤亡惨重。 That

battle took a heavy toll of us for we were attacked front and rear.

**【腹心之疾】**

a disease in the heart; a serious hidden trouble or danger; an enemy within

**【覆巢之下无完卵】**

When the nest is overturned, no egg stays unbroken; When the entity has been eliminated, an individual cannot exist by sheer luck; all involved; In a great disaster no one can escape unscathed.

**【覆车之鉴】**

the overturned cart in front serves as a warning to the carts behind; examples to take warnings from; profit by others' mistakes

**【覆水难收】**

Water poured on the ground cannot be recovered; What is done cannot be undone; There is no use crying over the split milk; What's lost is lost.

## G

## 【改朝换代】

a change of dynasty or regime; a change of government; dynastic changes

## 【改恶从善】

abandon evil and do good; turn from doing evil to good; change from bad to good; turn over a new leaf; mend one's ways

## 【改过自新】

correct one's errors and make a fresh start; rectify one's life; reform oneself; turn over a new leaf; to mend one's ways [例]他向家人保证要改过自新,决不再赌博。He promised his family that he would *turn over a new leaf* and would never gamble.

## 【改换门庭】

change the courtyard; change the status of one's family; raise the social position of one's family; grow prosperous; rise in prominence

## 【改名换姓】

change one's whole name; assume a false name [例]他已改名换姓,在一个小山村里隐居。He had *changed his name* and dwelt in a small village in seclusion.

## 【改天换地】

transform heaven and earth; transform nature; change the world

## 【改头换面】

change the face; change the external appearance of sth. only; change only in form, not in essence; make only superficial changes [例]他店里卖的只不过是些改头换面的旧货。What are sold in his shop are some secondhand goods *changed in form*.

## 【改弦更张】

restring a musical instrument; make a

fresh start; start a thorough reform; dance to another tune

## 【改弦易辙】

change the strings and the course; make a clean break with the past and make a fresh start; change one's course; strike out a new path; dance to another tune; change one's tune [例]他的父母劝他立即改弦易辙,不要再走老路了。His parents advised him to *make a fresh start* at once and not to adhere to the old ways any longer.

## 【改邪归正】

give up evil ways and return to the right; to go straight; turn over a new leaf; mend one's ways [例]那人已改邪归正,不再做小偷了。The man has *given up evil ways and returned to the right*. He will not be a thief any more.

## 【盖棺论定】

Final judgement can be passed on a person only when the lid is laid on his coffin; Only after a person is dead can the final judgement on him be passed; Call no man great before he is dead.

## 【盖世无双】

matchless throughout the world; stand first among one's contemporaries in talent, etc.; have no equal on earth; peerless; unparalleled; stand first among one's contemporaries in talent, etc.

## 【概莫能外】

Nothing or nobody can be excepted; admit of no exception; without exception [例]古今中外概莫能外。There is *no exception to this* either in modern times or ancient, in China or abroad.

## 【千云蔽日】

tower into the clouds and cover the sun;  
Trees of buildings are very tall.

【甘拜下风】

prostrate oneself in the leeward willingly;  
be willing to acknowledge one's inferiority  
(in knowledge, ability, etc.); admit  
sb.'s superiority; acknowledge the corn;  
give sb. beat; hand it to (sb.); lower  
one's sail; throw in one's hand [例]这回  
你又输了,甘拜下风吗? You are beat-  
en again; are you willing to *hand it to*  
*me*?

【甘心情愿】

be willing and glad; be perfectly willing;  
be of one's own free will [例]只要能见  
到她,我就是等上三天三夜不睡,也甘  
心情愿。I would *willingly and gladly* sit  
up for three nights if I could see her.

【甘之如饴】

enjoy sth. bitter as if it were malt sugar;  
endure hardships gladly; be willing to en-  
dure in adversity

【肝肠寸断】

One's liver and intestines seem broken out  
into inch - long slices; be deeply afflict-  
ed; be sorrow - stricken; heartbroken; e-  
motionally upset [例]听到那个消息,她  
肝肠寸断,哭得死去活来。Hearing the  
news, she *was deeply afflicted* and wept  
her heart out.

【肝胆相照】

the livers and gall are visible to each oth-  
er; be loyal - hearted to each other; be  
devoted to each other heart and soul;  
open - heartedness; in all sincerity [例]  
自从那次水灾发生后,他们成了肝胆  
相照的朋友。Since the flood, they have  
been friends *loyal - hearted to each other*.

【肝脑涂地】

spill one's liver and brains on the ground;  
be ready to sacrifice oneself on the battle

field; be extremely loyal to; (ready to)  
die the cruelest death; lay down one's life

【赶尽杀绝】

drive away and exterminate everyone; be  
ruthless; make a clean sweep of; spare no  
one; wipe out the whole lot [例]这些害  
人虫应该赶尽杀绝。We should *make a*  
*clean sweep of* these vermins.

【敢怒而不敢言】

dare to be angry but do not dare to show  
anger in speech; be forced to keep one's  
resentment to oneself; choke with silent  
fury; suppress one's rage [例]那县长鱼  
肉百姓,人们都敢怒而不敢言。The  
head of the county cruelly oppressed the  
people, but angry as they were, they *did*  
*not dare to show anger in speech*.

【敢作敢当】

be bold enough to do sth. and accept re-  
sponsibility for it; have the courage to ac-  
cept the consequence of one's doing

【敢作敢为】

dare to do everything; be afraid of no dif-  
ficulties; act with courage and determina-  
tion [例]他敢作敢为,具有领导者的  
气质。Being afraid of no difficulties, he  
has the spirit of a leader.

【感恩戴德】

be grateful for favours bestowed on one; be  
deeply grateful; bear (feel) a debt of gra-  
titude for; be overwhelmed with gratitude

【感激涕零】

be so grateful as to shed tears; be moved  
to tears of gratitude; very deep gratitude;  
be exceedingly grateful for [例]只要得到  
一点好处,他就感激涕零。Just a petty  
favour is enough to *bring him to tears of*  
*gratitude*.

【感情用事】

act according to one's sentiment; give away  
to one's feelings; be swayed by one's emo-



tions; act impetuously [例] 过于感情用事对你没有好处。It is no good for you to be excessively swayed by your emotions.

**【感人肺腑】**

touch one's heart of hearts; move one deeply; touch one to the depths of his soul; bring home to one's heart [例] 他在毕业典礼上的一番话感人肺腑。What he said at the graduation really brought home to our hearts.

**【感天动地】**

move the heaven and the earth; move one deeply; be extremely moving

**【感同身受】**

feel grateful as a favour shown to oneself; appreciate it as a personal favour; join in expressing the gratitude

**【刚愎自用】**

be obstinate and self-opinionated; to be headstrong; be set in one's ways; self-willed [例] 他刚愎自用, 听不得不同意见。He was too obstinate and self-opinionated to tolerate differing views.

**【刚柔相济】**

couple toughness with gentleness; temper force with mercy; exercise a combination of inflexibility and yielding [例] 作战将领要刚柔相济, 避免一味硬拼。Leaders should couple toughness with gentleness and avoid reckless fights.

**【刚正不阿】**

be upright and never stoop to flattery; be upright and tenacious; frank and straightforward; upright and above flattery

**【纲举目张】**

Once the headrope of a fishing net is pulled up, all its meshes open; Once the key link is grasped, everything falls into place; A lucid exposition of an outline, a sharp definition of categories.

**【高傲自大】**

be supercilious and self-conceited; arrogant; be stuck up; have a big head; have a swelled head; get a swollen head

**【高不成低不就】**

be unfit for a higher post but unwilling to take a lower one; can't have one's heart's desire but won't stoop to less; be too choosy to succeed [例] 她一直是高不成低不就, 这样下去, 什么时候才能找到工作? She is unfit for higher posts but always unwilling to take a lower one, if things go on like this, when will she find a job?

**【高不可攀】**

be too high to reach; be too difficult to obtain; be inaccessible; unattainable; beyond reach [例] 1. 现在那棵树已经是高不可攀了。The tree has grown so tall that its branches are now out of reach. 2. 在他眼里, 富有的姑妈有着高不可攀的地位。To him the rich aunt had a status which is too difficult to obtain.

**【高风亮节】**

exemplary conduct and noble character; high and upright character; have a sharp sense of integrity [例] 我钦佩那位医生的高风亮节。I admire the doctor for his exemplary conduct and noble character.

**【高高在上】**

be high up; set oneself high above the masses; be far removed from the masses and reality; be in a prominent position; hold oneself aloof; ride the high horse

**【高歌猛进】**

stride forward singing loudly; advance triumphantly and high spiritedly; march forward in triumph

**【高官厚禄】**

high position and handsome salary; high posts with salaries to match [例] 你难道

真要放弃高官厚禄,去贫穷的山村吗?  
Are you really going to give up the *high position and handsome salary* and go to the poor village?

## 【高朋满座】

Distinguished friends occupy all the seats; The house is full of guests; a great gathering of distinguished guests; numerous friends [例]这些天她家里总是高朋满座。These days her house is always *full of guests*.

## 【高情厚谊】

deep affection and profound friendship; profound sentiments of friendship; great cordiality; great favours

## 【高情远致】

noble sentiment and profound aspiration

## 【高人一等】

a level higher than others; be above ordinary people; superior to others; tower above the rest; be a cut above others; stand head and shoulder above others [例]他觉得自己很有学问,高人一等。He thinks of himself as learned and *above ordinary people*.

## 【高山流水】

high mountains and flowing water; difficult to find a man who appreciate one's music or a besom friend; lofty music

## 【高山仰止】

behold a high mountain with awe; admire and respect people of noble character; respect a great man with admiration; admire a worthy man greatly (as one stops to look up at a peak)

## 【高深莫测】

be too high and deep to be measured; be too profound to understand; be incomprehensible; get out of one's depth [例]这样的学问太高深莫测,没有多少人能掌握 This kind of knowledge is *too pro-*

*found to understand* and only a few people can grasp it.

## 【高视阔步】

look up and walk with long steps; take a strut; walk in a haughty manner; carry oneself proudly; strut like a peacock (or a turkey - cock) [例]他高视阔步地走进了大厅。He *walked* into the hall *in a haughty manner*.

## 【高耸入云】

tower into the clouds; reach to the sky; high and straight mountain peaks or buildings; cloud - capped; soaring

## 【高抬贵手】

Please raise your hand.; be generous; be lenient; not be too hard on sb.

## 【高谈阔论】

talk loudly and bombastically; talk in a lofty strain; indulge in loud and empty talk; brag; prate about; enlarge one's self; shoot one's mouth off; sound off [例]我们听够了他的高谈阔论。We've had enough of his *loud and empty talks*.

## 【高谈雄辩】

be loud and violent in argument; be an eloquent speaker

## 【高屋建瓴】

pour water off the steep roof of a high house; sweep down irresistibly from a commanding height; operate from a strategically advantageous position; be strategically situated [例]革命的军队以高屋建瓴之势,勇往直前。The revolutionary army *swept forward irresistibly and courageously*.

## 【高瞻远瞩】

stand high and see far; take a long and broad view; show great foresight; far - sighted; see far and wide [例]他高瞻远瞩地指出教育的重要性。Showing

*great foresight*, he pointed out the importance of education.

【高枕无忧】

rest one's head on thick pillows and sleep free of care; relax one's vigilance; set one's mind at ease; sit back and relax; sleep secure; rest easy [例]除掉这个人,我们就可以高枕无忧了。We can all *sleep secure* if we get rid of this man.

【膏肓之疾】

the disease which has spread to the vitals; a serious disease; a fatal weakness

【槁木死灰】

dead wood and cold ashes; show an emaciated and dried-up appearance; be in complete apathy; a living corpse; utterly destitute of passion and desires [例]经受了那次车祸打击后,她就如槁木死灰一般,对什么事都不感兴趣。After the attack of the accident, she became no better than *dead wood or cold ashes* and took interest in nothing.

【告贷无门】

have no means to borrow money; nowhere to borrow money; be in extreme financial difficulties

【割鸡焉用牛刀】

Why use an ox-cleaver to kill a chicken? Why make unnecessary great efforts to do trivial thing? Why break a butterfly on a wheel? Is it necessary to use a steam hammer to crack nuts?

【歌功颂德】

eulogize sb.'s virtues and achievements; heap praises and eulogies on; flattery and exaggerated praise; sing the praises of sb. [例]国王凯旋归来时,大臣们争相对其歌功颂德。When the king returned in triumph, the ministers vied with each other for *singing his praises*.

【歌舞升平】

sing and dance to celebrate peace; sing and dance to extol the good times; put on a false show of peace and prosperity; the piping times of peace

【革故鼎新】

abolish the old and establish the new; discard the old ways of life on favour of the new; a reform in the affairs of state; drop old habits and reform [例]他们勇于革故鼎新的精神值得赞扬。Their courage to *abolish the old and establish the new* deserves commendation.

【格格不入】

be incompatible with; be out of harmony with; be ill-adapted to; jar with; a square peg in a round hole; be out of one's element; be out of tune with [例]他感到与自己所处的时代格格不入。He felt quite *out of tune with* the period in which he lived.

【格杀勿论】

slay a man who is resisting lawful authority will not be allocated as murder; kill on the spot with the authority of the law; capture and summarily execute

【隔岸观火】

watch a fire from the other side of the river; look on at sb.'s trouble with indifference; show unconcern; praise the sea, but keep on land [例]双方的争论与他无关,所以他隔岸观火。The argument of both sides had nothing to do with him, so he *showed unconcern for it*.

【隔墙有耳】

Walls have ears; Pitchers have ears; beware of eavesdroppers. [例]隔墙有耳,恐怕我们的话已经被入听到了。*Walls have ears*, I am afraid that our words might have been overheard.

【隔靴搔痒】

scratch an itch from outside the boot; fail

to get to the root of the matter; take totally ineffective measures; a useless attempt; fail to lay one's finger on the right spot [例]1. 文不对题就像隔靴搔痒。An essay irrelevant to its title is just like *scratching an itch in a leg outside the boot*. 2. 你们采取的措施只是隔靴搔痒。The measures you had taken *failed to get to the root of the problem*.

#### 【各奔前程】

Each pursues his onward journey (his own course); Each goes his own way. [例]毕业生们就此分别, 各奔前程。The graduates parted company there and *each went his own journey*.

#### 【各得其所】

Each is in his proper place; Each is properly provided for; Each gets his due; Each has a role to play; Each person is appropriately dealt with according to his particular talents and characteristics [例]我们有责任让每名职员都各得其所。We have the responsibility to enable *each employee to play a proper role*.

#### 【各个击破】

crush (smash, defeat, destroy) one by one; solve problems one by one; divide and conquer; conquer one after the other [例]对这些棘手的问题我们可以各个击破, 不必急于求成。We can *solve these knotty problems one by one*. We do not have to be overanxious for quick results.

#### 【各尽所能】

Each does his best; work according to his ability

#### 【各就其位】

Each takes his own place.

#### 【各取所需】

Each takes what he needs.

#### 【各人自扫门前雪】

Each one sweeps the snow from his own doorsteps; mind only one's own business; individualism or departmental selfishness; Give your own fish guts to your own sea mews.

#### 【各色各样】

of all kinds; in different styles; of various descriptions; mixed [例]那家超市出售各色各样的商品。The supermarket sells goods *of all kinds*.

#### 【各抒己见】

Each expresses his own views; Each airs his own views; Each has (says) his say. [例]会上大家各抒己见。At the meeting *each one expressed his own views*.

#### 【各行其是】

Each does what he thinks is right; Each goes his own way; act as one pleases [例]我们的工作要有统一的领导, 不能各行其是。Our work should be put under unified leadership. Nobody should *go his own way*.

#### 【各有千秋】

Each in his own way has sth. to be long remembered; Each has its (his) merits; Each has sth. to recommend him. [例]这两部电影拍得都不错, 各有千秋。Both of these films are well-made, *each having its merits*.

#### 【各有所长】

Each has his strong points; Each one has sth. in which he excels; Everyone has his own speciality.

#### 【各有所好】

Each has his own preference; Each has his likes and dislikes; Each follows his own bent; Tastes differ; everyone to his own taste

#### 【各执己见】

Each persists in his own opinion; Each sticks to his own views. [例]讨论时人

人各执己见,什么结论也没得到。In the discussion *each one stuck to his own opinion* and drew no conclusion.

#### 【各执一词】

Each sticks to his own version or argument; Each clings to his own interpretation; Each one has his own words. [例]他们俩各执一词,我真不知道该相信谁。I really don't know whom to believe, for *each* of the two *sticks to his own version*.

#### 【各自为战】

fight the enemy separately; Each acts in his own way.

#### 【各自为政】

Each manages his affairs in his own way; Each goes his own way without coordination; lack of coordination

#### 【根深蒂固】

have deep roots and firm basis of flowers; be deep - rooted; be firmly established and not easily removed; have a firm foundation; well - established; inveterate [例]同根深蒂固的黑暗势力作斗争要付出巨大的代价。To fight against *deep - rooted* reactionary forces, a tremendous price should be paid.

#### 【根深叶茂】

have deep roots and luxurious leaves; be well - established and developing vigorously

#### 【亘古未有】

There has never been any from time immemorial down to the present day; Nothing like this has ever been seen since creation; no such things from ancient; unprecedentedly; be unheard - of; be unprecedented; break all previous records [例]这是世界上亘古未有的奇迹。This is an *unprecedentedly* wonderful achievement in the world history.

#### 【更静人静】

Deep is the night and all is quiet; in the quiet of the night; the stillness of night; in the dead of night [例]更静人静的时候可以听到草丛里蟋蟀的叫声。In the *quiet of night* could be heard the sound of crickets in the grass.

#### 【耿耿于怀】

be deeply concerned at heart; suffer from an obsession; bear sb. a grudge; to brood on (an injury, one's neglected duty, etc.); take sth. to heart; stick in one's throat [例]他一直对那次失败耿耿于怀。He always *takes the defeat to heart*.

#### 【工力悉敌】

be equally matched in the workmanship; be equally skilled; be evenly balanced; be somewhat on a par with [例]这两幅绣品工力悉敌,难分高下。These two pieces of embroidery *are equally matched in workmanship*. It's hard to say which is better.

#### 【公报私仇】

avenge a personal wrong in the name of public interests; abuse public power to retaliate on a personal enemy; use one's position to get even with sb. for a private grudge [例]你放心,我决不会公报私仇。You may rest assured that I will never *use my position to get even with you for a private grudge*.

#### 【公而忘私】

forget one's private affairs in the cause of the public; be so devoted to public service as to forget one's own interests; be fair - minded; be absolutely selfless [例]他公而忘私的精神受到热烈的赞扬。He is warmly praised for his spirit of *absolute selflessness*.

#### 【公事公办】

do official business according to official

principles; not let private affairs interfere with public duty; Business is business.

【公私兼顾】

give consideration to both public and private interests; take both public and private interests into account

【公说公有理,婆说婆有理】

Both parties claim to be in the right; Each says he is right; There is much to be said on both sides; Wrangles never want words.

【公诸同好】

let others with the same taste share (artistic or creative work); share the enjoyment of one's own treasures with one's fellows; share enjoyment with those of the same taste [例]把你收藏的钱币拿出来公诸同好。Show us the coins you've collected and let's have a share.

【公子王孙】

a son of a feudal prince or high official; a pampered son of a wealthy (influential) family; gilded youth

【功败垂成】

Attempt fails when success is already in sight; suffer defeat when victory is within reach; There's many a slip betwixt the cup and lip; Between the cup and the lip a morsel may slip. [例]这次他功败垂成,真是可惜。It's a pity that he failed when success was already in sight.

【功成名就】

achieve success and win a fame; have work done and recognized; become well-known; make (win) a name for oneself

【功成身退】

retire after great work is done; retire from political or public life after winning tremendous success

【功到自然成】

Constant effort yields sure success; With

time and patience one will be successful; With time and patience the leaf of mulberry becomes satin; When the melon is ripe, it will drop by itself. [例]功到自然成,你用不着这样急不可待。Constant effort yields sure success. You don't have to be so impatient.

【功德无量】

boundless beneficence; a great service to mankind; Kindness knows no bounds. [例]谁要是能攻克癌症,那真是功德无量。Whoever finds a cure for cancer will render a great service to mankind.

【功德圆满】

come to a successful issue; round it off

【功亏一篑】

fail to build a mound for want of one final basket of earth; fall short of success at the last stage; abandon work when it is nearly completed; just one step short of success or completion [例]你为什么继续那个项目呢?功亏一篑,你不觉得可惜吗?Why don't you continue that project? Don't you think it a pity to abandon it when it is nearly completed?

【攻其无备】

strike where or when the enemy is unprepared; take sb. by surprise; catch sb. unawares; catch one bending; catch one napping; catch one on the hop; catch a weasel asleep [例]兵书中说道,“攻其无备,出其不意。”The book on the art of war says, “strike where the enemy is unprepared and appear where he does not expect us.”

【攻守同盟】

an offensive and defensive alliance; an agreement between partners in crime not to give each other away; a pact to shield each other; military alliance (for mutual defence)

## 【攻无不克】

succeed in all attacks; take every objective one attacks; be all - conquering; be invincible; ever - victorious [例]这是一支攻无不克、战无不胜的革命军队。This is an *all - conquering* revolutionary army.

## 【攻心为上】

The best one is to make a psychological attack; The best way is to try to persuade an offender to confess; It's better to win (gain) the hearts of the people.

## 【供不应求】

Supply falls short of demand; The supply is inadequate to meet the demand; Supply fails to meet the demand; in short supply [例]从前几个月开始蔬菜就供不应求。The supply of vegetables has *fallen short of the demand* since the last few months.

## 【恭敬不如从命】

It is better to accept deferentially than to decline courteously; Obedience is better than courtesy; It is better to do as others ask than to stand on ceremony. [例]既然如此,那我们就恭敬不如从命。In that case, *we'd better do as you ask instead of standing on ceremony*.

## 【觥筹交错】

Wine cups made of horn and chopsticks lie about; toast each other; Wine flows freely at a dinner party; drink and be merry to the heart's content

## 【拱手让人】

hand over with a bow; surrender sth., submissively; give up sth. to others without putting up a fight

## 【勾魂摄魄】

hook soul and arrest spirit; summon spirits; have the power to make men crazy; have great attractive power

## 【勾心斗角】

scheme or intrigue against each other; internal bickering; jockey for position [例]无数官员成了朝廷中勾心斗角的牺牲品。Countless officials became the victims of court *intrigue*.

## 【苟且偷安】

seek temporary comfort and ease at the expense of principles; seek peace and comfort without high aspiration; seek momentary ease; be content with temporary ease and comfort; be or live in a fool's paradise

## 【苟且偷生】

keep alive without serious ambition; live on just for the sake of remaining alive; drag out an ignoble existence [例]这种苟且偷生的日子,比死还恐怖。Living *just for the sake of remaining alive* is more horrible than death.

## 【苟延残喘】

try to prolong one's exhausted panting; eke out a miserable existence; linger out a feeble existence; eke out a meager life; be on one's last legs; keep body and soul together [例]这点微薄的薪水只够他们一家人苟延残喘。The meager pay could only enable that family to *eke out a miserable existence*.

## 【狗胆包天】

be monstrously audacious; monstrous audacity

## 【狗急跳墙】

A dog at the corner will be driven to jump over a wall; a cornered beast will do sth. desperate; be driven to extremities; (of evils) take desperate measures if pushed to the wall; tread on a worm and it will turn; despair gives courage to a coward.

## 【狗拿耗子】

a dog trying to catch mice; be too meddling; poke one's nose into other people's

business [例]这老太太真是狗拿耗子，多管闲事。The old woman is just like a dog trying to catch mice — can't mind her own business.

【狗皮膏药】

dogskin plaster; quack medicine

【狗屁不通】

unreadable rubbish; complete nonsense; mere trash

【狗头军师】

a person who offers bad advice; an inept adviser; a villainous adviser

【狗尾续貂】

patch up a sable coat with a dog's tail; make an unworthy continuation of a great work; write a deplorable sequel to a masterpiece; a wretched sequel to a fine work; incongruous

【狗血喷头】

pour a dog's blood on sb.'s head; pour out a torrent of abuse; let loose a stream of abuse against sb. [例]我去劝架，却被他们骂了个狗血喷头。I tried to stop them from fighting each other, but they poured out a torrent of abuse against me.

【狗咬吕洞宾】

snarl and snap at Lu Dongbin, one of the eight immortals in Chinese mythology; mistake a good person for a bad one; wrong a kind-hearted person [例]你别狗咬吕洞宾，不识好人心。Don't snarl and snarl at me when I'm trying to do my best for you.

【狗仗人势】

A dog threatens others on the strength of its master's power; bully others because one has the backing of a powerful person; be a bully under the protection of a powerful person; (of evils) bully others with evil force

【沽名钓誉】

buy reputation and fish for honours; fish for fame and praise; seek (court) publicity; angle for praise; devise one's personal fame by unjust means; fish for compliments [例]我们的领导怎么能是这样沽名钓誉的人? How can our leader be such a man that fishes for fame and praise?

【姑妄听之】

Believe it or not, just listen; listen to sth. without taking it seriously; see no harm in hearing what one has to say; take sb. with a grain of salt [例]不管他的话是真是假，姑妄听之。Take his words with a grain of salt.

【姑妄言之】

talk about sth. just for talking's sake; tell sb. sth. for what it is worth

【姑息养奸】

over-indulgence nourishes evil; tolerate evil is to abet it; tolerate evildoers purposely; toleration tends to breed traitors; warm a snake in one's bosom [例]对为非作歹的人决不能姑息养奸。We will never tolerate evildoers.

【孤儿寡妇】

orphans and widows; people having no support and protection

【孤芳自赏】

a solitary flower in love with its own fragrance; a lone soul admiring his own purity; indulge in self-admiration; spurning publicity; narcissistic

【孤家寡人】

(used by feudal kings and emperors to) refer to themselves; a person in solitary splendour; a person isolated from the masses; a man without followers [例]如果我们不改弦更张，就会成为孤家寡人。If we don't make a fresh start, we'll soon find ourselves isolated and without supporters.



## 【孤军奋战】

fight in isolation; carry on the struggle single-handed

## 【孤苦伶仃】

be alone and helpless; be friendless and wretched [例]他退休后过着孤苦伶仃的生活。He led a *lonely and helpless* life after retirement.

## 【孤立无援】

be isolated and cut off from help; be isolated and abandoned; stand without support; be left high and dry [例]他拿走了所有的钱,使我陷入孤立无援的境地。He took all the money and *left me high and dry*.

## 【孤陋寡闻】

be ignorant and ill-informed; have very limited knowledge and scanty information; not keep oneself abreast of things; ignorant of the state of affairs; live in a backwater [例]像他这样孤陋寡闻的人是不能胜任这个职位的。A person as *ignorant and ill-informed* as he will not be qualified for this position.

## 【孤身只影】

a lone man and a solitary shadow; a lone soul; be all by oneself

## 【孤云野鹤】

a lone cloud or a wild crane; one who leads an easy and free life; descriptive of the life of a carefree hermit

## 【孤掌难鸣】

One cannot clap with one hand; It is difficult to accomplish anything without support; cannot do without assistance [例]孤掌难鸣,所以我需要你的合作。One *cannot clap with one hand*. So I need your cooperation.

## 【孤注一掷】

stake all on a single cast of the dice; risk everything in a single venture; make a last

desperate effort; make a spoon or spoil the horn; put all one's eggs in one basket [例]1.他把所有的钱都孤注一掷地押了上去,那局还是输了。He *staked all his money on a single cast of the dice* but still lost the game. 2.这次我孤注一掷,把所有财产都用来开了这餐馆。This time I *risked all my property* in running this restaurant.

## 【古道热肠】

be polite and obliging after the old school; be considerate and warm-hearted; warm-hearted and compassionate; sympathetic [例]他是个古道热肠的人,我们有了困难,都会找他。He is a *considerate and warm-hearted* man. We always turn to him when we get into trouble.

## 【古色古香】

have an ancient colour and aroma; be of classic beauty; be antique; have an air of antiquity; (of ancient objects or art) having an antique flavour [例]这个城市的郊区有几个古色古香的庭园。There are several flower gardens of *classic beauty* in the suburbs of the city.

## 【古往今来】

from ancient times to the present; through the ages; past and present; since time immemorial; of all ages

## 【古为今用】

make the past serve the present; apply old traditions for modern purposes

## 【谷贱伤农】

Low prices of grain hurt the peasants; Cheap grain harms the peasants. [例]谷贵饿农,谷贱伤农。Dear grain starves the peasants; *cheap grain harms the peasants*.

## 【骨鲠在喉】

have a fishbone caught in one's throat; feel choked or suppressed; have an opinion

one cannot suppress; a lump in the throat  
[例]这些话让我觉得就如骨鲠在喉,不吐不快。These words made me feel as if I *had a fishbone in my throat* and was unable to rest until I spat it out.

## 【骨肉团圆】

a family reunion

## 【骨肉相连】

be as closely linked as flesh and blood; be closely related and inseparable; blood relationship; of one's own flesh and blood; kith and kin

## 【骨瘦如柴】

One's limbs are as thin as sticks; be very emaciated; be reduced to a mere skeleton; lean as a lath (a rake, a whipping post); be all skin and bones; be worn to a shadow; a bag of bones

## 【盪惑人心】

confuse and poison people's minds; demagogic; inflammatory; blind the minds of the people; beguile people out of the right way [例]不要相信他们盪惑人心的宣传。Don't believe their *inflammatory propaganda*.

## 【固若金汤】

be as solid as strongly fortified city wall and city moat; be secure against assault; be impregnable; strongly fortified

## 【固执己见】

stick one's own opinion stubbornly; cling to one's own view; be wedded to an opinion; self-opinioned; self-willed; sit tight; stick to one's guns [例]他总是固执己见,不肯接受别人的意见。He always *sticks stubbornly to his own opinion* and reject other people's advice.

## 【故步自封】

stand still and refuse to make progress; adhere to traditional forms and customs rigidly; hold fast to established ideas; lim-

it one's own progress; be complacent and conservative; be in (get into) a rut [例]年轻人,你不可以故步自封,加入我们,看看外面的世界吧! You mustn't let yourself *be in a rut*, young man. Join us and see the outside world!

## 【故伎重演】

play the same old trick; be up to one's old tricks; repetition of the old dodge [例]他这只是故伎重演,我再也不会上当了。He is just *playing the same old trick*. I'll never be fooled by him.

## 【故弄玄虚】

make things unnecessarily mysterious; complicate a simple issue deliberately; make a mystery of sth.; cast (throw) a mist before sb.'s eyes; mystification [例]每当有人问他学习方法时,他总是故弄玄虚。When asked about the learning methods, he always *makes thing unnecessarily mysterious*.

## 【故态复萌】

revert to one's old way of live; relapse into old bad habits; slip back into one's old ways; one's old manners restored [例]刚好没几天,他就故态复萌,不肯好好读书。Just after a few days, he *reverted to his old way of life* and was unwilling to study hard.

## 【顾此失彼】

attend to one thing and lose sight of another; grab at one and lose hold of another; be unable to attend to everything at once; have too many things to take care of at the same time; be put in a double squeeze [例]既要努力工作,又要注意身体,不能顾此失彼。One must both work hard and care for one's health. Do not *attend to one thing and lose sight of the other*.

## 【顾名思义】

Seeing the name of a thing, one thinks of

its function; just as its name implies

**【顾盼神飞】**

look with lovely dancing eyes; in one's eyes there is a look of quick intelligence and soft refinement.

**【顾盼生姿】**

look around charmingly

**【顾前不顾后】**

drive ahead without considering the consequences; act rashly

**【顾全大局】**

take the whole situation into consideration; take the interests of the whole into account; for the sake of the larger interest [例]他为了顾全大局,作出了自我牺牲。 *Taking the interests of the whole into account, he made the self-sacrifice.*

**【顾影自怜】**

look back at one's shadow and pity oneself; look at one's reflection and admire oneself; a feeling of loneliness due to emptiness or depression in mind

**【瓜剖豆分】**

cut the melon and split the bean; (of territory) to be partitioned; divide up (land, territory, etc.)

**【瓜熟蒂落】**

When a melon is mature, it will fall by itself; Problems can easily be solved when the conditions are ripe; At the right time, everything comes easy; Everything comes to him who waits; When the pear is ripe, it falls. [例]瓜熟蒂落,所以你现在要耐心等待,不必着急。 *When a melon is mature, it will fall by itself. So now you should wait patiently and don't worry.*

**【瓜田李下】**

in a melon field or under a palm tree; be found in a suspicious position; avoid being suspected [例]你不要再去那个办公室了,免得有瓜田李下之嫌。 *To avoid*

*suspicion, don't go into that office any more.*

**【刮目相看】**

rub one's eyes and see sb.; look at sb. with new eyes; regard sb. with special esteem; treat sb. with increased respect; have a completely new appraisal of sb.; sit up and take notice [例]他一年来进步不少,我们得刮目相看。 *He has made great progress in the past year. We'll have to look at him with new eyes.*

**【寡不敌众】**

The few cannot withstand the many; Small forces are no match for large armies; be hopelessly outnumbered; fight against hopeless odds [例]由于寡不敌众,我们伤亡惨重。 *Being hopelessly outnumbered, we suffered heavy casualties.*

**【寡见鲜闻】**

have seen few and heard little; be ill-informed and ignorant; have little experience; have only limited knowledge

**【寡廉鲜耻】**

have no sense of dishonour and disgrace; be shameless; brazen-faced; (as) bold as brass; be lost to shame

**【挂羊头,卖狗肉】**

hang up a sheep's head and sell dog's meat; palm sth. off on sb.; carry high-sounding but misleading names; cry wine and sell vinegar; offer chaff for grain [例]他们这种挂羊头,卖狗肉向顾客出售商品的勾当已经干不下去了。 *It has been extremely difficult for them to palm off their goods on the customers.*

**【挂一漏万】**

record one item while leaving out ten thousand; be incomplete and full of omissions; be far from complete; leave out many important facts or cases [例]近年来信息领域有了许多突破,介绍起来,难免挂一

漏万。As there have been so many breakthroughs in the field of information in recent years, the account will *be far from complete*.

### 【关门大吉】

(of a store, factory, etc.) to close the door and stop doing business; close down for good; close down; to wind up a business; put up the shutters [例]许多小商店生意不好,没别的办法,只好关门大吉。Having no good business, many small stores had no other choice but to *put up their shutters*.

### 【观者如云】

a wall of on-lookers; a larger number of spectators

### 【官逼民反】

Misgovernment drives the people to revolt; Corrupt officials force the people to rebel; Tyrants make rebels. [例]官逼民反,在封建社会中比比皆是。It is very common in the feudal society that *misgovernment drove the people to revolt*.

### 【官官相护】

Officials shield each other (or one another) [例]在那官官相护的旧社会,老百姓有冤也无处诉。In old China, *all bureaucrats shielded each other* and there was nowhere for the common people to make their complaints.

### 【官样文章】

high-sounding verbiage; officialese; useless or empty declarations or formalities; red tape

### 【官运亨通】

have a successful official career — a politician's spell of good fortune

### 【冠盖如云】

Caps and carriages come like clouds; Officials and gentlemen gather in immense numbers; many officials and dignitaries

### 【冠冕堂皇】

The caps worn by emperors and officials of ancient times are dignified; be dignified or imposing in form; look respectable and dignified; be high-sounding; high-flown; ostentatious; impressive looking [例]他说得冠冕堂皇,干的却是见不得人的事。He talks in a *dignified, high-sounding way*, but engages in underhanded activities.

### 【鳏寡孤独】

widowers, widows, orphans and the childless; those who have no kith and kin and cannot support themselves [例]市政府对鳏寡孤独照顾得很好。The municipal government has taken good care of *widowers, widows, orphans and the childless*.

### 【管见所及】

what has been seen through a tube; take a humble view; in my humble view; in the light of my limited experience [例]就本人管见所及,这种现象是由大气污染造成的。In my *humble view*, this phenomenon is caused by air pollution.

### 【管窥蠡测】

look at the sky through a peephole and measure the sea with a conch shell; take a narrow view of things; be restricted in vision and shallow in understanding

### 【管中窥豹】

watch the leopard from a tube; have a narrow view of things; have a small field of vision

### 【光彩夺目】

be so bright and colourful that it dazzles the eye; shine with dazzling brilliance; be splendid; be dazzling; dazzlingly radiant [例]珠宝展上,光彩夺目的展品吸引了许多观众。The *dazzling* articles in the jewelry exhibition attracted numerous visitors.

## 【光风霁月】

a light breeze and a clear moon; be open and aboveboard; piping times of peace; (of a person's character) benign and open-hearted

## 【光复旧物】

recover what has been lost; regain the possession of lost articles; recover the lost territory of the country or one's past heritage

## 【光怪陆离】

be grotesque in shape and gaudy in color; be strange and unusual; be grotesque and colorful; bizarre and motley; fantastic and varicoloured [例]电视荧屏上不该充斥着光怪陆离的广告。The TV screen should not be full of *grotesque and gaudy* advertisements.

## 【光辉灿烂】

be shining; be brilliant; be radiant; shine with great splendour [例]祝你们拥有光辉灿烂的未来。Wish you a *brilliant* future.

## 【光芒万丈】

shine with boundless brilliance; be gloriously radiant (shining); resplendent; brilliant

## 【光明磊落】

be frank and forthright; be open and aboveboard; on the up - and - up; plain dealing; plainly and squarely; as open as the day [例]他在这件事上的行为相当光明磊落。His part in the affair was quite *open and aboveboard*.

## 【光明正大】

be aboveboard and righteous; be just and honourable; be fair and square; be upright [例]我认为这件事光明正大。为什么不能和别人讲呢? This business is quite *aboveboard and righteous* so far as I'm concerned. Why can't I talk with others

about it?

## 【光天化日】

(in) broad daylight; the light of day; (in) the face of day (of the sun); a place within everybody's clear vision [例]把这些贪官的嘴脸暴露在光天化日之下。Bare the hypocrisy of these corrupt officials to *the light of day*.

## 【光阴似箭】

Time flies like an arrow; the flight of time; the swift passage of time; How time flies! [例]光阴似箭,不知不觉他已经来了两年多了。How *time flies*! It is more than two years since he came here.

## 【光宗耀祖】

bring honour to the family name; shed glory on one's ancestors

## 【广开言路】

open up a broad way for people to air their opinions; encourage the free airing of opinions; provide wide opportunities for airing views [例]作为领导应广开言路,经常听取各种意见。A leader must *provide wide opportunities for airing views* and frequently listen to various opinions.

## 【广土众民】

vast territory and large population; a great country with a large population

## 【归根结底】

get to the root of the problem; in the final analysis; after all; in the long run; in the end; come down to the bedrock; beil down to [例]我认为你应该借她些钱帮帮她。归根结底,她还是你的姐姐。I think you should lend her some money to help her. *After all*, she is your elder sister.

## 【归心似箭】

One's mind is bent like a flying arrow on returning home; be anxious to return home; be impatient to get back [例]火车

还没进站,归心似箭的她已准备下车了。The train had not drawn up at the station, yet she was so *anxious to return home* that she had got ready to get off.

## 【归真反璞】

revert to one's natural state of purity; (drop all affectation and) return to original purity and simplicity

## 【规矩准绳】

compasses, set square, spirit level and plumb line; criteria; standards; norms; a fixed rule

## 【规行矩步】

walk in fixed steps; behave correctly and cautiously; stick to established practice; follow the beaten track [例]他规行矩步,不敢越雷池一步。He *behaves correctly and cautiously*, daring not go one step beyond the prescribed limit.

## 【诡计多端】

be full of schemes and tricks; be very crafty; be guileful; be up to all dodges; trickish; wily; foxy; be as tricky as a monkey; have a whole bag of tricks [例]跟他谈判得小心点,他可是个诡计多端的人。Watch your step when you negotiate with him. He is *very crafty*.

## 【鬼斧神工】

supernatural (divine) workmanship; superlative craftsmanship; the secret workings of nature; finger of God [例]是大自然的鬼斧神工造就了这样如画的风景。It is *the secret workings of nature* that has created such a picturesque scene.

## 【鬼鬼祟祟】

be sneaky; furtive; sneaking; stealthy; surreptitious; be up to some hanky-panky; behind one's back; behind the curtain (scenes); under the counter [例]这个人鬼鬼祟祟的,想干什么? What's the fellow up to, being *sneaky* like that?

## 【鬼哭狼嚎】

wail like ghosts and howl like wolves; give terrifying cries and screams; set up wild shrieks and howls; wail and howl in a piercing and terrifying voice

## 【鬼神莫测】

beyond the ken of god or devil; be extremely miraculous and subtle

## 【鬼使神差】

doings of ghosts and gods; at the behest of supernatural powers; unexpected happenings; a curious coincidence [例]不是鬼使神差,好端端的人怎么成了疯子? If he had not been *at the behest of supernatural powers*, why would he decent fellow have become mad?

## 【鬼头鬼脑】

be furtive; be stealthy; hiding and peeping; secretive; thievish; crafty and sinister [例]我看见一个人鬼头鬼脑地从他家出来。I saw a man *stealthily* come out of his house.

## 【鬼蜮伎俩】

evil tactics; devilish stratagem; malicious intrigues; underhanded tricks [例]这点鬼蜮伎俩,马上被我识破了。I immediately saw through *the malicious intrigues*.

## 【贵人多忘事】

Eminent people are liable to forgetting; A man of your eminence has a short memory [例]您真是贵人多忘事,还记得去年一起去北京吗? A *man of your eminence* has a short memory. Do you remember that we went to Beijing together last year?

## 【桂子兰孙】

famous and capable posterity (descendants); sons and grandsons all noted for literary honours

## 【滚瓜烂熟】

be ready and smooth while reading or reciting; know sth. by heart; memorize

sth. thoroughly; (of reading or recitation) very fluent and well versed; glibly; fluently; know or have sth. pat; to have sth. at one's tongue's end [例]不会实际应用,即使把理论背得滚瓜烂熟也没有用。It's no use *memorizing the theory thoroughly* if one is unable to apply it.

【国步艰难】

The national path is beset with troubles; The nation is being faced with difficulties.

【国富民强】

The nation is prosperous and the people are powerful.

【国计民生】

the national economy and the people's livelihood [例]发展科学和教育是关系到国计民生的大事。To develop science and education is of vital importance to *the national economy and the people's livelihood*.

【国破家亡】

The country is defeated and the home lost.

【国色天香】

national beauty and heavenly fragrance; the beautiful and fragrant peony; woman of great beauty; celestial beauty

【国泰民安】

The country is prosperous and the people live in peace. [例]这几年是风调雨顺,国泰民安。In the past few years the elements have been propitious, *the country has been prosperous and the people have been living in peace*.

【果不其然】

just as expected; sure enough [例]他一定会准时到这儿的,果不其然。Just as expected, he came here on time.

【裹足不前】

be tied up and unable to advance; hesitate to move forward; refuse to go further; come to a standstill; hang a leg; hang

back [例]只有懦夫才在困难面前裹足不前。Only a coward will *hesitate to move forward* in the face of difficulties.

【过从甚密】

be in close association with sb.; be on very intimate terms with one another; in constant and close contact with

【过河拆桥】

remove the bridge after crossing the river; drop one's benefactor as soon as his help is not required; abandon one's friends who have helped one to achieve one's aim; ingratitude for past help; bite the hand that feeds one; kick down the ladder [例]我不是那种过河拆桥的人,所以不会拆老朋友的台。I'm not the one to *remove the bridge after crossing the river*, so I won't let old friends down.

【过目不忘】

be able to remember sth. after reading it once; be gifted with an extraordinarily retentive memory

【过目成诵】

be able to recite sth. after reading it only once; have a photographic memory

【过甚其词】

overstate the case; give an exaggerated account; exaggerated; bombastic; more squeak than wool; overshoot the mark; to stretch or strain the truth [例]你这是过甚其词,情况还没那么严重。You are *overstating the case*. The situation is not so serious.

【过五关斩六将】

force five passes and slay six captains; overcome one difficulty after another; win glory in battle; experience many hardships

【过眼云烟】

clouds and smoke passing before the eyes; be ephemeral; be transient; a passing scene; as transient as a fleeting cloud

[例] 富贵荣华, 都只是过眼云烟。Glo-  
ry, honour and riches are merely *clouds*  
and *smoke passing before the eyes*.

【过犹不及】

Going too far is as bad as not going far e-  
nough; To go beyond is as wrong as to fall  
short; The half is more than the whole;  
Too much water drowned the miller.



## H

## 【海底捞月】(又作“海中捞月”)

fish out the moon from the bottom of the sea; strive for the impossible; a useless effort; cry for the moon

## 【海底捞针】

fish up a needle from the bottom of the sea; a hopeless search; an impossible task; useless effort; look for a needle in a haystack

## 【海枯石烂】

The seas dry up and the rocks crumble; be unchangable; an oath of unchanging fidelity; forevermore; look for ever and a day [例]即使海枯石烂,我的心也不变。  
*The seas may dry up and the rocks may crumble, but my heart will always remain loyal.*

## 【海阔天空】

as broad as the sea and sky; endlessly vast; unrestraint and far - ranging; (of talk) at random and without direction; stray from the subject [例]每次作报告,他都海阔天空地漫谈一通。Every time he gives a talk, he always indulges in discourse *at random and without direction.*

## 【海内无双】

be unequalled within the four seas; be peerless throughout the country

## 【海誓山盟】

a firm - as - the - hill agreement and deep - as - the - sea oath; make a solemn oath of love; swear by the sea and by the hills; pledge of eternal love; plight one's truth [例]我们的海誓山盟如今都化为乌有。Our *solemn oath of love* has now melted into the air.

## 【海市蜃楼】

cities and buildings seen in a mirage; mirage; illusions or hopes that cannot be realized the shadow of a shade; imaginary; loomings; castle in the air; castle in Spain [例]他总想追求海市蜃楼式的金钱和享乐。He always wants to pursue wealth and pleasure *in a mirage.*

## 【海水不可斗量】

The sea cannot be measured with a bushel; Great minds cannot be fathomed. [例]人不可貌相,海水不可斗量。Men are not to be judged by the appearance and *the sea cannot be measured with a bushel.*

## 【海外奇谈】

a strange story from over the seas; an unfounded and absurd story; a fantastic tale; a traveller's tale; a tale story [例]他说的简直是海外奇谈,令人难以置信。What he said was simply an incredible *traveller's tale.*

## 【骇人听闻】

be shocking to the ear; shocking; appalling; terrifying; hideous [例]这家报纸经常登载骇人听闻的消息。The newspaper often carries *shocking* news.

## 【害群之马】

a horse that does harm to the group; an evil member of the herd; a man who acts in a way detrimental to the interests of the collective; one who brings disgrace on his group; pests of society; a black sheep [例]像他这样的害群之马,没一个人会欢迎。Nobody will welcome such a *black sheep* as him.

## 【酣畅淋漓】

drink wine happily and satisfactorily; de-

scribe the characters and their feelings in articles to the utmost; express sth. fully; to one's heart's content; with ease and verve [例]这首诗酣畅淋漓地抒发了作者的爱国之情。The poem *fully expressed* the author's patriotism.

#### 【憨态可掬】

One's silly disposition can be plucked; be charmingly naive

#### 【邯郸学步】

learn the ways of walking in Handan, the capital of the Zhao State during the period of Warring States; imitate others only to lose one's own originality; In attempting to walk like a swan, the crow loses its own gait.

#### 【含垢忍辱】

bear shame and humiliation; endure contempt and insults; bear insult and obloquy with patience [例]现在你不含垢忍辱,将来如何成就大业? If you don't *endure contempt and insults*, how can you achieve a great undertaking in the future?

#### 【含糊其辞】

talk ambiguously; speak in vague terms; be ambiguous; be vague; equivocate; hum and haw [例]他含糊其辞的回答令她很恼火。His *ambiguous* reply irritated her.

#### 【含情脉脉】

(of soft eyes) to exude tenderness and love; be very much enamoured; with loving eyes; full of tender affection [例]她双眼含情脉脉地望着爱人。She looked at her sweetheart, her eyes *exuding tenderness and love*.

#### 【含沙射影】

spit sand on the shadow of a man; make insinuations; attack by innuendo; fling dirt about; with insidious language; dig at sb.; throw dirt at sb. [例]何苦这样含

沙射影? 你要说什么就直截了当地说吧。Why *make all these insinuations*? Say what you want to say without mincing words.

#### 【含辛茹苦】

hold bitterness in the mouth and eat it; undergo all kinds of hardships; bear bitter hardships; drink to the lees [例]他父母死后,叔叔含辛茹苦地将他抚养成人。After his parents' death, it was his uncle who had *undergone all kinds of hardships* to bring him up.

#### 【含血喷人】

spit blood on sb.; make slanderous accusations; make vicious attacks upon sb.; malicious words to injure another; smite with the tongue

#### 【含饴弄孙】

play with grandchildren with candy in mouth; lead a carefree life in old age; an old man enjoys life with no cares

#### 【含英咀华】

have flowers in the mouth and chew them; study and relish the beauties of literature

#### 【含冤负屈】

cherish grievance and bear injustice; suffer an unjust wrong; be wronged on a false charge [例]十年来他含冤负屈,住在一个山村里。Suffering an unjust wrong, he has been living in a village for the past ten years.

#### 【寒来暑往】

as summer goes and winter comes; as time passes; with the passage of time; year in and year out [例]寒来暑往,几年又悄悄地过去了。With the passage of time, several years have quietly passed.

#### 【喊冤叫屈】

complain loudly about an alleged injustice; cry out about one's grievances; cry out for justice

## 【汗流浹背】

The back is covered with sweat; The sweat pours out so profusely as to soak one's clothes; stream with sweat (from fear or physical exertion); sweat (perspire) all over; all of a sweat; to sweat like a pig [例]盛夏来临,他还是汗流浹背地骑车送报。He delivered newspapers by bike in hot summers, *streaming with sweat*.

## 【汗马功劳】

render worthy service sweating one's horse; achievements in war; make one's contributions in work; merit laboriously achieved; war exploits [例]他们为赢得这场比赛立下了汗马功劳。They have *achieved great merit* in winning the game.

## 【汗牛充栋】

(of multitude of books) enough to fill the house to the rafters and cause the oxen (carrying them in cart) perspire; an immense collection of books

## 【悍然不顾】

brush aside rudely; disregard brazenly; in defiance of; fly in the face of; fly in the teeth of [例]该国悍然不顾世界舆论的谴责,侵入了一个弱小的国家。The country invaded a weaker one in *defiance of* condemnation by world public opinion.

## 【行行出状元】

Every trade has its master; Every profession produces its own leading authority; There is not a field in which one can't distinguish. [例]行行出状元,你无论做什么工作,都可能有所成就。Every *trade has its master*. Whatever your job is, you may make achievements.

## 【沆瀣一气】

The teacher and the pupil, Hang and Xie, are like-minded; act in collusion with sb.; Like attracts like; Birds of a feather

flock together. [例]这伙人沆瀣一气,把好端端的公司弄得一团糟。These people *acted in collusion with each other* and made a dreadful mess of the company.

## 【号啕大哭】

cry loudly; cry bitter tears; weep and wail; burst into a storm of tears; cry one's eyes out [例]那个孩子伏在母亲的身上号啕大哭,忘记了这一切。All else forgotten, the child flung himself on his mother's body and *cried bitter tears*.

## 【毫发不爽】

not deviate a hair's breadth; be perfectly accurate; not the least error (loss); just right; be exact to a tittle [例]科学家们得出了与事实毫发不爽的统计结果。The scientists obtained a statistical result which *did not deviate a hair's breadth from the facts*.

## 【毫分缕析】

make a detailed analysis; analyze minutely

## 【毫无二致】

be without the slightest difference; be identical (with); be just the same; be at one with [例]在这一点上,他和大多数研究者毫无二致。At this point, he is *at one with* the majority of researchers.

## 【豪放不羁】

be bold and unconstrained; be vigorous and unrestrained; (of literature style) to be romantic and uncontrolled [例]她豪放不羁的性格就如男子一般。Her *bold and unconstrained* character is just like that of a man.

## 【豪言壮语】

determined and forceful expressions; heroic utterances; brave words; splendid vow; heroic pledge [例]他这番豪言壮语,令在场的人大受鼓舞。His *heroic words* greatly inspired the people present.

## 【好好先生】

one who tries not to offend anybody; one who is always polite and never says no [例]我老是做好好先生,弄得大家现在都不怕我了。Since I always *try not to offend anybody*, no one is afraid of me now.

## 【好景不长】

A good time never lasts long; A sweet dream is short-lived; The happy days will soon be over; The morning soon never lasts a day; Every day is not Sunday. [例]好景不长,父亲死后,他一家人又陷入了穷困之中。The *happy days were soon over*. After his father's death, his family was put in poverty again.

## 【好事多磨】

The realization of good things is usually preceded by rough goings; The road to happiness is strewn with setbacks; The course of true love never runs smoothly; Roses have thorns. [例]真是好事多磨,结婚的前一天,新郎的腿受伤了。The *course of true love never runs smoothly*. The bridegroom hurt his leg the day before the wedding.

## 【号令如山】

Orders are as inviolable as a mountain; The order is strict and must be carried out resolutely; The military discipline is very strict.

## 【好吃懒做】

be fond of eating and averse to work; be gluttonous and lazy [例]他从小就好吃懒做,不肯读书。From childhood, he has been *gluttonous and lazy*, not willing to study.

## 【好大喜功】

crave for greatness and success; be ambitious to do great things and make great achievements; be flamboyant; have a fondness for the grandiose [例]他没有那

种好大喜功的个人英雄主义倾向。He doesn't have the tendency of individualistic heroism to *crave for greatness and success*.

## 【好高骛远】

crave sth. high and out of reach; reach for what is beyond one's grasp; attempt to do sth. vainly; aim too high; bite off more than one can chew; cry for the moon; hitch one's wagon to a star [例]学习英语要逐步提高,不要好高骛远。Be sure to make steady progress in your English study and not to *aim too high*.

## 【好谋善断】

be fond of scheming and good at making a decision

## 【好事之徒】

a meddling person; an officious fellow; a busybody

## 【好为人师】

be fond of lecturing others; be given to laying down the law; regard oneself learned and experienced enough to give others admonition; enjoy talking down to others [例]他一直是自以为是,好为人师的。He is always self-opinionated and *fond of lecturing others*.

## 【好行小惠】

be fond of bestowing petty favours

## 【好学不倦】

be fond of studying and never get tired; be insatiable in learning; never be tired of studying [例]平时他就好学不倦,所以从来不怕考试复习。He is *never tired of studying*, so he is not afraid of revising for examinations at all.

## 【好逸恶劳】

love ease and dislike work; have an allergy to hard work; be addicted to the lazy life [例]1.她最恨那些好逸恶劳的人。She hates most those who *love ease and*

*dislike work*. 2. 他好逸恶劳惯了, 所以没法过活。He has been used to the lazy life. Therefore he cannot survive all by himself.

### 【浩然正气】

great moral force; noble spirit; the idealistic impulse in man; a liberal mind; spirit of fearlessness

### 【浩如烟海】

as vast as a misty ocean; a tremendous amount of; voluminous [例] 这个图书馆里的藏书浩如烟海。The collection of books in this library is as vast as a misty ocean.

### 【皓齿蛾眉】

white teeth and long slender eyebrows; a beautiful woman; a beauty; good looking [例] 她长得倒是皓齿蛾眉的, 可说话怎么那么粗鲁? She is good-looking, but why does she have a rude tongue?

### 【合情合理】

fair and reasonable; fair and sensible; make sense; in (all) reason; within reason; sane [例] 他的分析合情合理, 我们听他的准没错。His analysis is fair and reasonable. Following him we won't go wrong.

### 【何乐不为】

Why not gladly do it? Why should we not be happy to do it? not see any reason why not do it; have every reason to do it [例] 既然这个计划对大家都有利, 我们何乐不为? Since the plan is beneficial to everybody, why should we not be happy to do it?

### 【何去何从】

what course to follow; decide on what path to follow; which to accept and which to reject; take one's choice in an important matter [例] 这些人何去何从, 我们将拭目以待。Let us wait and see what

course these people will follow.

### 【何足挂齿】

not worth mentioning; not worth bothering about; not worth talking about; Don't mention it. [例] 一点小意思! 何足挂齿。Just a small gift! Don't mention it.

### 【和蔼可亲】

be amiable and easy to approach; be affable; be genial [例] 那位态度和蔼可亲的营业员赢得了顾客的称赞。The amiable shop assistant won the customers' praise.

### 【和风细雨】

gentle breeze and mild rain; in a gentle and mild way; not be rough; in a genial (amiable) manner [例] 1. 昆明的天气总是和风细雨, 四季如春。The breeze is gentle and the rain is mild in Kunming. It's like Spring all the year round. 2. 去跟他和风细雨地谈谈, 不要发脾气。Go and have a talk with him in a gentle and mild way. Don't lose your temper.

### 【和睦相处】

live side by side peacefully and friendly; live in harmony; smoke the calumet together; smoke the pipe of peace together; be on good terms [例] 他们两家邻居一向和睦相处。Being next door neighbors, they have always been on good terms.

### 【和盘托出】

carry all out in a tray; reveal everything; make a full account; tell all about the truth; without the slightest concealment; make a clean breast of; come clean; empty the bag [例] 为什么不把你的想法和盘托出呢? Why not reveal everything on your mind?

### 【和气生财】

An even temper brings wealth; Friendli-

ness is conducive to business success; Peace breeds wealth.

【和颜悦色】

amiable and pleasant countenance; with a good-natured face; in an amiable manner; be all smiles and sweetness [例]他和雇员们谈话总是和颜悦色的。He always talks with his employees in an amiable manner.

【和衷共济】

make a concerted effort and mutual cooperation; work together with one heart (in time of difficulty); pull together for a common cause [例]在条件简陋的情况下,他们和衷共济,终于研制出了新机器。They worked together with one heart in simple and crude conditions and eventually made a new machine.

【河东狮吼】

an outburst of a virago; The shrewish wife scolds her husband.

【河清海晏】

The Huanghe River is clean and the sea is calm; peace and tranquility throughout the world; the world is at peace.

【涸泽而渔】

dry up the pool to fish; seek immediate interests and not have a long-term plan

【荷枪实弹】

carry rifles loaded with bullets; be on the alert and ready to fight at any time [例]那些荷枪实弹的警察随时会向绑匪开枪。Carrying rifles loaded with bullets, the police would shoot at the kidnapper at any time.

【赫赫有名】

have a great fame; be of great renown; be far-famed; distinguished; illustrious [例]人人都认识他这位赫赫有名的演员。People all know this actor of great renown.

【鹤发童颜】

white hair and ruddy complexion; a hoary head with a youthful face; be healthy in old age; hale and hearty [例]街对面走过来一位鹤发童颜的老人。From the opposite side of the street came an old man with white hair and ruddy complexion.

【鹤立鸡群】

A crane stands among chickens; stand head and shoulders above others; an outstanding man in a common crowd; a Triton among the minnows; the flower of the flock [例]高贵的气质令她在那些女子中鹤立鸡群。Her noble disposition made her stand head and shoulder above those women.

【黑白分明】

as distinct as black from white; with black and white sharply contrasted; in sharp contrast; make a clear distinction between right and wrong [例]这两种意见黑白分明。The two opinions stand in sharp contrast.

【黑云压城城欲摧】

The city might crumble under the mass of dark clouds; a tense situation caused by reactionary forces

【恨铁不成钢】

be angry because the iron does not become steel; wish iron could turn into steel at once; be disappointed in sb. who has failed to live up to one's high expectation; be anxious for sb. to improve [例]恨铁不成钢是行不通的,父母要耐心教育孩子。It won't do to wish iron could turn into steel at once. Parents have to educate their children patiently.

【恨之入骨】

hate sb. to the very marrow of one's bone; bear a bitter hatred for sb.; hate bitterly [例]他们虽然对老板恨之入骨,可谁

也不敢说半句话。They bitterly hated their boss, but nobody dared breathe a word.

【横冲直撞】

rush and swerve about madly; dash around madly; go about in a reckless manner; push one's way by shoving or bumping; act recklessly; go on the rampage [例]一辆吉普车在城里横冲直撞。A jeep dashed around the city madly.

【横眉怒目】

face others with frowning brows and angry eyes; dart fierce looks of hate at; an angry face [例]几个横眉怒目的人进了他家。A few men with frowning brows and angry eyes entered his house.

【横七竖八】

be scattered in all directions; spread all across in confusion; in disorder; at random; at sixes and sevens [例]走廊里横七竖八地放着各种东西。All sorts of things spread all across in confusion in the passage.

【横扫千军】

sweep aside a great number of troops; destroy a great number of enemy troops with ease; make a clean sweep of the enemy; sweep all before one

【横生枝节】

Other shoots sprout; raise unexpected difficulties; raise obstacles; complicate an issue deliberately [例]论文就快写完时,他横生枝节,把其中一张纸藏了起来。As the thesis was almost finished, he deliberately complicated the issue by hiding one piece of it.

【横行霸道】

do evil by strong force and be high-handed; trample on; tyrannize; act against law and reason; ride roughshod over; lord it over; play the bully [例]那个贪官从此

再不敢横行霸道了。The corrupt official no longer dared to tyrannize over people.

【横行无忌】

do evil things without scruple; (of reactionary forces) do evil outrageously; act at one's will; run amuck; run wild [例]当时他在县里横行无忌,无人敢问。At that time he ran wild in the county and nobody dared to interfere with him.

【横征暴敛】

extort excessive taxes and levies; levy exorbitant taxes; ruthless taxation; bleed the people white with taxes [例]百姓因为朝廷的横征暴敛而过着悲惨的生活。The people led a miserable life out of the ruthless taxation by the royal court.

【轰轰烈烈】

stormy and heroic; on a grand and spectacular scale; vigorous; dynamic; resoundingly; with vigor and vitality [例]一场轰轰烈烈的群众运动正在全国展开。A vigorous mass movement is being carried out throughout the country.

【哄堂大笑】

an uproar of laughter in the audience; the whole room rocking with laughter; the whole company bursting into laughter [例]他的一番话引得听众哄堂大笑。His words caused an uproar of laughter in the audience.

【烘云托日】

paint clouds to set off the moon; use contrasting effect to set off the object in literary or artistic works; make sth. more striking by contrast

【红白喜事】

weddings and funerals

【红得发紫】

be so red that it becomes purple; enjoy great popularity extremely popular; at the zenith of one's fame (powers) [例]当时

这位歌手已经红得发紫了。At that time this singer already *enjoyed great popularity*.

【红豆相思】

red beans that inspire the memory of one's love

【红男绿女】

men and women in gay dresses; fashionably dressed men and women [例]节日的街道上,满眼都是红男绿女。On belidays the streets are filled with *fashionably dressed men and women*.

【红颜薄命】

A beautiful woman often has an unfortunate life; tragic end of beauties

【洪福齐天】

One's vast happiness is as high as the sky; be supremely fortunate; have great luck

【洪水猛兽】

flood water and wild beasts; dreadful monsters; great scourages [例]当地村民把官吏视为洪水猛兽。The local villagers looked upon the officials as *dreadful monsters*.

【鸿鹄之志】

high aspirations of a swan; lofty ambition; high aspirations

【侯门似海】

The gate of a noble house is like the sea; A noble man's mansion is inaccessible to the common people.

【后发制人】

gain mastery by striking only after the opponent has struck; take action after [例]弱者后发制人常常可以取得胜利。The weaker side can often defeat the stronger by *gaining mastery by striking only after the opponents have struck*.

【后顾之忧】

troubles from behind; fear of attack from the rear; troubles (worries) back at home

[例]有后顾之忧,就很难打胜仗。It is difficult to win a battle with *the fear of attack from the rear*.

【后患无穷】

have endless trouble; have no end of trouble for the future; be a constant source of future troubles [例]过不了这一关,我们就会后患无穷。If we could not pass this barrier, we would *have endless trouble*.

【后悔莫及】

be too late to repent; regret sth. too late [例]当你因考试作弊受到处分时,就后悔莫及了。When you were punished for cheating in an examination, it would *be too late to repent*.

【后会有期】

have another chance to meet; meet again some day; See you later. [例]你要多保重,我们后会有期。You must take good care of yourself. *We'll meet again some day*.

【后继无人】

have no qualified successors; lack of successors (to the cause); none capable of continuing a given task

【后继有人】

have qualified successors; There is no lack of successors to carry on the cause. [例]我很高兴看到我们的事业后继有人。I'm glad to see that we *have qualified successors who can carry on our cause*.

【后来居上】

The latecomers surpass the early starters; those that come later occupy the higher posts; catch up (come forward) from behind [例]在这个研究领域里,后来居上的现象非常普遍。In this research area, it is common that *the latecomers surpass the early starters*.

【后浪推前浪】



The waves behind drive on those before; waves urge waves; Waves push waves; New emerging things are to replace the old ones; Things develop ceaselessly with the new superseding the old. [例]长江后浪推前浪,一代更比一代强。As in the Yangtze River *the waves behind drive on those before*, each new generation excels the last one.

#### 【后起之秀】

outstanding members of the new generation; a promising young person; an up-and-coming youngster; the bright younger generation; a new star [例]他是我们篮球队里的后起之秀。He is a *promising young man* in our basketball team.

#### 【后生可畏】

The young are to be regarded with awe; The young generation will surpass the older; Every oak has been an acorn; A ragged colt may make a good horse.

#### 【厚此薄彼】

favor one and discriminate the other; treat with partiality; say turkey to one and buzzard to another [例]老师对学生要一视同仁,不要厚此薄彼。The teachers should treat the students equally well, *without discriminating against some students and favoring others*.

#### 【厚古薄今】

stress the past, not the present; pay more attention to the past than to the present

#### 【厚今薄古】

stress the present, not the past; lay more stress on the present than on the past

#### 【厚颜无耻】

be thick-skinned and shameless; have the impudence to do sth.; have the gall to say or to do sth.; impudent; brazen; as bold as brass; far gone in impudence; be

lost (dead) to shame [例]他们厚颜无耻地宣称是为和平而努力。They *have the impudence to* claim that they are working for peace.

#### 【呼风唤雨】

call for wind and rain; be able to control the forces of nature; stir up trouble; exercise magic powers [例]1.一个普通人怎么会有呼风唤雨的神通? How can an ordinary person have the magical power to *call for wind and rain*? 2.原来是这几个人在呼风唤雨,推波助澜。So it turned out to be these people who *stirred up trouble* and made things worse.

#### 【呼朋引类】

call for friends and attract one's own kind; gang up; Like attracts like. [例]那伙人就爱呼朋引类,聚众闹事。That band of people are fond of *ganging up* to make trouble.

#### 【呼天抢地】

lament to heaven and knock one's head on the ground in grief; utter cries of anguish [例]听到祖父去世的消息,她呼天抢地,悲痛不已。Hearing of her grandfather's death, she *uttered cries of anguish* and was deeply grieved.

#### 【呼吸相通】

The breath is interlinked; share feelings and sentiments; be closely related; be intimately bound up with [例]和家人呼吸相通,就能和睦相处。Share *feelings and sentiments* with your family members, and the whole family will live in harmony.

#### 【呼么喝六】

shout for six or one (to turn up in a dice game); shout for the figures on the dice in gamble; be overbearing; shout at people right and left

#### 【呼之即来,挥之即去】

come at sb.'s call and go at sb.'s beck;

make sb. do his bidding; have sb. at one's disposal; have sb. at one's beck and call; bring under one's thumb

【呼之欲出】

seem ready to come out at one's call; be vividly portrayed; a portrait true to life; a lively portrayal of characters in literary works [例]电影中军官的形象塑造得栩栩如生,呼之欲出。In the film the image of the officer is *portrayed vividly*.

【囫圇吞枣】

swallow a date wholly without chewing it; accept sth. without real comprehension of it; read without understanding; gulp down without thought [例]囫圇吞枣地学习,是得不到任何真实学问的。If we *read without understanding*, it is impossible to acquire any real knowledge.

【狐假虎威】

A fox borrows a tiger's ferocity (terror); assume someone else's authority to browbeat others; take advantage of the influence of others; the ass in the lion's skin [例]她只是个经理秘书,却狐假虎威地发号施令。She is only a secretary to the manager, but *assumes the manager's authority to order people about*.

【狐狸尾巴】

a fox's tail; sth. that give us away a person's real character or evil intentions; cloven hoof [例]1.狐狸尾巴终究是要露出来的。A fox cannot hide its tail. 2.那个阴谋家的狐狸尾巴终于被抓住了。The conspirator's *evil intention* was given away at last.

【狐群狗党】

a tribe of foxes and a pack of dogs; a pack of rogues; a gang of scoundrels; a bad lot; evil associates [例]这帮狐群狗党在一起干尽了坏事。The *gang of scoundrels* did a lot of evil things together.

【狐疑不决】

be suspicious and undecided; be hesitating; be wavering; indecisive in one's mind [例]他还是狐疑不决,拿不定主意。He is still *hesitating* and cannot make up his mind.

【胡说八道】

talk nonsense; sheer nonsense; rubbish; rave about [例]他的发言全是胡说八道。His speech was *all nonsense*.

【胡思乱想】

go off into wild flights of fancy; let one's imagination run away with him; imagine things; stupid thoughts; have a maggot in one's brain (head) [例]他拿着报纸胡思乱想。With a piece of paper in her hand, he *went off into wild flight of fancy*.

【胡言乱语】

talk nonsense; rave; babble about; talk rot; talk through one's hat [例]他跟你说他要出国吗?真是胡言乱语。He told you he would go abroad? He was *talking nonsense*.

【胡作非为】

act wildly and wrongly; run wild; behave unlawfully [例]你怎么让他们胡作非为? How dare you let them *behave unlawfully*?

【糊猴入布袋】

A monkey enters a bag; submit to discipline reluctantly; be restricted in action

【湖光山色】

a landscape of lakes and mountains; a beautiful nature scenery

【虎背熊腰】

tiger-backed and bear-loined; (of a man) of stocky and imposing build; (a man) of strong build [例]门一开,进来两个虎背熊腰的大汉。As the door opened, in came two men *of stocky and*

*imposing build.*

【虎毒不食子】

Even a tiger does not eat its young; All men, good or bad, rarely ill - treat their children.

【虎踞龙盘】

like a curling dragon or a crouching tiger; be of strategic importance; be strongly fortified

【虎口拔牙】

pull a tooth from the tiger's mouth; dare the greatest danger; provoke sb. far superior in power or strength; beard the lion in his den [例]这项任务就像虎口拔牙,十分危险。The mission is as dangerous as pulling a tooth from the tiger's mouth.

【虎口余生】

life saved from a tiger's mouth; survive a disaster; escape with bare life; have a narrow escape; have a hairbreath escape; escape by the skin of one's teeth [例]这次能从洪水中虎口余生真是侥幸。It is lucky to have had a narrow escape from the flood.

【虎落平阳被犬欺】

If the tiger went down to level land, he would be insulted by dogs; a man who loses position and influence may be subjected to much indignity; Hares may pull dead lions by the beard.

【虎入羊群】

a tiger among a flock of sheep; use one's strength to bully the weak at will

【虎视眈眈】

stare like a tiger glaring at its prey; cast covetous eyes on; eye with hostility; glare fiercely [例]他们一家人都对这笔钱虎视眈眈。All his family cast covetous eyes on the sum of money.

【虎头蛇尾】

the head of a tiger and the tail of a snake;

a fine start but a poor finish; things which start off big and then end up in nothing; do things by halves; come in like a lion and go out like a lamb [例]这部小说写得虎头蛇尾。The novel has a fine start but a poor finish.

【互通有无】

Each supplies what the other needs; supply each other's needs [例]今后我们可以取长补短,互通有无。From now on, we can complement each other and help supply each other's needs.

【户枢不蠹】

A door - hinge is never worm - eaten.; Constant activity staves off decay.

【怙恶不悛】

persist in evil and refuse to repent; stick to one's arbitrary habits; remain impenitent; abide in sin [例]对怙恶不悛的要严加惩处。Those who persist in evil and refuse to repent should be severely punished.

【花好月圆】

blooming flowers and full moon; perfect conjugal bliss

【花红柳绿】

bright red blossoms and green willows; a beautiful scenery in spring; be dazingly beautiful

【花花公子】

a coxcomb; a dandy; a playboy; a dissolute youth; a man about town; a loose fish [例]那个花花公子总爱讨好女孩子。That playboy is always fond of currying favour with girls.

【花花绿绿】

be brightly coloured; be colourful; in colour; garish [例]"六一"儿童节,孩子们都穿得花花绿绿。On children's day, every child is colourfully dressed.

【花花世界】

a dazzling world; the dazzling human world with its myriad temptations; the mortal world; the varicoloured world [例]你能抵御花花世界的种种诱惑吗? Can you resist *the myriad temptations in this dazzling human world?*

## 【花前月下】

before the flowers and under the moon; an ideal setting for a couple in love

## 【花容月貌】

be as fair as flowers and as beautiful as the moon; (of a woman) a beautiful face; fair as a lily (rose)

## 【花天酒地】

lead a life of debauchery; indulge in dissipation; lead a gay or fast life; be on the loose; be on the racket; have one's fling [例]自从毕业后他一直过着花天酒地的生活。He has been *leading a life of debauchery* since graduation.

## 【花团锦簇】

bouquets of flowers and piles of silks; rich multi-coloured decorations; confusion and gay bustle [例]整个会堂布置得花团锦簇。The whole hall is filled with *rich multi-coloured decorations*.

## 【花无百日红】

No flower can bloom for a hundred days; Good times don't last long; Spring does not always flourish; The fairest rose at last is withered; The fairest rose ends in a heap.

## 【花言巧语】

flowery and deceiving words; fine (fair, honeyed, sweet, pretty) words; blarney; artful talk; lip service; blandishments [例]别相信那个骗子的花言巧语。Don't believe the cheat's *flowery and deceiving words*.

## 【花样翻新】

innovations in pattern or design; the same old things in a new guise; The tricks vary.

## 【花枝招展】

Sprays sway in the wind; (of women) be gorgeously dressed; be seductively dressed; (as) gaudy as a butterfly (peacock) [例]几个打扮得花枝招展的女孩来到了舞厅。A few *gorgeously dressed* girls came into the dancing hall.

## 【华而不实】

produce flowers but bear no fruits; be showy and not substantial; be flashy without substance; superficially clever; gimcrack; have all one's goods in the window [例]我不爱看这种华而不实的文章。I don't like reading such *flashy* articles *without substance*.

## 【哗众取宠】

impress people by claptrap; talk big to impress people; play to the gallery [例]他就像个哗众取宠的小丑。He is just like a clown *impressing people by claptrap*.

## 【化干戈为玉帛】

turn weapons into jade objects and silk fabrics; put an end to war and have peace; turn hostility into friendship; bury the hatchet; turn swords into ploughshares [例]交战了三年,两国终于化干戈为玉帛。After fighting for three years, the two nations *put an end to war and had peace at last*.

## 【化零为整】

gather (assemble) the parts into a whole [例]将每月工资化零为整,一年后你会有一笔数目不小的钱。Gather the salaries of each month, and you will have a considerably large sum of money in one year.

## 【化为泡影】

vanish like soap bubbles; come to nothing; fail to come true; melt into thin air; go up in smoke [例]他的全部计划化为泡影。His whole plan has *come to nothing*.

ing.

【化为乌有】

go out of existence; come to nothing; be reduced to zero; turn to dust and ashes; melt into thin air; come to naught; vanish into the void; go down the drain [例]我成功的希望已化为乌有。My prospects of success have already *vanished into the void*.

【化险为夷】

turn danger into safety; come out safely from danger; pass through a dangerous crisis safely; save the situation; head off a disaster; fall on one's feet [例]由于她的果断,我们才化险为夷。It was due to her resolution that we *could come out safely from danger*.

【化整为零】

break up the whole into parts [例]整个班级化整为零,分批进行训练。The whole class was *broken up into parts* to get the training in turn.

【画饼充饥】

draw a cake to satisfy one's hunger; comfort oneself with illusions; feed on illusions; eat the air; a Barmecide feast [例]他光靠画饼充饥如何能挽救公司? How can he save the company only by *comforting himself with illusions*?

【画地为牢】

draw a circle on the ground to serve as a prison; restrict sb.'s activities to a designated area or sphere

【画虎类狗】

try to draw a tiger and end up with the likeness of a dog; make a poor imitation; fail to achieve what one sets out to do; attempt more than one has ability for

【画龙点睛】

draw the eyes when painting a dragon; add the touch that brings a work of art to life;

put the finishing touches on sth.; add a word or two to clinch the point; a crucial touch [例]最后他的发言起到了画龙点睛的作用。In the end, his speech *added a crucial touch to the main point*.

【画蛇添足】

draw a snake and add feet to it; ruin the effect by adding what is superfluous; fan the breeze; gild the lily [例]这件事我已经跟他解释清楚了,再多讲岂不是画蛇添足? I have explained the matter to him clearly; making further explanation would be *superfluous*.

【话不投机】

be disagreeable in conversation; talk to someone with whom one can see eye to eye [例]酒逢知己千杯少,话不投机半句多。With a dear friend, a thousand cups of wine are too few; when *the conversation gets disagreeable*, to say even half a sentence is too much.

【话中有话】

The words mean more than what one says; There is more to it than what one says; overtones in conversation; have one's tongue in one's cheek [例]他心里一琢磨,觉得老师话中有话。He figured that *there was more to it than what the teacher had said*.

【怀才不遇】

have talent but no opportunity to use it; have unrecognized talents

【怀恨在心】

harbour resentment in one's heart; cherish a grudge of hatred; bear sb. a spite [例]自从离婚后他一直对前妻怀恨在心。Since their divorce, he has *cherished a grudge against* her ex-wife.

【欢蹦乱跳】

dance and skip with joy; ha healthy-looking and vivacious; gambol; romp

[例]见到主人回来,小狗欢蹦乱跳。When the little dog saw its master come back, it *danced and skipped with joy*.

【欢声雷动】

Cheers resound like rolls of thunder; give thunderous cheers; break into deafening cheers; burst into thunders of applause; give a great shout of approval [例]他的发言一结束,全场欢声雷动。As soon as his speech ended, the audience *broke into thunderous cheers*.

【欢天喜地】

with boundless joy; be greatly delighted; wild with joy; overjoyed; go into raptures; in high glee; tread on air; on cloud nine (seven) [例]一家人欢天喜地地迎接新年。The whole family greeted the new year *with boundless joy*.

【欢欣鼓舞】

be elated and inspired; full of joy and enthusiasm; be filled with exultation; be highly elated; dance (jump) for joy; rejoice [例]捷报传来,全市人民无不欢欣鼓舞。The good tidings *filled the whole city with exultation*.

【缓兵之计】

a stratagem to stall off immediate attack by the enemy; stalling tactics; a plot to gain time in order to complete defense; a Fabian policy (tactics) [例]他提出的建议不过是缓兵之计。His proposal is nothing but *a stalling tactic*.

【缓急相济】

help each other in case of need; give mutual help in an emergency

【换汤不换药】

change the liquid but not the drugs; a superficial reform; a change in form but not in content; the same old stuff with a different label; old wine in new bottles [例]他那些所谓的新措施是换汤不换药。

His so-called new measures are *old wine in new bottles*.

【患得患失】

worry about personal gains and losses; be over-anxious about one's own interests; be swayed by considerations of personal gain and loss

【患难与共】

share sufferings and hardships together; stand together in times of need; share a common fate; be in the same boat; stick together; through thick and thin; cast (in) one's lot with sb. [例]在战争中他们患难与共,结下了深厚的友谊。During the war, they *went through thick and thin together* and established a profound friendship.

【患难之交】

friends in adversity; tested friends; friends in need [例]我们是患难之交,难道你还不相信我吗? We've been *friends in adversity*; don't you trust me any more?

【焕然一新】

take on an entirely new aspect; take on a fresh complexion; have a bright new look; brand-new [例]各色的装饰物使房间焕然一新。Decorations of all colours made the room *take on an entirely new aspect*.

【荒诞不经】

most absurd and irrational; fantastic; ridiculous; preposterous [例]故事虽然荒诞不经,却也引人入胜。Fantastic as it is, the story is really absorbing.

【荒诞无稽】

absurd and groundless fabulous; irrational; legendary; mythological; incredible [例]他提供了各种荒诞无稽的罪名,诽谤他的亲兄弟。He fabricated all kinds of *absurd and groundless* charges against his own brother.

【荒谬绝伦】

be absurd beyond compare; be utterly absurd; be absolutely ridiculous; extremely ludicrous; preposterous

【荒淫无耻】

be profligate and shameless; dissipated and unashamed; a licentious life led by the exploiting classes; be dissolute in conduct; shameless dissipation [例]他痛恨剥削阶级荒淫无耻的生活。He resented the licentious life led by the exploiting class.

【皇亲国戚】

princes and princesses of the royal family; the emperor's relatives; people of great influence [例]他是皇亲国戚,你最好别惹他。You'd better not offend him. He is a man of great influence.

【黄道吉日】

a propitious date; a lucky day [例]以前,做件大事都要选黄道吉日。In the old days people always asked the astrologer for a propitious date before starting an important matter.

【黄金时代】

golden age; the most prosperous period of politics, economics or culture [例]唐朝是诗的黄金时代。The Tang Dynasty is the golden age of Chinese poetry.

【黄粱美梦】

golden millet dream; a fond dream; a vanished dream; a fool's dream; disillusionment; a pipe dream [例]他想发财只不过是黄粱美梦而已。It's only a vanished dream that he was in the hope of making a fortune.

【黄袍加身】

be draped with the imperial yellow robe (by one's supporters); be acclaimed emperor; be made emperor

【惶恐不安】

be greatly alarmed; in great fear; be seized with fear; panic-stricken [例]警察的搜捕令罪犯惶恐不安。The police's raid caused great alarm to the criminal.

【恍然大悟】

suddenly realize; be suddenly aware of; suddenly see the light; disenchanted; wake up to [例]在事实面前,她才恍然大悟,自己受骗了。In the face of the truth, she suddenly realized that she had been deceived.

【恍如隔世】

There seems to be an interval of a whole generation; find that things has greatly changed; as if being cut off from the outside world for ages

【灰心丧气】

be discouraged; get disheartened; disappointed; despair; lose heart; yield to despair [例]失败时不要灰心丧气。Don't lose heart at any failure.

【挥汗成雨】

Sweat drops makes it look like rain—referring to the large number of men

【挥金如土】

throw money about like dirt; squander money like dust; spend money extravagantly; be profuse of one's money; be lavish with one's money; spend money like water; play ducks and drakes with money [例]他一向挥金如土,一点钱都不积蓄。He is always spending money like water without saving any.

【挥洒自如】

wield one's pen freely; write with a free pen; write and draw freely as one wishes

【回肠荡气】

(of music, poems, etc.) soul-stirring; heartening; deeply affect sb.'s emotions; agitated in mind; inspiring [例]这样回

肠荡气的文章,值得一读。Such a *soul - stirring* article is worth reading.

【回光反照】

the last radiance of the setting sun; momentary recovery of consciousness just before death; the transient reviving of a dying person or thing; brief glow of health before passing away

【回天乏术】

Nothing can be done to revive the dead; be unable to save the situation; be powerless to save the desperate situation [例]我们对这种混乱局面可是回天乏术。I'm *unable to save the chaotic situation*.

【回天之力】

power capable of saving a desperate situation; tremendous power (to overcome difficulties)

【回头是岸】

turn the head and the shore is at hand; repent and be saved; turn from the evil way; (just) repent and salvation is at hand; it is never too late to mend (repent). [例]希望你以后痛改前非,回头是岸。I hope you will sincerely rectify your errors and *turn from your evil way*.

【回味无穷】

endless aftertaste; afford much food for reflection; lead to meaningful afterthoughts; lead a person to endless aftertastes [例]这个戏剧使观众回味无穷。The play *afforded* the audience *much food for reflection*.

【回心转意】

change one's mind and go back to one's former opinions or attitude; correct one's conduct; repent and reform; a change of heart; come around [例]他想尽办法要她回心转意,却毫无成效。He tried his best to *change her mind* but in vain.

【悔不当初】

feel regretful for what one has done before; regret having done sth. in that way

【悔过自新】

repent and start anew; repent and turn over a new leaf; repent and start with a clean slate [例]请给他个悔过自新的机会吧。Please give him a chance to *repent and turn over a new leaf*.

【悔之无及】

too late to repent (regret); too late for remorse; cry over split milk [例]你要再犹豫不决,就会悔之无及了。If you still remained undecided, it would be *too late to repent*.

【讳疾忌医】

hide one's sickness for fear of treatment; conceal one's mistakes or shortcomings for fear of criticism [例]1.你有了病,为什么讳疾忌医呢? You've been ill, why do you *hide your sickness for fear of treatment*? 2.犯了错误不该讳疾忌医。One who has made mistakes should not *conceal them for fear of criticism*.

【讳莫如深】

guard a secret closely; not utter a single word about sth.; carefully conceal or avoid mentioning (one's scandal, etc.); not breathe a word to a soul; keep sth. shady [例]对自己的错误不应讳莫如深。One should not keep his mistakes a *close - guarded secret*.

【诲人不倦】

be tireless in teaching others; teach with tireless zeal; teach without weariness; never tired of teaching people [例]诲人不倦的老师才是好老师。Only those who *are tireless in teaching students* can be regarded as good teachers.

【诲淫诲盗】

propagate sex and violence; stir up base passions



## 【绘声绘色】

describe voice and colour; portray vividly; describe (represent, reproduce) to a nicety; described to the life; true to nature; vivid [例]他向我们绘声绘色地叙述了这个故事。He gave us a *vivid* account of the story.

## 【昏天黑地】

dark sky and earth; pitch - dark; dizzy; in total darkness; perverted; dark rule and social disorder [例]1. 这么晚了,昏天黑地的,你就别去了。You'd better not go there. It's very late and *the sky and earth are both in darkness*. 2. 许多皇帝都过着荒淫无耻,昏天黑地的生活。Many emperors led a licentious and *perverted* life.

## 【昏头昏脑】

feel dizzy; be muddle - headed; infatuated; forgetful; absent - minded; not know if one is (standing) on one's head or one's heels [例]喝了一瓶啤酒后,他觉得昏头昏脑。He *felt dizzy* after drinking a bottle of beer.

## 【浑浑噩噩】

(of universe) in a nebulous state; be ignorant; muddle along (without any aim); muddleheaded [例]他还是浑浑噩噩,毫无目的地混日子吗? Is he still *muddling along without any aim*?

## 【浑然一体】

be mixed into a whole; be an integral whole; a unified entity; one integrated mass [例]远远望去,只见海天一色,浑然一体。Look afar, and you can see that the sea and the sky *are mixed into a whole* of one colour

## 【浑身是胆】

One's whole body is valour; be filled with courage; be every inch a hero; be the very embodiment of valour [例]赵子龙是

位浑身是胆的英雄。Zhao Zilong is a hero *filled with courage*.

## 【浑身解数】

use all one's skills (to do sth.); exert oneself to the utmost; every means of solution [例]他使出了浑身解数逗那个孩子笑。He *exerted himself to the utmost* to amuse the child.

## 【浑水摸鱼】

grape for fish in muddy water; try to get profit from a disturbed situation; fish in troubled waters [例]他想制造混乱,以便浑水摸鱼。He wanted to create confusion so as to *fish in troubled waters*.

## 【魂不附体】

One's soul departs from one's body; be frightened out of one's wits; severely shocked (upset); be entranced with (fear); go down in one's boots [例]几声枪响,吓得他魂不附体。He *was frightened out of his wits* by several gunshots.

## 【魂不守舍】

The spirit has left the body; One's mind is somewhat unhinged; in a state of mental absorption; out of one's mind

## 【魂飞魄散】

The soul has flown away; be scared out of one's senses [例]那个恶梦把她吓得魂飞魄散。The nightmare *scared her out of her sense*.

## 【混世魔王】

the demon king in confusion; an evil man who disturbs the peace of the world; devil incarnate; fiend in human shape; the greatest evildoer

## 【混为一谈】

confuse unidentical things as if they were identical; be confused; mix (the two) up; lump (jumble) together [例]你怎么能把宗教与迷信混为一谈? How can you *lump together* religion and superstition?

## 【混淆黑白】

confuse black and white; confound right and wrong; obliterate the difference between good and bad; call black white; turn things upside down [例]他们颠倒是非,混淆黑白,做了不少坏事。Turning things upside down and *confusing black and white*, they did a lot of evil things.

## 【混淆是非】

confuse right and wrong; call right wrong and wrong right

## 【混淆视听】

confound right and wrong; mislead the public; confuse the public opinion; lead the public opinion astray

## 【活灵活现】

give a vivid description; express sth. in a lifelike way; make sth. come to life; tone it up; with colour and life; living image of; vividly [例]那个故事说得活灵活现。The story was *vividly* told.

## 【火冒三丈】

fly into a rage; burst into a fury; flare up; in a fury; raise the roof; hit the ceiling (roof); see red [例]他一听这消息,不由火冒三丈。Hearing the news, he *flew into a rage*.

## 【火上浇油】

add oil to the fire; make the trouble worse; stir things up; inflame one's anger [例]这些话就像火上浇油,令他更生气了。These words *added oil to the fire* of his anger.

## 【火烧火燎】

burn like fire; feel terribly hot; be restless with anxiety; burn with a feeling

## 【火烧眉毛】

The fire is singeing the eyebrows; a matter of utmost urgency; a desperate situation; an imminent crisis or danger [例]有件火

烧眉毛的事要告诉大家。I have a *matter of the utmost urgency* to tell all of you.

## 【火树银花】

fiery trees and silver flowers; dazzling brilliance of fireworks, or lanterns in festivals [例]节日的南京路上,一片火树银花。In festivals, there is *dazzling brilliance of lanterns* in Nanjing road.

## 【火中取栗】

pull chestnuts out of the fire; take risks from which other people profit; be made a cat's paw of

## 【货真价实】

genuine goods at a fair price; genuine; dyed - in - the wool; one hundred percent; through and through; out and out; all wool and a yard wide [例]1.这里的商品都是货真价实的。The goods are *all genuine and the prices fair* here. 2.他是个货真价实的骗子。He is a *dyed - in - the - wool* cheat.

## 【祸不单行】

When sorrow comes, they come not single spies, but in battalions; Misfortune never comes singly; an evil chance seldom comes alone; One woe doth tread upon another's heels; It never rains but it pours. [例]他的母亲病倒了,他又丢了工作,真是祸不单行。His mother got sick and he lost his job. *It never rains but it pours*.

## 【祸从口出】

Misfortune comes from the mouth; Improper language brings one ruin; a ready tongue is an evil; disaster emanates from careless talk; Out of the mouth comes evil; The tongue talks at the head's cost.

## 【祸从天降】

A calamity descends from the sky; A calamity happens abruptly; an unexpected affliction (adversity) [例]他上班时遇上

了车祸受了伤，真是祸从天降。On his way to work he met with a traffic accident and got hurt. *A calamity sometimes happens abruptly.*

**【祸福相倚】**

Fortune and misfortune are interrelated; Every cloud has a silver lining.

**【祸国殃民】**

wreck the country and ruin the people; bring calamity to the country and the people [例]他们是一小撮祸国殃民的败类。They are the dregs who *wreck the country and ruin the people.*

**【祸起萧墙】**

Trouble arises behind the walls of the

home; Trouble arises within the family; There is internal strife afoot.

**【豁达大度】**

be open-minded and magnanimous; be generous and open-minded [例]他豁达大度，赢得了雇员的尊敬。As he is *open-minded and magnanimous*, he has won the employees' respect.

**【豁然开朗】**

become bright and open suddenly; become clear-minded suddenly; be suddenly enlightened; suddenly dawn upon; see the light suddenly [例]老师的一席话使他豁然开朗。The teacher's words *suddenly enlightened* him.

## J

## 【击以猛掌】

give sb. a shove; give a sharp warning

## 【击中要害】

hit sb.'s vital point; strike at the root of; strike (hit) home; hit sb. where it hurts; get home [例]首相十分恼火,因为他的助手的话击中了他的要害。The premier was very annoyed, because his assistant's words had *hit his vital point*.

## 【饥不择食】

A hungry person is not choosy about his food; Hunger is the best sauce; All food is delicious to the starving; Beggars must (should) not be the choosers; Nothing comes amiss (wrong) to a hungry man; to accept what is urgently needed without a careful choice [例]他们已经饥不择食了,给他们任何东西,他们都肯接受。They were like *hungry men who were not choosy about their food*. They would take whatever they were offered.

## 【饥肠辘辘】

one's stomach rumbling with hunger; rumblings of an empty stomach; (as) hungry as a hawk (hunter, wolf) [例]当他终于到家时,已经是饥肠辘辘了。When he at last reached home, *his stomach was rumbling with hunger*.

## 【饥寒交迫】

suffer the terrible hardships of hunger and cold; live in hunger and cold; suffer hunger and cold; a life of cold and hunger; misery of starvation and poverty; be poverty-stricken [例]当她看到那些无家可归、过着饥寒交迫的日子的人们时,她产生了一种罪恶感。When she saw those homeless people who *lived*

*in hunger and cold*, a sense of guilt was aroused in her.

## 【机不可失,时不再来】

don't let slip an opportunity, it may never come again; opportunity knocks but once; now or never [例]我们不能放弃这样一个好机会,因为机不可失,时不再来。We can't afford to *let slip such a golden opportunity, for it may never come again*.

## 【鸡蛋里挑骨头】

look for a bone in an egg; look for a flaw where there is none; find fault; nit-pick; to cavil at sth.; pick holes

## 【鸡蛋碰石头】

like an egg striking a rock; attack sb. far stronger than oneself

## 【鸡飞蛋打】

the hen has flown away and the eggs in the coop are broken; come out empty-handed; all is lost [例]他担心不管如何努力,最后仍会落得个鸡飞蛋打的下场。He was afraid that he would *come out empty-handed* for all his efforts.

## 【鸡飞狗走】

even the fowls and the dogs are fleeing away; turmoil caused by panic

## 【鸡口牛后】

fowl's beak and ox buttocks; better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion; preferable to lead in potty position than to follow behind greater leader

## 【鸡零狗碎】

in bits and pieces; fragmentary; odds and ends; things of little value

## 【鸡毛蒜皮】

chicken feathers and garlic skins; trifles; trivialities [例]我不懂他怎么会为了鸡

毛蒜皮的事大发雷霆。I couldn't see why he hit the roof over trifles.

【鸡鸣而起】

rise at cockcrow; rise (be up) with the lark

【鸡鸣狗盗】

(ability to) crow like a cock and snatch like a dog; small tricks; looking furtive or surreptitious [例]他是不会跟鸡鸣狗盗之辈为伍的。He will never go with men of *small tricks*.

【鸡犬不惊】

Even fowls and dogs are not disturbed; complete peace and quiet; excellent army discipline; peace and tranquillity

【鸡犬不留】

Even fowls and dogs are not spared; not a fowl nor a dog left; ruthless mass slaughter; utter extermination [例]日军在村庄里大肆屠杀,鸡犬不留。The Japanese army exercised *utter extermination* in the village. *Even fowls and dogs were not spared*.

【鸡犬不宁】

Even fowls and dogs are not left in peace; greatly upset like a poultry yard visited by a fox; general turmoil; flutter the doves [例]自从继母来了以后,这个家就鸡犬不宁了。Ever since the stepmother came, the family had been *greatly upset like a poultry yard visited by a fox*.

【鸡犬相闻】

Sound of crowing cocks and barking dogs were heard around; live nearby or in the neighborhood; Two places are very close to each other.

【积不相能】

have never been on good terms; have always been at variance; be always at loggerheads [例]兄弟俩积不相能,令老母亲忧心忡忡。The two brothers *had*

*never been on good terms*, which upset their mother greatly.

【积非成是】

Falsehood will be accepted as truth when it is spread for a long time.

【积谷防饥】

accumulate grains against famine; store up grain against famine (dearth, a bad year) [例]村民们根据过去的经验知道他们必须积谷防饥。From the past experience the villagers knew that they had to *accumulate grains against famine*.

【积厚流广】

with a solid foundation and widespread influence; deep root and tremendous influence

【积毁销骨】

Much reviling and slander wears the bone; When everybody speaks against a person, he will be unable to defend himself and maintain his position in society; Rumors can kill a person [例]积毁销骨,这位女演员最终选择了自杀来证实自己的清白。 *Much reviling and slander wears the bone*. The actress eventually chose to commit suicide to show her innocence.

【积金累玉】

gold and jade pile up; extremely wealthy

【积劳成疾】

break down from constant overwork; fall sick from overwork [例]跟他在一起工作的人都担心他会积劳成疾,但他从不肯听从劝告去休息片刻。People who worked with him were afraid that he might *break down from constant overwork*, yet he never took their advice to have a rest.

【积年累月】

for months and years; for years on end; year in and year out; year after year

【积少成多】

from small increments comes abundance; Economy in trifles ensures abundance; Many a little (pickle) makes a mickle; Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves; Many drops make a shower; A penny saved is a penny earned [例]他相信积少成多这个道理,所以每个月都把自己省下的每一分钱都存进银行。He believed in the saying that *from small increments comes abundance*, so he put every cent he had saved into the bank every month.

## 【积水成渊】

Accumulated water becomes a river; Accumulated small success becomes great achievement.

## 【积土成山】

Heaped-up earth becomes a mountain; Accumulated small success becomes great achievement

## 【积微成著】

Tiny things becomes conspicuous when they gather in great number

## 【积习成常】

An act will be accepted as normal when it is practiced among people for a long time

## 【积习成俗】

A habit becomes custom when it has spread for a long time

## 【积习难改】

Old practices die hard; Old habits are difficult to get rid of; Ingrained habits can not be cast off overnight; old habits die hard

## 【积忧成疾】

break down from constant worrying; fall sick from constant worrying; be broken by care; care-crazed; worry oneself sick

## 【积羽沉舟】

Enough feathers can sink a boat; A heavy enough load of feathers can sink a boat;

Small trouble may accumulate into big disaster; the awesome power of sheer numbers; Tiny things may gather into a mighty force [例]不要小看这些事。积羽沉舟,不制止的话你日后也许会有大麻烦的。Don't think nothing of these things. *Enough feathers can sink a boat*. They might cause you great trouble in the future if you don't stop them now.

## 【积重难返】

Bad old practices die hard; Old habits are difficult to get rid of; Ingrained habits can not be cast off overnight. [例]他想戒烟,但是积重难返,自己也不乐观。He wanted to quit smoking, but *old habits are difficult to get rid of*, and he himself wasn't quite optimistic about that.

## 【积铢累寸】

build up bit by bit; save every tiny bit; accumulate bit by bit (little by little); let small amounts accumulate [例]她的储蓄积铢累寸,五年后,她就自己买了房子。Her savings *built up little by little*, and after 5 years she bought her own house.

## 【缉拿归案】

bring (a criminal) to justice

## 【畸轻畸重】

attach too much weight to this and too little weight to that; lopsided; unbalanced; now too much, now too little; being partial

## 【激忿添膺】

with one's chest filled with strong anger; extremely indignant

## 【激将法】

prodding sb. into action; goading sb. into action (as by ridicule, sarcasm, etc.)

## 【重浊扬清】

drain away the mud and bring in fresh water; drive out evil and usher in good; eliminate vice and exalt virtue

## 【及锋而试】

try while the point is sharp; take every advantage of a favorable opportunity; strike the iron while it is hot [例]当他得到这个职位后,他的朋友劝他及锋而试,向女友求婚。After he got the position, his friends advised him to *take advantage of this favorable opportunity* and propose to his girlfriend.

## 【及时行乐】

seize the day (to enjoy oneself); *carpe diem* (拉丁语); make merry while one can

## 【吉光片羽】

a feather of *Jiguang*, a legendary animal; a fragment of a highly treasured relic

## 【吉人天相】

heaven helps a good man; bear (have, lead) a charmed life; a life full of lucky escapes [例]大家都为他担心,但是他说吉人自有天相,兴高采烈地出发了。We all worried about him, but he said that *heaven helped a good man* and set out cheerily.

## 【吉日良辰】

an auspicious time on an auspicious day [例]在中国,人们常常要花很多时间选择一个吉日良辰来举办婚礼。In China, people would spend a lot of time in finding *an auspicious time on an auspicious day* to carry out their weddings.

## 【吉祥如意】

good fortune as one wishes; Good luck and happiness to you!

## 【吉星高照】

The lucky star shines bright

## 【吉凶未卜】

cannot predict the outcome, good or bad; No one knows how it will turn out; one's fate is in the balance

## 【岌岌可危】

in imminent danger (peril); in a precarious situation; be in great danger; hang by a hair; be placed in jeopardy; between the beetle and the block; extremely hazardous [例]他的处境岌岌可危,一旦丑闻曝光,他就全完了。He was *in a precarious situation*. If the scandal was exposed to the public, he would be finished in every sense.

## 【即景生情】

The scene brings back memories; The scene touches a chord in one's heart [例]眼前的景象令他即景生情,他哼起了当年在学校常哼的一首歌。The scene in front of him *ouched a chord in his heart* and he began to hum a song that he used to hum at school.

## 【即以其人之道,还治其人之身】

give sb. a dose of his own medicine; pay sb. back in his own coin; deal with a man as he deals with you; do unto them as they do unto us; serve sb. with the same sauce; beat one at his own game [例]麦克对维克多即以其人之道,还治其人之身,在维克多准备睡觉的时候弹奏肖邦的钢琴曲。Mike *gave* Victor a dose of his own medicine by playing Chopin on the piano when Victor was going to bed.

## 【极深研几】

explore the deepest and subtlest aspects of things

## 【急不可待】

too impatient to wait; extremely anxious

## 【急不择言】

too anxious to choose the proper words; extremely anxious

## 【急风暴雨】

a strong gale and a torrential downpour; violent storm (s); hurricane; tempest; turbulence [例]这个封建大家族在革

命的急风暴雨中分崩离析了。The big feudalistic family came apart in the *violent storm* of revolution.

【急公好义】

zealous for public interests (the public interest); zealous for the common weal; public-spirited [例]他是个以急公好义见称的人, 所以当他有了麻烦, 也有很多人乐意帮助他。He was known for *being zealous for the public interest*, so when he met with trouble, a lot of people would like to help him.

【急功近利】

eager for quick success and instant benefit; be anxious to make quick successes and instant benefits; too eager to be successful that one sees only the immediate advantages [例]那些急功近利的人往往会忽视国家和个人的未来。Those who are *too eager for quick success and instant benefit* will more often than not neglect the future of the country and of their own.

【急惊风遇到了慢郎中】

deferred action taken in cases requiring prompt attention

【急来抱佛脚】

clasp Buddha's feet when in trouble; never burn incense when all is well but clasp Buddha's feet when in distress; seek help at the last moment; make a frantic last-minute effort [例]急来抱佛脚的人常常会发现为时已晚。People who *seek help at the last moment* often find that it is already too late.

【急流勇进】

forge ahead against a swift current; press on in the teeth of difficulties [例]面对困难他一向急流勇进。He always *presses on in the teeth of difficulties*.

【急流勇退】

resolutely retire at the height of one's official career; make a quick retreat before a crisis; retreat heroically before a rushing torrent [例]老将军决定急流勇退, 这使大家都意外。The old general decided to *retire at the height of his official career*, which was out of everybody's expectation.

【急起直追】

rouse oneself to catch up; make amends while there is yet time; do one's utmost to overtake [例]那个年轻人在赛跑的最后几分钟急起直追其他的运动员。That young man *roused himself to catch up* with other athletes in the last minute of the running race.

【急如星火】

requiring lightning action (admitting of no delay); extremely pressing; most urgent; most post-haste; most hurriedly [例]要避免半岛上的形势演变为战争, 急如星火。The situation on the peninsula *required lightning action* to avoid war.

【急中生智】

suddenly hit upon a way out of predicament; show resourcefulness in an emergency; have quick wits in emergency [例]有的人在紧要关头往往会急中生智。Some people will *show resourcefulness in an emergency*.

【急转直下】

(of the march of events, etc.) take a sudden turn and then develop rapidly; go into a precipitous decline; a sudden change (turn) for the worse (better) [例]最近一个月股票市场急转直下。The stock market in the recent month *has taken a sudden turn and then developed rapidly*.

【疾恶如仇】

abhor (hate) evils (evildoers) as if they were personal enemies; hate evil as much



as one hates an enemy; hate evil like an enemy; have a abhorrence of evil [例]这位法官疾恶如仇,誓与恶人恶事斗争到生命的最后一刻。The judge *abhors evildoers as if they were his personal enemies* and would fight against them till the end of his life.

### 【疾风知劲草】

The force of the wind tests the strength of the grass; The strong wind reveals the strength of the grass; Adversity is the best testing ground for moral stamina; Strength of character is tested in a crisis; In time of disorder, the loyal and the disloyal are revealed [例]疾风知劲草,经过那场危机,将军赢得了女王的信任。Adversity is the best testing ground for moral stamina. The general won the trust of the queen in that crisis.

### 【疾首蹙额】

with aching head and knitted brows; with abhorrence; knit the brows with hatred [例]这位老人经常疾首蹙额地批评年轻一代的举止。With *aching head and knitted brows* the old man often criticized the behavior of the young generation.

### 【疾言厉色】

harsh words and stern looks; sudden outpourings and fierce looks [例]他的儿子被他的疾言厉色吓坏了,发誓再也不会犯同样的错误了。His son was frightened by his *harsh words and stern looks* and promised that he would never make the same mistake.

### 【疾之若仇】

abhor (hate) sth. (sb.) as if it were one's personal enemy; hate sth. (sb.) as much as one hates an enemy; hate sth. (sb.) like an enemy; have an abhorrence of sth. (sb.)

### 【疾足先得】

The hasty foot gets there first; The race is to the swiftest; The early bird catches the worms.

### 【集思广益】

listening to all useful opinions; draw on collective wisdom and absorb all useful ideas; pool the wisdom of the masses; put heads together so as to get better results; benefit by mutual discussion [例]对于领导者来说,集思广益是通向成功的道路之一。For the leaders, *listening to all useful opinions* is one way to success.

### 【集腋成裘】

The finest fragments of fox fur, sewn together, will make a robe; The bits of fur from the axillae of many foxes taken together will make a robe; Many drops of water make an ocean; Many a little makes a mickle [例]人人知道集腋成裘的道理,可很少有人有耐心等着看它实现。We all know that *many drops of water make an ocean*, but few of us have the patience to wait to see it become true.

### 【己所不欲,勿施于人】

Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you; Do not do to others that which you do not wish to be done to yourself; Do as you would be done by; Don't do to others what you would not like others to do to you.

### 【挤眉弄眼】

make eyes; wink

### 【济济一堂】

a gathering of many people; gather together under the same roof; fill the hall [例]儿孙们济济一堂的景象令老人十分开心。The old man was extremely happy to see his children and his grandchildren *gathering together under the same roof*.

### 【计穷力屈】

come to the end of one's tether; have shot

one's bolt; scheme exhausted and strength worn out

**【计日程功】**

estimate exactly how much time is needed to complete a project; have the completion of a project well in sight; The day is not far off.

**【计上心来】**

hit upon an idea; have a brainwave

**【计无所出】**

be quite at a loss what to do; be at one's wits end what to do; unable to think of a way

**【记忆犹新】**

remain fresh in one memory (mind); be still fresh in one's memory (in the memory of); The memory is still fresh; be green in one's memory [例]十年前我看的那部电影至今仍记忆犹新。The film I saw ten years ago still *remains fresh in my memory*.

**【既来之,则安之】**

Since we are here, we may as well stay and make the best of it; Since we have come, let us stay and enjoy it; Since you have come, take your ease [例]不知道下面将会发生什么事,我们大家都十分担心,只有他坐了下来,说:“既来之,则安之。”Not knowing what would happen next, all of us were very anxious except him, who took a seat and said, "*Since we are here, we may as well stay and make the best of it.*"

**【既往不咎】**

forgive sb.'s past misdeeds; let bygones be bygones; Things that are past, it is needless to blame; not censure sb. for his past misdeeds; ha let off for one's past misdeeds [例]为了赢得同事的支持,他决定既往不咎。To win the support of his colleagues, he decided to *let bygones be*

*bygones*.

**【继往开来】**

carry forward the cause and forge ahead into the future; carry on the past and open a way for future

**【寄人篱下】**

live under another's roof; depend on sb. for a living; depend on another person for support; live on dependence of sb.; live under subjugation; sponge on (upon) another [例]寄人篱下的生活使她从不致要得太多。*Living under another's roof, she never dared to ask for too much.*

**【夹七夹八】**

incoherent; confused; cluttered (with irrelevant remarks)

**【加官进爵】**

receive official promotion; advance in rank and position

**【家常便饭】**

homely food; simple meal; common occurrence; routine; all in the day's work; usual practice [例]地震在日本是家常便饭。*Earthquakes are common occurrences in Japan.*

**【家丑不可外扬】**

Domestic shame should not be made public; Don't wash your dirty linen in public; It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest; to conceal the family shame

**【家和万事兴】**

If the family lives in harmony, all affairs will prosper.

**【家给人足】**

Each family is provided for and every person is well - fed and well - clothed; wealthy homes and contented people; a district where there are no poor; all live in plenty [例]在这个小国里,人们过着家给人足的日子。*In this small kingdom, each family is provided for and every person*

*is well - fed and well - clothed .*

**【家家户户】**

each and every family; every household; all households without exception

**【家家有本难念的经】**

Every family has a skeleton in the cupboard

**【家贫如洗】**

utterly destitute; penniless; poverty - stricken; (as) poor as a church mouse

**【家破人亡】**

with the family broken up and decimated; with one's family broken up, some gone away, some dead; family ruined [例]在战争中,他家破人亡,饱受折磨。He suffered a great deal in the war *with his family broken up and decimated*.

**【家徒四壁】**

have nothing but the bare walls in one's house; a house empty of all furniture; be utterly destitute; as poor as a church mouse [例]尽管穷得家徒四壁,他仍然想送孩子去上学。Although he *had nothing but the bare walls in his house*, he still wanted to send his child to school.

**【家喻户晓】**

known to every family; be well known to every household; widely known; known to all; Everybody knows about it; known by one and all; become a household word; Every barber knows that. [例]在中国,李白是一位家喻户晓的大诗人。Li Bai is a great poet that is *known to every family* in China.

**【家贼难防】**

a thief in the family is difficult to detect

**【嘉言懿行】**

good words and admirable conduct; wise words and exemplary conduct [例]人们将永远记住他的嘉言懿行。He will be remembered forever for his *good words*

*and admirable conduct*.

**【戛然而止】**

(of a sound) stop abruptly

**【假公济私】**

use public office for private gain; seek one's own profit in public affairs; promote one's private interests under the guise of serving the public; gain private ends in a public cause (by public money); enrich oneself at the public's expense; work for one's own ends in public affairs; (practice) jobbery; jobbing for selfish ends; job [例]他的反对者指责他假公济私,他无力自辩,只好辞职。His opponents accused him of *using public office for his private gain*. Unable to defend himself, he could do nothing but resign.

**【假仁假义】**

pretended benevolence and righteousness; pretend to be the paragon of virtue; don a pious mask; hypocrisy; be a wolf in sheep's skin [例]大家都被老板的假仁假义给愚弄了。Everybody was fooled by the boss' *pretended benevolence and righteousness*.

**【假意奉承】**

cheap flattery

**【价廉物美】**

low prices and fine quality; (of goods) cheap and fine; fine wares at low prices; a small price for a good article; a good buy; filling at the price [例]人们通常喜欢价廉物美的东西。People usually prefer products with *low prices and fine quality*.

**【价值连城】**

worth several cities; priceless; invaluable [例]昨晚失窃的画价值连城。The picture stolen last night was *priceless*.

**【驾轻就熟】**

drive a light carriage on a familiar road;

be able to handle a job with ease (because one has had previous experience); do sth. one knows well and can manage with ease; do a familiar job with ease; (be) in one's element; be versed in; well qualified for a post; do something with ease through experience [例]老工人对自己的工作驾轻就熟。The old worker was able to handle his job with ease.

【嫁祸于人】

shift the misfortune onto sb. else; transfer the evil to another; put blame on others; put the blame on sb. else; shift the blame to sb. else; lay one's own fault at sb. else's door; shift (being) evil on another; maliciously [例]当他发现出了问题,就企图嫁祸于人。When he found that things had gone wrong, he sought to shift the misfortune onto someone else.

【嫁鸡随鸡】

be contented with the man a woman has married; A woman follows her husband no matter what his lot is.

【尖酸刻薄】

tart and mean; (speak) with biting sarcasm; bitterly sarcastic; pungent; stinging [例]这个姑娘模样挺美,但是说话太尖酸刻薄。The girl is quite pretty, only she always speaks with biting sarcasm.

【坚壁清野】

strengthen the defences and clear the fields; strengthen the bulwarks and leave no provisions outside; strengthen defence works, evacuate non-combatants, and hide provisions and livestock; fortify the defence works and leave nothing usable to the invading enemy [例]日军到来前,村民们接到命令,要坚壁清野。Before the Japanese army came, the villagers were given the order to strengthen the bul-

warks and leave no provisions outside.

【坚不可摧】

impregnable; be secure against assault; indestructible [例]伯爵夸口说他的新城堡是坚不可摧的。The count boasted that his new castle was impregnable.

【坚持不懈】

persistent; untiring perseverance; consistent and untiring efforts; unwearingly; unremitting; perseveringly [例]他依靠坚持不懈的精神赢得了胜利。He won out through untiring perseverance.

【坚持不渝】

stick to; persist in; perseveringly; unremitting; persistent; persevering [例]我们不要气馁。要坚持不渝地执行我们的计划。Let's not be disheartened. We should stick to our plan.

【坚定不移】

firm and unshakable; steadfast; resolute and firm; unswerving; unflinching; immovable [例]他是个坚定不移的共产主义战士。He is a firm and unshakable communist soldier.

【坚甲利兵】

strong armor and sharp weapons; armed might [例]这位将军手下的军队坚甲利兵,纪律严明,难怪人称战无不胜。The army commanded by this general has strong armor and sharp weapons as well as strict rules. No wonder it is said to be invincible.

【坚苦卓绝】

showing the utmost fortitude; endure hardship being prominent above all; extremely hard and bitter

【坚忍不拔】

firm and unyielding; firm and indomitable; stubborn and unyielding; inflexible; granite [例]他是个坚忍不拔的人,坚信自己总有一天会成功的。

He is *firm and unyielding* and believes that he will succeed someday.

**【坚韧不拔】**

bear up; firm and indomitable; persistent and dauntless; stubbornly and unyieldingly; keep (carry, have) a stiff upper lip [例]无论面对什么艰难困苦,她始终坚韧不拔。She remained *firm and indomitable* whatever hardship she was put to.

**【坚如磐石】**

solid as a rock; rock - firm; (as) firm as a rock; steadfast; monolithic; granite [例]他的信仰坚如磐石。His conviction is as *solid as a rock*.

**【坚信不疑】**

have infinite faith in; with confidence; firmly believe; not to have the slightest doubt [例]母亲对她的儿子的话坚信不疑。The mother had *infinite faith* in her son's words.

**【坚贞不屈】**

remain faithful and unyielding; stand firm and unbending (unyielding); faithful (loyal) to the bitter end [例]在敌人的拷打下,她始终坚贞不屈。Though tortured by the enemies, she remained *faithful to the bitter end*.

**【肩摩毂击】**

shoulder to shoulder and hub to hub; crowded with people and traffic; crowded with people and vehicles [例]这个乡下男孩看到城市街道上肩摩毂击的景象十分惊奇。The country boy was surprised at the sight of the city streets *crowded with people and traffic*.

**【肩挑背负】**

carry on the shoulder and back [例]每天早晨,父亲肩挑背负着沉重的货物出门而去。Every morning my father went out, *carrying* the heavy goods on his

*shoulder and back*.

**【艰苦奋斗】**

through hard struggle; brave, hard and bitter struggles; struggle amid difficulties; work hard and perseveringly; arduous struggle; make intense effort; hard - hitting [例]艰苦奋斗是一个民族得以立足于世界的保证。A nation finds her foothold in the world *through hard struggle*.

**【艰苦朴素】**

hard work and plain living; hard - working and plain - living

**【艰苦卓绝】**

extreme hardships and difficulties; extremely hard and bitter; overcome untold difficulties with surpassing bravery; most arduous [例]红军在艰苦卓绝的环境中生存壮大起来。The Red Army survived *extreme hardships and difficulties* and became even much stronger.

**【艰难竭蹶】**

difficulties and hardships; hardship and destitution; be short of money; in straightened circumstances [例]他在艰难竭蹶中找到了成功的道路。He found his way to success through *difficulties and hardships*.

**【艰难曲折】**

difficulties and setbacks; full of difficulties and reverses; arduous and tortuous [例]成功的道路是艰难曲折的。There are *difficulties and setbacks* on the road to success.

**【艰难险阻】**

difficulties and dangers; difficulties and obstacles; hardships and obstructions [例]消防队员的工作充满了艰难险阻。The job of a fireman is full of *difficulties and dangers*.

**【兼而有之】**

have both at the same time

【兼容并包】

(of interest) catholic; all-inclusive; include in one and monopolize it; all-embracing [例]这份杂志兼容并包,吸引了各阶层的读者。The magazine is *all-inclusive* and has attracted readers of all ranks and classes.

【兼收并蓄】

swallow anything and everything; incorporate things of diverse nature; take in everything; all-embracing [例]一个学者应该培养兼收并蓄的胸怀。A scholar should develop a mind that *incorporates things of diverse nature*.

【兼听则明,偏信则暗】

Listen to both sides and you will be enlightened; Heed only one side and you will be benighted.

【监守自盗】

steal what is entrusted to one's care; custodian turned thief; embezzle; defalcate [例]我们得制定法规,防止官员监守自盗。We must establish laws to prevent the officials from *embezzling*.

【简明扼要】

brief (short, concise) and to the point; terse and concise; short and sweet put it in a nutshell [例]他回答问题一向简明扼要。His answer is always *brief and to the point*.

【见财起意】

be moved to commit crimes by sight of money

【见多识广】

experienced and knowledgeable; with rich experience and extensive knowledge; well-read and experienced; have seen much of the world [例]从他的谈吐可以看出来他一定是见多识广。From the way he talked, one could see that he must

*have seen much of the world*.

【见风使舵】

sail with the wind; trim one's (the) sail(s) to the wind; see how the wind blows; have it both ways; see how the cat jumps; swap horses when crossing a stream [例]他发现要得到提升必须学会见风使舵。He observed that to get a promotion one must learn to *see how the wind blows*.

【见缝插针】

stick in a pin wherever there's room; make use of every bit of time (space) [例]地方这么小,得学会见缝插针才行。The place is too small. One has to learn to *make use of every bit of space*.

【见怪不怪】

be (become) inured to the unusual (weird, uncanny); face the fearful with no fears [例]当了这么多年的政府秘书,她已经对官员们的怪异举止见怪不怪了。Working as a governmental secretary for so many years, she has *become inured to the unusual* behavior of those officials.

【见怪不怪,其怪自败】

Face the fearful with no fears, and its fearfulness disappears; If one remains calm upon seeing strange things, the strangeness will do no harm; Ghosts exist for those who believe in them.

【见机行事】

act according to circumstances; act as the occasion serves; take the cue and act accordingly; do as one sees fit; take advantage of an opportunity that comes one's way [例]没人知道会怎么样。我们只有见机行事。No one knows what is waiting for us. We'll just *do as we see fit*.

【见景生情】

memories revive at the sight of familiar places; be moved by what one sees

## 【见利忘义】

forget all moral principles at the sight of profits; forget honor at sight of money; forget principles for the sake of profit; sell one's birthright (for a mess of pottage); actuated by mercenary views [例]不要跟他来往。他是个见利忘义的小人。Don't make friends with him. He is a villain who will *forget all moral principles at the sight of profits*.

## 【见猎心喜】

thrill to see one's favorite sport and itch to have a go; anxious to display one's skill; one's former interest reawakened [例]看到别人踢球,他未免也见猎心喜。Seeing others playing football, he felt a *thrill to see his favorite sport and itched to have a go* at it.

## 【见仁见智】

opinions differ; different people, different views; each according to his own lights [例]对于如何办学,大家见仁见智。*Opinions differ* as to how to run the school.

## 【见世面】

see the world; enrich one's experience; face the world [例]孩子长大后应该出去见见世面。When children have grown up, we should let them go out to *see the world*.

## 【见事生风】

arouse trouble with very little cause [例]离他远点。这个人能够见事生风。Keep him at a distance. He can *arouse trouble with very little cause*.

## 【见树不见林】

not see the wood for the trees; fail to see the wood for the trees; see the minute details but miss the major issue

## 【见死不救】

see someone in mortal danger without lift-

ing a finger to help him

## 【见所未见,闻所未闻】

see what one has never seen before, hear what one has never heard before; unprecedented; never seen or heard of before [例]这样的事真是见所未见,闻所未闻。Such kind of thing is simply *unprecedented*.

## 【见微知著】

recognise the whole through observation of the part; From one small clue one can see what is coming; From the first small beginnings one can see how things will develop; A straw shows which way the wind blows [例]杰出的政治家应该能见微知著。An excellent statesman should be able to *see what is coming from one small clue*.

## 【见物不见人】

see things but not people; see only material factors to the neglect of human ones; ignore the human factor and see only the material factor

## 【见义勇为】

never hesitate to do what is right; ready to take up the cudgels for a just cause; gallantly rise to the occasion; moral courage [例]他一向见义勇为,不计回报。He *never hesitates to do what is right* and asks for no reward.

## 【见异思迁】

change one's mind the moment one sees something new; desire to change one's work the moment one sees something different; always look for a change when seeing something better; inconstant; irresolute; be like a rolling stone; be full of fancies; freakish; change about [例]她那个见异思迁的男朋友最后怎么样了? What became of that *freakish* boyfriend of hers?

## 【见影怖鬼】

see a shadow and fear ghost

## 【贱货贵德】

despise material goods and respect virtue

## 【贱买贱卖】

buy and sell at low price

## 【剑拔弩张】

with swords drawn and bows bent; (of situation) becoming dangerously explosive; (of armies) all set for a showdown; (of person) ready to jump at each other's throat; in a blustering and aggressive manner; be at daggers drawn; sabre-rattling  
[例]他说完话以后,谈判室内一派剑拔弩张的气氛。When he finished his speech, the atmosphere in the negotiating room became dangerously explosive.

## 【鉴往知来】

see visions of things by (from) experiences; He that would know what shall he must consider what has been.

## 【箭在弦上】

like an arrow on the bowstring; The arrow is on the bow; a point of no return; There can be no turning back; poised to strike; cannot but go ahead [例]他那架势好像是箭在弦上了。He seemed to be at a point of no return.

## 【江河日下】

The rivers daily decrease their flow; go from bad to worse; be on the decline; decline steadily; degenerate day by day; gradual declension; fall away [例]自从他的孩子们离开后,他的生意江河日下。Since his children left, his business has been on the decline.

## 【江郎才尽】

have used up one's literary talent or energy; a writer whose creative powers are exhausted; at a loss as to what to do; at the end of one's rope (tether); at one's wits end

## 【江山如画】

a picturesque landscape; beautiful scenery

## 【江山易改,本性难移】

It's easy to change rivers and mountains but hard to change a person's nature; Rivers and mountains may be changed but it is hard to alter a man's nature; A leopard never (cannot) changes its spots; A sow, when washed, returns to the muck  
[例]江山易改,本性难移。他一看到酒吧就又走了进去。A leopard cannot change its spots. As soon as he saw a bar, he went in.

## 【江心补漏】

mend a leaking boat in midstream; too late  
[例]这么做就好比江心补漏,为时已晚。To do that is like mending a leaking boat in midstream, which is too late.

## 【江洋大盗】

a sea robber; a(n) (infamous) robber (pirate); a notorious bandit leader; a highway robber

## 【姜太公钓鱼,愿者上钩】

like the fish rising to Jiang Taigong's hookless and baitless line; willingly play into sb.'s hands; a willing victim letting himself be caught; willingly fall into the snare

## 【将错就错】

take the wrong and make the best of it; leave a mistake uncorrected and make the best of it; make the best of a mistake (a bad bargain) (without correcting it); over shoes over boots [例]他很快就发现事情并非像他所想象的那样,但是他将错就错,终于解决了问题。He soon discovered that things were not like what he had imagined, but he took the wrong and made the best of it and finally solved all the problems.

## 【将功补过】

make up for one's faults by good deeds;



make amends for one's faults by good deeds; make up for one's mistakes with new contributions; make up for one's mistakes by winning merit; atone for past mistakes [例]那次事故以后,他没有自暴自弃,而是寻找机会将功补过。He didn't give himself up because of the accident, but tried to *make up for his faults by good deeds*.

【将功赎罪】

redeem sins by good deeds; atone for a crime by good deeds; make amends for one's crimes by good deeds; atone for a crime by meritorious service; atone for error by meritorious deeds; expiate one's crime by good deeds [例]别再鄙视他了。他已经将功赎罪了。Don't despise him anymore. He *has redeemed his sins by good deeds*.

【将功折罪】

expiate one's crime by good deeds; lenient consideration for people's mistakes in view of past or future achievements

【将计就计】

meet another's scheme with one's own; counterplot; turn sb.'s trick against him; beat sb. at his own game [例]敌人很狡猾,但我们也许可以将计就计,击败他们。Our enemies are very tricky, but maybe we can make a *counterplot* to defeat them.

【将心比心】

judge other people's feelings by one's own; compare one's feeling with others; feel for others; have to see things through other people's eyes

【将信将疑】

half believing, half doubting; half believe and half doubt; halting between doubt and belief; indecision; take with a grain of salt [例]他将信将疑的态度很令人不快。

He had the air of *half believing and half doubting*, which was quite offensive.

【将欲取之,必先与之】

in order to take, one must first give; give in order to take

【匠心独运】

show ingenuity; have great originality

【降格以求】

set one's aim lower than usual; look for (person, thing) without insisting on the best; fall back on sth. inferior to what one originally wanted; accept a second best [例]如果找不到我们想要的,就只有降格以求了。If we can't find what we want, we'll have to *accept a second best*.

【交口称誉】

praised by one and all; praise unanimously be held in public esteem [例]他的英雄行为得到了交口称誉。He was *praised by one and all* for his heroic deeds.

【交头接耳】

speak in each other's ears; whisper into each other's ears; head to head; talk confidentially; whisper to each other; talk in whispers; bill and coo [例]我讨厌别人在我面前交头接耳的。I hate to see people *speak in each other's ears* in front of me.

【娇生惯养】

pampered since childhood; pampered by doting parents; brought up in clover; brought up in easy circumstances by doting parents; delicate upbringing (nurture); be spoiled (pampered) [例]他娇生惯养,一点苦也吃不得。Pampered since *childhood*, he couldn't bear any hardship.

【娇小玲珑】

delicate and exquisite, dainty and cute

【骄傲自满】

conceited and self-satisfied; arrogant and complacent [例]像他这样骄傲自满的

人迟早会从高处栽下来。A man as *conceited and self-satisfied* as him will sooner or later fall from his high position.

【骄兵必败】

An army puffed up with pride is bound to lose; Pride goes before a fall (destruction); Pride will have a fall [例]他们的失败证明了骄兵必败的道理。Their failure proved the truth that *pride goes before a fall*.

【骄奢淫逸】

pride, luxury, profligacy and idleness; lordly, luxury-loving, loose-living and idle; wallowing in luxury and dissipation (pleasure); extravagant and dissipated [例]骄奢淫逸的国王很快就失去了王位。Wallowing in luxury and dissipation, the king soon lost his throne.

【教猱升木】

teach a monkey to climb a tree; give boldness to an evil-doer; stir up bad people to evil

【蛟龙得水】

The flood-dragon gets to water; A hero gets an opportunity for showing his prowess; in the most congenial surroundings

【焦头烂额】

be severely burned in assisting to extinguish a fire — said of one who has worked under great hardship; utterly exhausted from overwork or anxiety; badly battered; in a terrible fix; be bruised and battered; be black and blue

【侥幸得免】

escape by good fortune

【侥幸取胜】

win by a fluke; gain victory by sheer good luck; win easy victory through good luck [例]在星期天的比赛中我们侥幸取胜。We won by a fluke in Sunday's match.

【狡兔三窟】

A wily hare has three burrows; A wily rabbit has several exits to its burrow; A crafty person has more than one hideout; elude discovery; burrow oneself in secret hideout; many provisions for cunning escape [例]狡兔三窟,谁知道他躲在什么地方? A wily hare has three burrows. Who knows where he is hiding?

【狡兔死,良狗烹】

After the cunning hare is killed, the hound is boiled; to kick out sb. after his service is no longer needed

【绞尽脑汁】

rack one's brains; beat one's brains; ransack one's brain [例]他绞尽脑汁地思考合适的方案。He racked his brains trying to work out a proper design.

【矫揉造作】

affected; airs and graces; artificial; prunes and prism; the affectedness of one's manner; unnaturally

【矫枉过正】

straighten the crooked beyond the straight; exceed the proper limits in righting a wrong; overcorrect; overdo in righting a wrong; take excessive measures; overshoot one's (the) marks [例]我们急欲办好事情的心情经常导致矫枉过正。Our anxiety to make everything perfect often results in *overcorrection*.

【脚踏两头便落空】

Between two stools a person falls to the ground.

【脚踏两只船】

straddle two boats; have a foot in either camp; sit on the fence; be a fence-sitter [例]他脚踏两只船,纯属自找麻烦。He was asking for trouble by *having a foot in either camp*.

【脚踏实地】

have one's feet planted on solid ground; stand on solid ground; earnest and down - to - earth; do solid work; down-to-earth [例]他向来脚踏实地,很受尊敬。He was respected because he was always *earnest and down - to - earth*.

【叫苦不迭】

(invariably) pour out endless grievances; constantly complain

【叫苦连天】

One's cry for bitterness is heavenly high; complain to high heaven; incessant grumbling (of one's hard lot); ventilate one's endless grievances [例]在火灾中失去财产的人叫苦连天。Those who lost their property in the fire *grumbled incessantly of their hard lot*.

【教学相长】

Both teacher and students make progress by learning from each other; Teaching benefits teacher and student alike; Teaching benefits teachers as well as students; Teaching and learning promote and enhance each other; to the benefit of both teachers and students; to teach is to learn; Teaching others teaches yourself.

【皆大欢喜】

Everybody is happy; to the satisfaction of all; Everybody is satisfied; satisfaction of everybody concerned [例]最后,人人都得到了自己想要的东西,皆大欢喜。Finally, *to the satisfaction of all*, everybody got what he wanted.

【接二连三】

one after another; in quick succession; repeatedly; continuously [例]他被拘留之后,为他求情的人接二连三地去找法官。After he was put in custody, those who wanted to put in a good word for him went to the judge *one after another*.

【接物待人】

attend a matter and receive a person; the way one conducts oneself in relation to others, the manner of dealing with people; the way one gets along with people

【接踵而来】

come hot on one another's heels; follow hard at heel; on the heels of; come one after another; arrive successively; come on uninterruptedly [例]为什么噩运总是接踵而来? Why is that misfortunes always *come one after another*?

【嗟悔无及】

too late for regrets and lamentations; it's too late to sign (regret) [例]他很快就发现自己错了,但已是嗟悔无及了。He soon discovered that he was wrong, but it was already *too late for regrets and lamentations*.

【嗟来之食】

food handed out in contempt; a handout [例]尽管他饿得快要死了,但他却不肯接受嗟来之食。Although he was starving, he wouldn't accept *handouts*.

【揭竿而起】

raise the standard of revolt; rise in rebellion; start an uprising; outbreak of revolt [例]军队揭竿而起,反抗残暴的政府。The army *rose in rebellion* against the evil government.

【街谈巷议】

street gossip; rumours; common talk [例]有时候,街谈巷议中也会有值得听的东西。Sometimes there might be something in *street gossip*.

【街头巷尾】

streets and lanes; street corners and alleys; everywhere in the street [例]父母离异后,他整天在街头巷尾游荡。After his parents got a divorce, everyday he would spend his time hanging around in *the streets and lanes*.

## 【孑然一身】

all alone in the world; solitary; lonely  
[例]妻子死后,他便孑然一身了。The death of his wife left him *all alone in the world*.

## 【节哀顺变】

restrain one's grief

## 【节节败退】

retreat in defeat again and again; keep on retreating

## 【节节胜利】

scoring one victory after another; win many victories in succession; go (push forward) from victory to victory; gain victory after victory [例]在新教练的指挥下,球队取得了节节胜利。The team scored one victory after another under the direction of the new coach.

## 【节外生枝】

branches springing from the joints; one complication arising from another; one complication leading to another; deliberately complicate an issue; cause complications; create (inject) side issues; side issues or new problems crop up unexpectedly; bring up unnecessary ramifications; proliferate issues and problems; raise obstacles [例]我们已经在尽力了,请不要节外生枝。We are trying our best. Please don't *deliberately complicate this issue*.

## 【节衣缩食】

economize (save) on food and clothing; live frugally [例]他们节衣缩食,供养父母。They *economized on food and clothing* in order to support their parents.

## 【劫富济贫】

rob the rich and help the poor; wrest (carry off) from the rich to help the poor [例]你以为你是劫富济贫,其实你是在犯法。You think you were *robbing the*

*rich and helping the poor*, but in fact you have offended the law.

## 【劫后余生】

be a survivor of a disaster; a lucky survivor from a holocaust; outlive a calamity

## 【劫数难逃】

a fatal lot is unavoidable

## 【诘屈聱牙】

(of writings) difficult to pronounce or comprehend [例]他觉得日语非常的诘屈聱牙。He found Japanese very *difficult to pronounce or comprehend*.

## 【洁身自好】

lead an honest and clean life; refuse to be contaminated by evil influence; keep oneself clean; preserve one's purity; exercise self-control so as to protect oneself from immorality; keep to one's own business; mind one's own business in order to keep out of trouble [例]在他的政治生涯中,他一直都很洁身自好。He had *led an honest and clean life* throughout his political career.

## 【结党营私】

form a clique to pursue selfish interests; set up cliques for one's own selfish interests; form a clique and scheme for evil purposes; gang together (for clandestine and illegal activities); narrow self-seeking clique; cabal [例]他们结党营私,干尽坏事。They *formed a clique to pursue selfish interests* and there was nothing they wouldn't do to serve their purpose.

## 【结发夫妻】

husband and wife by the first marriage

## 【桀骜不驯】

stubborn and intractable; obstinate and unruly [例]他的桀骜不驯让老板很恼火。He is *stubborn and intractable*, which annoys his boss very much.

## 【桀犬吠尧】

Jie's dog barked at Yao; the tyrant Jie's cur yapping at the sage king Yao; Everyone acts according to the nature of the man whom he serves; utterly unscrupulous in its zeal to please its master

【捷报频传】

Reports of victory come in quick succession; Triumphant news keeps pouring in; Reports of new successes keep pouring in [例]部队出发以后,捷报频传。Since the army left, *triumphant news keeps pouring in*.

【捷足先登】

The swift-footed arrive first; The early bird catches the worms; The most active will win; the race is to the swiftest; victory to the swift-footed; He that runs fastest gets the ring; outstrip everyone else

【截长补短】

take from the long to add to the short; cut from the long to supply the deficiency of the short; balance the score; make up a deficiency by the surplus; draw on the strength of one to offset the weakness of the other; even up scarcity and superabundance [例]我们没有很多布,只好截长补短了。Since we didn't have much cloth, we had to *take from the long to add to the short*.

【截然不同】

poles apart; completely (vastly, entirely) different; different as black and white; as alike as chalk and cheese [例]律师们关于这个问题的说法截然不同。The lawyers' opinions on the question were *poles apart*.

【截趾适履】

cut the toes to fit the shoes; stretch on the Procrustean bed [例]那么做就好比截趾适履。Doing that is like *cutting the toes to fit the shoes*.

【竭尽全力】

strive to the utmost of one's strength; to the best of one's ability; spare no effort (s); do one's utmost; do all one can; make all-out efforts; strain one's efforts; strain oneself to the limit; strain every nerve; with mind and main; go (to) all lengths (any length); tooth and nail; do one's level best; move heaven and earth; bring to bear [例]错不在你,你已经竭尽全力了。You are not to blame, for you have *done all you can*.

【竭泽而渔】

drain the pond to get (catch) all the fish; ruin the source of supply; fish out; kill the goose that lays the golden eggs [例]你们砍伐树木,纯属竭泽而渔。By cutting down the forest you're *ruining your source of supply*.

【解放思想】

emancipate the mind; free oneself from old ideas [例]解放思想对于我们的事业至关重要。Whether we can *free ourselves from old ideas* is vital to our cause.

【解甲归田】

take off one's armor and go home; take off one's armor and return to one's native place; retire from (military) service; be demobilized; quit military service and resume civilian life [例]为国家辛苦了一辈子,现在他想解甲归田了。Having worked hard for his country all his life, now he wanted to *retire from service*.

【解铃须用系铃人】

Whoever started the trouble should end it; Let him who tied the bell on the tiger take it off; The man who has tied the bell on the tiger's neck should untie it; Let the mischief-maker undo the mischief; The one who creates the problem should be the one to solve it; It is better for the doer to

undo what he has done; untie the knot one tied

**【解囊相助】**

help sb. generously with money [例]他永远不会忘记那些在他困难的时候解囊相助的人。He would never forget those people who *helped him generously with money* when he was poor.

**【戒骄戒躁】**

guard against pride and rashness (haste); guard against arrogance and rashness (impetuosity); be on guard against conceit and impetuosity; avoid conceit and impetuosity [例]母亲时常教导儿子要戒骄戒躁。The mother often taught her son to *guard against pride and rashness*.

**【戒奢崇俭】**

refrain from luxury and uphold frugality [例]领导干部一定要戒奢崇俭。The officials must *refrain from luxury and uphold frugality*.

**【借刀杀人】**

murder with a borrowed knife; do harm to sb. through the hands of another; kill sb. by another's hands; make use of another person to get rid of an adversary [例]他表面慈祥,其实藏着借刀杀人的心。Under his benevolent appearance, he was seeking to *kill somebody by another's hands*.

**【借风使船】**

sail with the wind; attain one's own end through the agency of sb. else

**【借公济私】**

seek for private interest through public affairs

**【借古讽今】**

use the past to disparage the present; use ancient things to satirize the present; borrow an ancient lesson to criticize a current practice [例]他借文章成功地借古讽

今。In his article, he did well in *using the past to disparage the present*.

**【借花献佛】**

borrow flowers to offer Buddha; present Buddha with borrowed flowers; offer sb. favors at the expense of another; borrow sth. to make a gift of it; make presents (a present) provided by sb. else

**【借酒浇愁】**

drink sorrow down; drown care in the wine bowl (cup); drown one's worries in drink

**【借尸还魂】**

be reincarnated in sb. else's body; (of a dead person's soul) find reincarnation in another's corpse; use corpse to resurrect the evil souls; (of sth. evil) revive in a new guise; resurrect in a new guise [例]近年来,一些迷信活动又以伪科学的形式借尸还魂。In the recent years, some blind worships *revived in the new guise* of so-called science.

**【借是友,讨是敌】**

he that does lend will lose his friend

**【借水行舟】**

borrow water to sail a boat

**【借题发挥】**

seize on some pretext to distort (the features, motives, truth, etc.); make use of the subject under discussion to put over one's own ideas; give vent to one's pent-up feelings on some extraneous pretext; seize on an incident to exaggerate matters; make use of a subject as a pretext for one's own talk; play on the theme of [例]他寻找机会借题发挥,使议案通不过。He tried to *seize on some pretext to distort the truth* so that the proposal wouldn't be passed.

**【巾帼英雄】**

heroine

**【今非昔比】**

The present cannot compare with the past; There is no comparison between the present and the past; Times have changed; The world today is no longer what it was before [例]过去妇女不许单独外出旅行,如今真是今非昔比。 *Time have changed* since the day when women were not allowed to travel alone.

#### 【今胜于昔】

The present is superior to the past; The present outshines the past.

#### 【今是昨非】

present are right and past are wrong; wake up to one's past folly after realizing what is right today; From what is right today, one sees the blunder made in the past [例]从狱中归来后,他惊奇地看到了家中的变化,倍感今是昨非。 After he came back from prison, he was surprised to see the changes in his family, and *from what was right today, he saw the blunder he made in the past.*

#### 【斤斤计较】

haggle over every ounce; be calculating and unwilling to make the smallest sacrifice (especially in monetary matters); square accounts in every detail; think about personal gains and losses [例]跟他做生意很难,因为他太斤斤计较了。 It's very difficult to do business with him, because he is too *calculating and unwilling to make the smallest sacrifice.*

#### 【金榜题名】

succeed in a government examination

#### 【金碧辉煌】

(of building, etc) looking splendid in green and gold; resplendent and magnificent; magnificent; splendid [例]故宫在夕阳下金碧辉煌。 In the sunset, the Imperial Palace *looked splendid in green and gold.*

#### 【金蝉脱壳】

a cicada leaving behind its cast-off part in molting; escape unnoticed; slip out of a predicament like a cicada sloughing its skin; escape like a cicada by casting off its skin; escape by cunning maneuvering; a disappearing act from an entangled situation; stratagem for slinking off [例]没人知道他是使了个什么金蝉脱壳之计从困局中跑掉的。 No one knows how he managed to *slip out of the predicament like a cicada sloughing its skin.*

#### 【金城汤池】

metal walls and scalding moat — an impregnable city; ramparts of metal and a moat of boiling water; a strong, well-guarded city; impregnable fortress; a strongly fortified city [例]这样的军队就算是金城汤池也能攻克下来。 Such army can capture even cities with *metal walls and scalding moat.*

#### 【金刚努目】

glare like a temple door god; be fierce of visage [例]他金刚努目的样子把孩子吓哭了。 The baby cried when seeing him *glare like a temple door god.*

#### 【金戈铁马】

shining spears and armored horses — a symbol of war in ancient China

#### 【金鸡独立】

standing on one foot as the cock does

#### 【金科玉律】

laws and regulations; golden rule and precious precept [例]他不会盲从任何金科玉律,除非那是经过实践检验过的。 He won't believe in any *laws and regulations* unless they are proved by practice.

#### 【金口玉言】

precious words; oracular words [例]他的弟子记录下他所说的一切,好像只是他说的就都是金口玉言。 His disci-

ples took down everything he said as if he said nothing but *precious words*.

## 【金兰之契】

sworn brothers; intimate friendship; sworn brotherhood; lasting friendship

## 【金迷纸醉】

(a life of) luxury and dissipation; living an extravagant life; given over to sensual pleasures; indulge in a wanton life

## 【金甌无缺】

golden bowl remaining intact; unimpaired territorial integrity

## 【金石丝竹】

(musical instruments made of) metals, stone, strings and bamboo

## 【金石为开】

Sincerity can make metal and stone crack; The utmost sincerity can influence even the metal and stone [例]到最后,金石为开,老人终于同意收他为徒。The utmost sincerity can influence even the metal and stone. At last the old man agreed to be his teacher.

## 【金石之交】

close and intimate friendship

## 【金屋藏娇】

live with one's young wife in a plush apartment; keep a mistress in a love nest; take a concubine

## 【金要足赤,人要完人】

gold must be pure and man must be perfect; perfectionism

## 【金玉良言】

a golden saying; valuable (invaluable) advice; good counsels; pearls of wisdom [例]年轻人听不进老师的金玉良言。The young man turned a deaf ear to his teacher's valuable advice.

## 【金玉之言】

precious and valued advice

## 【金玉其外,败絮其中】

rubbish coated in gold and jade; shining on the outside but rotten on the inside; fair without, foul within; being superficially showy but actually of little value (worth); a rotten interior beneath a fine exterior; the apple of Sodom [例]他那个漂亮的儿子是金玉其外,败絮其中。That pretty son of his is actually rubbish coated in gold and jade.

## 【金字招牌】

gold-lettered signboard; a vainglorious title

## 【津津乐道】

take delight in talking about; indulge in elaborating on; dwell upon with great relish; talk with great relish [例]他对别人的私事津津乐道。He took great delight in talking about others' personal affairs.

## 【津津有味】

with great interest; with much unction; extremely interested; with relish; with gusto; with keen pleasure; with zest [例]老人在讲述他过去的冒险,孩子们听得津津有味。The old man was talking about his past adventures and the children listened with great interest.

## 【筋疲力尽】

spirit and strength totally used up; utterly exhausted; played out; worn out; tired out; dead tired; extremely fatigued

## 【襟怀坦白】

straightforward; openhearted and above board; unselfish and magnanimous; have an open heart; largeness of mind [例]他襟怀坦白,无所畏惧。He is straightforward and afraid of nothing.

## 【紧箍咒】

inhibition; trammels

## 【紧锣密鼓】

wildly beating gongs and drums; intense



publicity campaign (in preparation for some sinister undertaking, etc.) [例] 紧锣密鼓地筹备了几周后, 竞选开始了。After weeks of *intense publicity campaigns*, the political campaign began.

【谨小慎微】

timid and overcautious; meticulous to a fault; timorous and punctilious; cautious and meticulous; prissy; overcautious in small matters [例] 谨慎没什么不好, 但是过于谨小慎微也会招来麻烦。It's all right to be cautious, but being too *timid and overcautious* might also cause trouble.

【谨言慎行】

speak and act cautiously; be discreet in word and deed; be prudent in making statements and careful in personal conducts; mind one's P's and Q's [例] 朝中为官, 谨言慎行至关重要。Being an official at the sovereign's court, one must *speak and act cautiously*.

【锦囊妙计】

a master stroke; instructions for dealing with an emergency; wise counsel; a secret master plan; ace in the hole; stratagem up one's sleeve; have a card up one's sleeve [例] 他看上去胸有成竹, 也许有什么锦囊妙计吧! He looked very confident. Maybe he had some *secret master plan*.

【锦上添花】

add flowers to the brocade; add flower to an embroidery; make perfection still more perfect; gild refined gold; win honor (success) one after another in quick succession

【锦绣河山】

beautiful landscape (like a brocade); a land of charm and beauty; beautiful land [例] 他的图画展现了我们祖国的锦绣

河山。His picture presents the *beautiful landscape* of our motherland.

【锦绣前程】

glorious future; bright prospect [例] 一次错误便断送了他的锦绣前程。Only one mistake and his *glorious future* was ruined.

【尽欢而散】

leave only after each has enjoyed himself to the utmost

【尽力而为】

try to do it with utmost effort; do one's best; shoot one's bolt; do everything in one's power [例] 只要尽力而为, 成功与否不是最重要的。It's not important whether we can succeed or not as long as we have *done our best*.

【尽其本分】

exhaust one's obligation; do one's part; do one's bit [例] 他这么做只不过是尽其本分而已。He is only *doing his part*.

【尽其所长】

work or endeavor to the best of one's ability

【尽人皆知】

be known to all; be common knowledge [例] 天网恢恢, 疏而不漏, 这是尽人皆知的道理。That God's justice is inescapable is *known to all*.

【尽人事, 听天命】

do one's level best and leave the rest to God's will; do what one can (to save a dying person, etc.); do all that is humanly possible (though with little hope of success)

【尽如人意】

just as one wishes; entirely satisfactory; to one's heart's content

【尽善尽美】

perfectly good and perfectly beautiful; the acme of perfection; perfect; satisfactory in every way; perfectly satisfactory

## 【尽心竭力】

(do sth.) with all one's heart and all one's might; exert one's heart and strength to the utmost; with heart and soul and with might and main; with all mind and energy; put forth the utmost exertion; do one's best according to one's might; put one's heart and soul into [例] 老爷去世后,他尽心竭力地服侍小主人。After the old lord passed away, he served the young lord *with all his heart and all his might*.

## 【尽忠报国】

be loyal and patriotic

## 【近水楼台】

waterside pavilion; a favorable position

## 【近水楼台先得月】

A waterside pavilion gets the moonlight first; Those on the waterfront are the first to see the rising moon.; enjoy the benefits of a favorable position; the advantage of being in a favored position

## 【近在咫尺】

close at hand; well within reach; just around the corner

## 【近朱者赤,近墨者黑】

He who stays near (the) vermilion gets stained red, and he who stays near (the) ink gets stained black; He who handles vermilion will be reddened, and he who touches ink will be blackened — of the influence of companionship; One who mixes with vermilion will turn red, one who touches pitch shall be defiled therewith; He who keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl; One takes on the color of one's company; moral influence by contact or close association; Touch pitch, and you will be defiled; He who lies with dogs will rise with fleas; Evil communications corrupt good manners.

## 【进寸退尺】

advance an inch and lose a foot; The loss outweighs the gain; The game is not worth the candle.

## 【进身之阶】

stepping-stone (in one's official career)

## 【进退两难】

difficult to advance or to retreat; equally difficult to go on or retreat; neither able to advance nor retreat; be in a dilemma; in a quandary; on the horns of a dilemma; be between two fires [例] 现在他进退两难,很后悔没听朋友的话。Now that he was *in a dilemma*, he regretted not having listened to his friends' words.

## 【进退维谷】

advance and retreat, both difficult; (caught) in a dilemma; to be in a cleft stick; between the devil and the deep (blue) sea; up a gum tree; stand at a nonplus; between Scylla and Charybdis [例] 他突然取回所有资金,弄得他的朋友进退维谷。His friends were *caught in a dilemma* when he suddenly withdrew all his money.

## 【进退失措】

equally difficult to go on or retreat; he kept in the air

## 【进退自如】

free to advance or to retreat (in a battle or game); have room for maneuver

## 【噤若寒蝉】

as silent as a cicada in cold weather; silent as the cicada in winter; keep quiet (silent) out of fear; maintain a discreet silence; mute as a mackerel (a mouse, a poker, a fish, a statue, a stone); keep mum about [例] 皇帝一发怒,手下的大臣一个个噤若寒蝉。The emperor got angry and all his chancellors *kept quiet out of fear*.

## 【泾渭不分】

cannot distinguish between the rivers Jing and Wei; make no such distinction between good and evil (black and white); unable to distinguish between the clear and the muddy [例]他的讲话泾渭不分。His speech *made no distinction between good and evil*.

【泾渭分明】

as different as the waters of the Jinghe River and the Weihe River; make a clear distinction between good and evil; be quite distinct from each other; make a clear distinction between purity and impurity; entirely different [例]对于有良知的人来说,善与恶总是泾渭分明的。Any conscientious man will *make a clear distinction between good and evil*.

【经年累月】

for years; a long - drawn - out period; year in year out; for months and years on end [例]他经年累月地在农村进行各种调查。He made investigations in the countryside *for years*.

【经验之谈】

remark made by one who has had experience; the wise remark of an experienced person

【经一事,长一智】

by every experience a person increases his knowledge

【荆棘载途】

a path overgrown with brambles; a path beset with difficulties

【惊弓之鸟】

a bird that starts at the sight of a bow; a bird startled by the mere twang of a bow-string; the bird that has been injured by the bow; a badly frightened person; a panic-stricken person; A burned child fears fire; A scalded cat dreads cold water. [例]自从那次死里逃生之后,他

就变成了惊弓之鸟,见不得陌生人。Ever since that narrow escape he had been like *a bird that starts at the sight of a bow* whenever he saw a stranger coming near.

【惊惶失措】

frightened out of one's wits; be thrown into panic and confusion; lose one's head; in a state of panic; be seized (struck) with (a) panic; be thrown into a panic; be overwhelmed in astonishment; all in a fluster; out of countenance; like a dying duck in a thunderstorm [例]消息传来,大家都惊惶失措。When the news came, we were all *frightened out of our wits*.

【惊魂未定】

not yet recovered from a fright; still badly shaken; have hardly recovered from a recent shock; not yet recovered from one's astonishment [例]她险些被车撞着,惊魂未定之际,钱包被人偷了。She was nearly hit by a car and as she had *not yet recovered from the fright*, someone stole her wallet.

【惊恐万状】

be struck with panic; be greatly paralyzed with fear; be in a great panic; be terribly frightened; convulsed with fear; extremely panicky; be thrown into consternation; in a blue funk; be scared stiff; (as) scared as a rabbit; thunderstruck [例]目睹了这场谋杀,她惊恐万状。She was *struck with panic* at the sight of the murder.

【惊涛骇浪】

terrifying waves; raging (terrifying, tempestuous) waves; stormy sea; fearful (fierce, violent, tempestuous) storm; a situation or life full of perils; perilous situation [例]小船在惊涛骇浪中上下颠簸。The small boat was tossed in the *stormy sea*.

## 【惊天地,泣鬼神】

startle the universe and move the gods  
[例]他的故事可以惊天地,泣鬼神。  
His story could *startle the universe and move the gods*.

## 【惊天动地】

shaking heaven and earth; sky - rocking and earth shaking; earthshaking; world - shaking; startle heaven and move the earth; startle the universe; astounding; tremendous [例]这么惊天动地的事情你居然不知道! It was such an *earth-shaking* event, but you should never have heard of it!

## 【惊心动魄】

soul - stirring; hair - raising; profoundly affecting; profoundly moving; struck with fright or horror; breathtaking [例]那些目睹了那惊心动魄的一幕的人几个星期以后还在谈论它。Those who witnessed that *breathtaking* event were still talking about it after several weeks.

## 【惊心怵目】

be thoroughly frightened

## 【兢兢业业】

cautious and conscientious (attentive); be conscientious and earnest; be conscientious and do one's (very) best; be studious of (one's business); with assiduity [例]他工作向来兢兢业业。He is always *cautious and attentive* with his work.

## 【精兵简政】

better troops and simpler administration; better staff and simpler administration; picked troops and simplified administration; streamlined administration [例]总裁一上任就实行精兵简政。As soon as he came, the general manager implemented a *streamlined administration*.

## 【精诚所至,金石为开】

Sincerity can make metal and stone crack;

The utmost sincerity can influence even the metal and stone; Complete sincerity can affect even metal and stone.

## 【精打细算】

careful calculation and strict budgeting; careful planning and detailed calculation; pinch pennies; be very careful in reckoning; count every cent and make every cent count; use one's calculated funds with meticulous care [例]他每个月都必须精打细算以免入不敷出。Every month he had to *pinch pennies* to make ends meet.

## 【精雕细刻】

meticulous work; work at sth. with the care and precision of a sculptor; work at sth. with great care; give sth. careful revision; elaborate [例]他一番不必要的精雕细刻反而损害了艺术品原有的美。His unnecessary *meticulous work* spoiled the original beauty of the work of art.

## 【精耕细作】

intensive and meticulous farming; intensive cultivation

## 【精明强干】

skilled and capable; intelligent (shrewd) and capable; able and efficient [例]她看上去很纤弱,其实却非常精明强干。Although she looked very delicate, she was in fact both *skilled and capable*.

## 【精疲力竭】

have used up all energy; (utterly) exhausted; be completely exhausted; be extremely tired out; (feel) tired out; worn out; spent; be dead - tired; be dog - tired; be over - spent; be fagged out; run down [例]救上两个溺水儿童之后,他已经精疲力竭了。After saving the two drowning children, he was *utterly exhausted*.

## 【精神抖擞】

in high spirits; full of energy; brace up; vigorous and energetic; full of beans; in great form [例]孩子们精神抖擞地冲向营地。The children ran towards the camping ground *in high spirits*.

**【精神焕发】**

brimming with energy; in high (good) spirits; fresh with energy; vigorous [例]从夏威夷旅游回来后他看上去精神焕发。Back from the trip to Hawaii he was *brimming with energy*.

**【精卫填海】**

the mythical bird Jingwei trying to fill up the sea with pebbles — a symbol of dogged determination; a mythical bird which tries to fill up the ocean with twigs and pebbles

**【精心炮制】**

elaborately cook up; be carefully dished up [例]这是他精心炮制的一出闹剧。It was a melodrama *elaborately cooked up* by him.

**【精益求精】**

constantly improve sth.; keep improving; always endeavor to do still better; seek for ever greater perfection; perfect one's skill constantly; ever seeking refinement in what one does; strive for perfection [例]只有对产品精益求精,我们才能不断开拓市场。Only by *constantly improving our products* can we keep broadening our market.

**【精忠报国】**

be loyal and patriotic

**【井底之蛙】**

a frog in a well; a frog living at the bottom of a well; a man of very limited experience; a person with a very limited outlook; a person of narrow view; one ignorant of the world [例]年轻人到了巴黎后,发现自己从前就像一只井底之蛙,

什么也不知道。After the young man arrived in Paris, he found that he had been like *a frog living at the bottom of a well* who knew nothing about the world.

**【井井有条】**

well-arranged; in perfect order; be arranged in good (regular, perfect) order; in an orderly manner; in apple-pie order; well-regulated; orderly; shipshape; methodical; systematic [例]新市长上任以后,一切都治理得井井有条。After the new mayor took the post, everything was *arranged in good order*.

**【井水不犯河水】**

Well water does not intrude into river water; The well water does not interfere with the river water; I'll mind my own business, you mind yours; Each minds his own business; None may encroach upon the precincts of another.

**【径情直遂】**

as direct and smooth as one would wish; as smoothly as one would wish; easily win what one desires [例]社会发展并不是径情直遂的。The development of society won't be *as direct and smooth as one would wish*.

**【敬而远之】**

stay at a respectful distance from sb.; keep sb. at a respectful distance; keep a respectful distance from sb.; respect but do not be too familiar with; keep one at a distance; keep sb. at arm's length; give a wide berth to [例]他这人喜怒无常,大家都对他敬而远之。He was very moody and people all *kept a respectful distance from him*.

**【敬鬼神而远之】**

respect spiritual beings but keep them at a distance; keep a person at a distance

**【敬酒不吃吃罚酒】**

refuse a toast only to drink a forfeit; be constrained to do what one at first declined; submit to sb.'s pressure after first turning down his request [例]他敬酒不吃吃罚酒,太傻了。He was stupid enough to *be constrained to do what he had at first declined*.

### 【镜花水月】

flowers in a mirror and (or) the moon in the water; an illusion; beautiful but evanescent dreams; insubstantial [例]眼看着自己美丽的梦想变成了镜花水月,他的心碎了。His heart was broken when he saw his beautiful dreams become like *flowers in a mirror and the moon in the water*.

### 【迥然不同】

definitely (widely, utterly) different; utterly unlike; not in the least alike; diametrically different; as different as chalk from cheese [例]我的政治见解跟他迥然不同。My political views are *definitely different* from his.

### 【炯炯有神】

(of eyes) bright piercing [例]很少有人敢于直视他那双炯炯有神的眼睛。Few people dare to look into his *bright piercing eyes*.

### 【纠缠不清】

too tangled up to unravel; get terribly entangled [例]他的家事纠缠不清。His family affairs were *too tangled up to unravel*.

### 【九九归一】

when all is said and done; in the last analysis; after all; in the final analysis; all in all; in the end

### 【九牛二虎之力】

the strength of nine bulls and two tigers; a tremendous amount of labor; tremendous effort; herculean efforts; utmost exertion

[例]他费了九牛二虎之力才把钢琴搬到另一个房间。It took him a *tremendous amount of labor* to move the piano to another room.

### 【九牛一毛】

a single hair out of nine ox hides; one hair from nine oxen; a drop in the ocean (bucket); the slightest particle; a very small minority [例]这一点钱对他来说只是九牛一毛。To him this sum of money is just *a drop in the ocean*.

### 【九泉之下】

below in the nine springs in the nether regions; after death

### 【九死一生】

a narrow escape from death; survival after many hazards; extremely hazardous; only one chance of life in ten; a near thing to death; a near go; ninety percent death; only the barest chance of living; escape with bare life; a hair-breadth escape; a tight squeak; be (have) a close shave; imminent danger

### 【九霄云外】

beyond the nine clouds; (cast to) the winds; beyond the highest heavens; far, far away; (flung to) the four winds

### 【久别重逢】

meet again after a long separation reunite after a long parting

### 【久病成(良)医】

Prolonged illness makes the patient a (good) doctor; Chronicle disease makes a (good) doctor of a patient

### 【久而久之】

as time passes; in the course of time; in the long run; after a long time [例]他哥哥经常借钱给他,久而久之,他就习惯了,变得十分依赖。His brother often lent money to him. *As time passed*, he got accustomed to that and became a depen-

dant.

【久旱(逢)甘雨】

(have) a welcome rain after a long drought; genial shower after a long drought; have a long - felt need satisfied

【久候不至】

not turn up after a long waiting

【久假不归】

put off indefinitely returning sth. one has borrowed; appropriate sth. borrowed (for one's own use)

【久经风霜】

have experienced all sorts of hardships; be weather - beaten

【久闻大名】

have long heard of sb.'s great name

【酒不醉人人自醉】

It's not the wine that intoxicates the drinker, who gets himself drunk

【酒逢知己千杯少】

When drinking with a bosom friend, a thousand cups will still be too few

【酒酣耳热】

warmed with wine; mellow with drink

【酒后吐真言】

In wine there is truth; When wine is in truth is out; One speaks the truth over the cups.

【酒囊饭袋】

wine skin (pot) and rice bag — a term of abuse for a gluttonous man who is also useless and ignorant; a good - for - nothing (person); useless person good only for feasting and drinking [例]他的朋友都是酒囊饭袋。All his friends are *useless persons good only for feasting and drinking*.

【酒肉朋友】

wine - and - meat friend; fair - weather friends [例]你以为你那些酒肉朋友在关键时候会帮你吗? Do you think those *wine - and - meat friends* of yours will

help you when you are in trouble?

【酒色财气】

wine, women, avarice and pride — the four cardinal vices

【酒色之徒】

one who loves wine and women

【旧病复发】

have a recurrence of an old illness; have a relapse; slip back into old ways

【旧仇宿怨】

old grudge (feuds); inveterate hatred

【旧地重游】

revisit a once familiar place; revisit a place [例]旧地重游,他无限凄伤。He felt so sad *revisiting the once familiar place*.

【旧调重弹】

harp (repeat, sing) on the same old tune (s); harp on one (the same) string; repeat the shop - worn stuff [例]老师旧调重弹,要大家重视学习。The teacher *harped on the same old tunes* of the importance of study.

【旧恨新仇】

all the old and recent sorrows; new hatred piled on old [例]旧恨新仇交集之下,他发誓要杀了仇人。With *new hatred piled on old*, he swore that he would kill his enemy.

【旧梦重温】

renew a sweet experience of bygone days

【旧瓶装新酒】

(put) new wine in an old bottle; new concepts in an old framework [例]旧瓶装新酒是行不通的。It won't work to put *new wine in an old bottle*.

【咎由自取】

One brings the trouble on oneself; have only oneself to blame; The fault lies with oneself; That serves him right, he asks for it; deserving reproof [例]他这是咎由自

取。He had only himself to blame.

**【咎有应得】**

one deserves blame; serve one right; open to censure [例]他被解雇是咎有应得。

It served him right that he was fired.

**【救苦救难】**

help the needy and relieve the distressed; help suffering people

**【救命稻草】**

a straw to clutch at [例]他看到父亲就像看到了救命稻草。When he saw his father come, he felt like a drowning man who suddenly had a straw to clutch at.

**【救人一命,胜造七级浮屠】**

better save one life than build a seven-story pagoda

**【救死扶伤】**

heal the wounded and rescue the dying [例]他一生都在从事救死扶伤的工作。He spent his life healing the wounded and rescuing the dying.

**【救亡图存】**

save the nation from subjugation and ensure its survival; save one's country so that it may survive; save one's country from great danger [例]在抗战期间,很多中国青年都献身子救亡图存的事业。During the Anti-Japan War, a lot of Chinese youth devoted themselves to the cause of saving the nation from subjugation and ensuring its survival.

**【就地取材】**

use local materials; use locally available materials; make use of indigenous materials; obtain raw materials on the spot; draw on local resources [例]进口原料太贵,我们最好就地取材。We had better use local materials while the imported ones are too expensive.

**【就事论事】**

judge the case as it stands; consider sth.

as it stands; take the matter as it stands; confine oneself merely to facts as they are [例]就事论事,我认为你的孩子学骑车还太小了。To judge the case as it stands, I think your child is still too young to learn to ride a bicycle.

**【拘守绳墨】**

stick to the rules; rigidly follow the rules

**【居安思危】**

think of danger in times of peace; be prepared for danger in times of peace; be vigilant in peace time; provide against danger while living in peace

**【居高临下】**

occupy a high position and descend down; look down from a height; occupy a commanding position (height); hold a vantage ground (point); (dash) from the vantage ground; overlook from a vantage point; take on a condescending air [例]敌人的军队抢先一步到达山丘,占据了一个居高临下的地点。The enemy's army arrived at the hill earlier than us and occupied a commanding position.

**【居功自傲】**

pride oneself on one's merits; claim credit for oneself and become arrogant; self-styled hero; become arrogant because of one's achievements [例]尽管他多次挽救了我们的部队,却从不居功自傲。Although he had saved our army for many times, he never prided himself on his merits.

**【居心叵测】**

harbor (have) evil intentions; cherish (have) evil (dark) designs; with concealed intentions; with hidden intent; with ulterior motives; false-hearted; evil-minded; insidious [例]他是个居心叵测的家伙。He is a man who harbors evil intentions.



## 【鞠躬尽瘁】

bend oneself to a task and exert oneself to the utmost; spare no effort in the performance of one's duty; fag oneself to death

## 【鞠躬尽瘁,死而后已】

bend one's back to the task until one's dying day; give one's all till one's heart stops beating; have dedicated one's life to a cause; give oneself entirely to public service [例]在他人党的那一天,他说他要鞠躬尽瘁,死而后已。On the day he joined the Party, he swore that he would *give his all till his heart stops beating*.

## 【局促不安】

ill at ease; feel constraint; be (feel) abashed; like a cat on hot bricks; uneasy; perturbed [例]第一次面对观众,他很局促不安。He felt *ill at ease* when he faced the audience for the first time.

## 【举案齐眉】

hold the tray level with the brows; husband and wife treating each other with courtesy; A married couple love and respect each other for life.

## 【举不胜举】

too tremendous to mention; provide countless instances [例]古代中国的伟大哲学家举不胜举。The ancient China *provides countless instances* of great philosophers.

## 【举措失当】

make (take) false moves; make an ill-advised move [例]他在处理这场危机时举措失当。He *made false moves* in handling the crisis.

## 【举国上下】

the whole nation; people all over the country; throughout the nation [例]周总理去世后,举国上下沉浸在悲哀之中。The *whole nation* was in deep mourning over the death of Premier Zhou.

## 【举目无亲】

not a relative or a friend to be seen; find no kin to turn to; have no one to turn to (for help); be a stranger in a strange land; a stranger in a strange place; far away from one's kin; find oneself in a forlorn position [例]在这个城市里他举目无亲。He *had no one to turn to* in this city.

## 【举棋不定】

hesitate in making a move at chess; be unable to make up one's mind; hesitate about (over) what move to make; vacillate; shilly-shally [例]面对邀请他举棋不定。He *was unable to make up his mind* whether to accept the invitation.

## 【举世闻名】

be known to all the world; of world renown; world-famous [例]埃及的金字塔是举世闻名的建筑。The Egyptian pyramids are *world-famous* structures.

## 【举世无敌】

without an equal in the world; with (find) no match in the world; matchless in the world [例]巴西足球一度举世无敌。Once the Brazilian football team was *without an equal in the world*.

## 【举世无双】

unparalleled anywhere in the world; unmatched in the world; unrivalled; matchless; second to none; peerless [例]中国的精美丝绸举世无双。The delicate silk produced in China is *unrivalled*.

## 【举世瞩目】

attract worldwide attention; become the focus of world attention; world spotlight [例]这将是举世瞩目的发现。The *discovery will attract worldwide attention*.

## 【举手之劳】

lift a finger

## 【举一反三】

infer other things from one fact; draw inferences about other cases from one instance; From a part we may judge (divine) the whole; learn by analogy; raise one corner of a subject and expect the pupil to infer the other three [例]教师要培养学生举一反三的能力。The teacher should develop the students' ability of *inferring other things from one fact*.

## 【举足轻重】

play a decisive role; hold the balance; prove decisive; count for much; carry a big weight in; tip (turn) the beam [例]林肯在美国历史上起过举足轻重的作用。Lincoln *played a decisive role* in American history.

## 【拒谏饰非】

reject (refuse) representations and gloss over errors; reject criticisms and whitewash one's mistakes; the rejection of criticisms and the whitewashing of one's mistakes

## 【拒人于千里之外】

keep people a thousand miles away; keep a good distance from; have no leeway to consult with; be arrogant and unapproachable [例]拒人于千里之外对你没有任何好处。It won't do you any good to *keep a good distance from* others.

## 【具体而微】

small but complete; have all the things available but in small proportions; miniature; have everything in miniature

## 【据理力争】

argue strongly on sound (just) grounds; argue on the basis of reason; try to convince one's opponent with an argument [例]在法庭上他据理力争,终于获胜。In the court, he *argued strongly on sound grounds* and finally won the case.

## 【据为己有】

make sth. one's own; appropriate to oneself (what rightfully belongs to another); take forcible possession of; appropriate; rob for oneself [例]你怎么能把国家财产据为己有? How could you *appropriate* the state property for yourself?

## 【聚精会神】

concentrate one's attention and energy; focus one's attention on; concentrate one's attention; be absorbed in; rivet one's attention on (upon); be all attention; with rapt attention [例]他看书看得聚精会神,没听到水开了。He was so *absorbed in* the book that he didn't hear the water boiling.

## 【聚沙成塔】

Many grains of sand piled up will make a pagoda; Many a little makes a mickle; A pin a day is a great a year.

## 【聚讼纷纭】

Opinions are widely divided; argue back and forth without coming to an agreement; Opinions differ widely; argue back and forth and cannot agree; be at variance with each other [例]贪污官吏遭到杀害,一时之间,对于事实真相,聚讼纷纭。After the corrupt official was killed, *opinions were widely divided* about the truth of the whole matter.

## 【遽然变色】

suddenly change one's countenance

## 【捐弃前嫌】

throw away the past resentment [例]人们很高兴看到两位将军捐弃前嫌,重归于好。People were happy to see the two generals *throw away the past resentment* and be friends again.

## 【捐躯赴难】

sacrifice one's life; lay down one's life

## 【涓滴归公】

turn in every cent of public money

## 【卷土重来】

stage a comeback; make a strong effort to recover lost ground after a defeat; bounce back; bob up like a cork; renew an effort after failure [例]敌人在等待时机卷土重来。The enemy was waiting for the chance of *staging a comeback*.

## 【卷席而逃】

roll up one's mat and run away

## 【决一雌雄】

fight to see who is the stronger; fight it out [例]既然言语不能决定谁更配得上这个女孩,两个男人决定用剑来决一雌雄。Since words couldn't decide who was the better man for the girl, the two men decided to *fight it out* with swords.

## 【决一死战】

wage a life - and - death battle; fight to the bitter end; fight to the death

## 【绝处逢生】

escape by the skin of one's teeth; be unexpectedly rescued from a desperate situation; find one's way out from an impasse

## 【绝代佳人】

beauty of beauties; an incomparable beauty; a beautiful woman of unsurpassed beauty

## 【绝口不提】

refuse to say anything about; never say a single word about; avoid all mention of; be absolutely silent about [例]他绝口不

提我过去的过失,我十分感激。I was very grateful that he *never said a single word about* my past mistakes.

## 【绝无仅有】

the only one of its kind; unique; singular of its kind; one and the only one; on extremely rare occasions [例]这种麦子在世界上是绝无仅有的。This kind of wheat is *unique* in the world.

## 【侷头侷脑】

blunt of manner and gruff of speech

## 【军令如山】

Military orders cannot be disobeyed or revoked; A military order has the force of a landslide.

## 【君临天下】

govern (rule) the country the sovereign descends the world

## 【君权神授】

divine right of kings

## 【君无戏言】

the king's words are to be taken seriously

## 【君子成人之美】

A gentleman is always ready to help others attain their aims (goals).

## 【君子一言,快马一鞭】

A word from the princely man is a sufficient incentive for action.

## 【君子之交淡如水】

The friendship between gentlemen appears indifferent but is pure like water.

## K

## 【开诚布公】

(speak) frankly and sincerely; open - heartedly; open one's heart to sb.; come out into the open; straight from the shoulder; wear (pin) one's heart on one's sleeve; unbosom (oneself) [例]让我们开诚布公,以改善我们的合作。Let's open our hearts to each other so as to improve our cooperation.

## 【开诚相见】

deal with each other in all sincerity; treat sb. open - heartedly [例]既然你对我开诚相见,我也不会亏待你。Since you treat me open - heartedly, I will not let you down.

## 【开花结果】

blossom and bear fruit; yield positive results [例]他的努力终于开花结果了。His efforts have finally yielded positive results.

## 【开卷有益】

reading is always profitable; reading enriches the mind

## 【开路先锋】

path - breaker; trailblazer; pioneer

## 【开门红】

make a good beginning; got off to a good start

## 【开门见山】

let the door open on a view of mountains (- of speech, conversation); come straight to the point; declare one's intention right at the outset; declare one's intention immediately; put it bluntly; without beating about the bush [例]他一进来就开门见山地向我借钱。After he came in, he came straight to the point and

asked me to lend him some money.

## 【开门揖盗】

open the door to robbers; open the door for the robbers; ask for trouble; let in (invite) disaster by letting in evildoers; put the cat near the goldfish [例]他把两个嫌疑犯请到家中简直是开门揖盗。He was asking for trouble by inviting the two suspects to his house.

## 【开山祖师】

a founder; the founder (of a religious sect or a school of thought); an originator [例]这么做有悖于这个教派的开山祖师所立下的规矩。Doing this was against the rules set by the founder of the religious sect.

## 【开台锣鼓】

a flourish of gongs and drums introducing a theatrical performance

## 【开天辟地】

since the separation of heaven and earth; epoch - making; the creation of the world; genesis; since the dawn of history; since the beginning of history; from the creation of the universe [例]中华人民共和国的成立是一件开天辟地的大事。The foundation of the People's Republic of China is an epoch - making event.

## 【开源节流】

broaden sources of income and reduce expenditure; open up the source and regulate the flow; earn more income and cut down expenses; increase income and decrease expenditure; tap new resources (of revenue) and economize on expense (expenditure); find new sources of income while cutting down expenses [例]我们的新上

司采取的措施之一就是开源节流。One measure adopted by our new boss is to *broaden sources of income and cut down expenses*.

【开宗明义】

make clear the purpose and main theme from the very beginning; state the purpose from the very beginning; make clear the purpose (the main theme) in the opening chapter (sentences) [例]这个作家的一个特点就是喜欢开宗明义。One habit of the writer is that he likes to *make clear the purpose and main theme from the very beginning*.

【凯旋归来】

return in triumph; return with flying colors; return with drums beating and banners flying [例]我们期待着战士们凯旋归来。We were looking forward to seeing our soldiers *return in triumph*.

【慷慨应允】

generously promise [例]尽管知道很难,他还是慨然应允了朋友的请求。He *generously promised* to help his friend, although he knew that it would be a difficult job.

【侃侃而谈】

talk with ease and fluency; speak calmly and confidently; speak (talk) with fervor and assurance [例]在席间,这位律师就案情侃侃而谈。During the dinner, the lawyer *talked* about the case *with fervor and assurance*.

【看菜吃饭,量体裁衣】

fit the appetite to the dishes and the dress to the figure; adapt oneself to circumstances

【看风使帆】

trim one's sails; adapt oneself to circumstances [例]要想在这儿呆得长久,就得学会看风使帆。If you want to stay

here long, you must be able to *adapt yourself to circumstances*.

【看破红尘】

be disillusioned with the mortal world; see through the vanity of life [例]你年纪轻轻就说自己看破红尘,真是荒唐。It's ridiculous for a young man like you to say that he has been *disillusioned with the mortal world*.

【康庄大道】

broad road; main road; wide free road

【慷慨悲歌】

chant in a heroic but mournful tone

【慷慨陈词】

present one's views vehemently

【慷慨激昂】

(express sth.) with deep feelings and enthusiasm; in lofty and energetic spirits; in a moving, vehement and excited tone; be righteously indignant (at some action or over some cause); impassioned; vehement [例]检察官在陪审团面前慷慨激昂地呼吁一定要严惩凶手。The attorney appealed to the jury *with deep feelings and enthusiasm* that the murderer must be severely punished.

【慷慨解囊】

generous in loosening the (one's) purse-strings; give alms liberally; help sb. generously with money; make generous contributions (of funds); munificent [例]朋友有困难他总是慷慨解囊。He would help his friends *generously with money* whenever they need it.

【慷慨就义】

go to one's death like a hero; die a martyr's death; die a hero [例]他不肯向敌人屈膝,最后慷慨就义。He refused to surrender to the enemy and eventually *died a martyr's death*.

【慨他人之慨】

be generous at others' expense

**【靠山吃山,靠水吃水】**

those living on a mountain live off (get their living from) the mountain, those living near the water live off (get their living from) the water; one has to make use of whatever resources available; make use of local resources [例]对于我们这样的城市来说,建设经济仅仅是靠山吃山,靠水吃水是行不通的。As far as our city is concerned, it won't work to build up economy only by *making use of local resources*.

**【苛捐杂税】**

exorbitant taxes and miscellaneous levies; multifarious taxes [例]在康熙皇帝的统治期间,人民被免除了苛捐杂税。During the reign of Emperor Kangxi, people were released from the burden of *exorbitant taxes and miscellaneous levies*.

**【苛政猛于虎】**

harsh government; oppressive government; tyrannical government; tyranny

**【磕磕绊绊】**

stumble; walk with difficulty; bumpy; limping

**【磕磕撞撞】**

stagger along; reel; walk unsteadily [例]那个醉鬼磕磕撞撞地向家中走去。The drunk man *walked unsteadily* towards his home.

**【磕头碰脑】**

bump against things on every side; push and bump one another

**【可乘之机】**

an opportunity that can be exploited to sb.'s advantage [例]姐姐的软弱给了他可乘之机。His sister's flabbiness gave him *an opportunity that could be exploited to his advantage*.

**【可歌可泣】**

capable of evoking praises and tears; heroic and moving; touching [例]王海的英雄行为可歌可泣。Wang Hai's valiant act was *heroic and moving*.

**【可望而不可即】**

within sight but beyond reach; unattainable; inaccessible [例]对于巴尔扎克来说,闲适的生活是可望而不可即的。For Balzac a life that was both leisurely and comfortable was *within sight but beyond reach*.

**【可想而知】**

you can imagine; imaginable [例]他这人向来吝啬,可想而知,他不会捐钱的。He is very stingy. *You can imagine* that he won't contribute money.

**【可意会不可言传】**

can be understood but can not be described [例]音乐的魅力可意会不可言传。The charm of music *can be understood but can not be described*.

**【可有可无】**

may or may not be needed; not essential; not indispensable; [例]对于他来说,钢琴是可有可无的。To him, a piano was *not essential* in his life.

**【可遇而不可求】**

may come by (sth.) with luck, but not by searching for it; sth. unique which may come by chance but not by diligent search [例]好的搭档可遇而不可求。A good partner *comes by with luck, but not by searching for it*.

**【克敌制胜】**

gain (have, obtain, win) a victory over the enemy; vanquish the enemy; conquer the enemy; gain mastery over the enemy [例]这位将军知道如何克敌制胜,却不知道如何让自己的儿子听话。The general *knew how to conquer the enemy* but didn't know how to make his own son listen

to him.

【克己奉公】

work selflessly for the common good; wholehearted devotion to public duty; work selflessly for the public interest [例]人们都赞扬他克己奉公的精神。People praised him for his *wholehearted devotion to public duty*.

【克己复礼】

deny self and return to propriety

【克勤克俭】

be industrious and frugal; practice diligence and economy; be able to practice diligence and frugality; diligent and economical [例]经济萧条时,大家克勤克俭,度过难关。When there was an economic slump, we *practiced diligence and economy* to survive the crisis.

【刻不容缓】

must not lose a minute; not a moment to be lost; brook (admit of) no delay; demand (call for) immediate attention; be of great urgency; be all the more urgent [例]拯救大熊猫刻不容缓。We *mustn't lose a minute* to rescue the pandas.

【刻骨铭心】

be engraved in the bones and printed on the heart; be imprinted on one's bones and in one's mind; bear in mind forever; remember with gratitude to the end of one's life; engraved on the heart; inscribe debt of gratitude on one's mind [例]她留给了他刻骨铭心的回忆。The memory of her will be *born in his mind forever*.

【刻意求工】

try to do one's very best to achieve perfection; sedulously strive for perfection

【刻舟求剑】

cut a mark on the side of one's boat to indicate the place where one's sword has

dropped into the river; try to find the sword by carving a mark on the gunwale of one's moving boat where one's sword has dropped into the river; ridiculous stupidity; take measures without regard to changes in circumstances

【恪守不渝】

strictly abide by (stick to); submissively obey; scrupulously abide by (a treaty, promise, etc.) [例]他对自己认为是对的事恪守不渝。He *strictly sticks to* what he thinks is right.

【铿锵有力】

be sonorous and forceful [例]他铿锵有力的发言令所有人激动不已。His *sonorous and forceful* speech excited every one.

【空洞无物】

an empty cave without anything; utter lack of substance; devoid of content; as bare as the palm of one's hand [例]他的文章空洞无物。His article is *devoid of content*.

【空空如也】

absolutely empty; (completely) empty; all empty; having nothing in it [例]他打开保险柜,发现里面空空如也。He opened the safe only to find it was *all empty*.

【空口说白话】

make empty promises; speak without taking action; pay lip service [例]他是在空口说白话,你怎么能相信他? How can you believe him? He is *making empty promises*.

【空口无凭】

A mere verbal statement is no guarantee; Mere verbal statement has no binding force

【空前绝后】

unprecedented and unrepeatable; without both precedent and following up; unique

[例]唐宋诗词在中国文学史上取得了空前绝后的成就。What achieved by the poetry of the Tang and the Song dynasties is *unprecedented and unrepeatable* in Chinese literature.

**【空前未有】**

it has never been known before; unprecedented; without parallel [例]据说是海伦空前未有的美貌引发了特洛伊战争。It is said that the cause of the Trojan war was the *unprecedented* beauty of Helen.

**【空头支票】**

a dud (rubber) check; a false (bad) check; empty promise; lip service [例]他说要帮我修自行车只是空头支票。His promise to repair my bicycle was just *lip service*.

**【空穴来风】**

an empty hole invites the wind; weakness lends wings to rumors

**【空中楼阁】**

castles in the air; daydream; a groundless plan; a vain hope; realm of fancy; castles in Spain

**【孔孟之道】**

the doctrine of Confucius and Mencius

**【口碑载道】**

be praised everywhere [例]岳飞精忠报国,口碑载道。Yue Fei was *praised everywhere* for his loyalty to his country.

**【口惠而实不至】**

empty promise without substance; make a promise and not keep it; pay lip service

**【口口声声】**

keep on saying; say again and again; repeatedly declare [例]她口口声声说要离开她的男友,但是一年以后他们仍然在一起。She *kept on saying* that she was going to leave her boyfriend, but one year passed and they were still together.

**【口蜜腹剑】**

honey - mouthed and dagger - hearted; honey on one's lips and murder in one's heart; hypocritical and malignant; treachery lying underneath a mask of friendship; a mouth that praises and a hand that kills; velvet paws hide sharp claws; an iron hand in a velvet glove [例]小心别上口蜜腹剑的人的当。Be careful not to be fooled by *hypocritical and malignant* people.

**【口若悬河】**

let loose a flood of eloquence; have a glib tongue; be eloquent; glibly; talk volubly; talk glibly; be nimble of speech; glib talker [例]很多人羡慕他的口若悬河,但他的丈人却为此瞧不起他。Many people admired him for *being very eloquent*, but his father - in - law despised him for that.

**【口是心非】**

say yes and mean no; the mouth is right but the heart is false; cry with one eye and laugh with the other; say one thing and mean another; affirm with one's lips but deny in one's heart; hypocrisy; double - faced [例]这样口是心非你就不会有真正的朋友。You won't have any true friend if you *cry with one eye and laugh with the other*.

**【口说无凭】**

oral expressions cannot be taken as evidence; verbal statements are no guarantee

**【口头禅】**

pet phrase

**【口诛笔伐】**

condemn both in speech and in writing; denounce by tongue and pen; denounce by spoken word and writing [例]他的反对者对他的腐败行为进行了口诛笔伐。His opponents *condemned* his corrupt



practices both in speech and in writing.

【扣人心弦】

tug at (pull at, play upon) one's heart-strings; thrilling; moving; soul-stirring; very touching; touch one's feelings; touch sb. to the heart; exciting [例]这位英雄在讲述他扣人心弦的冒险经历。The hero was telling people about his *thrilling* adventures.

【枯木逢春】

spring comes to the withered tree; a withered tree comes to life again; get a new lease on life; good fortune that comes after a long spell of bad luck [例]在他绝望之际,一位杰出的医生治好了他的眼睛,使他感觉犹如枯木逢春。He was in great despair when an excellent doctor cured his eyes, which made him like a *withered tree coming to life again*.

【枯燥无味】

dry as dust; as dry as a chip [例]这项工作虽然枯燥无味,但却十分重要。Although the job is *dry as dust*, it is very important.

【哭哭啼啼】

weep and snifle; endlessly weep and wail; blubber

【哭笑不得】

not know whether to laugh or to cry; find sth. both funny and annoying; One's face was a study. [例]小孩子的话令他哭笑不得。He *found* the child's words *both funny and annoying*.

【苦大仇深】

suffer bitterly and nurse a deep hatred; has been through much bitterness (and is thirsting for revenge)

【苦海无边,回头是岸】

(Buddhism) The sea of bitterness has no bounds, repent and the shore is at hand; escape from the human world of woes and

find salvation; Repentance is salvation; In Repentance there is salvation.

【苦尽甘来】

when bitterness is finished, sweetness begins; after suffering comes happiness; luck turns after hardships; sweet are the fruits of labor; from foul to fair

【苦口婆心】

urge sb. time and again with good intentions; advice (sb. time and again) in earnest words and with good intention; be faithful and kind in remonstrance [例]妻子苦口婆心地劝丈夫戒烟。The wife *urged* her husband to stop smoking *time and again with good intentions*.

【苦肉计】

the ruse of inflicting an injury on oneself to win the confidence of the enemy; a trick of having oneself tortured to win the confidence of the enemy

【苦思冥想】

think hard; cudgel one's brains (to evolve an idea)

【苦心孤诣】

drive oneself mercilessly to attain one's goal; make notable achievement after extraordinarily persistent and painstaking efforts; make extraordinarily painstaking efforts; do sth. with painstaking efforts

【苦心经营】

work out with unsparing efforts; painstakingly build up (an enterprise, etc.); contrive painstakingly; elaboration [例]一场大火烧毁了他苦心经营的这家工厂。A big fire destroyed the factory he had *painstakingly built up*.

【夸大其词】

make an overstatement; exaggerate [例]不要总是将你的困难夸大其词。Don't always *exaggerate* your difficulties.

【夸夸其谈】

talk big (tall); indulge in exaggerations (verbiage); a big screed full of bombast; bombastic twaddle; bragging; boastfulness [例]他喜欢夸夸其谈,但却很少思考。He *talks big* but thinks little.

【快刀斩乱麻】

cut a tangled skein of jute with a sharp knife; take a bold and decisive step; cut the Gordian knot; make a lightning decision; [例]现在我们需要有快刀斩乱麻的勇气。Now we need the courage to *cut the Gordian knot*.

【快马加鞭】

spur on the flying horse; spur the flying horse to full speed; whip the galloping horse on; work at top speed; with whip and spur; posthaste [例]工人们正在快马加鞭,以按期完成项目。The workers are *working at top speed* in order to finish the project on time.

【快人快事】

a fast job performed by a straightforward man

【快人快语】

straight talk from an honest man; A person of straight forward disposition is outspoken. [例]人家是快人快语,你不必生气。You needn't feel offended at *the straight talk from an honest man*.

【快手快脚】

nimble of hands and fast of feet; do things quickly

【脍炙人口】

(of a piece of good writing) win universal praise; enjoy great popularity; be on everybody's lips; (of good food) popular and much relished; pleasant to eat; (of literary works) be often and widely quoted; please all taste [例]《飘》是一部脍炙人口的小说。Gone with the Wind is a novel that has *won universal praise*.

【宽打窄用】

budget liberally and spend sparingly [例]妻子怀孕以后,这对年轻夫妇开始宽打窄用。After the wife got pregnant, the young couple began to *budget liberally and spend sparingly*.

【宽大为怀】

liberal-minded; be magnanimous (lenient) (with an offender); open-hearted; benignant; broadminded; clemency [例]这位官员一向宽大为怀。This official was always *liberal-minded*.

【宽宏大量】

magnanimity; broadminded and generous; large-minded; magnanimous; be kind and generous; generous [例]他的宽宏大量感动了这个强盗。The robber was moved by his *magnanimity*.

【宽严并举】

temper justice with mercy; severity tempered with gentleness

【狂风暴雨】

a windy downpour; a violent (nasty, fierce, furious) storm; tempest; the fury of the elements [例]船在狂风暴雨中驶进了港湾。The ship sailed into the harbor in *the violent storm*.

【狂轰滥炸】

wanton and indiscriminate bombing; bomb wantonly and indiscriminately [例]德军的狂轰滥炸并没有征服伦敦。London was not vanquished by *the wanton and indiscriminate bombing* of the German air force.

【狂妄自大】

arrogant and conceited; ride the high horse [例]他没有理由这么狂妄自大。He has no reason to be so *arrogant and conceited*.

【旷日持久】

be time-consuming; last for a long time;

long - drawn - out; protracted; prolonged; procrastinating [例]这场旷日持久的诉讼拖垮了所有的当事人。The *time - consuming* suit wore out every party.

【旷世奇才】

a remarkable talent of many ages; a genius without peer in one's generation

【旷世无匹】

stand without peers in one's generation; unequalled by contemporaries

【岿然不动】

steadfastly stand one's ground; remain unmoved; remain as firm as a rock; lofty and unshakable [例]她的决心在他的美好的许诺面前岿然不动。She *remained as firm as a rock* in front of his sweet promises.

【窥测方向,以求一逞】

spy out the land in order to accomplish one's schemes; see which way the wind blows in order to achieve one's evil ends

【溃不成军】

the army has collapsed; The troops fled in great disorder; be completely defeated; (of an army) be utterly routed; be put to rout [例]这个组织的成员在金钱的诱惑前溃不成军。The members of this organization *were completely defeated* by the temptation of money.

【困惑不解】

feel puzzled; get into knots; be at a loss [例]他的行为令我困惑不解。I *felt puzzled* at what he did.

【困兽犹斗】

cornered beasts will still fight; beasts at bay will put up a desperate fight; even a trapped beast struggles; one fights to the death in desperation; the crushed worm will turn [例]别以为他会轻易任你宰割。要知道,困兽犹斗。Don't be so sure that he would leave himself to your tender so easily. You know, *cornered beasts will still fight*.

## L

## 【拉大旗作虎皮】

use the great banner as a tiger - skin (to cover oneself and intimate other people); drape oneself in the flag to impress people

## 【拉下水】

drag sb. into the mire; make an accomplice of sb.; corrupt sb.

## 【来而不往非礼也】

It is impolite not to reciprocate; it is impolite not to give after receiving (not to pay a return call on sb.); one should return as good as one receives [例]我会回访他的。来而不往非礼也。I'll pay back him a visit, for *it is impolite not to reciprocate*.

## 【来来往往】

coming and going in great number; come and go; go to and fro

## 【来龙去脉】

sequence of events (actions); origin and development; cause and effect; the ins and outs (of a matter); context [例]要解答一个问题,就得知它的来龙去脉。Before we solve a problem we must understand the *sequence of events*.

## 【来日方长】

There will be ample time; There is a long time ahead; There are many days yet to provide for (think about); The day is yet to come; There will be a time for that. [例]不要担心,来日方长。Don't worry; there will be ample time.

## 【来者不拒】

all comers are welcome; refuse nobody; refuse nobody's request (offer); keep door open [例]我们对提建议的人来者不拒。We *keep door open* to all those who

come with advice.

## 【来者不善,善者不来】

Those who have come are not friendly; Those who are friendly have not come; He who has come is surely strong or he'd never come along; He who has come comes with ill intent, certainly not on virtue bent.

## 【来者犹可追】

The future is yet for oneself to shape

## 【来之不易】

it has not come easily; hard - earned

## 【来踪去迹】

traces of sth.; traces of sb.'s whereabouts

## 【癞蛤蟆想吃天鹅肉】

a toad lusting after a swan's flesh; aspiring after sth. one is not worthy of [例]这个无赖想追求那位女士,真是癞蛤蟆想吃天鹅肉。The rascal is going after that lady, which is like *a toad lusting after a swan's flesh*.

## 【滥竽充数】

just to fill up a vacancy; pass oneself off as one of the players in an ensemble; be there just to make up the number (used of incompetent people or inferior goods); hold a post without qualification; act as a stop - gap [例]他在这儿纯属滥竽充数。He is here *just to fill up a vacancy*.

## 【郎才女貌】

a perfect match between a man and a girl

## 【狼狈不堪】

in an extremely awkward position; in an embarrassing situation; be in a sorry (pitiable, wretched) plight; in sore straits; like a drowned rat; totally helpless; utterly disconcerted [例]当他发现自己想不起她的名字时,真是狼狈不

堪。He was in an extremely awkward position when he found he couldn't recall her name.

【狼狈为奸】

be partners in crime; act in collusion with each other; be banded together in collusion; collude in doing evil; join in a conspiracy (villainy); work hand in glove with [例]这两个政客狼狈为奸。The two politicians acted in collusion with each other.

【狼奔豕突】

run like wolves and rush like boars; tear about like wild beasts; (of bandits) infests and harass about [例]这群强盗在原野上狼奔豕突。The bandits ran like wolves and rushed like boars on the plain.

【狼多肉少】

there is too little meat for so many wolves; too many looters for the limited wealth

【狼吞虎咽】

eat like a wolf or a tiger; wolf down; gobble up; devour ravenously; eat voraciously; make a pig of oneself; gorge; gormandize [例]我饿坏了,五分钟内就狼吞虎咽地吃下两个汉堡。I was so hungry that I wolfed down two hamburgers in five minutes.

【狼心狗肺】

rapacious as a wolf and savage as a cur; brutal and cold-blooded; cruel and unscrupulous; ungrateful; completely without conscience; of cruel and fierce disposition; wicked-hearted; [例]这个狼心狗肺的儿子抛下了年迈的母亲。The brutal and cold-blooded son left his old mother.

【狼烟四起】

Warning signals of approaching enemy forces are seen on all sides; war alarms raised at all border posts

【狼子野心】

wolfish ambition; designs of (the) wolves and of wolfish nature; wicked intention; (of a person) greedy, cruel and full of wild ambitions [例]这些将领狼子野心。These generals are greedy, cruel and full of wild ambitions.

【浪迹天涯】

roaming freely all over the world

【浪子回头金不换】

A prodigal who returns is more precious than gold

【劳而无功】

work hard but to no avail; toil with no gain; work fruitlessly; lost labor (labor lost) [例]如果他在着手工作前研究过当时的情况,就不会劳而无功了。If he had studied the situation before he set out to do the work, he wouldn't have worked fruitlessly.

【劳而无怨】

One lays tasks without repining

【劳苦功高】

have worked hard and performed a valuable service; with toilsome labor and distinctive merits

【劳民伤财】

tire the people and drain the treasury; waste of manpower and public funds; waste money and manpower [例]在旧的市政厅旁再造一座新的是劳民伤财之举。To build another city hall beside the old one is a waste of manpower and public funds.

【劳其筋骨】

toil flesh and bone

【劳神费力】

weary mind and use strength

【劳师动众】

mobilize too many troops; drag in lots of people

## 【劳什子】

nuisance

## 【劳燕分飞】

The shrike and swallow flying in different directions; be like birds flying in different directions; part; separate; The couple is forced to part

## 【劳逸结合】

strike a proper balance between work and rest (leisure); alternate work with rest and recreation; proper arrangement of work and rest

## 【牢不可破】

unbreakable; indestructible; impregnable

## 【牢愁莫遣】

worried not knowing how to drive away melancholy

## 【老成持重】

capable and reliable; (of a person) experienced and prudent [例]他老成持重,所以赢得了女友父母的欢心。He won the favor of his girlfriend's parent for being *capable and reliable*.

## 【老大不小】

have grown up

## 【老大难】

long-standing; big and difficult (problem)

## 【老大徒伤悲】

vainly regret in old age one's laziness in youth

## 【老当益壮】

old but vigorous; more vigorous with age; enjoy a green old age; There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle

## 【老而弥坚】

become firmer as one grows old

## 【老虎屁股摸不得】

like a tiger whose backside no one dares to touch; not to be provoked

## 【老皇历】

calendar of the past; old history; obsolete practice

## 【老骥伏枥,志在千里】

An old steed in the stable still aspires to gallop a thousand *li*; A veteran thoroughbred tied to its stable still dreams of the wilds; Old people may still cherish high aspirations; A man of action, temporarily lying low, has yet ambition unfulfilled [例]这位老人常说,老骥伏枥,志在千里。The old man often said that *old people might still cherish high aspirations*.

## 【老奸巨猾】

an old fox; an old hand at trickery and deception; an old, crafty person; a past master of machination and maneuver; a crafty old scoundrel; a wily old fox; a sly old fish [例]小心点,那个人老奸巨猾。Be careful. That man is *an old fox*.

## 【老将出马,一个顶俩】

When a veteran takes the field, he can do the job of two.

## 【老境凄凉】

a lonely, dreary life in old age

## 【老泪纵横】

Old people weep unashamedly.

## 【老马识途】

The old horse knows the way; (of experienced people) know the ropes; An old hand is a good guide; The devil knows many things because he is old [例]他是老了,但是老马识途。It's true he is old, but he *knows the ropes*.

## 【老谋深算】

circumspect and farseeing; make every move only after mature deliberation; experienced and astute [例]这个年轻人不是他老谋深算的对头的对手。The young man is no match for his *circumspect and farseeing* opponent.

## 【老脑筋】

old way of thinking

【老牛破车】

an old ox pulling a rickety cart; making slow progress

【老牛舔犊】

dote on one's children

【老气横秋】

lacking in youthful vigor; arrogant on account of one's seniority; showing self-importance of the aged [例]他年纪轻轻,却老气横秋。He is a young man *lacking in youthful vigor*.

【老弱病残】

the old, weak, sick and disabled

【老少无欺】

cheat neither the old nor the young

【老生常谈】

the platitudes of an old scholar; a platitude; an old story; Sunday school truth; ordinary; commonplace; usual [例]骄兵必败已经是老生常谈了。That pride goes before a fall is a *Sunday school truth*.

【老鼠过街,人人喊打】

When a rat runs across the street, everybody cries, "kill it!"; (said of a person or thing) hated by everyone

【老死不相往来】

not visit each other all their lives; never be in contact with each other

【老态龙钟】

senile; doddering; old man's manners or appearance; senility [例]那个老态龙钟之人却有一双锐利的眼睛。The *senile* man has a pair of sharp eyes.

【老天爷】

God; heaven

【老王卖瓜,自卖自夸】

Lau Wang selling melons praises his own goods; praise one's own work or wares

【老羞成怒】

fly into a rage out of shame; be shamed

into anger; turn angry from embarrassment; angry at one's humiliation [例]他的谎言被揭穿后,他老羞成怒。He was *angry at his humiliation* when his lie was exposed.

【老朽昏庸】

old, worthless, dull and mean

【老眼昏花】

can't see clearly; dim-sighted from old age

【老于世故】

versed in the ways of the world; worldly-wise; have worldly wisdom; sophisticated

【老子天下第一】

regard oneself as No. 1 authority under heaven; think oneself the wisest person in the world

【乐不可支】

overwhelmed with joy; be beside oneself with happiness; extremely happy; overjoyed [例]孩子看到母亲来了,乐不可支。The child was *overwhelmed with joy* when he saw his mother come.

【乐不思蜀】

so happy as to be unwilling to return home; indulge in pleasure and forget home and duty [例]他在埃及乐不思蜀。He was *so happy in Egypt as to be unwilling to return home*.

【乐此不疲】

always enjoy it; never be bored with it [例]她每天去跳舞,乐此不疲。She went to the dance party every night and *always enjoyed it*.

【乐而忘返】

enjoy oneself so much that one doesn't want to come back; be a slave of pleasure

【乐极生悲】

Extreme joy begets sorrow; Extreme joy gives rise to sadness; Drunken days have all their tomorrows [例]小男孩在跑向

母亲时被石头绊倒,真是乐极生悲。  
*Extreme joy gives rise to sadness; the boy fell over a stone as he was running towards his mother.*

## 【乐善好施】

be Rappy in doing good; love to do philanthropic work; be prodigal of benefactions

## 【乐天如命】

submit to the will of Heaven and be content with one's lot; be content with what one is; be easily contented

## 【乐以忘忧】

seek pleasure in order to free oneself from care

## 【雷厉风行】

with the power of a thunderbolt and the speed of lightning; (in carrying out policies, etc.) with thunder-like violence and wind-like swiftness; vigorously and speedily; vigorously and effectively; resolutely; resolute enforcement (of orders, laws, etc.) in a sweeping manner [例]新市长做事雷厉风行。The new mayor did things *vigorously and speedily*.

## 【雷劈火烧】

struck by lightning and caught fire

## 【雷声大,雨点小】

loud thunder but small raindrops; much said but little done; much (great) cry and little wool; great boast, small roast; The mountain has brought forth a mouse [例]关于失业问题雷声大,雨点小。There's *much said but little done* about unemployment.

## 【雷霆万钧】

as powerful as a thunderbolt

## 【雷雨交加】

storm accompanied by peals of thunder

## 【屡戒不改】

refuse to mend one's ways despite repeated

warnings

## 【泪如泉涌】

tears welling up like a fountain; a stream of tears

## 【冷嘲热讽】

freezing irony and burning (scorching) satire; sarcasm; rant and rave; give sb. a dig [例]我对他的冷嘲热讽已经习惯了,不会为此改变决定。I have been used to his *freezing irony and burning satire*. They won't change my mind.

## 【冷若冰霜】

as cold as ice (in manner); frosty in manner; be made of ice; severe looks; treat sb. coldly [例]尽管她冷若冰霜,他还是爱她。Although she was *as cold as ice*, he still loved her.

## 【冷言冷语】

cold words; mocking words; sarcastic comments; ironical remarks [例]他的冷言冷语使她深受伤害。His *mocking words* hurt her deeply.

## 【冷眼旁观】

look on coldly; look at coldly from the sidelines; stand aloof and look on with cold indifference; stay aloof; look on with a critical eye; look on as a disinterested bystander; take a cool look at [例]他对这些争斗冷眼旁观。He *stayed aloof* from the conflicts.

## 【愣头愣脑】

rash; impetuous; reckless

## 【离愁别恨】

grief of parting

## 【离经叛道】

depart from the classics and rebel against orthodoxy; wayward and rebellious; be heretical and deviate from the true teachings; be guilty of heterodoxy [例]年轻人往往崇拜电影中离经叛道的人物。Young people tend to admire the *wayward*



and rebellious characters in the films.

【离久情疏】

out of sight, out of mind; Remoteness begets neglect; Salt water and absence wash away love; Long absent soon forgotten.

【离群索居】

live alone, cut off from society; live in solitude; live the life of a recluse; live out of the world; live within oneself; plough a lonely furrow [例]没人了解他。他一直过着离群索居的生活。No one knows about him. He's been *living in solitude*.

【离题万里】

be remote from the subject; far from the mark; too far afield; go wide of the mark; be all abroad

【离乡背井】

leave one's native district; leave one's native place (against one's will); tear oneself away from one's native place [例]他在很年轻的时候就离乡背井。He *left his native district* when he was very young.

【离心离德】

dissension and discord; disunity; Every man a heart [例]我们必须防止领导之间离心离德。We must guard against *dissension and discord* among leaders.

【礼多人不怪】

Civility costs nothing; A man's hat in his hand never does him any harm

【礼轻情意重】

The gift is trifling but the feeling is profound; It's nothing much, but it's the thought that counts.

【礼尚往来】

Courtesy demands reciprocity (reciprocation); Etiquette requires reciprocity; deal with a man as he deals with you; pay a man back in his own coin

【礼贤下士】

courteous to the wise and condescending to the scholarly; treat worthy men with courtesy

【礼仪廉耻】

sense of propriety, justice, honesty and honor

【礼仪之邦】

a state of ceremonies

【李代桃僵】

substitute one thing for another; substitute this for that; sacrifice oneself for another person; palm off a substitute for the real thing; change this for that [例]他李代桃僵,替朋友受罚。He *sacrificed himself for his friend* and received the punishment.

【里应外合】

work in collusion, one from without and the other from within; attack the enemy from within in coordination with operation from without; act from inside in coordination with forces attacking from outside; collaborate from within with forces from without [例]他们里应外合,消灭了敌人。They *attacked the enemy from within in coordination with operation from without* and destroyed them completely.

【理当如此】

That's just as it should be

【理亏心虚】

feel apprehensive because one is not on solid ground

【理亏语塞】

principle deficient and words blocked; have a guilty conscience

【理乱解纷】

manage and settle confusion

【理屈词穷】

fall silence when having nothing left to justify oneself; shut up when defeated in argument; fall silent on finding oneself best-

ed in argument; have nothing more to say on finding oneself devoid of all argument; be unable to advance any further arguments to justify oneself; be condemned out of one's own showing [例]他理屈词穷, 知道自己将受到惩罚。He *fell silence when having nothing left to justify himself*. He knew he would be punished.

## 【理所当然】

both natural and right; It's only right and proper; It goes without saying; as it ought to be; in accordance with what is right; as a matter of course; of course; naturally [例]他认为用公家的钱为他支付旅游费用是理所当然的。He thought it *both natural and right* for him to use the public funds to pay for his trip.

## 【理直气壮】

be self-confident on the strength of one's righteousness; With justice on one's side, one is bold and assured; be in the right and self-confident

## 【力薄能鲜】

be deficient in strength and ability

## 【力不从心】

the strength not equal to the will (ambition); the ability falling short of one's wishes; be unable to do as well as one would wish to do; ability not equals to one's ambition; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak [例]我老了, 要干好这项工作力不从心。I'm old. I will *not be able to do the job as well as I would wish to do*.

## 【力不能支】

unable to stand the strain any longer; too weak to stay on one's feet

## 【力不胜任】

beyond one's capacity; without the required ability to undertake a given task; be unequal to one's task; incompetent

## 【力排众议】

prevail over all dissenting views; do one's utmost to hold one's own opinion against that of the majority [例]经理力排众议, 把一项重要的工作指派给了这个年轻人。The manager *prevailed over all dissenting views* and assigned an important job to the young man.

## 【力所不及】

above (beyond, out of) one's reach; not within one's power; beyond one's tether; beyond one's power; out of one's ability

## 【力所能及】

(do everything) in one's power; within one's power; to the full extent of one's capabilities; to the best of one's ability (power); within one's reach

## 【力挽狂澜】

make vigorous efforts to turn the tide; strive to retrieve a critical situation; save a dangerous situation with one's utmost efforts [例]在危机中, 他力挽狂澜。He *made vigorous efforts to turn the tide* during the crisis.

## 【力争上游】

aim high; endeavor to gain the upper hand; advance by vigorous effort [例]年轻人应该力争上游。Young people should *aim high*.

## 【历经沧桑】

go through all the vicissitudes of life

## 【历久不衰】

long lasting [例]这家店的声誉历久不衰。This shop enjoyed *long lasting good reputation*.

## 【历久弥坚】

remain unshakable and become even firmer as time goes by

## 【历历在目】

leap up vividly before the eyes; clearly reappear before one's eyes; come clearly

into view; [例]当她接到他的电话,往事还历历在目。Past memories *leapt up vividly before her eyes* when she received his call.

### 【立竿见影】

set up a pole and see its shadow; a shadow is cast as soon as a pole is raised; produce an immediate effect; get instant results

### 【立功赎罪】

perform meritorious services to atone for one's crimes [例]这个犯人想立功赎罪,救了那个快淹死的孩子。The prison wanted to *perform meritorious services to atone for his crimes* and saved the drowning child.

### 【立见功效】

produce immediate results; feel the effect immediately

### 【立身处世】

how to get along with people; ways of conducting oneself in society [例]他读了很多书,却没有从中学到立身处世之道。He has read a lot of books, but he failed to learn from them *how to get along with people*.

### 【立于不败之地】

establish oneself in an unassailable position; remain invincible (unconquerable); be in an impregnable position; make one's position impregnable [例]由于事先仔细研究了敌人,他总是能立于不败之地。He *established himself in an unassailable place* by studying his enemy carefully beforehand.

### 【立锥之地】

the place to stick an awl; a tiny bit of land [例]他穷得没有立锥之地。He was so poor that he didn't even have *the place to stick an awl*.

### 【立足之地】

standing - room; a standing (place); a foothold

### 【厉兵秣马】

sharpen the weapons and feed the horses; get ready for battle

### 【利害攸关】

closely bound up with; have a stake in (sth.) [例]对于一个政客来说,他的婚姻和他的政治生涯是利害攸关的。For a politician, his marriage is *closely bound up with* his political career.

### 【利令智昏】

be mesmerized by money; be blinded by the lust for gain; be purblind owing to one's inordinate ambition [例]他利令智昏,把女儿嫁给了那个有钱的老头。He *was mesmerized by money* and married his daughter to the rich old man.

### 【利欲熏心】

be lured by the desire for profits; be blinded by greed; be obsessed with the desire for gain; be overcome by covetousness; be possessed with (by) a lust for gain [例]这些商人利欲熏心,把劣药卖给了军队。These businessmen *were obsessed with the desire for gain* and sold bad medicine to the army.

### 【励精图治】

strengthen the spirit (brace oneself up) and run one's country well; rouse oneself for vigorous efforts to make the country prosperous [例]经过这次萧条,政府决心励精图治。After the depression, the government decided to *strengthen the spirit and run its country well*.

### 【连袂而起】

rise side by side

### 【连篇累牍】

long - winded; reiterate again and again; one article after another; pages and pages; lengthy and tedious; at great length;

floods of ink [例]他的报告连篇累牍地叙述他自己的功绩。His report reiterated again and again his own achievements.

## 【连战皆北】

suffer one defeat after another

## 【连战皆捷】

score one victory after another

## 【联翩而至】

arrive in close succession [例]聚会上,意想不到的客人联翩而至。At the gathering, unexpected guests arrived in close succession.

## 【廉洁奉公】

be honest in performing one's official duties

## 【廉静寡欲】

pure with few desires

## 【脸红脖子粗】

get red in the face from anger or excitement; flush with agitation

## 【脸上无光】

lose face

## 【恋恋不舍】

be reluctant to part with; hate sb. to go; unable to part from; unwilling to give up [例]火车站台上,许多人都恋恋不舍。On the platform, there were many people who were reluctant to part with each other.

## 【良辰美景】

beautiful scene on a bright day [例]即使是良辰美景也无法驱走他心中的忧郁。His sadness wouldn't give way even to the beautiful scenes on a bright day.

## 【良禽择木】

Good birds select their roosts; A man selects a leader whom he would follow.

## 【良师益友】

good teacher(s) and helpful (worthy) friend(s) [例]良师益友对于一个人的成长十分重要。Good teachers and help-

ful friends are very important to one's growth.

## 【良药苦口】

Good medicine tastes bitter; Bitter pills may have wholesome effects; Good advice, like medicine, is hard to take [例]他没有生朋友的气,因为他知道良药苦口。He didn't get angry with his friend, for he knew that good advice, like medicine, was hard to take.

【良药苦口利于病,忠言逆耳利于行】

Just as bitter medicine cure sickness, so unpalatable advice benefits conduct.

## 【良莠不齐】

The good and the bad are intermingled.

## 【梁上君子】

gentleman on the beam; burglar; thief [例]我们家被梁上君子光顾了。Our house has been visited by a thief.

## 【两败俱伤】

Both sides suffer (lose); Neither side gains; internecine [例]这是一场两败俱伤的较量。This is a battle in which both sides will suffer.

## 【两耳不闻窗外事】

not care what is going on outside one's window; be oblivious of the outside world

【两耳不闻窗外事,一心只读圣贤书】

busy oneself in the classics and ignore what is going on beyond one's immediate surroundings

## 【两虎相争】

fight between the two biggest

## 【两面三刀】

double-faced tactics; play a double game; play double; double-dealing

## 【两面受敌】

between two fires; be threatened from both quarters

## 【两面讨好】

try to keep the favor of both sides in a dispute; run with the hare and hunt with the hounds [例]你这样两面讨好不累吗? Don't you feel tired to *try to keep the favor of both sides in the dispute?*

## 【两全其美】

serve a twofold purpose; satisfy both parties; satisfy both sides; satisfy rival claims; keep the good points of both [例]这种药既能减肥又能助你保持健康,两全其美。This medicine *serves the twofold purpose* of reducing you weight while keeping you healthy.

## 【两相情愿】

Both parties are willing; mutual consent; Both parties agree of free will [例]不要干涉他们,这是两相情愿的事。Don't try to interfere; *both parties of them are willing* to do it.

## 【两小无猜】

(of a boy and a girl) be innocent playmates; living and playing together in childhood innocence

## 【两袖清风】

(of an official) have clean hands; remain uncorrupted [例]他两袖清风,无所畏惧。He *has clean hands* and is afraid of nothing.

## 【量才录用】

assign jobs to people according to their abilities (talents); give sb. work suited to his abilities; give one employment commensurate with his abilities

## 【量力而为】

estimate one's strength before acting

## 【量力而行】

do what one's strength allows; act according to one's capability (ability); do what one is capable of [例]我们并不富裕,应该量力而行。We're not rich; we should

*act according to our capability.*

## 【量入为出】

make both ends meet; keep expenditures within the limit(s) of income; live within one's mean; base one's expenditures upon one's income; cut one's coat according to one's cloth [例]作为一个家庭主妇,她得量入为出。As a housewife, she must *make both ends meet.*

## 【量体裁衣】

cut the garment according to the figure; act according to actual circumstances

## 【聊胜于无】

It's better than nothing; Half a loaf is better than no bread; A little is better than none [例]你不该抱怨,这毕竟聊胜于无。You shouldn't complain; *it's better than nothing.*

## 【聊以解嘲】

manage somehow to relieve embarrassment

## 【聊以塞责】

merely to avoid the charge of dereliction of duty

## 【聊以助兴】

just for entertainment

## 【聊以自慰】

just to console oneself; comfort oneself with thought [例]他把母亲的照片放在桌上,聊以自慰。He placed his mother's photo on his desk *just to console himself.*

## 【聊以卒岁】

just to tide over the year [例]他正在创作一幅巨画,聊以卒岁。He is painting a huge picture *just to tide over the year.*

## 【寥寥无几】

very few; only a few [例]去看演出的人寥寥无几。Very few people went to see the performance.

## 【寥若晨星】

as sparse as the morning stars; few and far between [例]从地图上可以看到,沙漠

中的绿洲寥若晨星。From the map we can see that the oases in the desert are *few and far between*.

【燎原烈火】

a (blazing) prairie fire [例]革命像燎原烈火般烧遍了全国。The revolution spread all over the country like a *blazing prairie fire*.

【了此残生】

end this miserable life

【了如指掌】

know sth. like the palm of one's hand; as plain as pointing to the palm of the hand; read (know) sth. like a book; have sth. at one's fingertips (finger - ends) [例]他对军队的情况了如指掌。He *knows* the army *like the palm of his own hand*.

【了无长进】

having made no progress in the least

【料事如神】

predict like a prophet; foretell with miraculous accuracy [例]这个将军料事如神。The general *predicted like a prophet*.

【劣迹昭著】

One's bad behavior (reputation) is well known; notorious [例]这个商人劣迹昭著,没人相信他。The businessman's *bad behavior is well known*; nobody trusts him.

【烈火见真金】

Pure gold proves its worth in a blazing fire; True blue will never stain; People of worth show their mettle during trials and tribulations.

【烈日当空】

with the scorching sun directly overhead

【临别赠言】

parting advice; words of advice at parting

【临机应变】

cope with any contingency; adapt to (changing) circumstances; decide as the

situation demands [例]我们的队伍需要能临机应变的人。Our team needs people who can *cope with any contingency*.

【临渴掘井】

not dig a well until one is thirsty; begin to dig a well when thirsty; do a thing at the 11th hour; not make timely preparations; lack of forethought [例]他们临渴掘井,失败了并不奇怪。It was only natural for them to fail because they had *not make timely preparations*.

【临深履薄】

wading in deep water and treading on thin ice; as if on the brink of the abyss, as if trading on thin ice; with caution and care; cautious

【临时抱佛脚】

embrace Buddha's feet in one's hour of need; seek help at the last moment; make a frantic last - minute effort

【临危不惧】

face danger fearlessly; betray no fear in an hour of danger; be undaunted in the face of perils; remain calm in the face of a crisis [例]他临危不惧,从失火的房子里救出了孩子。He *remained calm in the face of the crisis* and saved the child from the burning house.

【临危授命】

give a very important assignment in time of a national emergency

【临渊羡鱼,不如归而结网】

It's better to go back and make a net than to stand by the pond and long for fish; One should take practical steps to achieve one's aims

【临阵磨枪】

sharpen one's spear only before going into battle; rub one's gun when battle begins; start to prepare only at the last moment; hastily make preparations when the matter

is at hand [例]临阵磨枪是不是太晚了点? Isn't it a little bit too late to *start to prepare only at the last moment*?

【临阵脱逃】

flee (run away) on the eve of a battle; hightail it off at the first contact with the enemy; sneak away at a critical juncture [例]临阵脱逃的士兵受到了严厉的惩罚。The soldiers who *had run away on the eve of the battle* were severely punished.

【淋漓尽致】

most incisively and vividly; thoroughly [例]一群势利鬼在这部电影中被表现得淋漓尽致。A group of snobs were presented *most incisively and vividly* in this film.

【琳琅满目】

(a multitude of beautiful things) dazzle the eye; a superb collection of beautiful things; a feast for the eyes

【鳞次栉比】

like scales on a fish or the teeth of a comb; in orderly rows; row upon row of (houses) [例]从高处俯瞰,纽约城高楼鳞次栉比,很是好看。New York City looks so pretty from a bird's eye view with *row upon row of* high buildings.

【凛若冰霜】

cold as ice and dew

【伶牙俐齿】

have the gift of gab; have a glib tongue; fluent of speech; sharp-tongued [例]他伶牙俐齿,别跟他吵了。Don't argue with him. He *has the gift of gab*.

【灵丹妙药】

panacea; miraculous cure; heal-all; catholicon [例]没有什么灵丹妙药救得了他。There's no *panacea* that can save him.

【灵犀相通】

Extremes meet

【玲珑剔透】

exquisitely carved; beautifully wrought

【凌驾一切】

overriding; predominant [例]你不能让个人利益凌驾一切。You can't put your individual interest in a *predominant* position.

【凌厉无前】

be energetic without precedent

【凌乱无序】

confused and disordered

【凌云壮志】

lofty aspiration

【零敲碎打】

(do sth.) bit by bit (off and on); adopt a piecemeal approach [例]他靠零敲碎打积聚了不少钱。He saved quite a lot of money *bit by bit*.

【令人发指】

make one's hair stand on ends; make one's blood boil; one so angry that it makes his hair stand on end; get one's hair up [例]他对孩子的所作所为令人发指。What he *has done to his child makes one's blood boil*.

【令人费解】

elude the understanding

【令人神往】

cause one to crave for; cause sb. to have a strong desire for [例]歌中的世界令人神往。The world in the song *causes one to crave for it*.

【令人作呕】

make one sick; nauseating; revolting; disgusting; mawkish [例]他的谄媚的笑令人作呕。His flattering smile *makes one sick*.

【令行禁止】

strict execution (enforcement) of orders and prohibitions; every order is executed

without fail

【另谋生路】

find another way of living

【另起炉灶】

set up a separate kitchen; make a fresh start; start all over again [例]跟搭档分手以后,他决定另起炉灶。After breaking up with his partner, he decided to *make a new start*.

【另请高明】

get (find) oneself a more qualified person; find someone better qualified; find some better person than myself; find another man [例]这事我做不来,你还是另请高明吧。I can't do it. You'd better *find yourself a more qualified person*.

【另眼相看】

regard (look up to) sb. with special respect; pay special regard to; view sb. in a new, more favorable light; see sb. in a new light [例]他的成就令人对他另眼相看。His achievement made people *see him in a new light*.

【另有企图】

have other intentions (plans, ulterior designs); asking loaded questions; ulterior motives

【溜须拍马】

fawn on; toady to; shamelessly flatter

【溜之大吉】

make oneself scarce; sneak away; slink off; slink away; show one's heels; tike to one's heels; show a clean pair of heels; seek safety in flight [例]当整个计划被曝光后,他溜之大吉了。When the whole plan was made public, he *sneaked away*.

【流芳百世】

hand down a good reputation to a hundred future generations; ho immortalized; leave a good name to posterity; have a niche in

the temple of fame [例]他做了许多善事,以期流芳百世。He did a lot of good deeds in order to *leave a good name to posterity*.

【流离失所】

displaced; be destitute and homeless; be forced to leave one's home and wander about [例]他看到人民流离失所,十分痛苦。It made *lám* suffer to see people become *destitute and homeless*.

【流离转徙】

migratory life of a refugee; vagrant (life) [例]他小时候,家里过着流离转徙的生活。His family led a *vagrant life* when he was little.

【流连忘返】

enjoy oneself so much that one forgets to go home; indulge in pleasures and forget to go back home; linger on, forgetting to return [例]他在湖边流连忘返。He *enjoyed himself so much by the lake that he forgot to go home*.

【流水不腐,户枢不蠹】

Running water is never stale and a door-hinge never gets worm-eaten; Practice keeps one fit; The used key is always bright.

【流言蜚语】

rumors and slanders; rumors and gossip; lies and slanders [例]他不在乎别人的流言蜚语。He doesn't care about others' *derogatory remarks*.

【留得青山在,不怕没柴烧】

As long as the green mountains are there one need not worry about firewood; As long as green hills remain there'll never be a shortage of firewood; While there is life there is hope.

【留有余地】

leave some ground; leave some leeway; allow for unforeseen circumstances.



## 【六亲不认】

turn one's back on one's own flesh and blood; refuse to have anything to do with all one's relatives

## 【六神无主】

all six vital organs failing to function; in a state of utter stupefaction [例]消息传来,人人都六神无主。When the news came, everybody was in a state of utter stupefaction about what to do.

## 【龙飞凤舞】

like dragons flying and phoenixes dancing; lively and vigorous flourishes in calligraphy [例]他的字龙飞凤舞,很容易辨认是谁写的。It's easy to identify his writing, which is like dragons flying and phoenixes dancing.

## 【龙盘虎踞】

like a coiling dragon and crouching tiger; a forbidding strategic point [例]南京城龙盘虎踞。The City of Nanjing is located on a forbidding strategic point.

## 【龙潭虎穴】

dragon's pond and tiger's cave; dangerous places [例]为了解救心上人,他龙潭虎穴也要闯一闯。To save his love, he'd go to any dangerous places.

## 【龙腾虎跃】

dragons rising and tigers leaping; a scene of bustling activity; do sth. with vigorous enthusiasm [例]我们的祖国一派龙腾虎跃的景象。Our country is a scene of bustling activity.

## 【龙争虎斗】

a close game; fierce struggle between two evenly matched opponents; a near match [例]他们之间马上就要展开一场龙争虎斗了。Soon there will be a close game between them.

## 【漏洞百出】

full of loopholes [例]他的报告漏洞百

出。His report is full of loopholes.

## 【露出马脚】

The horse's hoof shows; let the cat out of the bag; The plot is out; show the cloven hoof (foot); give the game away

## 【庐山真面目】

what Lushan Mountain really looks like; one's true colors; the truth about a person or matter [例]你迟早会认清他的庐山真面目的。You'll see his true colors sooner or later.

## 【炉火纯青】

the pure blue flame; high degree of (one's) technical proficiency and perfection of (one's) learning [例]他的绘画技艺已经炉火纯青。His painting skill has reached the high degree of technical proficiency.

## 【鲁莽灭裂】

rash and careless; go it blind; ride blind

## 【鹿死不择荫】

A stricken deer has no time to select its retreat; A man hard pressed cannot be particular about whom to follow; A desperate man will resort to anything.

## 【鹿死谁手】

At whose hand will the deer die? Who will win the prize? Who will gain supremacy? [例]现在想知道鹿死谁手还为时过早。It's still too early to tell who will win the prize.

## 【绿林好汉】

heroes of greenwood (of Robin Hood type); a band of bandits entrenched in a mountain stronghold; forest outlaws; gentleman of the pad [例]这个贵族被一群绿林好汉抢劫了。The nobleman was robbed by a band of bandits entrenched in a mountain stronghold.

## 【碌碌无奇】

incompetent; devoid of ability [例]他是

个碌碌无奇的人,但却心地善良。He was an *incompetent* man, but kind-hearted.

【路遥知马力,日久见人心】

As a long road tests a horse's strength, so a long task proves a person's heart.

【戮力同心】

pull together and work hard as a team; make concerted efforts; unite in a concerted effort [例]他们戮力同心,争取更高更好。They *pulled together and worked hard as a team* for the bigger and the better.

【乱七八糟】

at sixes and sevens; in great disorder; in a muddle; in confusion; a pretty (nice) kettle of fish; topsy-turvy; rough-and-tumble; pell-mell; higgledy-piggledy [例]这座学校乱七八糟。The school is *in great disorder*.

【乱弹琴】

act or talk like a fool; talk nonsense

【论功行赏】

award people according to their contributions; dispense rewards (honors) according to one's merit [例]他论功行赏,十分公平。He was just and *awarded people according to their contributions*.

【罗雀掘鼠】

net birds and dig out rats; contrive ways and means to live when in straits

【络绎不绝】

coming and going in an endless stream; form a continuous stream; unending [例]这家店开张之日,顾客络绎不绝。On the day the shop opened, customers were *coming and going in an endless stream*.

【落草为寇】

turning to banditry

【落花流水】

like the fallen flowers carried away by

flowing water; be shattered to pieces; utterly routed; beat (knock) sb. to fits; beat sb. hollow (all hollow, all the pieces) [例]波斯的军队被亚历山大的队伍打得落花流水。The Persian army was *shattered to pieces* by Alexander's army.

【落花有意,流水无情】

While the drooping flowers pine for love, the heartless brook babbles on; unrequited love

【落荒而走(逃)】

take to flight; take to the wilds; be defeated and flee the battlefields [例]他们平时不断要钱要粮,但是敌人一来就落荒而走。They kept asking for money and food, but as soon as the enemy came, they *took to flight*.

【落井下石】

drop stones on a man who has fallen to a well; throw rocks in after sb. has fallen into a well (trap); strike (hit) a person when he is down; take a mean advantage [例]尽管对方是他的对头,他也不愿意干落井下石的事。Although it was his opponent, he didn't want to *strike him when he is down*.

【落落大方】

carry oneself gracefully; natural and graceful [例]她在台上表现得落落大方。She *carried herself gracefully* on the stage.

【落落寡合】

aloof; standoffish; unsociable [例]他从小失去双亲,性格落落寡合。He lost his parents when he was just a child, and he always kept himself *aloof*.

【落水狗】

a dog in the water

【落汤鸡】

like a drenched chicken; like a drowned

rat; soaked through; drenched and bedraggled

【落拓不羈】

unconventional and uninhibited [例]这个诗人看上去落拓不羈,其实满脑子名利。The poet looked *unconventional and uninhibited*, but actually his mind was occupied with fame and gain.

【落叶归根】

fallen leaves return to the roots; revert to one's origin

【驴鸣狗吠】

like asses braying and dogs barking; poor style of writing [例]他居然攻击总统的文章是驴鸣狗吠。Fancy his saying the president's writing was *like asses braying and dogs barking*!

【驴头不对马嘴】

A donkey's lips do not match a horse's jaws; irrelevant; incongruous [例]两位老太太聊得热火朝天,但说的却是驴头不对马嘴。The two old ladies were talking enthusiastically, yet their respective topics were totally *irrelevant*.

【屢次三番】

repeatedly; again and again; time and again; over and over again; many times [例]这个陌生人屢次三番骚扰我,我一定要叫警察。The stranger harassed me *again and again*; I must call the police.

【屢见不鲜】

common occurrence; encountered with many times; nothing new [例]电视上的暴力行为屢见不鲜。Acts of violence on TV are *common occurrences*.

【屢教不改】

refuse to correct one's errors despite repeated education; refuse (fail) to mend

one's ways after repeated warnings (admonition) [例]母亲不知道该拿屢教不改的儿子怎么办。The mother didn't know what to do with her son who *refused to correct his errors despite repeated warnings*.

【屢试不爽】

have proved effective every time; time-tested; stand (bear, pass) repeated tests [例]对付这种人,我有个屢试不爽的办法。I have a way of dealing with such persons which *has proved effective every time*.

【屢險如夷】

cross a dangerous pass as easily as walking on level ground; handle a crisis without difficulty [例]我佩服他屢險如夷的本領。I admire him for being able to *handling crisis without difficulty*.

【掠人之美】

rob others' good point; claim credit due to others

【略表寸心】

just to show my gratitude

【略见一斑】

catch a glimpse of; see a sample of (sth.); get a rough idea of [例]从他出现时的欢呼声中,他在人民中受欢迎的程度可见一斑。From the cheers of the people as he showed up, we can *get a rough idea of* how popular he is with them.

【略胜一筹】

slightly better; a notch (cut) above; just a little better; one too many (too much) for sb.; be one upon (sb.); preferable [例]他比他的朋友略胜一筹。He did *slightly better* than his friend.

【略知一二】

have a smattering of; know sth. about

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## 【麻痹大意】

lower one's guard and become careless; lack of vigilance; slacken in vigilance; drop one's guard; be off one's guard [例] 敌人很狡猾, 你不要麻痹大意。Our enemy is tricky; don't *lower your guard and become careless*.

## 【麻木不仁】

dead (lost) to all feelings; indifferent and apathetic; lacking feeling or sensitivity; insensitive; unfeeling; benumbed [例] 他甚至不问问孩子为什么哭, 真是麻木不仁。He didn't even bother to ask why the child cried; he was really *dead to all feelings*.

## 【麻雀虽小, 五脏俱全】

The sparrow may be small but it has all the vital organs; small but complete [例] 他们的办公室麻雀虽小, 五脏俱全。Their office is *small but complete*.

## 【马不停蹄】

without a stop; nonstop; hurried journey without stop [例] 为了在年底前完工, 我们马不停蹄地干活。We are working *without a stop* in order to finish our task before the end of this year.

## 【马到成功】

win (a) success immediately upon arrival; (gain) an immediate victory; win instant success; be accomplished instantly [例] 我们祝你马到成功! We wish you an *immediate victory*!

## 【马革裹尸】

be wrapped in a horse's hide after death; die on the battlefield [例] 他豪迈地说一个军人不会畏惧马革裹尸的结局。He said generously that a soldier wouldn't

be afraid of *dying on the battlefield*.

## 【马马虎虎】

carelessly; in a slap-dash manner; casually; sloppily; perfunctory; not so bad; just passable; so-so; after (in) a fashion [例] 他一心想着生病的父亲, 所以工作完成得马马虎虎。His mind was occupied by his ailing father, so he did his job *carelessly*.

## 【马首是瞻】

take the head of the (general's) horse as guide; look up to sb for direction (instruction, guidance); dance to sb's tune; follow sb.'s lead

## 【蚂蚁搬泰山】

Ants can move Mount Taishan; The united efforts of the masses can accomplish mighty projects.

## 【蚂蚁啃骨头】

ants gnawing at a bone; plod away at a big job bit by bit; a concentration of small machines on a big job [例] 他像蚂蚁啃骨头似地读这本巨著。He worked on the great book like *an ant gnawing at a bone*.

## 【骂骂咧咧】

intersperse one's talk with curses; be foul-mouthed; grumbling and swearing; become abusive

## 【埋头苦干】

hammer (at); quietly immerse oneself in hard work; engage oneself in unostentatious hard work; quietly put one's shoulder to the wheel; keep (have, put) one's nose to the grindstone [例] 这位职员成天在一堆堆文件中埋头苦干。The clerk *hammered at* piles of files every day.

【买椟还珠】

keep the glittering casket and give back the pearls to the seller; show lack of judgement; make the wrong choice; attend to the superficial and neglect the essentials

【买空卖空】

fictitious transaction; cross trade; speculate (speculation) on the rise and fall of prices (in stocks); play the market [例] 他通过买空卖空赚了不少钱。He made quite a lot of money through *fictitious transaction*.

【卖狗皮膏药】

be a quack peddling dogskin plasters; sell quack remedies; palm things off on people

【卖瓜的说瓜甜】

Every man praises his own wares; Every peddler praises his own needles; Every cook commends his own sauce.

【卖关子】

stop a story at a climax to keep the listeners in suspense; keep people guessing [例] 他这人就是喜欢卖关子。He takes pleasure in *keeping people guessing*.

【卖国求荣】

seek power and wealth by betraying one's country; turn traitor for personal gain

【卖剑买牛】

selling one's swords to purchase oxen for farming; beat swords into plough - shares; reformation of brigands

【卖弄风情】

flirt and coquet; set off one's charm; play the coquette; coquettish; flirt with

【卖身投靠】

basely offer to serve the enemy; barter away one's honor for sb's patronage; basely offer to serve some reactionary bigwig [例] 他的同志都没想到他就是那个卖身投靠敌人的人。None of his comrades had thought that he was the one who had

*basely offered to serve their enemy*.

【卖友求荣】

betray friends to obtain promotion; sell friends for personal gain

【蛮不讲理】

be impervious to reason; persist in being unreasonable; refuse to listen to reason

【蛮横无理】

rude and unreasonable; be impervious to reason; peremptory and untenable [例] 我不懂他怎么会突然变得那么蛮横无理。I don't understand why he suddenly became so *rude and unreasonable*.

【瞒上欺下】

deceive those above and bully those below; conceal the true state of affairs from above and below

【瞒天过海】

cross the sea under camouflage (by a trick); practice deception; try to get away with it under false pretences [例] 他企图瞒天过海, 让公家为他支付境外旅费。He tried to *practice deception* in order to make the government to pay for his journey abroad.

【满不在乎】

not worry at all; not care in the least; give (pay, take) no heed [例] 尽管他没通过考试, 但他看上去满不在乎。Although he didn't pass the examination, he looked *not worried at all*.

【满城风雨】

(news) spread all over the city; (news) raise a colossal uproar; become the talk of the town; [例] 他没想到这件事这么快就闹得满城风雨了。He never thought it would *become the talk of the town* so quickly.

【满打满算】

reckoning in every item (of income or expenditure); at the very most

## 【满腹狐疑】

filled with suspicion; extremely suspicious; (a heart) full of misgiving(s)

## 【满腹经纶】

profoundly learned and talented; an encyclopedic mind; full of learning [例]尽管他满腹经纶,却没有人听他的。No one listened to him although he was *full of learning*.

## 【满腹牢骚】

full of grievances; full of resentment; be querulous [例]他的朋友劝他要乐观一些,不要总是满腹牢骚。His friends advised him to be more optimistic and not be *full of grievances*.

## 【满谷满坑】

in great abundance; in large numbers; in plenty

## 【满面春风】

beaming with satisfaction; radiant with happiness; a face shining with pleasure; wearing a broad smile; be all smiles; look like a million dollars [例]最近他总是满面春风,一定是交上什么好运了。Recently he has been *radiant with happiness*; he must have run into some good luck.

## 【满目疮痍】

miserable and suffering greet the eyes everywhere; in a state of bad devastation

## 【满目萧索】

a melancholy and solitary aspect as far as the eyes stretch

## 【满腔热忱】

with warmth and enthusiasm; filled with ardor and sincerity; in the fullness of one's heart; in all earnestness; with zeal [例]他对他的工作满腔热忱。He approached his job *with warmth and enthusiasm*.

## 【满堂红】

all-round victory; success in every field

## 【满园春色】

a garden full of the beauty of spring; the whole garden is filled with the beauties of spring; the garden is filled with the brightness of spring; a picture of prosperity; the beauties of spring please the eye everywhere [例]改革中的上海满园春色。Shanghai during the reform is *a picture of prosperity*.

## 【满载而归】

return fully loaded; come back with fruitful results; return from a rewarding journey [例]历史学家从非洲满载而归。The historians *came back* from Africa *with fruitful results*.

## 【满招损,谦受益】

One loses by pride and gains by modesty; Pride leads to loss (downfall) while modesty brings benefit; Pride goes before a fall.

## 【慢工出巧匠】

Fine products come from slow work.

## 【慢工出细活】

Slow work yields fine products; Soft fire makes sweet malt.

## 【慢手慢脚】

slow in doing things; slow moving

## 【慢条斯理】

leisurely; unhurriedly; at a slack pace; an easy manner; at a snail's gallop (pace) [例]正当我们要失去耐心时,他慢条斯理地走来了。We were about to lose our patience when he was seen to walk towards us *leisurely*.

## 【漫不经心】

careless; casual; totally unconcerned (inattentive); with indifference; wanting in care; unmindful; negligent; nonchalant; inattentively [例]编者漫不经心地把他的书稿扔到了一边。The editor threw his manuscript aside *with indifference*.

## 【漫山遍野】

all over the mountains and plains; up the hill and down the fields; over hill and dale [例]农民一家漫山遍野地寻找丢失的羔羊。The farmer's family looked for their lost lamb up the hill and down the fields.

## 【漫天大谎】

a monstrous lie

## 【漫天要价】

ask an exorbitant price; quote skyrocket prices; a daylight robbery

## 【漫无边际】

boundless; limitless; straying far from the subject; rambling; discursive [例]他的发言漫无边际。His speech strayed far from the subject.

## 【忙里偷闲】

snatch a little leisure from a busy life; take a breathing spell in the midst of pressing affairs; at odd hours (moments, times) [例]这位官员忙里偷闲,带他的儿子去了一趟动物园。The official snatched a little leisure from his busy life and took his son to the zoo.

## 【芒刺在背】

having prickles on the back; feel prickles down one's back; feel nervous and uneasy; sitting stiffly and ill at ease [例]他大胆的发言令在座的许多人感觉芒刺在背。His bold remarks made many of those who were present feel nervous and uneasy.

## 【盲目崇拜】

worship blindly

## 【盲人摸象】

like the blind men trying to size up the elephant; the blind men feel about the elephant (and each of them holds his own opinion); one-sided view; take a part for the whole

## 【盲人瞎马】

a blind man on a blind horse; a blind per-

son riding a blind horse; rushing headlong to an immediate danger; rushing headlong to disaster; take a leap in the dark [例]让他指挥这支新军就好比盲人瞎马,危险之至。Letting him command the new army is as perilous as letting a blind person ride a blind horse.

## 【茫无头绪】

(of a thing) be confused like a tangle of flax; (of a person) not know where to begin; in a hopeless muddle; at a loss; completely at sea [例]案发已经三天了,警方对调查还是茫无头绪。It has been three days since the crime took place. The police still do not know where to begin the investigation.

## 【猫哭耗子】

the cat weeping over the dead mouse; pretend sympathy and grief; shed crocodile tears [例]别猫哭耗子了。我们都知道这一切都是你策划的。Don't shed crocodile tears; we all know you planned all this.

## 【毛骨悚然】

with every hair erect; freeze one's blood; have goose flesh; horror-stricken; absolutely terrified; make one's hair stand on end; make one's flesh creep; make one's blood run cold [例]集中营里发生的一切令人毛骨悚然。What happened in the concentration camps makes one's flesh creep.

## 【毛手毛脚】

careless; be brash and clumsy; recklessly; tough-handed; clumsily [例]他办事毛手毛脚,所以上司不信任他。He is brash and clumsy and that's why his boss can't trust him.

## 【毛遂自荐】

offer one's service as Mao Sui (of the Warring States Period) did; volunteer one's

service; self-recommendation for a post or task [例]听说朋友的车坏了,他毛遂自荐,要去修理。When he heard that his friend's car had broken down, he *volunteered his service* to repair it.

## 【茅塞顿开】

suddenly see the light; be suddenly enlightened [例]他的--席话令我茅塞顿开。His words made me *suddenly see the light*.

## 【冒名顶替】

take another's place by assuming his name; masquerade under a false name; assume the identity of another person; act as a fraudulent substitute for a person [例]他发现原来冒名顶替者就是他的弟弟。He found out that it was his brother who had *taken his place by assuming his name*.

## 【冒天下之大不韪】

be against the world; defy world opinion; risk (disregard, face) universal condemnation; fly in the face of the will of the people [例]那位国王冒天下之大不韪娶了一位女演员。The king married an actress, which was *defying world opinion*.

## 【老年犹勤】

aged yet industrious

## 【貌不惊人】

look mediocre; not pretty or handsome; homely; not attractive

## 【貌合神离】

(of two persons or parties) seemingly in harmony but actually at variance; one in appearance but each going his own way; apparently of one accord but divided in heart; friends in name or appearance only; be friendly in name only; apparently acquiescing while being contrary [例]这对曾经共患难的朋友如今已是貌合神离了。The two friends who once stood

firmly by each other's side in time of adversity are *seemingly in harmony but actually at variance now*.

## 【没大没小】

impolite; impertinent; impudent; show no respect for one's elders

## 【没精打采】

listless; in low spirits; out of sorts; lackadaisical; out of humor; in the blues; (down) in the dumps

## 【没日没夜】

day and night; round the clock

## 【没事找事】

ask for trouble; find fault with; cavil

## 【没头没脑】

completely without clue; without rhyme or reason; abrupt

## 【没完没了】

endless; without end

## 【没心没肺】

inattentive; wanting in care

## 【没羞没臊】

shameless; have no sense of shame; brazen-faced; thick-skinned; (as) bold as brass

## 【眉飞色舞】

with dancing eyebrows and radiant face; look of exultation; enraptured; exultant; animated; beam with joy [例]她眉飞色舞地讲述她童年的故事。She told the story about her childhood *with dancing eyebrows and radiant face*.

## 【眉开眼笑】

be all smiles; beam with joy [例]他一看到冰淇淋就眉开眼笑。He is *all smiles* whenever he sees ice-cream.

## 【眉来眼去】

look amorously at; exchange amorous glances; make eyes at each other; flirt with each other [例]看到妻子跟一个年轻人眉来眼去他怒不可遏。He was



infuriated to see his wife *making eyes at each other* with a young man.

【眉毛胡子一把抓】

try to grasp the eyebrows and the beard all at once; try to attend to big and small matters all at once [例]当领导的办事不该眉毛胡子一把抓。It's not the way for a leader to deal with things to *try to attend to big and small matters all at once*.

【眉目传情】

flash amorous glances; make eyes at sb.

【眉清目秀】

have delicate features; handsome; beautiful

【眉目不清】

(of writing) not well organized; The details are not at all clear.

【眉头一皱,计上心来】

Knit the brows and a stratagem comes to mind; With a thoughtful frown, one devised a plan.

【每逢佳节情思亲】

On festive occasions more than ever we think of our dear ones far away.

【每况愈下】

steadily deteriorate; get worse every time; be on the downgrade; go down the drain; from smoke into smother; go from bad to worse [例]由于缺少资金,剧院每况愈下。The theatre *went from bad to worse* because of lack of funds.

【每谋辄败】

fail in every scheme

【每时每刻】

all the time; at all times

【美不胜收】

too beautiful to be absorbed all at once; so many beautiful things that one simply can't take them all in [例]黄果树的瀑布真是美不胜收。The waterfalls in Huangguoshu are *too beautiful to be absorbed all*

*at once*.

【美其名曰】

call it by the fine-sounding name of; describe it euphemistically as

【美人计】

use of a woman to ensnare a man; sex-trap; a plot with a woman as seducer

【美中不足】

a blemish in an otherwise perfect thing; some slight imperfection (regret); crumpled rose-leaf; cloud on one's happiness; a fly in the ointment [例]他没能出席是晚会惟一美中不足的地方。His absence was a *blemish in an otherwise perfect evening party*.

【门当户对】

well-matched (of a matrimonial alliance); be well-matched in social and economic status (for marriage) [例]将军的儿子和首相的女儿可谓门当户对。The son of the general and the daughter of the premier are a *well-matched couple*.

【门户之见】

sectarian bias (views); sectarianism; parochial (party) prejudice [例]我们不该让门户之见束缚住。We shouldn't be restrained by *sectarian bias*.

【门可罗雀】

you can catch sparrows on the doorstep; birds may be snared at the door (of a deserted house); where visitors are few and far between; complete absence of callers [例]这家超市门可罗雀。In the supermarket, *customers are few and far between*.

【门庭若市】

the courtyard is as crowded as a marketplace; a much visited house; large crowds of callers [例]他被提升以后,家里一时门庭若市。After his promotion, his suddenly had a *much visited house*.

## 【扪心自问】

search one's heart; examine one's own conscience and ask oneself; introspect [例] 你不妨扪心自问,我哪儿对不起你了。You might as well *examine your own conscience and ask yourself* if I have ever let you down.

## 【闷闷不乐】

depressed; in low spirits; out of spirits; down in the mouth; look blue

## 【蒙头转向】

be utterly confused; lose (be out of) one's bearings; go into a flat spin [例] 那些人给他指了不同的方向,他被弄得蒙头转向。He was *utterly confused* because those people had given him different directions.

## 【蒙混过关】

slip by (through); gloss over one's faults; sneak away in the confusion; get by under false pretenses; bluff one's way out of sth.; muddle through [例] 我不知道你是怎么蒙混过关的。I don't know how you have managed to *gloss over your faults*.

## 【蒙昧无知】

unenlightened; childish ignorant; illiterate; be wrapped in the night of ignorance (barbarism); benighted [例] 责怪这些蒙昧无知的人是没有用的。It's useless to blame these *unenlightened* people.

## 【蒙头盖脸】

cover one's head and face; with face veiled

## 【蒙在鼓里】

be kept inside a drum; be in ignorance; keep sb. (be) in the dark (about sth.) [例] 他都进监狱了,他父亲还蒙在鼓里。His father was still *kept in the dark* when he was already in prison.

## 【懵懵懂懂】

muddled; ignorant; muddleheaded

## 【猛打猛冲】

go full blast ahead; go at it hammer and tongs; courageously hit hard at

## 【猛将如云】

a great many brave warriors

## 【梦幻泡影】

like a dream and a bubble's shadow; a sheer illusion; bubble; illusion; utterly visionary; pipe dream [例] 这一切的繁华都只是梦幻泡影。All this prosperity was a *sheer illusion*.

## 【梦寐以求】

try to find even in sleep; crave sth. so that one even dreams about it; dream of; crave for; long (yearn) for sth. day and night; long cherished [例] 他终于得到了梦寐以求的汽车。At last he got the car he had been *dreaming of*.

## 【弥天大谎】

a monstrous (thundering, outrageous) lie; a whopping lie; whopper [例] 由于恐惧,他撒下了一个弥天大谎。He told a *monstrous lie* out of fear.

## 【弥天大罪】

a crime that fills the universe; monstrous (deadly, towering, horrible, heinous, vicious) crimes; crimes that make stones cry out [例] 日本军队曾在中国犯下弥天大罪。The Japanese army committed *heinous crimes* in China.

## 【弥望无际】

boundless horizon

## 【迷不知返】

go astray not knowing how to return

## 【迷迷糊糊】

in a daze; difficult to make out; misty; unclear

## 【迷途知返】

return to the correct path; become aware of one's errors and return from one's wrong path; recover one's bearings and return to

the fold; realize one's errors and mend one's ways [例]我们欢迎所有迷途知返的人。We welcome all those who would *return to the correct path*.

【靡靡之音】

soft, effeminate music; decadent music; demoralizing (coaxing, reckless) tune; obscene songs [例]父亲恨儿子听靡靡之音。The father hates his son to listen to *decadent music*.

【靡然从风】

go with the fashion

【米珠薪桂】

Rice is as precious as pearls and firewood as costly as cassia; exorbitantly high cost of living; Everything rises in price, as in famine time.

【秘而不宣】

keep sth. secret; not let anyone into a secret; keep a matter dark [例]他们对此事秘而不宣一定有什么道理。There must be some reason for them to *keep* this matter *secret*.

【密陈利害】

send a secret memorial concerning the profit and loss

【密密麻麻】

close and numerous; thickly dotted; very dense; (as) thick as huckleberries

【密如蛛网】

as fine as a spider's web

【密云不雨】

dense clouds but no rain; trouble is brewing; an affair that was fermented long ago

【绵里藏针】

a needle hidden in silk floss; a needle in wool; a ruthless character behind a gentle appearance; a soft appearance but dangerous heart; an iron hand in a velvet glove [例]他的话绵里藏针。His words told of a *ruthless character behind a gentle ap-*

*pearance*.

【绵绵不绝】

continuing forever; go on continually; continuous and unbroken

【绵绵絮语】

whisper continually

【勉为其难】

try to do a difficult job as best as one can; undertake to do a difficult job as best as one can; manage to do a difficult job beyond one's reach

【湏于酒色】

indulging in wine and lewdness

【面不改色】

not change color; remain calm; without batting an eyelid; without turning a hair; not turn a hair [例]听到坏消息他面不改色。He received the bad news *without turning a hair*.

【面和心不和】

remain friendly in appearance but estranged at heart

【面红耳赤】

blush up to the ears; emotionally excited, face reddens to the ears; be red in the face; be flushed; suffused with blushes [例]他一眼女孩说话就面红耳赤。He would *blush up to the ears* whenever he talks with a girl.

【面黄肌瘦】

sallow and emaciated; lean and haggard; pale and thin; thin and colorless [例]这些难民们面黄肌瘦。These refugees looked *lean and haggard*.

【面面俱到】

have every detail thought of; attend to each and every aspect of a matter; be very attentive in every way; not miss a thing; well considered in every aspect [例]他这个人面面俱到,但却不是很得人心。Although he is *very attentive in every way*,

he is not very popular among people.

【面面相觑】

look at each other at a loss about what to do; gaze at each other in speechless despair; look at each other in astonishment (blank dismay) [例]他的话令他的父母面面相觑。On hearing his words, his parents *look at each other at a loss about what to do*.

【面目可憎】

repulsive in appearance; hateful (abominable, detestable) countenance

【面目可憎, 语言无味】

repulsive in appearance and flavorless in verbal expression; drab of speech and repulsive in appearance

【面目全非】

be changed (distorted) beyond recognition; all looks wrong (differently); not as it was before; past recognition [例]他出了一趟差回来,一切都面目全非了。All looked differently when he came back from the business tour.

【面目一新】

take on an entirely new look; present a completely new appearance; assume (wear, put on, take on) a new aspect; put a new face on [例]海边度假回来,他看上去面目一新。He *took on an entirely new look* after he returned from a holiday at the seaside.

【面如土色】

look ashen; look pale; a ghastly livid countenance [例]嫌疑犯看到警方出示的证据后,面如土色。The suspect *looked ashen* when he saw the exhibit produced by the police.

【面上无光】

loss of prestige

【面授机宜】

personally instruct sb. on the line of action

to pursue; give a confidential briefing; brief sb. on sth. (how to act) [例]外国专家在向队员面授机宜,但是他们的对手好像并不担心。The foreign expert was *giving* the players *confidential briefing*, but their opponents didn't seem to be worried.

【面无人色】

look ghastly pale; (as) pale as death (ashes, a ghost); ashen-faced; pale-faced [例]听到脚步声,她吓得面无人色。On bearing the footsteps, she was so frightened that she *looked ghastly pale*.

【面誉背毁】

praise sb. to his face and abuse him behind his back; praise openly and slander secretly

【描龙绣凤】

do fine needlework

【渺若烟云】

as vague as mist

【渺无踪迹】

without a trace

【妙不可言】

too wonderful for words; most intriguing; of indescribable beauty [例]这首诗真是妙不可言。This poem is *too wonderful for words*.

【妙绝古今】

an unparalleled wonder both in ancient and modern times

【妙趣横生】

full of wit and humor; very witty; sparkle with wit; seasoned with wit [例]我们喜欢听他妙趣横生的讲演。We enjoy listening to his speech which is *full of wit and humor*.

【妙手回春】

a skilled man brings back the spring; (of a doctor) effect a miraculous cure and bring the dying back to life; (of a doctor)

bring life back to a patient [例]我能活到今天全仗一位高明的医生妙手回春。I owe my life to a skillful doctor who effected a miraculous cure and brought me back to life.

【妙语如珠】

pearls of wisdom; sparkling sayings; endless witty remarks; scintillating witticisms (wisecracks)

【灭此朝食】

will not have breakfast until the enemy is wiped out; be anxious to finish off the enemy immediately; eager to exterminate the enemy

【灭顶之灾】

be drowned; be buried beneath the waves; be swamped; disaster of being drowned; a devastating catastrophe; complete defeat; total collapse [例]这支军队在过河时险遭灭顶之灾。The army was nearly swamped while crossing a river.

【灭尽天良】

destroy utterly one's conscience

【灭绝人性】

inhuman; savage; cannibalistic; barbarous; brutal; beast-like [例]纳粹连孩子也不放过,真是灭绝人性。The Nazis wouldn't even spare the children, which was absolutely inhuman.

【民不聊生】

The people have no means of livelihood; live on the edge of starvation; the people are utterly destitute; the masses live in dire poverty; make life impossible for the people

【民不畏死,奈何以死惧之】

The people fear no death; why threaten them with it?

【民穷财尽】

The people suffer privation and the country has depleted its resources; The means of

the people have been used up; a complete bankruptcy [例]严重的腐败导致民穷财尽。Due to severe corruption, the people suffer privation and the country has depleted its resources.

【民生凋敝】

a mass impoverishment; the people live in destitution; a miserable life of the people [例]连年战乱使这个国家民生凋敝。Years of war led to a mass impoverishment in the country.

【民以食为天】

The masses regard sufficient food as their heaven; Food is the first necessity; Hunger breeds discontentment; Bread is the staff of life.

【民怨沸腾】

seething popular discontent (resentment); The people are boiling with resentment; Popular grievances run high [例]新的征税项目导致民怨沸腾。Seething popular discontent grew due to the new taxes.

【民脂民膏】

flesh and blood of the people; the fat of the people; the people's life - blood; the hard-won possessions of the people [例]难道你不知道这些都是民脂民膏? 怎么可以如此挥霍? Don't you know all this is the flesh and blood of the people? How can you squander it like that?

【名不副实】

the name (reputation) falls short of the reality; the reality does not correspond to its name; the title and the reality do not tally; be unworthy of the name or title; be sth. more in name than in reality

【名不虚传】

have a well-deserved reputation; deserve the reputation one enjoys; live up to one's reputation; true to its name [例]作为最著名的旅游城市之一,桂林名不虚传。

Guilin has a well - deserved reputation as one of the most famous tourism cities.

**【名垂青史】**

go down in history; be crowned with eternal glory [例]只要能为国家做点什么,他不在乎是否能名垂青史。He didn't care if he would be crowned with eternal glory so long as he could do something for his country.

**【名存实亡】**

exist in name only; cease to exist except in name; non - existent except in name; have a mere nominal existence [例]自从她发现了丈夫的风流韵事,他们的婚姻已是名存实亡。Since she found out her husband's love affair, their marriage existed in name only.

**【名孚众望】**

Prestige commands public confidence.

**【名副其实】**

the name matches the reality; be worthy of the name; be sth. in reality as well as in name; one's reputation is justified; true to one's name [例]他是名副其实的流行乐之王。He is worthy of the name King of Pop.

**【名缰利锁】**

the bondage of reputation and wealth; the fetters of fame and wealth [例]名缰利锁是真正幸福的最大障碍。The bondage of reputation and wealth is the biggest barrier to true happiness.

**【名利双收】**

gain both honor and money; gain both fame and wealth; win fame and fortune; gain both reputation and wealth [例]尽管这部戏使这个导演名利双收,但是这却不是他的本来目的。Although the director gained both honor and money through the film, it was not his original intention.

**【名列前茅】**

be among the best of the successful candidates; come to the fore; come out in front; come out (at the) top; take the cake; bear (away) the bell

**【名落孙山】**

fall behind Sun Shan (who was last on the list of successful candidates); fail in a competitive examination

**【名门闺秀】**

daughter of an notable (eminent, illustrious) family

**【名山大川】**

famous mountains and great rivers

**【名声狼藉】**

having a bad reputation; unsavory; fall into disrepute; notorious; disreputable [例]当地警方因为这个案子而名声狼藉。The local police fell into disrepute because of this case.

**【名师出高徒】**

An accomplished disciple owes his accomplishment to his great teacher.

**【名扬四海】**

well - known in the world; world - renowned; become famous all over the world; One's fame has spread on all sides.

**【名噪一时】**

gain considerable fame among one's contemporaries; be a celebrity for a time; enjoy fleeting fame; make a noise in the world; temporary prominence [例]这个年轻的演员因为获得了奥斯卡提名而名噪一时。The young actor gained considerable fame among his contemporaries by earning an Oscar nomination.

**【名正言顺】**

be perfectly justifiable; come within one's jurisdiction; things called by their right name [例]既然他们请了他,他去就是名正言顺的。Since they had invited

him, his being there *was perfectly justifiable*.

**【明辨是非】**

make a clear distinction between right and wrong; distinguish right from wrong [例] 一个诚实的人应该能够明辨是非。An honest man should be able to *make a clear distinction between right and wrong*.

**【明察暗访】**

observe publicly and investigate privately; investigate openly and secretly; conduct a thorough investigation [例] 这位官员一上任就开始明察暗访。The official began to *observe publicly and investigate privately* as soon as he took the post.

**【明察秋毫】**

have eyes sharp enough to perceive an animal's autumn hair; be perceptive of the minutest detail; capable of discovering the minute detail in everything; be able to penetrate deeply into all things; see through a brick wall [例] 这位法官明察秋毫。The judge *is perceptive of the minutest detail*.

**【明察秋毫之末, 而不见舆薪】**

be sharp-sighted enough to perceive the tip of an animal's autumn hair but unable to see a cartload of firewood; see the minute details but miss the major issue; strain at a gnat and swallow a camel; cannot see the wood for the trees [例] 他的报告明察秋毫之末, 而不见舆薪。His report leads one to *see the minute details but miss the major issue*.

**【明火执仗】**

operate in broad daylight; carry torches and weapons in a robbery; conduct evil activities openly [例] 他们似乎没把警察放在眼里, 居然明火执仗。They seemed to think very little of the police as they *operated in broad daylight*.

**【明来暗往】**

have overt and covert contacts with sb.; secret goings-on [例] 他们明来暗往, 以为别人不会注意。They *had overt and covert contacts with each other* and thought people wouldn't notice.

**【明媒正娶】**

formal wedding; a right and legal marriage; marry into sb.'s house in an open, correct manner

**【明眸皓齿】**

bright eyes and white teeth; comely; (of a person) pleasant to look at [例] 一张旧照片显示我外婆当年是一个明眸皓齿的女孩。An old photo shows that my grandma used to be a *comely* young girl.

**【明目张胆】**

in a bare-faced (flagrant) way; openly and brazenly; flagrantly; with no attempt at concealment; before (in front of) one's very eyes [例] 这伙坏蛋明目张胆地欺凌村民。These bad guys bullied the villagers *openly and brazenly*.

**【明枪暗箭】**

both open and covert attacks; attack by overt and covert means [例] 竞选人彼此明枪暗箭, 互相攻击。The candidates staged *both open and covert attacks* against each other.

**【明枪易躲, 暗箭难防】**

It is easy to dodge a spear in the open, but hard to guard against an arrow shot from hiding; Better an open enemy than a false friend; God defend me from my friends; From my enemies I can defend myself.

**【明日黄花】**

overblown blossoms; things that are stale and no longer of interest; things that are past their time [例] 今天的荣耀都会变成明日黄花。Today's glories will all

become things that are stale and no longer of interest.

【明若观火】

as clear as looking at a fire; as clear as day; exceptionally clear and vivid [例]他企图解释,但是他的罪行明若观火。He tried to explain, but his guilt was as clear as day.

【明升暗降】

apparent promotion but real demotion; apparently ascended but actually descended; degradation instead of promotion; get sb. out of the way; kick sb. upstairs [例]元老院企图给屋大维来个明升暗降。The Senate intended to kick Octavian upstairs.

【明效大验】

outstanding effect; clinching proof of the effectiveness; have much (a great) effect [例]新的政策出台没产生什么明效大验。The new policy didn't have any outstanding effect.

【明修栈道,暗渡陈仓】

do one thing under cover of another; pretend to prepare to advance along one path while secretly going along another; feign action in one place and make the real move in another

【明于观人,暗于察己】

good at knowing others but poor at knowing oneself

【明哲保身】

wise about personal survival; be worldly wise and play safe [例]周围的人在争权夺利,他却是明哲保身。He was wise about personal survival while those around him were fighting for power and money.

【明争暗斗】

overt and covert struggle; both open strife and veiled struggle; open quarrels and secret wrangles; fight with both open and se-

cret means [例]一番明争暗斗之后,他们俩都没得到这个职位。Neither of them got the position after overt and covert struggle.

【明知故犯】

deliberately break (a rule, etc.); commit (a crime, an offence) willfully; knowingly violate (the law, regulations); with open eyes (with one's eyes open); a willful offence; do sth. one knows is wrong [例]他因为缺钱而明知故犯。He deliberately broke the law because he was short of money.

【明知故问】

One asks, but already knows; ask while knowing the answer; feign ignorance and ask questions [例]他明知故问是为了分散警察的注意力。He feigned ignorance and asked questions in order to distract the police.

【明知山有虎,偏向虎山行】

go deep into the mountains, knowing well that there are tigers there; go on undeterred by the dangers ahead

【明珠暗投】

a bright pearl thrown into darkness; a good person fallen among bad company; a talented man finds his ability unrecognized; find one's ability unrecognized; a valuable thing gained by a person who doesn't know it at all; cast pearls before swine [例]进了这家公司之后,他才发现自己是明珠暗投。It was not until he had been in the company that he found himself a good person fallen among bad company.

【明珠弹雀】

shoot birds with pearls; The loss outweighs the gain; Gains offset losses; The game is not worth the candle; pay too dear for one's whistle

【鸣鼓而攻】



beat the drum and launch the attack; sound the call for attack; attack sb. publicly and severely by concerted action; make a scathing indictment

【鸣锣开道】

sound the gongs to clear the way (for officials in feudal times); pave (clear, smooth) the way for; prepare the public for a coming event; serve as a huckster for [例]报纸上的文章为新政策鸣锣开道。The articles in the newspaper *paved the way for* the new policy.

【鸣怨叫屈】

make (lodge) bitter complaints; complain and call for redress; voice grievances; cry for redress of a wrong [例]人们为他鸣怨叫屈,但是政府置之不理。People *lodged bitter complaints* for him, but the government turned a deaf ear to that.

【冥冥之中】

in the unseen world

【冥思苦想】

think long and hard; be lost in serious and hard thinking; puzzle over; lucubration; cudgel (rack) one's brains; in a brown study; beat one's brains out [例]她冥思苦想,试图想起来美国内战是在哪年爆发的。She *racked her brains* trying to recall in which year the America Civil War broke out.

【冥顽不灵】

stupid; impenetrably thickheaded; dull; dead (lost) to all feelings; cullous; insensate [例]他一再犯同样的错误,简直是冥顽不灵。He was really *stupid* to have made the same mistake again and again.

【瞑目九泉】

one's soul may rest at peace

【铭感终身】

remain deeply grateful for the rest of one's

life [例]他对他的老师铭感终身。He *remained deeply grateful* to his teacher for the rest of his life.

【铭肌镂骨】

be engraved on the flesh and bone; remember with gratitude to the end of one's life; be engraved on one's mind forever; everlasting gratitude; feel deep gratitude

【铭记不忘】

be engraved on one's heart; bear in mind; be inscribed on one's memory; be branded in one's memory; be imprinted (engraved) on one's mind [例]她对父亲的教导铭记不忘。Her father's words *were engraved on her heart*.

【酩酊大醉】

be dead (blind) drunk; be extremely (beastly) drunk; drunk and incapable; as drunk as a lord [例]他的妻子去世后,他常喝得酩酊大醉。After his wife died, he was often *drunk as a lord*.

【命根子】

one's very life; lifeblood

【命在旦夕】

be on the verge of death; death may come any minute; be dying; One's life is not worth a day's (an hour's) purchase [例]虽然命在旦夕,他还是忘不了他的钞票。Though *death might come any minute*, he still couldn't left his money behind.

【命中注定】

predestined; decreed by fate [例]他们似乎命中注定要成为好朋友。They seemed to be *predestined* to be good friends.

【谬种流传】

the dissemination of error; a school of bastard thoughts; circulation of absurdities; error being disseminated [例]这些作者只顾赚钱,致使谬种流传。These writ-

ers were only concerned about making money and were guilty of *dissemination of error*.

【模棱两可】

equivocal; in an equivocal way; ambiguous; ready to accept either course; shift and hedge; fence-sitting; (just) on the line; betwixt and between; cut both ways [例]公众对他模棱两可的发言很不满。The public are not satisfied with his *ambiguous* speech at all.

【模模糊糊】

unintelligible; vague; subconsciously; at the back of one's mind

【摩肩接踵】

shoulder to shoulder and closely upon the heels of others; be jam-packed with people; jostle each other in a crowd [例]周末的商店里人们摩肩接踵。On weekends the shops are *jam-packed with people*.

【摩厉以须】

sharpen one's sword in preparation; grind weapons sharp in preparation; get ready for action; itch to begin a fight; be combat-ready; gird up one's loins

【摩拳擦掌】

rub one's fists and wipe one's palms; rub hands, ulench fists in preparation for a fight; be eager for a fight; itch to have a go; ready for a fight; roll up one's sleeves [例]正当大家摩拳擦掌之际,警察赶来了。Just as we were *rubbing our hands and clenching our fists in preparation for a fight*, the police came.

【磨杵成针】

grind mortar into needle; An iron pestle can be ground down to a needle; Perseverance will prevail; Perseverance and hard work can assure success; Little strokes fell great oaks; Constant dropping (dripping)

wears away a stone; With time and patience the leaf of the mulberry becomes satin.

【磨刀霍霍】

sharpen one's swords for battle; sabre-rattling

【抹一鼻子灰】

suffer a snub; meet with a rebuff; get rebuffed when trying to please

【没齿不忘】

will never forget till all one's teeth are lost; remember for the rest of one's life; remember it throughout one's whole life; will never forget to the end of one's days [例]你的救命之恩,我没齿不忘。You saved my life; I will *remember it for the rest of my life*.

【莫测高深】

unfathomable; enigmatic; fathomless; beyond (out of) one's depth; too profound to be understood [例]他总是留下几个莫测高深的词,然后离开。He would say several *unfathomable* words and leave.

【莫此为甚】

One can expect nothing beyond this; Nothing (Nobody) is capable of exceeding this; There is nothing worse than this.

【莫可名状】

that cannot be described; defy description; beyond description; indescribable

【莫名其妙】

baffling; difficult to guess what it is all about; incomprehensible; inexplicable; odd; be all abroad; be baffled; ignorant of the heart of the matter; somehow or other; unable to make head or tail of sth.; without rhyme (rime) or reason [例]我不知道他为什么冲我吼叫。真是莫名其妙。I don't know why he shouted at me. It was really *baffling*.

## 【莫逆之交】

bosom (close, sworn) friends; friends with complete mutual understanding; one's intimate friend

## 【莫须有】

unwarranted; groundless; fabricated; trumped-up; concocted; spurious

## 【莫衷一是】

unable to agree (decide) which is right; No decision can be reached; There are endless wrangling and differences over; be of more than one mind (about sth.) [例] 议员们在失业问题上莫衷一是。The senators were *unable to decide which was right about the problem of unemployment*.

## 【漠不关心】

indifferent and apathetic; totally unconcerned; show no concern; give short shift; nonchalant [例] 这个护士对病人的痛苦漠不关心。The nurse was *indifferent and apathetic* to the pain the patient was suffering.

## 【漠不相关】

entirely unrelated

## 【漠然置之】

show (express) no concern for; remain indifferent towards sth.; look on with unconcern; hold loose [例] 这个老师对学生的作弊行为漠然置之。The teacher *showed no concern for* students' cheating behaviour.

## 【墨守成规】

stick to established practice; stick to conventions (accustomed rules); follow the stereotype (old) routine; move (run) in a groove (rut); stay in a rut; go round like a horse in a mill; stick in the mud; get into a groove; be in (get into) a rut [例] 墨守成规是他们致命的缺点。Their deadly weak point is that they always *stick to established practice*.

## 【墨汁未干】

before the ink is dry; when the ink is scarcely dry; the ink was hardly dry [例] 新合同墨汁未干,他们就开始违约。They began to breach the new contract *before the ink was dry*.

## 【默默无闻】

unknown to the public; without attracting public attention; be buried in oblivion; be completely unknown (unrecognized); in the shade [例] 人们无法相信这个默默无闻的记者居然揭露了这么重要的事情。People couldn't believe that the journalist who had been *unknown to the public* had disclosed such an important matter.

## 【谋财害命】

murder sb. for his money

## 【谋事在人,成事在天】

Men may propose things, but God determines what shall happen; The planning lies with man, the outcome with Heaven; Man proposes, God disposes.

## 【木雕泥塑】

like an idol carved in wood or molded in clay; as wooden as a dummy; (as) motionless as a statue

## 【木本水源】

the root of wood and the source of water; the foundation (cause) of things; the root of a matter

## 【本已成舟】

The wood is already made into a boat; too late to change; The thing was settled and couldn't be altered; What is done is done; What is done cannot be undone; The die is cast [例] 当她父母发现她嫁给了那个穷小子时,已是本已成舟。It was *too late to change* the fact when her parents found out that she had already married the poor guy.

## 【目不见睫】

The eye cannot see its lashes; lack self-knowledge; not to know oneself [例]由于目不见睫,他没能好好计划自己的时间。Because of *lack of self-knowledge* he wasn't able to plan his time properly.

## 【目不交睫】

not sleep a wink; have one's eyes open throughout the night; not to have had any sleep; not have a wink of sleep [例]事故发生后,他忙得目不交睫。After the accident took place, he was so busy that he could *not sleep a wink*.

## 【目不识丁】

be completely (totally) ignorant (illiterate); uncultured; unread; not know one's ABC; not know a B from a battledore (bull's foot); not to know A from B [例]当他说想当作家,大家都笑话他,因为他目不识丁。People laughed when he said he wanted to be a writer, for he *didn't even know his ABC*.

## 【目不暇给】

the eye cannot take it all in; too many things for the eye to see (to take in); too much for the eye to feast on [例]街上来来往往的车辆令人目不暇给。There are so many cars in the street that *the eye cannot take it all in*.

## 【目不暇接】

the eye cannot take it all in; there are too many things for the eye to take in

## 【目不斜视】

look steadily forward; look neither right nor left; refuse to be distracted; correct in behaviour [例]周围有女士时,他总是目不斜视。He always *looked steadily forward* when there were women around.

## 【目不转睛】

look with fixed eyes; watch with the utmost concentration; a fixed gaze; not to take (tear) one's eyes off; he all eyes

[例]马丁·伊登目不转睛她望着鲁丝小姐,这令她感觉很紧张。Martin Eden *looked at Miss Ruth with fixed eyes*, which made her feel very nervous.

## 【目瞪口呆】

stare at in mute amazement; be stunned speechless; be struck dumb; stand aghast at; gaping; stupefied; dumbstruck; dumbfounded [例]大家被她的大胆表演惊得目瞪口呆。Everyone was *stunned speechless* by her audacious performance.

## 【目光如豆】

One's circle of vision is as large as a bean; of narrow vision; shortsighted; very limited outlook; myopic view of things; not see beyond one's nose

## 【目光如炬】

eyes blazing like torches; farsighted; eyes blazing with anger; look ahead with wisdom; sparkling eyes; with flashing eyes [例]在我们的想象中,马克思是一位目光如炬的巨人。In our imagination, Marx is a great man *looking ahead with wisdom*.

## 【目空一切】

consider the whole world is too mean for one's notice — expression of pride and haughtiness; consider everybody and everything beneath one's notice; insolent; full of conceit; be supercilious; he on (get on, mount, ride) the high horse; with one's nose in the air [例]成功使他目空一切。Success turned him into a man *full of conceit*.

## 【目无全牛】

(of and experienced butcher) see an ox not as a whole (but only as parts to be cut); be supremely skilled

## 【目中无人】

consider everyone beneath one's notice; be

supercilious; be overweening; despising others; far gone in pride; look down one's nose at everybody; get (grow) too big for one's boots; be on the high horse [例]他还没当上世界冠军就这样目中无人,真是可笑 It's laughable for him to have already been so *supercilious*, for he hasn't won the world championship yet.

【沐猴而冠】

a monkey with a hat on; a worthless person in imposing attire; The bear wants a tail and can not be lion.

【沐雨栉风】

work very hard regardless of weather

【慕名而来】

be attracted to a place by its reputation (as a scenic spot, etc.); come to sb. because of admiring his fame

【暮鼓晨钟】

evening drum and morning bell in a monastery; timely exhortations to virtue and purity

【暮气沉沉】

lethargic; apathetic; lifeless; dejected; depressed; languid; dismal; gloomy [例]经济萧条中,整个国家显得暮气沉沉。The whole country looked *lethargic* during the economic depression.

## N

## 【拿得起,放得下】

be able to advance or retreat; flexible; adaptable

## 【拿腔作势】

act affectedly

## 【拿手好戏】

a game or trick one is good at; one's forte; what one most excels in; one's speciality; masterpiece [例]推理是福尔摩斯的拿手好戏。Reasoning is *Holmes' forte*.

## 【耐人寻味】

afford (provide) (much) food for thought; stand careful pondering on (over); thought-provoking; There is much food for thought [例]父亲说的话耐人寻味。Father's words *afforded much food for thought*.

## 【男才女貌】

the man is able and the woman is beautiful; an ideal couple

## 【男大当婚,女大当嫁】

upon growing up, every male should take a wife and every female should take a husband Men and women all must marry.

## 【男盗女娼】

behave like thieves and whores; ho out-and-out scoundrels; a thief if a man and a whore if a woman [例]这伙人在外面看上去道貌岸然,私下里却是男盗女娼。They were sanctimonious in public, but in private they *behaved like thieves and whores*.

## 【男婚女嫁】

a man should take a wife and a woman should take a husband

## 【男女有别】

Males and females should be treated differ-

ently; Between the sexes there should be a prudent reserve.

## 【南柯一梦】

Nanke dream (from the story of a man who dreamed that he became governor of Nanke in the kingdom of Ants); pipe dream; illusory joy; an imaginary dream; an empty dream; empty happiness [例]他的受贿行为被公开后,他的财富和权力都成了南柯一梦。After his corrupt practices were made public, all his wealth and power became a *pipe dream*.

## 【南来北往】

be always on the move

## 【南腔北调】

mixed accent of north and south; (speak with) a mixed accent; talk different dialects [例]在这座新兴的城市里,人们说话南腔北调。In the boomtown, people *speak with a mixed accent*.

## 【南辕北辙】

try to go south by driving the chariot north; act in a way that defeats one's purpose; (as) wide as the poles are apart; head for the wrong direction; diametrically opposite; run counter to [例]他的做法和目的南辕北辙。He *acted in a way that defeated his purpose*.

## 【南征北战】

fight north and south on many fronts; fight up and down the country [例]那位将军一生为国南征北战。The general spent his life *fighting north and south on many fronts* for his country.

## 【难乎为继】

difficult to follow up; hard to keep up [例]孩子诞生以后,这对夫妇觉得生

活上难乎为继。After the baby was born, the couple found it *hard to keep up* the present living standard.

#### 【难解难分】

be locked together (in a struggle); be inextricably involved (in a dispute); neither would give in; neither can get the upper hand; be sentimentally attached to each other [例]这两个拳击运动员打得难分难解。The two boxers *were locked together in the fight*.

#### 【难能可贵】

difficult of attainment, hence worthy of esteem; rare and commendable; exceptionally commendable (estimable); praiseworthy for one's excellent conduct; deserving (much) praise for one's excellent performance or behavior; estimable [例]考虑到他自己家境的困难,他的慷慨捐助就更加难能可贵了。His generous donation is *exceptionally commendable*, considering his own poor family condition.

#### 【难上加难】

add difficulty to difficulty; extremely difficult

#### 【难舍难分】

loath to part from each other; find it difficult to tear apart [例]在站台上,有的人因为难舍难分而哭泣。On the platform, some people cried for they *loathed to part from each other*.

#### 【难言之隐】

sth. difficult to voice out; sth. embarrassing to mention; a painful topic; sth. which it would be awkward to disclose; sth. which ails one in the mind and hard to state; a secret which could not be told [例]不要逼他。他也许有什么难言之隐。Don't push him. He may have *something that it would be awkward to mention*.

#### 【难以置恼】

hard to believe; beyond belief; be rather hard to swallow [例]这位证人在陪审团跟前说的话令人难以置信。What the witness had said in front of the jury was *hard to believe*.

#### 【难以捉摸】

difficult to pin down; elusive; unintelligent

#### 【喃喃自语】

mutter to oneself; mutter under one's breath; mumble to oneself. [例]父亲一边看电视,一边喃喃自语,说些让人听不懂的话。Father *muttered* unintelligible words *to himself* as he watched TV.

#### 【难兄难弟】

two of a kind; fellow sufferers; two just alike [例]他们俩是难兄难弟,同时爱上一个女孩,又同时被拒绝。They were two *fellow sufferers*. They fell in love with the same girl, and were rejected at the same time.

#### 【囊空如洗】

One's pocket is as empty as it had been washed clean; with empty pockets; penniless; broke [例]他来到这个陌生的城市,囊空如洗,举目无亲。He came to the strange city, *broke* and with no one to turn to.

#### 【囊括四海】

bring the whole country under imperial rule

#### 【恼羞成怒】

be shamed into anger; fly into a rage from shame; become (turn) angry from embarrassment [例]他的风流韵事被揭露后,他恼羞成怒。He *flew into a rage from shame* when his love affair was exposed

#### 【脑满肠肥】

heavy-jowled and potbellied; with a fair round belly and a swelled head; the idle rich [例]那些脑满肠肥之徒一无用处。Those *heavy-jowled and potbellied*

people are good for nothing.

【闹中取静】

a quiet spot in a noisy neighborhood

【内顾之忧】

worried for trouble at home; internal distresses

【内外交困】

beset with difficulties both at home and abroad; be plagued by troubles internally and externally; be in dire straits at home and abroad; on the horns of a dilemma in internal and external affairs. [例]本世纪初,清朝政府内外交困。At the beginning of this century, the government of the Qing dynasty *was in dire straits at home and abroad.*

【内忧外患】

internal and external troubles; domestic trouble and foreign invasion [例]自从这位君主继位以来,国家内忧外患不断。The country kept suffering from *domestic troubles and foreign invasions* ever since the king came to the throne.

【能歌善舞】

good at both singing and dancing

【能攻能守】

be good at offense and defense; be able to take the offensive or hold one's ground

【能工巧匠】

skillful craftsman; dab hand

【能骑善射】

expert at horseback riding and shooting arrow; he talented in riding and shooting

【能屈能伸】

be able to stoop or to stand erect; can take temporary setbacks; adaptable to circumstances [例]要取得成功就得能屈能伸。To meet with success one must be *adaptable to circumstances.*

【能人背后有能人】

For every able person there is always one

still abler; No one can boast of being superior to all others

【能上能下】

be ready to accept a higher or a lower post; be ready to work both at the top and at the grass roots [例]他的特别之处就在于能上能下。What's special about him is that he *is ready to work both at the top and at the grass roots.*

【能诗善画】

having superior abilities to write poetry and good at painting

【能说会道】

be a smart (good, glib) talker; have the gift of the gab; a silver (smooth) tongue; have a glib (nimble) tongue; with a ready tongue [例]他能说会道,终于说服朋友资助他。He *was a smart talker* and finally succeeded in persuading his friend to finance him.

【能言快语】

eloquent and frank in speech

【能言善辩】

eloquent, glib and quick-tongued in argument; be skilled in debate

【能文能武】

capable of handling both military and civilian affairs; be versed in both polite letters and martial arts; be able to wield both the pen and the gun [例]李世民是一位能文能武的皇帝。Li Shimin was an emperor who was *capable of handling both military and civilian affairs.*

【能者多劳】

Able people should do more work; An able man is always busy. [例]一些人总是说能者多劳,从而把最艰苦的工作推给别人。Some people often say that *able people should do more work*, which becomes an excuse for them to leave the most difficult work to others.



## 【能者为师】

let those who know teach [例]能者为师, 年纪大小并不重要。 *Let those who know teach regardless of their ages.*

## 【泥牛入海】

like a clay ox entering the sea; disappear like a clay buffalo drowned at sea; never to be heard of again; gone forever; never to return [例]他这一去, 就好比泥牛入海, 音信全无。 *After he left, he was like a clay ox entering the sea and never to be heard of again.*

## 【泥菩萨过江, 自身难保】

can't save oneself any more than a clay idol can save itself while crossing a river; like a clay idol fording a river; an idol of clay which can hardly survive when crossing a river; hardly able to save oneself (let alone anyone else) [例]当他的朋友找他帮忙时, 他已是泥菩萨过江, 自身难保了。 *He was hardly able to save himself when his friend turned to him for help.*

## 【泥沙俱下】

mud and sand are carried along; there is a mingling of good and bad

## 【泥塑木雕】

like an idol moulded in clay or carved in wood; as modeled in clay or carved from wood; as wooden as a dummy [例]不管你问她, 这位售货员都像泥塑木雕的一样。 *No matter how you asked her, the shop assistant remained as wooden as a dummy.*

## 【泥足深陷】

get into real trouble [例]他已泥足深陷, 没人能帮他了。 *He has got into real trouble and no one can help him out.*

## 【你死我活】

life - and - death; (a matter of) life or death; mortal; fight at (the) outrance [例]在这场你死我活的斗争中, 他的

仁慈成了他致命的弱点。 *In the life - and - death struggle, his clemency became his Achilles' heel.*

## 【你追我赶】

try to overtake each other in friendly emulation; race each other; try to outdo each other

## 【逆迹昭彰】

Signs of rebellion are evident

## 【逆来顺受】

take the rough with the smooth; meekly submit to oppression, maltreatment, etc.; resign oneself to adversity; take insults philosophically; with a resigned mind; grin and bear it [例]他总是逆来顺受, 谁也拿他没办法。 *He always takes the rough with the smooth and no one can change that.*

## 【逆流而上】

go up stream; run counter to the current of the times

## 【逆流而行】

sail against the stream; stem the current (tide)

## 【逆水行舟】

row against the flood; sail against the current (in the head tide) [例]人活于世, 犹如逆水行舟, 不进则退。 *Living in the world is like rowing against the flood; one either progresses or regresses.*

## 【逆水行舟, 不进则退】

a boat sailing against the current must forge ahead or it will be driven back

## 【匿影藏形】

sail under false colors; hide from public notice; conceal one's identity; lie low; work obscurely

## 【拈花惹草】

have many affairs

## 【拈轻怕重】

prefer the light to the heavy; prefer the

light and shirk the heavy; pick easy jobs and shirk hard ones [例]你必须改掉拈轻怕重的习惯。You must get rid of the habit of *picking easy jobs and shirking hard ones*.

## 【年复一年】

year after year; year in year out; from one year to another

## 【年富力强】

in the prime of life; in one's prime [例]当这位医生去非洲时,正值年富力强。When the doctor went to Africa, he was *in the prime of his life*.

## 【年高德劭】

advanced in years and highly esteemed; of venerable age and eminent virtue; venerable in age and character; old and virtuous [例]他年高德劭,我们应该听从他的。He is *of venerable age and eminent virtue*; we should listen to him.

## 【年高望重】

aged and in high standing; be full of years and honour

## 【年光荏苒】

the quick passing of time [例]任年光荏苒,她对她的爱始终不变。Her love for him remained the same despite *the quick passing of time*.

## 【年华如矢】

the years glide swiftly along

## 【年轻有为】

able and young; young and promising [例]听说那位年轻有为的科学家获得了政府奖励,我们都很高兴。We were very happy to hear that the *young and promising* scientist had received award from the government.

## 【年轻力壮】

young and vigorous, young and strong [例]这个地主雇佣了许多年轻力壮的工人。The landlord hired a lot of *young*

and vigorous workers.

## 【年少气盛】

young and impetuous

## 【年深日久】

with the passage of time; as the years go by after a long lapse (period) of time; timeworn [例]年深日久,河岸被侵蚀了。The riverbank corroded *with the passage of time*.

## 【念念不忘】

bear in mind constantly; think constantly of; harp on sth. [例]在战争中他念念不忘自己是个医生,总是尽力救死扶伤。During the war he *bore in mind constantly* that he was a doctor and kept trying his best to heal the wounded and rescue the dying.

## 【念念有词】

mutter incantations; mumble

## 【鸟尽弓藏】

cast aside the bow once the birds are gone; cast sb. aside when he has served his purpose; kick out sb. after his services are no longer needed [例]历史上许多著名的将领都摆脱不了鸟尽弓藏的命运。In history many famous generals just couldn't avoid their fate of being *cast aside when they had served their purposes*.

## 【鸟为食死,人为财亡】

birds die in pursuit of food and human beings die in pursuit of wealth

## 【鸟语花香】

birds sing and flowers give forth their fragrance; characterizing a fine spring day [例]在小女孩的心目中,天堂一定是一个鸟语花香的美丽地方。In the little girl's mind, heaven must be a beautiful place with *birds singing and flowers giving forth their fragrance*.

## 【蹑手蹑脚】

walk gingerly; walk on tiptoe [例]一早,

小男孩蹑手蹑脚地走进父母的房间，看他们是否醒了。In the early morning, the little boy *walked* into his parents' bedroom *on tiptoe* to see if they had waked up.

【蹑足不前】

not to move a step forward

【蹑足其间】

join a trade; associate with

【蹑足潜踪】

walking stealthily

【宁静致远】

Still water run deep; leading a quiet life

【宁缺毋滥】

would rather go without (sth.) than be contented with anything less satisfactory; rather go without than have something shabby (shoddy); put quality before quantity [例]他品味很高，总是宁缺毋滥。He has a *gand taste* and always *puts quality before quantity*.

【宁死不屈】

rather die than submit (surrender, yield); prefer death to dishonor; put death before dishonor [例]这支英勇的部队宁死不屈，一直战斗到最后一个人。The brave army *put death before dishonor* and fought until the last man died.

【宁为鸡口，无为牛后】

would rather be a leader anywhere than a follower; better be the head of a dog (an ass) than the tail of a lion (horse) [例]年轻的凯撒宁为鸡口，无为牛后。The young Caesar thought it *better to be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion*.

【宁为玉碎，不为瓦全】

rather be a shattered vessel (made) of jade than an unbroken piece of pottery; better to die in glory than survive with dishonor; better to die in glory than live in dishonor: rather die on one's feet than

live on one's knees; rather die for a noble cause than continue to live a shameful life; better be a piece of broken jade than an unbroken tile [例]他的母亲是一位宁为玉碎，不为瓦全的女子。His mother was a woman who would *rather die in glory than survive with dishonor*.

【牛鬼蛇神】

monsters and demons (of all descriptions); monsters and ghosts; forces of evil; ogres of all kinds [例]在“文革”中，一些老干部被看成是牛鬼蛇神。During the Cultural Revolution, some old cadres were regarded as *monsters and demons*.

【牛头不对马嘴】

horses' jaws don't match cow's heads; incongruous; things that don't agree; irrelevant [例]他们俩说的牛头不对马嘴。What they said was *incongruous*.

【扭扭捏捏】

unmanly in handling business; bo affectedly hashful

【浓妆艳抹】

wear heavy make up

【弄假成真】

what was make - believe has become reality; fulfil what was promised in joke [例]事情弄假成真，他们后悔不迭。They regretted it tremendously, for *what was make - believe had become reality*.

【弄巧成拙】

try to be clever only to end up with a blunder; in trying to be smart one makes himself look foolish; get into trouble through clever means; go for wool come home shorn; outsmart oneself [例]他想给上司一个惊喜，结果这次弄巧成拙。He had wanted to give his boss a surprise, but this time he *outsmarted himself*.

【弄虚作假】

resort to deception (deceit); practice fraud; employ trickery [例]为了得到提升,他弄虚作假。He *resorted to deception* to get a promotion.

【奴唇婢舌】

loose-tongued like a slave or maid

【奴颜婢膝】

be subservient (to); bend one's knees before sb.; seditiously fawn upon; abjectly do sth. to curry favor with; lick sb.'s boots (feet, shoes, spittle); be obsequious to; slavish; servile [例]你对上司如此奴颜婢膝,不觉得羞愧吗? Aren't you ashamed to be so *subservient* to your boss?

【怒不可遏】

beil with anger; be beside oneself with anger; one's rage is beyond restraint; lose control of one's temper [例]当鲁迅看到日本人欺负中国人,不由怒不可遏。Luxun *boiled with anger* when he saw Japanese bullying Chinese.

【怒发冲冠】

be so angry that one's hair raises (lifts) up his hat; One's hair stand on end with anger the rage makes one's hair stand on end; bristle with anger; be in a towering rage (passion) [例]听了儿子的话,将军怒发冲冠。Hearing what his son had said, the general became so *angry that his*

*hair stood on end.*

【怒火中烧】

simmer with rage; be burning (boiling) with anger (wrath); be filled with fury; one's blood boils [例]当他听到司机辱骂这位老人时,不由怒火中烧。He *simmered with rage* when he heard the driver abuse the old man.

【怒目相视】

look at each other with angry eyes; stare angrily; look daggers at; glare at; glower at; eye each other angrily [例]他们一见面就怒目相视。They would *stare* at each other *angrily* whenever they met.

【怒气冲天】

One's wrath filled the sky; be in a towering rage (passion); give way to unbridled fury; fly into a passion [例]他原本怒气冲天,可一看到她,居然挤出了个笑脸。He *was in a towering rage*, but as soon as he saw her, he managed a smile.

【怒形于色】

angry countenance; betray one's anger; look angry be black in the face [例]他从不怒形于色。He never *betrays his anger*.

【挪东补西】

rob one's belly to cover one's beck; make up deficiency at one place by drawing upon the surplus at the other

## O

## 【欧风美雨】

the influence of Western culture and civilisation

## 【呕心沥血】

make extremely painstaking efforts; shed one's heart's blood; take infinite pains; work one's heart out; strain one's heart and mind [例]为了国家的昌盛,很多人正在呕心沥血。A lot of people *are making painstaking efforts* for the prosperity of our country.

## 【偶成之得】

a verse written by chance

## 【偶一为之】

do sth. occasionally (by accident, once in

a while, by chance) [例]这样的事偶一为之还可以,成了习惯就不好了。It's all right if you just *do it occasionally*, but don't let it become a habit.

## 【藕断丝连】

the lotus root snaps but its fibres stay joined; the lotus root breaks, but the fibres hold together; the affection cannot be entirely severed; apparently severed, actually still connected; not completely cut off; still keep sth. up [例]他的女友决定跟他分手,因为他跟从前的女友藕断丝连。His girlfriend decided to leave him because *he could not completely cut off the relationship with his former girlfriend*.

## P

## 【爬得高跌得重】

the higher one climbs, the harder he falls

## 【怕前怕后】

timid and apprehensive of everything

## 【拍案而起】

snute (strike) the table (in anger) and rise to one's feet

## 【拍案叫绝】

thump the table and shout "bravo!"; express admiration by thumping the table

## 【拍板成交】

strike a bargain; clinch a deal [例]几个月过去了,双方才得以拍板成交。Several months passed before the two sides struck a bargain.

## 【拍手称快】

clap and cheer; clap hands for joy [例]听到判决以后,大家都拍手称快。Hearing the sentence, all the people clapped and cheered.

## 【拍手叫好】

clap and shout "bravo!"

## 【排斥异己】

discriminate (renounce) against those who hold different views; exclaim outsiders [例]排斥异己并不能巩固你的地位。You can't strengthen your position by discriminating against those who hold different views.

## 【排除万难】

surmount (overcome) all difficulties; surmount every difficulty (obstacle) [例]他下定决心要排除万难,达到自己的目标。He resolved to surmount every difficulty to reach his goal.

## 【排难解纷】

settle (mediate) disputes; clear up misun-

derstandings; pour oil on troubled waters [例]这对夫妇以乐于为他人排难解纷出名。This couple is known for being fond of settling disputes for others.

## 【排山倒海】

topple the mountains and overturn the seas; with the momentum of an avalanche; with the force of a landslide and the power of a tidal wave; overwhelming or sweeping [例]大军以排山倒海之势冲进了那座城市。The big army crashed into the city with the momentum of an avalanche.

## 【攀龙附凤】

play up to people of power and influence; put oneself under the patronage of a bigwig; fawn upon the influential people [例]这种人想靠攀龙附凤提高自己的地位,当然不会愿意跟我们一起进餐。People like him want to raise their position by playing up to people of power and influence. Of course they wouldn't dine with us.

## 【盘根错节】

with twisted roots and gnarled branches; complicated and difficult to deal with; (of old social forces) deep-rooted; as complicated as trees with twisting roots and inter-crossing branches [例]消灭旧的社会势力是一件盘根错节的工作。Eliminating old social forces is complicated and difficult to deal with.

## 【盘根问底】

try to get to the heart of a matter [例]他事事都要盘根问底,真让人受不了。He likes to get to the heart of every matter, which is rather unbearable.

## 【盘桓终日】

linger about all day long

【判若黑白】

as different as white is from black; not confusing at all; with a definite dividing line

【判若鸿沟】

the difference is as far-reaching as between the water-course

【判若两人】

different as if he weren't the same person; no longer be one's old self

【判若水火】

as different as water is from fire; with the difference between fire and water

【判若云泥】

as far removed as heaven is from earth; poles apart

【滂沱大雨】

torrential rain; pouring rain

【庞然大物】

a huge monster; colossus; formidable giant; monstrous creature [例]在白天,他发现昨晚看到的庞然大物其实只是一辆废弃的卡车。In the daylight he found that *the huge monster* he had seen the night before was nothing but a deserted truck.

【旁观者清】

the onlooker sees the game best; the spectator sees most clearly; the onlooker is clear-headed [例]最后,他决定去请教他的哥哥,因为旁观者清。Finally, he decided to ask for his brother's opinion, *for the spectator sees most clearly.*

【旁门左道】

heresy; heterodox school; unorthodox ways

【旁敲侧击】

heat about the bush; attack by innuendo; make veiled attack; make oblique thrusts; make oblique references and sly injurious

remarks [例]他试图通过旁敲侧击来获取情报。He tried to get information by *beating about the bush.*

【旁若无人】

act as if there were no one else present; act as if no one was nearby; self-assured; supercilious; an unwarranted assumption of airs; overweening [例]他旁若无人地说个没完。He kept talking as *if there had been no one else present.*

【旁征博引】

quote copiously from many sources; be well provided with supporting information [例]在这本书中作者旁征博引,显示了他的博学多才。In this book the author *quotes copiously from many sources*, which shows his erudition.

【抛头颅,洒热血】

shed one's blood and lay down one's life (for a just cause)

【抛头露面】

(of a woman in feudal society) appear (show one's face) in public; (of a woman) expose oneself in public; go out and be seen in public [例]这位作家极少抛头露面,使人觉得很神秘。This writer seldom *shows his face in public*, which makes him quite mysterious to people.

【抛砖引玉】

cast a brick to attract jade; cast a brick to get a gem; throw out a minnow to catch a whale; a modest spur to induce others to come forward with valuable contributions; offer a few commonplace remarks by way of introduction so that others may come up with valuable opinions [例]我希望我的书能起到抛砖引玉的作用。I wish to use my book as *a modest spur to induce others to come forward with valuable contributions.*

【刨根问底】

get to the root of the matter; get to the bottom of things [例]这个小男孩事事都要刨根问底。This little boy always tries to *get to the bottom of things*.

## 【袍笏登场】

dress up and go on stage; (said of a puppet) upon one's take-over

## 【咆哮如雷】

be in a thundering rage; roar with rage [例]当他发现儿子考试没及格,顿时咆哮如雷。He burst into a *thundering rage* when he found that his son had failed the examination.

## 【跑了和尚跑不了庙】

The runaway monk can't run away with the temple; A fugitive must belong to some place that can provide clues.

## 【跑龙套】

play a bit role; be a utility man

## 【赔了夫人又折兵】

throw the helve after the hatchet; pay a double penalty [例]这回他可是赔了夫人又折兵。This time he *has paid a double penalty*.

## 【喷薄欲出】

gush forth; spurt

## 【朋比为奸】

act in collusion with; conspire (for illegal ends); collude; gang up; associate with for treasonable purpose; associate to plot treason [例]这群恶棍朋比为奸,危害社会。These evil guys *ganged up* to harm our society.

## 【蓬头垢面】

with dishevelled hair and a dirty face; unkempt [例]她蓬头垢面的样子令我们大吃一惊。Her *unkempt* look surprised us all.

## 【鹏程万里】

(make) a roc's flight of 10,000 *li*; a roc can reach a destination 10,000 miles away

in one jump; (said of those who) have a bright future [例]谁都希望自己的孩子将来能鹏程万里。Everybody wishes that their children *would have a bright future*.

## 【捧腹大笑】

be convulsed with laughter; split (shake, burst) one's sides with laughter; belly laugh [例]孩子的话令大家捧腹大笑。We *were convulsed with laughter* at the child's words.

## 【披肝沥胆】

open one's liver and empty one's gallbladder; speak one's mind; open up one's heart; speak without reserve; talk with an effusion of heart; be open and sincere; be loyal and faithful; show a loyal heart; unbutton one's soul; bare one's heart (soul, thoughts) [例]让我们披肝沥胆,做真正的朋友吧。Let's *speak our mind* and be real friends.

## 【披枷带锁】

in chains

## 【披坚执锐】

dressed in strong armor and armed with sharp weapons; be fully armed and ready for combat; wear armor and carry weapon — be a warrior; be a warrior; be warrior-like [例]士兵们披坚执锐,保卫国家。The soldiers *are dressed in strong armor and armed with sharp weapons* to protect their country.

## 【披荆斩棘】

cut a way through brambles and thorns; break through brambles and thorns; hack one's way through the jungle and bushes; hack one's way through difficulties; clear away obstacles in one's way; blaze one's way forward through all the difficulties [例]革命家们披荆斩棘,寻找真理。The revolutionists *hack their way through*



*difficulties* to look for truth.

【披麻带孝】

put on mourning apparel

【披沙拣金】

sort out the fine gold from the sand; sift sand minutely for gold; sort out the fine gold from the sand; get essentials from a large mass of material(s) [例]作为一个老到的分析家,他知道如何披沙拣金。As an experienced analyst, he knows how to *get essentials from a large mass of materials*.

【披头散发】

with hair dishevelled; with hair in disarray; wear hair dishevelled [例]他看到妻子披头散发地跑出来感到很没面子。Seeing his wife come out *with hair dishevelled*, he was embarrassed.

【披星戴月】

under the canopy of the moon and the stars; travel (work) night and day; get up by starlight, not knock off work till the moon rises [例]那个使者披星戴月,以便及时赶到目的地。The messenger *travelled night and day* in order to get to the destination in time.

【披褐怀玉】

wearing rough garments but carrying a precious gem in the bosom; not show off one's talent

【劈波斩浪】

cleave through the waves

【劈头盖脸】

right in the face; direct in the face; direct to one's head and face; (scold) to one's face

【皮开肉绽】

the skin is torn and the flesh gapes open; badly bruised from flogging [例]他被酷刑弄得皮开肉绽。He was so cruelly tortured that *his skin was torn and his flesh*

*gapes open*.

【皮笑肉不笑】

put on a false smile; smile hypocritically; cold smile; skin-deep smile

【皮之不存,毛将焉附】

With the skin gone, what can the hair adhere to; A thing cannot exist without its basis. [例]国王被打败后,他的臣民也都流离失所。皮之不存,毛将焉附? After the king was defeated, all his subjects became homeless. For *with the skin gone, what can the hair adhere to?*

【蚍蜉撼树】

an ant trying to topple a giant tree; an ant trying to shake a big tree; ridiculously overrating one's own strength [例]这个小国家向那个大国挑战无异于蚍蜉撼树。The small country challenging that big country was like *an ant trying to topple a giant tree*.

【疲于奔命】

tired and exhausted from rushing about on missions; be tired out by too much running around; be tired from running around; be kept constantly on the run; be weighed down with work [例]自从女主人来了以后,这个男孩就一直疲于奔命。Ever since the mistress came, the boy *had been kept constantly on the run*.

【匹夫有责】

Every man has a share of responsibility (for the fate of his country) [例]谁说我不该谈政治?难道不是天下兴亡,匹夫有责吗? Who says that I shouldn't talk about politics? Isn't it true that *every man has a share of responsibility for the fate of his country?*

【匹夫之勇】

foolhardiness; reckless courage [例]在这样的时刻逞匹夫之勇是没有用的。*Foolhardiness* is of no use at such mo-

ment.

**【否极泰来】**

When misfortune reaches the limit, good fortune is at hand; Out of the depth of misfortune comes bliss [例]他经历了无数苦难,最后总算否极泰来。He suffered numerous miseries before at last *out of the depth of misfortune came bliss*.

**【屁滚尿流】**

wet one's pants in terror; be frightened out of one's wits

**【偏听偏信】**

heed and trust only one side; listen only to one side; believe in one-side stories; be biased [例]偏听偏信可能犯下可怕的错误。Horrible mistakes may result from *listening only to one side*.

**【片甲不留】**

not a single armored warrior remains; have not even a fragment of armor remaining; the army is completely wiped out [例]在那场战斗中,德军被苏军杀得片甲不留。In that battle, the German army *was completely wiped out* by the Russian army.

**【片瓦无存】**

not a single tile remains; be razed to the ground [例]在那场洪水中,很多房子被冲得片瓦无存。Many houses *were razed to the ground* by the flood.

**【片言只字】**

fragments of writing; half a word; a note with few words on it

**【片言只语】**

just a few words

**【片纸只字】**

fragments of writing; a brief note or letter

**【贫病交集】**

sick and straits

**【贫病交迫】**

be beset by poverty and illness; suffering from both poverty and sickness; sick as

well as poor [例]在战争年代,随处可见贫病交迫的人。During the years of war, you could see people *suffering from both poverty and sickness* everywhere.

**【贫病相连】**

poverty and sickness are closely connected with [例]这位医生认为,既然贫病相连,所以穷人比富人更需要他。In the doctor's opinion, since *poverty and sickness were closely connected with each other*, he was more needed by the poor than by the rich.

**【贫富悬殊】**

extreme disparity between the rich and the poor [例]许多人认为贫富悬殊是当时局势动荡的原因。Many people think that the *extreme disparity between the rich and the poor* accounted for the turbulent situation at that time.

**【贫贱不能移】**

not to be shaken (modified) by one's poverty (destitution)

**【贫无立锥之地】**

so poor as to have no place to stick an awl; utterly destitute; in extreme poverty [例]尽管他贫无立锥之地,他还是向他所深爱的女孩求婚了。Although he was *utterly destitute*, he still proposed to the girl he deeply loved.

**【贫嘴薄舌】**

garrulous and sharp-tongued; light and airy utterance [例]那个贫嘴薄舌的女人总有一天会惹上麻烦的。That *garrulous and sharp-tongued* woman will get herself into trouble someday.

**【品学兼优】**

of good character and scholarship

**【品头论足】**

make frivolous remarks about a woman's appearance; find fault with; be over-critical [例]这个花花公子被揍了一

顿,因为他在电影院里对别人的妻子品头论足。This dandy was beat in the cinema because he *had made frivolous remarks about the appearance of another man's wife.*

【牝鸡司晨】

a hen trying to cry cock - a - doodle - doo; wife being the head of the family (an expression used to deride a hen - pecked husband); the grey mare is the better horse [例]妻子牝鸡司晨,丈夫不敢乱花钱。With *the wife being the head of the family*, the husband dared not spend money freely.

【平白无故】

for no reason; gratuitously; without any reason [例]他平白无故地打了儿子一顿。He beat his son *for no reason.*

【平步青云】

spring to heaven from the level; rapidly go up in the world; have a meteoric rise; make a sudden rise in life [例]自打在剧院里巧遇老板之后,他就开始平步青云了。Since he met his boss by chance in the theatre, he had *had a meteoric rise.*

【平淡无奇】

prosaic; pedestrian; nothing exciting; very ordinary; nothing remarkable [例]他的经历平淡无奇,但是他十分兢兢业业。There's *nothing remarkable* about his background, but he is very cautious and attentive.

【平地风波】

a sudden storm on a calm sea; a sudden, unexpected turn of events; unforeseen trouble; a crisis out of nowhere [例]一场平地风波改变了小镇的命运。A *sudden, unexpected turn of events* changed the fate of the small town.

【平地楼台】

High buildings rise from the ground; start

from scratch

【平地一声(春)雷】

A sudden clap of thunder; A peal of (spring) thunder roars over the horizon; a sudden big change, e.g. a sudden rise in fame and position; an unexpected (happy) event; a bolt from the blue

【平分秋色】

(of two parties) have equal shares (of honor, power, glory, etc.); share on a fifty - fifty basis; divide (the cheerful countenance) equally; go halves; go share and share alike; go fifty - fifty (with) [例]两个年轻人在竞赛中平分秋色。The two young men *had equal shares of honors* in the competition.

【平铺直叙】

tell in a simple, straightforward way; narrate in a simple direct way; speak (write) in a dull, flat style; dull (insipid) expressions [例]这位作家故意用平铺直叙的方式叙述这个惊险故事。The writer *writes this thriller in a simple, straightforward way* on purpose.

【平起平坐】

sit as equals at the same table (with); be on an equal footing [例]亚瑟王总是和他的骑士们平起平坐。King Arthur always *sat as equals at the same table with* his knights.

【平心而论】

in all fairness; to give sb. his due; objectively speaking

【平心静气】

calmly; dispassionately; cool - headed; with equal mind; with cool determination; with equanimity; even - minded [例]妻子冲他大喊大叫,他却平心静气地坐在那儿,一言不发。His wife was abouting at him, but he just sat there *calmly* without saying anything.

## 【平易近人】

(of a person) amiable and easy to approach; easy to approach; unassuming and approachable [例]周总理是个平易近人的人。Premier Zhou was very *amiable and easy to approach*.

## 【评头论足】

comment (criticize) from head to feet; find fault with; make frivolous remarks about a woman's appearance; comment on (upon); criticize people not in a good sense; be over-critical [例]管好你自己的事,别总对别人评头论足。Mind your own business; don't keep *finding faults with other people*.

## 【萍水相逢】

(of strangers) meet by chance like patches of drifting duckweed; casual, temporary meeting; a strange bedfellow; ships that pass in the night [例]尽管只是萍水相逢,他却很乐意帮助她。Although it was only *a casual, temporary meeting*, still he was willing to help her.

## 【凭空杜撰】

create groundless rumors [例]这家报纸喜欢凭空杜撰有关名人的消息。This press likes to *create groundless rumors* about the celebrities.

## 【泼妇骂街】

like a shrew shouting abuse in the street [例]她站在那儿,好似泼妇骂街。She stood there *like a shrew shouting abuse in the street*.

## 【婆婆妈妈】

womanishly fussy; garrulous; mawkish; maudlin; foolishly sentimental; sentimentally silly [例]他是个婆婆妈妈的男人。He is a *garrulous* man.

## 【迫不得已】

have no alternative (choice) (but to); be forced to; be compelled to; be driven to;

(do sth.) against one's will; compelled by circumstances; no other way [例]因为丑闻已经暴露,这位政客迫不得已,只有辞职。Since the scandal had been made public, the politician *had no choice but to resign*.

## 【迫不及待】

too impatient to wait; cannot wait; unable to hold oneself back; brook no delay; be all agog to do sth.; posthaste [例]他迫不及待地想看到分别已久的女朋友。He *could not wait* to see his girlfriend whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

## 【迫在眉睫】

extremely urgent; extremely urgent and near; imminent; stare sb. in the face [例]尽管战争已经迫在眉睫,国王却好像并不在乎。The king didn't seem to care although the war was *staring him in the face*.

## 【破除迷信】

banish all blind faith; do away with superstitious or blind faith; do away with all fetishes and superstitions; topple old idols [例]我们首先要做的就是破除迷信,采取科学的思维方式。The first thing for us to do is *banish all blind faith* and adopt a scientific way of thinking.

## 【破釜沉舟】

break the caldrons and sink the boats (after crossing); break cooking pots and sink boats; army's grim determination of no retreat; cut off all means of retreat; burn one's boats (bridges); cross the Rubicon

## 【破罐破摔】

smash a pot to pieces just because it's cracked; write oneself off as hopeless and act recklessly; one who acts recklessly because he thinks his faults are irremediable

## 【破镜重圆】

a broken mirror joined together; reunion of

husband and wife after an enforced separation or rupture

【破旧立新】

destroy the old and establish the new; discard the old and create sth. new

【破口大骂】

shout abuse; let loose a torrent of abuse; hurl all kinds of abuse [例]她当着丈夫老板的面对她的丈夫破口大骂,令两位男士都十分尴尬。She let loose a torrent of abuse on her husband in front of his boss, which embarrassed both gentlemen.

【破涕为笑】

(one's) tears melt into smiles (of face); smile through tears; turn (change) tears into smiles (laughter) [例]当她看到她的孩子又睁开了眼睛,不由破涕为笑。Her tears melted into smiles when she saw her baby open his eyes again.

【破天荒】

occur for the first time; be unprecedented; without precedent [例]我可以告诉你他这么做还是破天荒第一回。I can assure you that it is *unprecedented* for him to do so.

【破绽百出】

be full of loopholes (defects); be full of flaws (holes) [例]他的证词破绽百出,我想陪审团是不会相信他的。His testimony is *full of loopholes*. I don't think the jury would give credit to it.

【剖腹藏珠】

rip open the stomach to hide a pearl; die for the sake of gain [例]我没想到真的有人会做出剖腹藏珠的事来。I never knew that there really would be people who

would *die for the sake of gain*.

【扑朔迷离】

complicated and confusing; puzzling [例]希区柯克的电影以扑朔迷离的情节著称。Hitchcock's films are famous for their *complicated and confusing* plots.

【铺天盖地】

blot out the sky and cover up the earth; in an overwhelming manner; like a ton of (a hundred) bricks [例]他获得诺贝尔奖之后,当地的报纸上铺天盖地,到处是他的照片。After he won the Nobel Prize, his photos were published in the local newspapers *in an overwhelming manner*.

【铺张浪费】

extravagance and waste; extravagant; wasteful

【璞玉浑金】

uncut jade and unrefined gold; unadorned beauty; gold - ore and unworked jade — said of one who has not been spoiled [例]他的诗歌有如璞玉浑金,令人钦慕。His poetry is of *unadorned beauty*, which is quite adorable.

【普天同庆】

The whole world or nation joins in the jubilation; universal or national celebration; universal rejoicing [例]停战协议宣布的那天,普天同庆。The day the truce was announced there was *universal rejoicing*.

【普天之下】

in all the world; all over the world [例]普天之下,你不会找到比他对你更好的人了。You won't find a man who will treat you better than he does *in all the world*.

## Q

## 【七长八短】

of uneven size

## 【七颠八倒】

in great confusion; totter in any and all directions; in disorder; at sixes and sevens; topsy-turvy; all upside down

## 【七零八落】

scattered here and there; in a state of confusion; all a hideous mess; in disorder; at sixes and sevens [例]我们赶去时,他们已经走了,地上只剩下七零八落的几本旧杂志。When we hurried there, they had already gone. There were only several old magazines *scattering here and there*.

## 【七拼八凑】

a patchwork without pattern or order; obtain with effort; scrape (piece, knock) together; rig up

## 【七窍生烟】

foam with rage; fume with anger; blow one's top; fly into a rage (passion, temper); fly off the handle [例]女儿跟人跑了,老爷子气得七窍生烟。The old man *fumed with rage* because his daughter had ran away with some guy.

## 【七上八下】

be agitated; in a mental flurry of indecision; be perturbed [例]听说父亲要见他,他心里不由七上八下。He *was agitated* when he heard that his father wanted to see him.

## 【七手八脚】

seven hands and eight feet; too many cooks; great hurry and bustle; all join in, each lending a hand; serve hand and foot; all flurry and confusion

## 【七嘴八舌】

with seven mouths and eight tongues; all talking at once; clash of opinions; lively discussion with everybody trying to get a word in [例]他们七嘴八舌,弄得我不知道该怎么做。I didn't know what to do with them *all talking at once*.

## 【妻离子散】

with one's family broken up; breaking up or scattering of one's family [例]在战争中,很多人妻离子散,饱受折磨。In the war, many people suffered a great deal *with their families broken up*.

## 【凄风苦雨】

wailing wind and weeping rain; wretched circumstances [例]虽然生活在凄风苦雨之中,他们依旧对未来满怀希望。Although they were living in the *wretched circumstances*, they were still full of hopes for the future.

## 【期期艾艾】

stammer (out); stutter (out) sth.; tongue-tied [例]他期期艾艾地说出了他真正想要的。He *stammered out* what he really wanted.

## 【欺人太甚】

bully others too much; go too far in insult (in injury, in bullying others) [例]这是他们自找的,他们欺人太甚。They asked for that, they had *bullied others too much*.

## 【欺人之谈】

deceptive talk; deceitful words; eyewash; fraud; hoax; lie; forked tongue; nonsense [例]你怎么能对这种欺人之谈当真呢? How could you take such *deceptive talk* seriously?

## 【欺软怕硬】

bully the weak and fear the strong; play the bully [例]懦夫们总是欺软怕硬。Cowards *bully the weak and fear the strong*.

### 【欺世盗名】

gain the fame by deceiving the public; win popularity by cheap means; unsound scholarship; angle for undeserved fame; sail under false colors [例]最后,他发现他过去的偶像大多数都是欺世盗名之辈。Finally, he found most of his past idols were people who *won popularity by cheap means*.

### 【漆黑一团】

pitch - dark; altogether pitch dark; as black as night (midnight); be completely in the dark; an utterly dark picture; as black as a crow (coal, ink); in a fog; in a complete (proper, terrible) mess; utterly hopeless [例]没有月光的夜晚,漆黑一团。Everything was *pitch - dark* on a night without the moon.

### 【齐头并进】

advance side by side; do two or more things at once; keep step (with)

### 【齐心协力】

work as one (man); be of one heart; with one heart; make concerted efforts; join hands (with); hand to fist; pull together; hang together; shoulder to shoulder [例]他们齐心协力打退了敌人。They *pulled together* to fight off the enemy.

### 【其乐无穷】

an endless enjoyment; it is a great joy to; find it a delight (joy) [例]对于我舅舅来讲,钓鱼其乐无穷。To my uncle, there is *an endless enjoyment* in fishing.

### 【其貌不扬】

His appearance is by no means imposing; ill - favored; homely; be of undistinguished appearance

### 【其势汹汹】

look threatening; bluster; furiously; aggressive; truculent [例]这群人手执武器,其势汹汹。These people *looked threatening*, weapons in hand.

### 【其味无穷】

a lasting pleasant taste; have a boundless good flavor; be highly delightful; so suggestive as to leave lasting thinking; provide food for thought (reflection) [例]家里自制的蛋糕其味无穷。The home-made cake has *a lasting pleasant taste*.

### 【奇耻大辱】

galling shame and humiliation; crying shame and crowning humiliation; deep disgrace [例]他无法忍受这一奇耻大辱,于是自杀了。He couldn't swallow the *deep disgrace* and committed suicide.

### 【奇货可居】

hoard as a rare commodity to corner the market; waiting to sell sth. valuable at a high price; set a high price and hold back [例]当他来到这儿以后,他发现家乡的普通玻璃器具在这儿居然奇货可居。After he came to the land, he found here the common glassware back in his hometown was *hoarded as a rare commodity to corner the market*.

### 【奇谈怪论】

fantastic stories and theories; strange tale; ridiculous argument; absurdities [例]我觉得在他的奇谈怪论里面还是有点东西的。I feel there is something in his *fantastic stories and theories*.

### 【奇文共赏】

A remarkable work should be shared and its subjects discussed; share the pleasure of reading a rare piece of writing; A wonderful essay is appreciated by all [例]好的作品应该奇文共赏,这样大家都可以获益。A *remarkable work should be*

*shared and its subjects discussed* so that everybody can benefit from it.

**【奇形怪状】**

grotesque (fantastic) in shape or (and) appearance; strange sight; badly dressed appearance [例]他家院子里种满了奇形怪状的植物。His courtyard was full of plants with *grotesque shapes and appearances*.

**【奇珍异宝】**

very rare and valuable objects; rare treasures; rare jewels and precious stones [例]传说海盗们把很多的奇珍异宝都藏在了荒岛上。It is said that the pirates hid a lot of *very rare and valuable objects* on the deserted islands.

**【奇装异服】**

outlandish clothes; exotic costume; bizarre dress [例]老人被她的奇装异服吓坏了。The old man was shocked by her *outlandish clothes*.

**【骑虎难下】**

He who rides a tiger finds it difficult to dismount; have no way to back down; like riding on a tiger — afraid to go on and unable to get down; have (hold) a wolf by the ears; in a dilemma; between the devil and the deep (blue) sea [例]如今他骑虎难下,悔不该当初匆匆许下诺言。Now that he *had no way to back down*, he regretted making the promise in such a hurry.

**【骑马找马】**

looking for a horse while sitting on one; look for a donkey on a donkey's back; held on to one job while seeking a better one; absent-minded; look for something which is already in one's hands

**【棋逢对手】**

meet one's match in a chess tournament; even-matched; be well-matched in a

contest; find (meet) one's match; When Greek meets Greek; Then comes the tug of war; Diamond cut diamond [例]巴西足球队遇上阿根廷队,可算是棋逢对手。The Brazilian Football Team *found its match* in the Argentine Football Team.

**【旗鼓相当】**

be a match for; equal in match or contest of strength; be well-matched; a Roland for an Oliver; be equal to; keen rivalry

**【旗开得胜】**

win victory as soon as one's banner is displayed; gain a battle at the unfurling of the flag; win victory in the first battle; win speedy success; succeed at the first try [例]英国人在对法战争中旗开得胜。England *won victory in the first battle* against France.

**【乞哀告怜】**

beg for mercy (pity); piteously beg for help; implore bitterly [例]他宁可死也不愿意乞哀告怜。He would rather die than *piteously beg for help*.

**【岂有此理】**

Is there such a principle? How unreasonable! Who ever heard of such a thing? This is utter nonsense indeed! By thunder! preposterous; outrageous; absurd; fantastic [例]他打了那人,却要那人向他道歉,真是岂有此理! He beat the man and then asked the man to apologize to him. *Who ever heard of such a thing?*

**【杞人忧天】**

like the man of Qi who was haunted by the fear that the sky might fall; unnecessary anxiety; entertain imaginary or groundless fears; superfluous worry; borrow trouble [例]不要杞人忧天,做自己应该做的事。Stop the *unnecessary anxiety* and do what you should do.

**【起承转合】**



introduction, elucidation of the theme, transition to another viewpoint and summing up—the four steps in the composition of an essay

### 【起死回生】

(praise of doctors) make the dead come back to life; (of a doctor) bring back to life; snatch a patient from the jaws of death [例]他伤得太重,没有人能令他起死回生了。He was wounded too severely and nobody could *snatch him from the jaws of death*.

### 【气贯长虹】

imbued with a spirit as lofty as a rainbow spanning the sky; full of noble aspiration and daring [例]毛泽东的诗歌气贯长虹。Mao Zedong's poems are *full of noble aspiration and daring*.

### 【气急败坏】

flustered and exasperated; utterly discomfited; panting and dismayed; with a great spluttering

### 【气势磅礴】

of a great momentum; powerful; full of power and grandeur; magnificent [例]贝多芬的交响乐气势磅礴。Beethoven's symphonies are *of a great momentum*.

### 【气势汹汹】

be in a very threatening manner; an aggressive posture; fierce; truculent; overbearing; arrogantly [例]这条狗每见到一个陌生人就会气势汹汹地向他吠叫。The dog would bark at every stranger he saw *in a very threatening manner*.

### 【气吞山河】

imbued with a spirit that can conquer mountains and rivers; full of daring [例]中国人民解放军以气吞山河之势横渡长江,解放了南京。Imbued with a spirit that could conquer mountains and rivers, the Chinese People's Liberation Army

crossed the Changjiang River and liberated Nanjing.

### 【气味相投】

people of the same tastes; be of the same cast of mind; be like-minded; be congenial to each other; be birds of a feather; be two of a kind [例]父子俩气味相投,都喜欢下棋和钓鱼。The father and the son are *of the same tastes*, they both like playing chess and fishing.

### 【气息奄奄】

at the point of death; moribund; dying; at one's last gasp; like a person who is sinking; at the end of one's resources; be on one's last legs; have one foot in the grave; at death's door [例]这只猫被板凳砸过之后,耳朵里流血流得很厉害,气息奄奄。Bleeding heavily from its ear after being hit by the bench, the cat was *at death's door*.

### 【气象万千】

majestic; a magnificent and changeful prospect; spectacular; kaleidoscopic [例]夕阳下的大漠气象万千。The great desert under the setting sun was a *majestic scene*.

### 【气焰嚣张】

be swollen with arrogance; be puffed with pride; blustering; overbearingly [例]这个拳击手气焰嚣张,全不把对手放在眼中。The boxer was *swollen with arrogance* and thought nothing of his opponent.

### 【气壮山河】

full of power and grandeur; sublime and heroic; magnificent

### 【弃暗投明】

forsake darkness and cross over to brightness; leave the darkness and come to the light; leave the reactionary side and cross over to the side of progress; give oneself

up to the government [例]年老的双亲终于说服了儿子弃暗投明。At last the old parents persuaded their son to *leave the reactionary side and cross over to the side of progress*.

#### 【弃甲曳兵】

(of troops) throw away one's armor and trail the weapons behind; drag weapons and abandon armor in a rout; flee pell-mell; be routed [例]波斯人跟希腊人对阵不久,便弃甲曳兵。The Persians *fled pell-mell* soon after they were confronted with the Greeks.

#### 【弃旧图新】

reject the old for the new; start afresh; renounce one's past and start with a clean slate; turn over a new leaf [例]在新的一年里,我们要弃旧图新。We'll *turn over a new leaf* in the New Year.

#### 【弃如粪土】

cast away like dirt [例]经过这件事,他把名利心弃如粪土。After the event, he *cast away* his worries for fame and gain *like dirt*.

#### 【弃若敝屣】

cast aside like an old shoe; be left in the basket; reject sth. as if it were worthless [例]成功以后,他就将从前的女友弃若敝屣,开始和一个金发美女约会。After he succeeded, he *cast aside* his former girlfriend *like an old shoe* and began to go out with a blonde.

#### 【泣不成声】

sob too bitterly to speak; choke with sobs [例]他不忍心惩罚这个泣不成声的孩子。He couldn't have the heart to punish the child who was *choking with sobs*.

#### 【恰到好处】

just right; just perfect; to a tee (T); to a nicety [例]他对这次事故的描述恰到好处。His description of the accident was

*just right*.

#### 【恰如其分】

neither more nor less than; to a proper extent; in appropriate measure; in just quantity; well-measured; apt; appropriate [例]他对朋友显示了恰如其分的关心。The concern he showed for his friend was *neither more nor less than* what was needed.

#### 【千变万化】

ever-changing; innumerable (incalculable, kaleidoscopic) changes [例]他无法应付千变万化的政治形势。He couldn't handle the *ever-changing* political situation.

#### 【千差万别】

differ in thousands of ways; highly differentiated; immense variety [例]人的性格千差万别。People's characters *differ in thousands of ways*.

#### 【千锤百炼】

be revised and rewritten many times; thoroughly tempered (stealed); well-experienced; have gone through fire and water; (of literary works) be polished again and again [例]这首著名的短诗是经过千锤百炼才完成的。This famous short poem was *revised and rewritten many times* before it was finally finished.

#### 【千方百计】

in a thousand and one ways; in every possible way; by every possible means; use every means to; do all in one's power; resort to every trick; use every stratagem; leave no means untried; leave no stone unturned; by fair means or foul; by hook or (by) crook [例]他命令他的手下千方百计找回丢失的宝物。He ordered his men to *do all in their power* to recover the lost treasure.

#### 【千夫所指】

face a thousand accusing fingers; be up for general castigation with a thousand accusing fingers leveled against one; be universally condemned; be condemned by the public [例]他们侵略邻国的行径为千夫所指。Their invasion of the neighboring countries was *universally condemned*.

#### 【千古奇谈】

strange stories of the ages; a forever strange tale; absurdity; nonsense [例]母牛生下一匹马真是千古奇谈。It is a *forever strange tale* that a cow could have given birth to a horse.

#### 【千军万马】

thousands upon thousands of horses and soldiers; a powerful army; a mighty force; millions of troops; a world of people [例]即使有千军万马他也没法改变局势了。He couldn't change the situation even if he had had a *powerful army*.

#### 【千钧重负】

a crushing burden; a vital responsibility [例]对于他来说,这个头衔无异于千钧重负。To him, the title was nothing less than a *crushing burden*.

#### 【千里送鹅毛,礼轻情意重】

To send the feather of a goose one thousand *li*, the gift in itself may be insignificant, but the goodwill is deep; The present is trifling but the feeling is profound; The gift itself may be light as a goose feather, but sent from afar, it conveys deep feeling.

#### 【千里迢迢】

thousands of *li* away; far, far away; from afar; over a great distance [例]他千里迢迢跑来参加弟弟的婚礼。He came from *far, far away* to attend his brother's wedding.

#### 【千里之堤,溃于蚁穴】

One ant-hole may cause the collapse of a

thousand-*li* dyke; A small ant's hole may destroy a great dam; Slight negligence may lead to a great disaster; A small leak will sink a great ship.

#### 【千里之行,始于足下】

A thousand-*li* journey starts with the first step; A thousand-*li* journey is started by taking the first step; He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom.

#### 【千虑一得】

Even a fool occasionally hits on a good idea; Even fools sometimes speak to the purpose; A fool's bolt may sometimes hit the mark; A fool may give a wise man counsel.

#### 【千难万险】

numerous dangers and hazards; untold hardships and risks [例]他们不顾千难万险,开始了工作。They set about their work regardless of the *numerous dangers and hazards*.

#### 【千篇一律】

cast in the same mould; following the same pattern; all in the same key; stereotyped; invariably; monotony [例]学生对庆典的描写千篇一律,显示出想象力的缺乏。The students' descriptions of the ceremony were *cast in the same mould*, which showed a lack of imagination.

#### 【千奇百怪】

all sorts (kinds) of strange things; an infinite variety of fantastic phenomena; many unusual things; exceedingly strange; very wonderful [例]海底世界千奇百怪。There are *all sorts of strange things* under the sea.

#### 【千秋万代】

throughout the ages; generation after generation; in all the generations to come; forever [例]罗马人希望他们的城市千秋万代屹立不倒。The Romans wanted

their city to stand *throughout the ages*.

【千山万水】

ten thousand crags and torrents; numerous mountains and rivers; a long and arduous journey; a great distance; land and sea [例]商人们越过千山万水把他们珍贵的货物带到了这块异国的土地。The businessmen made a *long and arduous journey* to bring their precious goods to the foreign land.

【千丝万缕】

a thousand and one links; countless ties; innumerable links; be linked in a hundred and one ways; have everything connected to each other [例]这两个家族有千丝万缕的联系。The two families are *linked in a hundred and one ways*.

【千头万绪】

thousands of strands and loose ends; a multitude of things; (of things) extremely complicated and difficult to unravel; too many things to attend to [例]他一时千头万绪,不知从何做起。He didn't know where to start with a *multitude of things* to do.

【千辛万苦】

untold hardships; innumerable trials and tribulations; severe toil [例]中国长城是无数人历尽千辛万苦建成的。The Great Wall of China was built through *untold hardships* by countless men.

【千言万语】

thousands and thousands of words; countless words; numerous words [例]尽管有千言万语,他在当时却不能说。Though he had *countless words* to say, he couldn't say them at that moment.

【千载难逢】

an opportunity of a thousand years; not likely to occur once in a thousand years; the chance of a lifetime; once in a life-

time; very rare; once in a blue moon [例]对于他们来说,被邀参加大会是一次千载难逢的机会。To them, being invited to the conference was an *opportunity of a thousand years*.

【千载一时】

occur only once in a thousand years; an extremely rare chance; very rare; once in a blue moon [例]观看火箭升空对于我们真是千载一时。It is an *extremely rare chance* for us to watch the rocket launch.

【千真万确】

really and truly; true as gospel; absolutely true; as sure as fate (death, life, nails, guns); as sure as eggs is eggs; upon my word [例]我们千真万确听他说过他知道凶手是谁。We *really and truly* heard him say that he knew who was the murderer.

【牵肠挂肚】

be very worried about; feel deep anxiety about; be deeply concerned; infinite longing for; cause deep personal concern; be on tenterhooks [例]她对从军的儿子牵肠挂肚。She was *very worried about* her son who was in the army.

【牵一发而动全身】

Pull one hair and the whole body is affected; A slight move in one part may affect the situation as a whole; One careless move loses the whole game [例]从现在起,我们必须小心行事,因为此时牵一发而动全身。From now on we must be very careful with what we are doing, because a *slight move in one part may affect the situation as a whole*.

【谦谦君子】

a modest, self-disciplined gentleman; a hypocritically modest person [例]作为一个谦谦君子,他从不跟女人争吵。As

a modest, self-disciplined gentleman, he never argued with a woman.

【谦虚谨慎】

modest and prudent [例]他谦虚谨慎,很快就赢得大家的好感。Modest and prudent, he soon won everybody's heart.

【前车之覆,后车之鉴】

The overturned cart ahead is a warning to the carts behind; One should take warning from another's mistake; heed previous examples; The folly of one man is the fortune of another; It is well to profit by the folly of others.

【前车之鉴】

warning taken from the overturned cart in front; lessons drawn from others' mistakes (failures); examples to take warning from; precedents from which to take warning [例]他过于骄傲,不肯汲取前车之鉴。He was too proud to learn from lessons drawn from others' mistakes.

【前赴后继】

advance wave upon (after) wave [例]年轻人前赴后继赶往前线,保卫家园。The young men advanced wave after wave upon the battlefield to protect their country.

【前功尽弃】

All one's previous efforts are wasted; All that has been achieved is spoiled; nullify all the advantages of a series of victories; all labor lost; all previous work undone; All efforts go down the drain [例]他的话使我们前功尽弃。All our previous efforts were wasted because of his words.

【前呼后拥】

Those who go before call out and those behind crowd up; with many attendants crowding round; with a large retinue; with escorts in front and behind; with a long train of equipage [例]他前呼后拥,看上

去洋洋自得。He looked complacent with many attendants crowding round.

【前倨后恭】

be first supercilious and then deferential; haughty before and polite afterward; change from arrogance to humility; One's haughtiness has given place to humility [例]当这个有钱人知道他是个大诗人之后,态度前倨后恭。After the rich man learned that he was a great poet, his attitude changed from arrogance to humility.

【前门拒虎,后门进狼】

Drive the tiger away from the front door and let a wolf in at the back; fend off one danger only to fall prey to another; One woe goes and another comes.

【前怕狼,后怕虎】

fear the wolves ahead and the tigers behind; be plagued by all sorts of fears; full of fears

【前仆后继】

As those in front fall, those behind take up their positions; With fresh forces always stepping forward as others fall; No sooner has one fallen than others step into the breach; One steps into the breach as another falls [例]解放军战士前仆后继,与洪水作战。The PLA soldiers fought against flood with fresh forces always stepping forward as others fell.

【前前后后】

back and forth; backwards and forwards; the whole story; the entire process; the details and complexities; the ins and (the) outs (of a matter) [例]快把前前后后的一切讲给我听。Now tell me the whole story.

【前人栽树,后人乘凉】

One generation plants the trees under whose cool shade another generation rests;

profiting by the labor of one's forefathers; enjoying the fruits of labor of one's ancestors or predecessors; One sows and another reaps.

【前事不忘,后事之师】

Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future; learn from the past experiences; Today is yesterday's pupil; Today is the scholar (pupil) of yesterday.

【前思后想】

turn over in one's mind; think over again and again; chew the cud; chew sth. over; chew (up) on sth. [例]我前思后想,总觉得这里面有鬼。I *turned it over in my mind* and couldn't get rid of the feeling that there was something fishy about it.

【前所未闻】

never heard of before; unheard - of [例]他的经历真是前所未闻。His story was such as *never heard of before*.

【前所未有】

such as never previously existed; unprecedented; hitherto unknown; beyond (without) example [例]世人对个人显示出这样深的关切之情还是前所未有的。It was *unprecedented* for the world to show so much concern for an individual.

【前途无量】

have boundless prospects; have a very promising future; of great promise [例]尽管他知道从商前途无量,但是他却很想学画。Although he knew he could *have a very promising future* in business, he wanted to learn art very much.

【前无古人】

have no (without) parallel in history; unprecedented [例]我们的成就是前无古人的。Our achievement is *without parallel in history*.

【前因后果】

cause(s) and effect(s); the entire process [例]侦探分析了谋杀的前因后果。The detective analyzed *the entire process* of the murder.

【钱可通神】

Money can move the gods; Money makes the mare go; Money talks; A golden key opens every door [例]他相信钱可通神,以为这个法官构不成威胁。He believed that *money could move the gods* and thought the judge would be no problem.

【潜移默化】

be unconsciously influenced; exert a subtle influence on sb.'s character, thinking, etc.; a silent transforming (imperceptible) influence [例]在非洲住了二十年,他受到了当地风俗潜移默化的影响。Living in Africa for twenty years, he was *unconsciously influenced* by the local customs.

【黔驴计穷】

The proverbial donkey in ancient Gui Chou has exhausted its tricks; can do nothing more; have no other tricks left to play; have exhausted one's bag of tricks; at one's wits' end; at the end of one's rope (tether) [例]她已是黔驴计穷,却依然装得很有信心。She was *at her wits' end*, but she pretended to be still very confident.

【浅尝辄止】

put away the cup after taking a tiny sip; just have a tiny sip of; be satisfied with a smattering of a subject; stop after getting a little knowledge of a subject or about sth.; scratch the surface (of) [例]她确实是兴趣广泛,但总是浅尝辄止。It's true she has a lot of interests, but she is always *satisfied with just a smattering of a subject*.

【枪林弹雨】

a forest of guns and a hail of bullets; a

hail (rain) of bullets; heavy fire (gun-fire); storm of shots and shells [例]他从枪林弹雨中救出了他的战友。He saved his battle companion from a *hail of bullets*.

【墙倒众人推】

When a wall is about to collapse, everybody gives it a push; When a wall is falling, all push it; Everybody hits a man who is down; take advantage of others' frustration; kick sb. when he's down [例]墙倒众人推,现在人人都企图通过诋毁他来获取支持。When a wall is about to collapse, everybody gives it a push, now everybody was trying to win popularity by slandering him.

【强奸民意】

defile public opinion - said of reactionary rulers who force their views on the people and assert their arbitrary actions as wishes of the people

【强将手下无弱兵】

There are no poor soldiers under a good general; A capable commander leads an army of good soldiers; A good leader can bring about a good team.

【强弩之末】

The arrow from a strong bow becomes weak after flying its distance; an arrow at the end of its flight; the furthest reach of a shot from a strong bow; on the decline and no longer what it was; a spent force; a strong force that has been exhausted [例]这支球队已是强弩之末,很快就被打败。The team was *on the decline and no longer what it was*, soon it was defeated.

【强中自有强中手】

However strong you are, there's always someone stronger; Diamond cuts diamond

【强词夺理】

use lame arguments and perverted logic;

distort the right and talk speciously; resort to sophistry in self-justification; reason fallaciously; twist one's principles in order to finish an argument; chop logic; sophisticate; captious [例]他强词夺理,没有人愿意听他的。Since he *used lame arguments and perverted logic*, nobody would listen to him.

【强人所难】

try to make sb. do sth. which he won't or can't; constrain sb. to do things that are beyond his power [例]他叫我周末加班,真是强人所难。He *tried to make me do something that I wouldn't* by asking me to work overtime on weekends.

【敲骨吸髓】

break the bones and suck the marrow; suck the life - blood; cruel, bloodsucking exploitation; drain sb. of wealth, strength, etc.; milk sb. dry; bleed sb. white [例]这个贪婪的地主对佃户们敲骨吸髓。The greedy landlord *sucked the life - blood* of the tenants.

【敲诈勒索】

extort and racketeer; blackmail and impose exactions on (upon); practice blackmail; swindle and squeeze [例]官员们对地方百姓敲诈勒索。The officials *extort and racketeer* money from the local people.

【乔装改扮】

disguise oneself; deck (oneself) out; dress (oneself) up [例]在仙女的帮助下,小女孩乔装改扮成公主参加了舞会。With the help from the fairy, the little girl *disguised herself* as a princess and went to the ball.

【巧夺天工】

wonderful workmanship (superb craftsmanship) excelling nature; surpass natural creation; be of wonderful workmanship

(superb craftsmanship) [例]这座古桥造得巧夺天工。The ancient bridge was of wonderful workmanship.

【巧妇难为无米之炊】

Even the cleverest housewife cannot cook a meal without rice; You can't make something out of nothing; One cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear; if you have no hand you can't make a fist; One can't make bricks without straw.

【巧立名目】

concoct various pretexts; invent all sorts of names; rack one's brains for ingenious devices; by various subterfuges [例]他们巧立名目, 逃避纳税。They concocted various pretexts to avoid paying taxes.

【巧取豪夺】

secure by force or by trick [例]官员们巧取豪夺, 把自己想要的都弄到手。The officials secured all that they want by force or by trick.

【巧舌如簧】

honey - mouthed; glib - tongued; smooth - tongued; has a silver (smooth, oily, glib or ready) tongue [例]她巧舌如簧, 得到了所有人的信任。She was so honey - mouthed that she won the trust of everybody.

【巧言令色】

pleasing words and smoothness of manner; fine words and an insinuating countenance; with artful speech and flashy manners; flattering [例]老太太见多识广, 不会被巧言令色骗过。The old lady was well experienced and couldn't be fooled by pleasing words and smoothness of manner.

【切磋琢磨】

compare notes; study and learn by mutual discussion; learn from each other by exchanging views; lucubration and consulta-

tion [例]两位诗人经常在一起切磋琢磨。The two poets learned from each other by exchanging views regularly.

【切齿痛恨】

grind (gnash) one's teeth in hatred; hate bitterly; have a bitter hatred for [例]卖国贼的名字令人们切齿痛恨。People ground their teeth in hatred at the names of those who betrayed their country.

【切肤之痛】

deep grief; keenly felt pain; Sorrow hits home [例]说到那个在一次车祸中夺去了他妻子生命的男人, 他有切肤之痛。He felt deep grief at the mention of the man who killed his wife in a car accident.

【窃窃私语】

intimate or confidential talk; have a tête - à - tête talk; whisper; murmur; exchanged whispered comments; confidential discussion [例]他们正在房间里窃窃私语。They were having a confidential talk in the room.

【窃玉偷香】

indulge in secret relations with women; pick up loose women; intrigue

【锲而不舍】

keep on carving unflaggingly; work with perseverance; stick to sth. with perseverance [例]凭着锲而不舍的精神, 他终于成为有名望的演员。He became a famous actor by working with perseverance.

【亲密无间】

be on very intimate terms; in close coordination; in close relations with; (as) thick as thieves; be hand in glove (with) [例]他们亲密无间, 无话不谈。They were on very intimate terms and kept nothing from each other.

【亲痛仇快】

sadden one's friends and gladden one's en-



emies; grieve those dear and near to us and gladden the enemy [例]他晚年的所作所为令亲痛仇快。His behavior in his later years *saddened his friends and gladdened his enemies*.

**【钦差大臣】**

an imperial envoy; an imperial commissioner

**【擒贼先擒王】**

To catch bandits, first catch the ringleader; pay heed to what is important

**【沁人心脾】**

refreshing; mentally refreshing; gladdening the heart and refreshing the mind [例]百合的芳香沁人心脾。The fragrance of the lilies is *refreshing*.

**【青出于蓝而胜于蓝】**

Blue indigo ink is bluer than the indigo plant from which it comes; The pupil learns from and outdoes his teacher; have excelled one's masters; The younger generation outdoes the older generation. [例]只有当学生能青出于蓝而胜于蓝,社会才能进步。Only when *the pupil learns from and outdoes his teacher* can society make progress.

**【青黄不接】**

when the new crop is still in the blade and the old one is all consumed; when one crop is eaten and the next is still green; temporary shortage; the transition from one period to another; gap in succession; in temporary financial difficulty [例]现在的教师队伍青黄不接。There is a *temporary shortage* of teachers.

**【青面獠牙】**

(of a monster) with a green face and ferocious fangs; terrifying in appearance; monstrous-looking; fiendish [例]他又不是青面獠牙的怪物,你为什么怕他? Why are you afraid of him? He is not *ter-*

*rifying in appearance*.

**【青云直上】**

float upon the clouds; rapid advancement in one's career; meteoric rise; rapidly go up in the world [例]他梦想通过娶老板的女儿青云直上。He dreamed of a *rapid advancement in his career* by marrying the daughter of his boss.

**【轻而易举】**

without making an effort; easy to undertake (do); (as) easy as ABC; an easy job; can be easily accomplished; without striking a blow; (as) easy as pie; like a hot knife through butter; on one's head; (as) easy as falling (rolling) off a log [例]他轻而易举就打败了对手。He beat his opponent *without making an effort*.

**【轻歌曼舞】**

soft songs and beautiful dances; sing merrily and dance gracefully [例]他思念着远方的妻子,无心欣赏这轻歌曼舞。He was missing his wife who was far, far away and couldn't appreciate the *soft songs and beautiful dances*.

**【轻举妄动】**

act rashly; take reckless actions; do sth. without careful thought; impetuosity; go off at half cook; take a leap in the dark; go off the deep end [例]不要轻举妄动,敌人正在密切监视你。Don't *act rashly*, the enemy is watching you closely.

**【轻描淡写】**

touch on the matter lightly; describe with a delicate touch; mention casually; mild comments; deliberately minimize its importance; play sth. down; slur over sth. [例]这个高级官员企图对事故轻描淡写。The high official was trying to *play down* the accident.

**【轻诺寡信】**

make promises easily but seldom keep them; who promises too lightly is seldom able to live up his words; A long tongue has a short hand; Many promises lessen (weaken) faith [例]她再不能相信她那轻诺寡信的男友了。She could trust her boyfriend no more who *made promises easily but seldom kept them*.

#### 【轻手轻脚】

gingerly; (move) cautiously without any noise; gently; softly; on tiptoe [例]她轻手轻脚地在房间里走动,不知道在干什么。She was walking *gingerly* in her room and one wonders what she was doing.

#### 【轻于鸿毛】

lighter than a (goose) feather; a death which is of no significance at all [例]至于那些为钱而死的人,他们的死轻于鸿毛。As for those who died for money, their *deaths were of no significance at all*.

#### 【轻重倒置】

putting the trivial above the important; reverse the order of importance; lack (lack of) a sense of proportion [例]他忙于挣钱,忽视了几子,真是轻重倒置。He was so busy with moneymaking that he neglected his son. That was *putting the trivial above the important*.

#### 【轻装上阵】

go into battle with a light pack; come to the battlefield without any mental burdens; go forward with one's burdens discarded

#### 【倾巢出动】

(of enemy or bandits) turn out in full force; encroach upon (territory) in full strength [例]这一次敌人倾巢出动,我们要把他们一举歼灭。This time our enemy has *turned out in full force*, and we'll destroy them completely at one stroke.

#### 【倾国倾城】

(of a woman) lovely enough to cause the fall of a city or a state; exceedingly beautiful [例]倾国倾城的美貌并不能保证一世的幸福。Exceeding beauty cannot secure lifetime happiness.

#### 【倾家荡产】

lose a family fortune; bring the family to ruin; reduced to poverty and ruin; lose or spend all one's property [例]他为了救出朋友而倾家荡产。To save his friend, his family was *reduced to poverty and ruin*.

#### 【倾盆大雨】

heavy downpour; pouring (torrential) rain; cloud burst; rain cats and dogs [例]倾盆大雨造成了这次滑坡。The *heavy downpour* caused the landslide.

#### 【倾箱倒篋】

turn out all one's boxes and suitcases; ransack boxes and chests - said of a thorough search of one's luggage or of one's room [例]我倾箱倒篋也找不到我的手套。I *turned out all the boxes and suitcases* but still couldn't find my gloves.

#### 【清规戒律】

outmoded rules, regulations and conventions; taboos and commandments; restrictions and fetters [例]当务之急是要破除一些清规戒律。What we should do immediately is abolish the *outmoded rules, regulations and conventions*.

#### 【清夜扪心】

examine one's own conscience in the stillness (silence) of the night; make self-examination during a still night [例]当他清夜扪心,不由对白天的所作所为感到后悔。When he *examined his own conscience in the stillness of the night*, he was sorry for what he had done in the daytime.

#### 【蜻蜓点水】

like a dragonfly skimming the surface of

the water; touch on sth. without going into it deeply; scratch the surface of [例]这个学生对这个案例只作了蜻蜓点水般的了解。The student only *touched on the case without going into it deeply.*

#### 【情不自禁】

unable to restrain the emotions; cannot help (doing sth.); be seized with a sudden impulse; overcome by one's feelings; cannot restrain from; in the grip of passion [例]看到猴子学人样,我们情不自禁哈哈大笑。We *couldn't help laughing* when we saw the monkeys imitating human beings.

#### 【情急智生】

have quick wits in emergency; hit on a good idea in a moment of desperation; The idea just comes to one on the spur of the moment [例]他情急智生,倒下来装死。He *hit on a good idea in the moment of desperation* and laid down to play possum.

#### 【情晴事迁】

People's feelings change with the circumstances; The alteration of things makes men's feelings change; Circumstances alter cases. [例]情随事迁。你们分开这么久了,你不能要求他像从前一样爱你。People's feelings change with the circumstances. You have been apart for so many years, you can't ask him to love you as before.

#### 【情同手足】

with brotherly love for each other; close like brothers; brotherly friendship [例]他们情同手足,连婚礼也在同一天举行。They had *brotherly love for each other* and even had their weddings on the same day.

#### 【情投意合】

suiting to each other perfectly; mutual affection and agreement; in love with each

other; find each other congenial; get on well with; hit it off (together, with sb.) perfectly; hand in glove with [例]这对年轻人情投意合,但是他们的父母却不赞成他们在一起。The young couple were *suiting to each other perfectly*, but their parents didn't approve of them being together.

#### 【情有可原】

excusable; pardonable; venial; justifiable [例]他向偷猎者开枪是情有可原的。It was *excusable* for him to fire at the illegal hunters.

#### 【晴天霹雳】

(like) a thunder out of the clear sky; thunderbolt; sth. quite unexpected; (like) a bolt from the blue [例]儿子的死讯就像晴天霹雳。The news of his son's death came *like a thunder out of the clear sky.*

#### 【请君入瓮】

kindly step into the vat; try yourself what you have devised against others; hoist sb. with his own petard [例]他立下规矩坑害他人,我们就给他来个请君入瓮。He set the rules to entrap people, so let's make him *try what he has devised against others.*

#### 【庆父不去,鲁难未已】

Until Qing Fu is done away with, the crisis in the state of Lu will not be over; There will always be trouble until he who stirs it up is removed.

#### 【罄竹难书】

(of a man's sins) too numerous to record; (of crimes, etc.) innumerable and too numerous to be listed in one book; too many to enumerate [例]他的罪行罄竹难书,不杀他不足以平民愤。His sins were *too numerous to record*, and people wouldn't be satisfied unless he was sen-

tenced to death.

**【穷兵黩武】**

adopt a warlike policy; exhaust all resources to build up military power; use all one's armed might to indulge in wars of aggression; wantonly engage in military aggression; engage in unjust military venture; wage sanguinary wars; be militaristic [例]自从实行穷兵黩武的政策以后,这个国家很快就衰落了。The country was soon on the decline after it *adopted a warlike policy*.

**【穷极无聊】**

absolutely senseless; be utterly bored; extreme boredom; disgusting; vulgar and revolting [例]贵族们穷极无聊,居然以人为狩猎对象取乐。The aristocrats entertained themselves with man hunting, which was absolutely *disgusting*.

**【穷年累月】**

year after year; for years on end [例]他穷年累月地辛勤工作,为的是养家糊口。He worked hard *year after year* to support his family.

**【穷山恶水】**

barren mountains and unruly rivers

**【穷奢极欲】**

(live a life of) wanton extravagance; (indulge in) luxury and extravagance; be lapped in luxury; live on (off) the fat of the land [例]国王不顾战争迫在眉睫,依然过着穷奢极欲的日子。In spite of the imminent war, the king still *lived a life of wanton extravagance*.

**【穷途末路】**

hit at (come to, reach) a dead end; (go into the) cul-de-sac (blind alley); (driven into) an impasse [例]失去了人民的支持,这个政府已经是穷途末路了。Without the people's support, the government was at a *dead end*.

**【穷乡僻壤】**

backlands; a remote, backward place; an obscure region; the remote hinterland; a district shut off from the outside world; an out-of-the-way place [例]在这种穷乡僻壤你指望能看到什么? What do you expect to see in *backlands* like this?

**【穷凶极恶】**

diabolical; in a vicious and unrestrained way; extremely violent and wicked; wickedness and evil carried to the utmost possible degree; savage and sinister in the extreme; utterly evil; devilish [例]他穷凶极恶的表情在这个纯真孩子的面前也缓和了一些。His *diabolical* look softened a bit in front of the innocent little child.

**【穷原究委】**

make a thorough investigation of the antecedents and consequences; try to find out the chain of cause and effect; make a thorough inquiry into sth.; get to the bottom of the matter [例]他事事穷原究委,有时真让人受不了。He *gets to the bottom of everything*, which is sometimes unbearable.

**【穷则思变】**

poverty gives rise to a desire for change [例]穷则思变;他们决定不种麦子,改种土豆。Poverty gives rise to a desire for change; they decided to stop growing wheat and instead of that they grew potatoes.

**【茕茕子立,形影相吊】**

standing all alone, body and shadow comforting each other - originally used of a helpless orphan, now generally of those who find themselves isolated because they estrange themselves from, or set themselves against, the people.

**【琼楼玉宇】**

a magnificent building; a richly decorated jade palace; a fabulously rich residence [例]他初到京城,感到眼前所见都是琼楼玉宇。When he first came to the capital, he felt there were *magnificent buildings* everywhere he saw.

#### 【秋风过耳】

like an autumn breeze passing the ear; thinking sth. of no importance, regard with indifference; pay no heed to; turn a deaf ear to

#### 【秋风扫落叶】

(like) the autumn wind sweeping away the fallen (dead) leaves; wipe out the corrupt and the evil easily [例]他像秋风扫落叶一样除掉了政敌。He got rid off his political opponents *like the autumn wind sweeping away the fallen leaves*.

#### 【秋毫无犯】

(of highly disciplined troops) not commit the slightest offence against the civilians; not encroach on the interests of the people to the slightest degree; forbid the slightest violation of the people's interests; do not cause the slightest damage to the people [例]军队进城以后,秋毫无犯。The army didn't commit the *slightest offence against the civilians* after entering the city.

#### 【秋老虎】

very hot weather in autumn

#### 【囚首垢面】

with unkempt hair and dirty face [例]看到他囚首垢面的样子,他的妻子忍不住哭了。His wife couldn't help crying on seeing him *with unkempt hair and dirty face*.

#### 【求大同,存小异】

seek common ground on major issues while leaving aside the minor differences; seek common ground on major issues while reserving differences on minor points [例]

为了双方的利益,我们必须求大同,存小异。For the sake of mutual interests, we must *seek common ground on major issues while leaving aside the minor differences*.

#### 【求全责备】

demand (expect) perfection; take to task severely, expect (people) to be saints [例]好的领导应该要求更好,而不是求全责备。A good leader should ask for better performance instead of *demanding perfection*.

#### 【求同存异】

seek common ground while reserving differences; put aside differences to seek common ground [例]不同的国家应该求同存异,保持友好关系。To maintain a friendly relationship, different countries should *seek common ground while reserving differences*.

#### 【求之不得】

all that one could wish for; most welcome; just what one wished for; what a godsend for [例]你要他代你出席会议,他正是求之不得呢! You want him to attend the meeting for you, which is *all that he could wish for*.

#### 【曲尽其妙】

express the subtlety tactfully and finely; bring out in a fine and ingenious way all the subtleties in sth. — descriptive of ability of expression; (describe, express, etc.) in a subtle and skilful way [例]那个钢琴家演绎肖邦真的是曲尽其妙。The pianist can *express the subtlety of Chopin tactfully and finely*.

#### 【曲突徙薪】

bend the chimney end remove the fuel (to prevent a possible fire); take precautions against a possible damage; make provisions before troubles occur

## 【曲意逢迎】

go out of one's way to curry with; use every means to fawn on (upon) sb.; flatter sb. in a hundred and one way; gratify sb.'s every whim; do everything to please sb.; lick sb.'s boots (shoes) [例]我认为你对那些有权势的人根本没有曲意逢迎的必要。I don't think you have the need to *go out of your way to curry with the influential people.*

## 【屈打成招】

extort confession by torture; obtain confession under torture; confess to false charge under torture [例]他屈打成招,被判十年。He *confessed to false charge under torture* and was sentenced to ten years.

## 【屈指可数】

can be counted on one's fingers; very few [例]出席会议的人屈指可数。Those who attended the meeting *could be counted on one's fingers.*

## 【趋炎附势】

hurry to the glorious and hang on to the influential; curry favor with the powerful; be a follower of the rich and powerful; play up to those in power [例]发现朋友是个趋炎附势之徒后,他就再也不跟他来往了。After he found out that his friend *curried favor with the powerful*, he cut relationship with him.

## 【趋之若鹜】

go after sth. like a flock of ducks; scramble for sth. [例]一有大削价商品出来,人们总是趋之若鹜。People always *scramble for goods on sale.*

## 【曲高和寡】

Songs of a highbrow type will find very few people to join in the chorus; Highbrow songs find few singers; too highbrow to be popular; caviar to the general public [例]他认为自己的作品是曲高和寡。He

considered his works *too highbrow to be popular.*

## 【取长补短】

overcome one's own shortcomings by learning from others' strong points; learn from each others' strong points to offset one's weaknesses; make up one's deficiencies by acquiring others' strong points; mutually make up one's deficiencies [例]他们俩取长补短,正是一对好搭档。They make good partners and *overcome one's own shortcomings by learning from the other's strong points.*

## 【取而代之】

step into sb.'s shoes; take someone's place; fill sb.'s bonnet; replace sb.; supersede sb.; take over; take the place of [例]他企图趁老板生病之机取而代之。He wanted to *step into the boss' shoes* when the boss was ill.

## 【取之不尽,用之不竭】

abundant; inexhaustible [例]南极有取之不尽,用之不竭的淡水资源。There is an *abundant supply of fresh water* in Antarctica.

## 【去粗取精】

discard the dross and select the essential

## 【去伪存真】

winnow truth from falsehood; eliminate the false and retain the true [例]经过一番去伪存真,我们对事情已经清楚了。We now know the ins and outs of the whole matter after *winnowing truth from falsehood.*

## 【全军覆没】

(an army) be completely wiped out; total destruction of an army [例]日军就是在这里全军覆没的。It was in this area that the Japanese army *was completely wiped out.*

## 【全力以赴】

do all in one's power; strain every nerve; devote every effort to; strive with all one's might for; go all out; do one's utmost; tooth and nail; spare no efforts (pains); with might and main; do one's level best; put one's back (heart, whole heart and soul, life) into sth.; put one's best foot forward [例]洪水之后,人们全力以赴地重建家园。After the flood, people *did all in their power* to rebuild their homes.

#### 【全神贯注】

be absorbed (engrossed) in; concentrate the whole energy upon; with all one's mental faculties on the stretch; set one's heart (mind) on (upon, to) sth.; be utterly concentrated in (on); be preoccupied with; be all eyes (ears); with breathless attention; with absorbed interest; with all one's soul [例]他当时正全神贯注地听音乐,对发生了什么事一无所知。He *was absorbed in* the music at that moment and knew nothing about what had happened.

#### 【全心全意】

with all one's heart; whole - heartedly; complete devotion; with one's heart and soul [例]他全心全意地照顾生病的母亲。He took care of his ill mother *with all his heart*.

#### 【权衡轻重】

weigh up the matter carefully; weigh up one thing against (with) another [例]在采取行动之前,你必须权衡轻重。Before you take action, you must *weigh up the matter carefully*.

#### 【权宜之计】

a makeshift (device); a measure of expediency; temporary expedient; stopgap measures [例]让妈妈为我们照看孩子也只是权宜之计。It's only *a makeshift*

*device* to ask Mom to take care of the baby for us.

#### 【拳打脚踢】

cuff and kick; beat up [例]他们以为他是小偷,不容他辩解就是一阵拳打脚踢。They thought he was the thief and *beat him up* before he could explain.

#### 【犬马之劳】

serve like a dog or a horse; humble services as one could; at one's service; be at one's beck and call [例]既然你救了我,我愿意为你效犬马之劳。Since you saved my life, I'm willing to *be at your beck and call*.

#### 【犬牙交错】

be interlocked like dog's teeth; jigsaw - like; be very close to and inter - locked with; of jigsaw pattern; indented [例]这幅画上的图案犬牙交错,我看不懂。I don't understand the picture which shows a *jigsaw - like* pattern.

#### 【却之不恭】

It would be impolite to decline (a gift, an invitation, etc.) [例]他这么热情相邀,我也就却之不恭了。His invitation was so sincere and *it would be impolite to decline*, so I went.

#### 【确凿不移】

conclusive; definite and sure; be proven to the hilt; authentic; irrefutable [例]证据确凿不移,他不可能逃避惩罚。The evidence is *conclusive* and it is impossible for him to avoid punishment.

#### 【鹊巢鸠占】

The turtledove occupies the magpie's nest; One person seizes another's place, land, etc. [例]等她回来,才发现另一个女人已经给她来了个鹊巢鸠占。Only when she came back did she find out that *another woman had seized her place*.

#### 【群策群力】

pool the wisdom and efforts of everyone; club ideas and exertions; collective wisdom and efforts; with united wisdom and strength [例]大家群策群力,一定能把问题解决。We are sure to solve the problem if we *pool the wisdom and efforts of everyone*.

【群龙无首】

a host of dragons without a head; a group without a leader; an army without a general [例]他们群龙无首,什么也干不成。A group without a leader, they couldn't achieve anything.

【群魔乱舞】

a host of demons dancing in riotous revelry; rogues of all kinds running wild [例]

老人认为迪斯科是群魔乱舞。The old man considered disco as *a host of demons dancing in riotous revelry*.

【群起而攻之】

rally together to attack; all rise and attack; all rise up in struggle against; launch collective attacks on; all turn against [例]听说他失宠了,大家对他群起而攻之。On hearing that he had been out of favor with the leader, people *rallied together to attack* him.

【群威群胆】

mass heroism and daring; collective courage and resourcefulness; the heroism and daring of the masses



## R

### 【燃眉之急】

with eyebrows on fire; as urgent as a fire singeing one's eyebrows; a matter of extreme urgency; urgently critical; a pressing need [例]现在的燃眉之急是要尽早弄到资金。It is *a matter of extreme urgency* to raise funds as soon as possible.

### 【饶有风趣】

full of wit and humour; humorous [例]他的谈话饶有风趣。His talk is *full of wit and humour*.

### 【惹火烧身】

stir up a fire only to burn oneself; court disaster; ask for trouble; burn one's fingers [例]他这么做将会惹火烧身。He is *courting disaster* by doing that.

### 【惹是生非】

stir up trouble; provoke a dispute; provoke mischief; waking a sleeping dog; be meddling [例]父亲惟一希望的就是儿子别再去惹是生非。All the father wanted was that his son wouldn't *stir up trouble again*.

### 【热火朝天】

buzzing (bustling) with activity; stirring and seething; burning with ardor; flaming; in full swing [例]工人们在工地上干得热火朝天。The workers were working *in full swing* on the building site.

### 【热气腾腾】

steaming hot; seething with activity

### 【人不可貌相】

Don't judge anyone just by appearances; A man can not be known by his looks; Beauty is only skin-deep; You cannot judge of a tree by its bark.

### 【人不为己,天诛地灭】

Unless a man looks out for himself, Heaven and Earth will destroy him; Everyone for himself and let the devil take the hindmost.

### 【人不知,鬼不觉】

not known by men or perceived by ghosts; do in complete secrecy; unobserved; by stealth; on the sly [例]他们干得人不知,鬼不觉,连警察也没有办法。They did it *in complete secrecy* and even the police could do nothing about that.

### 【人才辈出】

Men of talents come out in succession; people of talent coming forth in large numbers [例]这个家族人才辈出。Men of talents have come out in succession from this family.

### 【人才济济】

a galaxy of talent; an abundance of capable people [例]这儿人才济济,要出人头地必须刻苦工作。There is *a galaxy of talents here*. One must work hard to stand out among others.

### 【人地生疏】

be unfamiliar with the place and the people; be a complete stranger [例]他在这儿人地生疏,我们还是帮帮他吧。He is *a complete stranger here*, let's lend him a helping hand.

### 【人定胜天】

Man can conquer nature; Man will triumph over nature; It is man's will, not heaven's, that decides; Man's determination will conquer nature; Human determination will overcome destiny [例]很多人相信命运,他却认为人定胜天。While many believe in fate, he thinks *it is man's will*,

*not heaven's that decides.*

【人多势众】

overwhelm with numerical strength; many hands provide great strength; dominate by sheer force of numbers

【人多智广】

more people means more ideas; Two heads are better than one.

【人多嘴杂】

a babel of voices; The more people, the more diverse voices are; So many heads, so many opinions; Agreement is difficult if there are too many people; divided counsel; Too many cooks spoil the soup [例] 我们的计划很好,但是不能让太多人知道,因为人多嘴杂。Our project is well planned, but we mustn't let too many people know about it, lest *too many cooks spoil the soup*.

【人而无信,不知其可】

If a man does not keep his words, what is he good for? It's a matter of great importance for one to keep his words; He that has lost his credit is dead to the world; He that once deceives is ever suspected; A liar is not believed when he speaks the truth.

【人浮于事】

superfluous staff; too much staff with little to do; have more hands than needed; overstaffed [例] 新校长很不满意学校人浮于事的状况。The new headmaster was very unhappy to see the school is *overstaffed*.

【人欢马叫】

people bustling and horses neighing; a busy, prosperous country scene [例] 旅行者被当地人欢马叫的景象深深吸引住了。The traveller was deeply attracted by *the busy, prosperous country scene* of this place.

【人间地狱】

a hell on earth [例] 二战时,对于犹太人来说,集中营就是人间地狱。During World War II, the concentration camp was *a hell on earth* to the Jews.

【人杰地灵】

a place propitious for giving birth to great men; The greatness of a man lends glory to a place; a remarkable place producing outstanding people [例] 我们的祖国人杰地灵,对世界文明作出了巨大贡献。Our country is *a place propitious for giving birth to great men* and has contributed tremendously to the world civilization.

【人尽其才】

bring everyone's ability (talent) into full play; make the best possible use of each one's abilities; give full scope to the talents [例] 社会应该创造条件做到人尽其才。Society should create conditions to *bring everyone's ability into full play*.

【人困马乏】

the men weary, and their steeds spent; tired and exhausted; the entire force was exhausted [例] 经过一天的旅行,一行人人困马乏。After a whole day's travel, the company were all *tired and exhausted*.

【人老心不老】

be old in age, but young in mind; though old, still young in heart

【人老珠黄】

one getting old like the pearl becoming yellow; lose one's looks; no longer held in esteem [例] 她知道有一天自己也会人老珠黄,所以必须学些真本事。She knew that someday she'd *lose her looks*, so she must learn something really useful.

【人满为患】

be crowded in every part; the place is packed [例] 高峰时间,汽车上总是人满为患。The bus is always *crowded in*

*every part* during rush hours.

【人面兽心】

have a man's face but the heart of a beast; a brute in man's (human) shape; a brute under a human mask [例]这个人面兽心的暴君最后不得不自杀了。The tyrant, a brute in man's shape, had to commit suicide at last.

【人命危浅】

be critically ill; he in danger of death; Death is expected at any moment; one's days are numbered

【人莫予毒】

No one dare harm me — an arrogant boast

【人怕出名,猪怕肥】

Fame portends trouble for men just as fattening does for pigs; A swine over fat is the cause of his own bane; Great honors are great burdens; The whiter the cow, the surer is it to go to the altar.

【人弃我取】

I will take whatever others don't want; My opinion is different from an ordinary one.

【人琴俱亡】

the man and his lute are both dead; mourn (grieve) over the dead at sight of his things left

【人情世故】

worldly wisdom; the ways of the world [例]这个被父母宠坏的孩子一点也不通人情世故。The spoilt child possesses no *worldly wisdom* at all.

【人穷志不穷】

though one is poor, he has lofty aspiration; poor but with lofty ideas

【人穷志短】

Poverty chills ambition; Poverty and ambition make strange bedfellows; Poverty takes away pith.

【人人为我,我为人人】

all for one and one for all

【人山人海】

huge crowds of people; a sea of human beings; a wheat-field of people [例]马路上人山人海,欢迎来访的总统。There were *huge crowds of people* on the road to welcome the visiting president.

【人声鼎沸】

the clamour of people huddled up (as a seething cauldron); a hubbub (babel) of voices; noise and shouts in great commotion; cat's (Dutch) concert; a boiler factory (works) [例]当时人声鼎沸,他说的我什么也没听见。There was a *hubbub of voices* there and I couldn't hear a word from him.

【人寿年丰】

the land yields good harvests and the people enjoy good health; times of peace and prosperity; people lead a happy and peaceful life

【人同此心,心同此理】

Everybody feels the same about this; On this matter people feel and think alike; The sense of justice and rationality is the same with everybody.

【人微言轻】

The words of the lowly carry little (no) weight; A poor man's tale cannot be heard; The reasons of the poor weigh not [例]他没有亲自跟总统谈,而是请求总统的妻子去谈,惟恐自己人微言轻。He didn't talk to the president himself, but asked the wife of the president to do it instead, lest *the words of the lowly carry little weight*.

【人为刀俎,我为鱼肉】

be meat on sb.'s chopping block; be at sb.'s mercy [例]现在人为刀俎,我为鱼肉,只好听他摆布。Now *I'm at his mercy*, I'll have to do whatever he wants.

【人为财死,鸟为食亡】

Human beings die in pursuit of wealth, and birds die in pursuit of food; The wages of avarice is death; Money often unmakes the men who make it; The fish who seeks the hook seeks his ruin.

【人无廉耻,百事可为】

If a man is dead to shame, he can do all sorts of evils. [例]别以为这不可能。人无廉耻,百事可为。Don't think it's impossible. *If a man is dead to shame, he can do all sorts of evils.*

【人无远虑,必有近忧】

If a man is not far-sighted he is bound to encounter difficulties in the near future; Unpreparedness spells failure; He lives unsafely that looks too near on things.

【人心不古】

Human hearts are not what they were in the old days; People are not so honest as their ancestors were; Public morality is not what it used to be.

【人心不足蛇吞象】

A man whose heart is not content is like a snake which tries to swallow an elephant; insatiable desire; No man ever thought his own too much; No man is content with his lot.

【人心各异,犹如其面】

men's hearts differ just as their faces do; Several men, several minds; So many heads, so many opinions.

【人心叵测】

Man's heart is incomprehensible; One's heart is past finding out.

【人心所向】

the direction of popular sentiment (feeling); accord with the people's will; in terms of popular support; the avowed feelings of the people

【人心向背】

the will of the people; the people are for

or against; who enjoys popular support; with whom popular sympathy lies [例]他一出现,群众就开始鼓掌,人心向背,于此可见。People clapped their hands as soon as he showed up, which was a demonstration of *the will of the people*.

【人言可畏】

Gossip is a fearful thing; People will talk. [例]没人比这位女演员更了解人言可畏。No one understands it better than the actress that *gossip is a fearful thing*.

【人仰马翻】

men and horses all overturned; men and horses thrown off their feet; an utter defeat; utterly routed [例]我要把他们杀个人仰马翻。I will let them suffer *an utter defeat*.

【人一己百】

If others succeed by making one ounce of effort, I will make a hundred times as much effort.

【人云亦云】

say what everybody says; parrot; repeat word for word what others say; echo the views of others [例]别说我从不把你的话当回事,因为你总是人云亦云。Don't say I never take your words seriously; you always *say what everybody says*.

【人之常情】

the way of the world; what is natural and normal (in human relationships); a constant occurrence in human relationships [例]父母偏袒孩子也是人之常情。It is *the way of the world* that parents tend to be partial to their children.

【人之将死,其言也善】

A man's words are good when death is near; When a man is near death he speaks from his heart.

【仁人志士】

people with lofty ideals; kind and upright

men; people who have high ideals

【仁者见仁,智者见智】

The benevolent see benevolence and the wise see wisdom; Different people have different views; each according to his lights [例]关于股票,仁者见仁,智者见智。 *Different people have different views about stocks.*

【仁至义尽】

show the utmost tolerance and patience (towards); do everything called for by humanity and duty; have done everything which one may be called upon to do; do what is humanly possible to help; exercise great restraint and do one's very best; show extreme forbearance; the extreme patience and magnanimity; utmost sincerity [例]我已经仁至义尽了,他却丝毫没有悔改的意思。 *I have shown the utmost tolerance and patience, but he hasn't shown the slightest sign of repentance.*

【忍俊不禁】

cannot help smiling; cannot swallow a laugh; simmer with laughter; laugh in spite of oneself [例]当小王子试图模仿他父亲的姿态时,大家都忍俊不禁。 *People couldn't help smiling when the little prince tried to imitate his father's gesture.*

【忍气吞声】

restrain one's anger and keep silent; suffer indignities without a protest; swallow the humiliation and insult; swallow the insults in meek submission; pocket one's pride; submit to humiliation; eat dirt; swallow one's pride and endure in silence [例]因为不想失去工作,他不得不忍气吞声。 *He had to restrain his anger and keep silent because he didn't want to lose the job.*

【忍辱负重】

swallow humiliation and bear a heavy

load; endure humiliation in order to carry out an important mission; discharge one's duties conscientiously in spite of slanders [例]母亲忍辱负重,养活七个孩子。 *The mother swallowed humiliation and bore a heavy load to raise her seven children.*

【忍无可忍】

tax one's patience to the limit; reach (be at) the end of one's forbearance; come to the end of one's patience; ha driven beyond the limits of forbearance (endurance); exhaust sb.'s patience; not to be endured any longer; beyond (past) endurance (all bearing); no longer bearable [例]她的傲慢无礼令她的老师忍无可忍,把她赶出了教室。 *Her insolence taxed her teacher's patience to the limit and ha drove her out of the classroom.*

【认贼作父】

treat a thief as one's father; take the foe for one's father; regard the enemy as kith and kin; take a filial attitude towards the enemy of the people [例]你居然认贼作父,真是无耻! *It's shameless of you to take a filial attitude towards the enemy of the people.*

【任劳任怨】

work hard and not be upset by criticism; bear responsibility and blame; work hard without complaint; willingly bear the burden of office; hardworking and uncomplaining [例]他向来任劳任怨,所以被赋以重任。 *He has been working hard without complaint, and that's why he was trusted with the important task.*

【任凭风浪起,稳坐钓鱼台】

sit tight in the fishing boat despite the rising wind and waves; held one's ground despite pressure or opposition; face danger with confidence

## 【任其自流】

let things run their own course; leave sth. to take its own course

## 【任人摆布】

allow oneself to be ordered about; under sb.'s thumb; be at the mercy of others [例]我蔑视他,因为他总是任人摆布。I despise him for *allowing himself to be ordered about*.

## 【任人唯亲】

appoint people by favoritism; employ only the near and dear; cronyism [例]他因为任人唯亲受到指责。He was criticised for *cronyism*.

## 【任人唯贤】

appoint people on their merit; appoint people according to their moral character and ability; employ only the worthy [例]好的领导应该任人唯贤。A good leader should *appoint people on their merit*.

## 【任人宰割】

allow oneself to be trampled upon; be partitioned by others at will; be trampled upon at will [例]弱者往往就是任人宰割的下场。The weak one will more often than not have to *allow himself to be trampled upon*.

## 【任重道远】

The burden is heavy and the road is long; shoulder a heavy responsibility; carry heavy responsibilities through thick and thin [例]要获得世界冠军还任重道远。The burden is heavy and the road is long to the world championship.

## 【日薄西山】

The sun is setting beyond (behind) the western hills; in one's later days; declining rapidly; nearing one's end; decline like the setting sun; in the evening of life; (like) the falling sun; be on one's last legs [例]当他再次见到父亲时,老人已是

日薄西山了。The next time he saw his father, the old man had been *declining like the setting sun*.

## 【日不暇给】

fully occupied from morning to night; fully engaged every day; pressed for time; have no time to spare [例]自从他被提升以后,忙得日不暇给。He is *fully occupied from morning to night* after his promotion.

## 【日积月累】

accumulate day by day and month by month (over a long period); days and months multiplying; by slow but steady accumulation

## 【日久见人心】

Time reveals a person's heart; It takes time to know a person; Time is a revealer of a person's sincerity.

## 【日就月将】

daily progress and monthly advance; days and months advancing; progress (improve) with the day; gradual progress; make steady and continual progress

## 【日理万机】

attend to numerous affairs of state every day; be occupied with a myriad of state affairs; busy with a myriad of affairs every day [例]这个官员日理万机,不要拿小事打扰他。The official is *busy with a myriad of affairs every day*, so please don't trouble him with trifles.

## 【日暮途穷】

The day is waning and the road is ending; approaching the end of one's days; in one's decline; head for doom; on one's last legs; be at the end of one's rope; reach (at) the end of one's tether [例]没有必要再逼他,他已是日暮途穷了。There is no need to push him anymore; he is *on his last legs*.

## 【日上三竿】

The sun is as high as three poles; The sun is three poles high; It's late in the morning (referring to getting up late); The day is advancing, about 8 or 9 am.; The sun is well up. [例]他总是要睡到日上三竿才起床。He never got up before *the sun is three poles high*.

## 【日升月恒】

as the rising sun and the waxing moon; daily increasing in prosperity; growing prosperous day by day; in the ascendant [例]祖国的繁荣犹如日升月恒。Our country is *daily increasing in prosperity*.

## 【日新月异】

change with each passing day; bring about new changes day after day; never-ending changes and improvements; change rapidly [例]在二十世纪末,人类社会的发展日新月异。During the late 20th century, the face of human society *changed with each passing day*.

## 【日月经天,江河行地】

as the sun and the moon move in the heavens, and the rivers flow across the land; eternally unchangeable; the ceaseless movement of the sun and the moon in the skies, as immutable as the rivers on the earth; last for ever; eternal

## 【日月如梭】

The sun and the moon move back and forth like a shuttle; Time flies. [例]当他们再次见面时,头发都白了。真是日月如梭啊! *How time flies!* When they met again, their hair had both turned gray.

## 【戎马倥偬】

soldier and horses are in great haste; busily engaged in warfare; burdened with pressing military duties

## 【荣华富贵】

glory, splendour, wealth and rank; honor

and wealth; high position and great wealth [例]跟真正的爱情比起来,荣华富贵算不了什么。*High position and great wealth* are nothing compared with true love.

## 【容光焕发】

radiant beauty; glowing (brimming) with health; with radiant health; in fine (pretty good) fettle; energetic-looking; freshly; look like a million dollars [例]老人在生日晚会上显得容光焕发。The old man was *glowing with health* at his birthday party.

## 【融会贯通】

bring together and understand thoroughly; achieve mastery through a comprehensive study of the subject; be well versed in [例]我们应该对所读的东西融会贯通。We should *bring what we read together and understand it thoroughly*.

## 【冗词赘句】

(of writing) verbose wording; superfluous words; redundant words [例]在写作中,冗词赘句并不就意味着庄重严肃。In writing, *verbose wording* doesn't mean solemnity.

## 【柔肠寸断】

the heart breaks thinking of one's love; brokenhearted

## 【柔能克刚】

softness can overcome the hardest; the soft can conquer the hard

## 【柔情似水】

soft and tender as water

## 【肉林酒池】

woods of flesh and ponds of wine; live in the world of wine and women; steeped in wine and surrounded by women

## 【肉眼凡胎】

a short sighted and good-for-nothing person

## 【肉中刺】

constant source of annoyance; a thorn in one's flesh (side)

## 【如出一轍】

run in the same groove; follow the same pattern (track); be exactly the same as; be no different from; as if made in the same mould; be cut from the same cloth [例]这篇文章跟我上个月看到的如出一轍。This article followed the same pattern as the one I saw last month.

## 【如此而已】

That's what it all adds up to; and that's that; so much for; so that's that

## 【如法炮制】

prepare herbal medicine by the prescribed method; do according to instructions; be modeled on; follow a set pattern; take a leaf out of sb.'s book; follow suit [例]既然他们成功了,我们不妨如法炮制。Since they have succeeded, we might as well do according to their instructions.

## 【如鲠在喉】

like a fishbone getting stuck in the throat; necessary to give vent to one's pent-up feelings [例]自从发现了这个秘密,他一直感到如鲠在喉。Since he discovered the secret, he had been feeling like a fishbone getting stuck in the throat.

## 【如虎添翼】

like a tiger that has grown wings; with might redoubled [例]杰克的加入使我们的球队如虎添翼。Jack's joining in redoubled our football team's might.

## 【如花似玉】

as beautiful as flowers and jade; fair as a lily [例]传说海伦长得如花似玉,没有人能抵挡她的魅力。It is said that Helen was as beautiful as flowers and jade and no man could ever resist her charm.

## 【如火如荼】

flaring like fire set to dry tinder; fiery; like a raging fire; growing vigorously; blazing and powerful [例]当他赶到时,比赛已经进行得如火如荼。When he arrived, the match had become quite fiery.

## 【如获至宝】

as if one had found a treasure; seem to have hit the jackpot; rejoice over a windfall; jump at sth. as a godsend [例]他捧着这本书,如获至宝。He held the book in his hands, as if he had found a treasure.

## 【如饥似渴】

as if thirsting or hungering for sth.; with great eagerness; eagerly; be hungry for; thirst for (after) [例]他如饥似渴地读着这本借来的书。He read the borrowed book with great eagerness.

## 【如箭在弦】

like the arrow on the bow; poised to strike; ready to start; in a point of no return [例]豹子如箭在弦,准备扑向猎物。The leopard was poised to strike at its prey.

## 【如胶似漆】

stick to each other like glue or lacquer; ha deeply attached to each other; remain glued to each other; be inseparable; be closely bound together [例]这对孪生兄弟好得如胶似漆。The twin brothers are deeply attached to each other.

## 【如狼牧羊】

like a wolf shepherding sheep; (of magistrates) rule the people oppressively; oppression of the people by bad officials [例]新总督的统治如狼牧羊。The new governor ruled the people oppressively.

## 【如狼似虎】

as ferocious as wolves and tigers; like cruel beasts of prey [例]如狼似虎的上兵



在城里干下了残酷的暴行。The soldiers were *like cruel beasts of prey* and did the cruel, violent things in the town.

【如雷贯耳】

piercing one's ear like thunder; reverberate like thunder; have resounded in one's ears (like thunder) [例]他的大名,如雷贯耳。His name *reverberated* in one's ears *like thunder*.

【如临大敌】

as if facing a formidable enemy; as if confronted by a formidable enemy; be on one's guard for (against) all possible dangers; be prepared for any eventualities; look on a situation as very grave; tense as a cat humping its back [例]国王要来的消息使每个人都如临大敌。The news that the king was coming made everybody as *tense as a cat humping its back*.

【如履薄冰】

as if walking on thin ice; treading on (upon) eggs; walking on (upon) eggshells; in a dangerous or delicate situation; be skating on thin ice [例]暴君身边的人全都小心翼翼,如履薄冰。Those who served the tyrant were all as *careful as if walking on thin ice*.

【如梦初醒】

as if awakening from a dream; come to realize (truth, error, etc.); begin to see the light; become suddenly enlightened; wake up to [例]直到他的妻子携款出走以后,他才如梦初醒。It was not until his wife had run away with the money that he *came to realize the truth*.

【如鸟兽散】

disperse like birds and wild beasts; flee helter-skelter; be utterly routed [例]指挥官被杀之后,士兵们顿时如鸟兽散。The soldiers *fled helter-skelter* as soon as the commander was killed.

【如日中天】

like the sun in mid-sky; to ride on the crest of success; to be very influential; very powerful; at the zenith of one's career; at the apex of one's power [例]我认识他时,他的事业正如日中天。When I first met him, he was *riding on the crest of success*.

【如入无人之境】

like entering an unpeopled land; breaking all resistance; meeting no resistance [例]亚历山大的军队横扫波斯,如入无人之境。Alexander's troop swept across Persia, *breaking all resistance*.

【如丧考妣】

look as if one had lost one's parents; wearing a funeral face as if newly bereft of both parents; look utterly wretched; be pathetically anxious [例]股市失利的消息传来后,他们看上去如丧考妣。After hearing about their loss on the stock market, they all *looked as if they had lost their parents*.

【如释重负】

as if relieved of (from) a heavy burden (load); heave a sigh of relief; as if a big load has been taken off one's mind [例]看到消防队员把孩子从燃烧着的房屋中救了出来,大家都如释重负。Seeing the fireman carry the child out of the burning house, everyone *heaved a sigh of relief*.

【如数家珍】

as if enumerating one's family treasures; like telling off one's family treasures; can speak on a subject with great familiarity; very familiar with one's subject; be at home in (on, with); have sth. at one's finger-tips [例]她谈起历史事件总是如数家珍。She *can speak on historical events with great familiarity*.

## 【如汤沃雪】

like melting snow by pouring hot water on it; easily done

## 【如蚁附膻】

like ants seeking sth. rank - smelling; a swarm of people running after unwholesome things or leaning on influential people for support

## 【如意算盘】

the smug overall calculations; wishful (smug) calculation; wishful thinking; Al-naschar's dream [例]我很高兴看见他的如意算盘落空了。I'm happy to see his *wishful thinking* was rejected.

## 【如蝇逐臭】

run after filth as flies swarm around garbage; like flies taking to rottenness; like flies swarming about a bit of filth

## 【如影随形】

like the shadow following the person; follow sb. like (as) a shadow; very closely associated with each other; be a true reflection of what one is [例]贫穷与疾病总是如影随形。Poverty and diseases are *very closely associated with each other*.

## 【如鱼得水】

like fish let into the water; like a fish in water; happy in each other's company (in one's natural element); (of persons) get along with one another swimmingly; be in one's element [例]进了这家企业,他如鱼得水。After entering the enterprise, he was *like fish let into the water*.

## 【如愿以偿】

achieve what one wishes; have one's wish fulfilled; obtain (get) one's wishes; obtain what is desired; have one's will; fulfil one's utmost ambitions [例]经过多年的努力,他终于如愿以偿地当上了飞行员。After years' effort, he finally *achieved what he had wished* and became a pilot.

## 【如坠五里雾中】

as if lost in a thick fog; utterly mystified; all (completely) at sea [例]他的话令大家如坠五里雾中。We were *utterly mystified* by his words.

## 【如坐针毡】

as if sitting on a cushion of needles; be (sit) on a pins and needles; feel as if sitting on a bed of nails; be on the anxious bench (seat); feel extremely uneasy; fidgety; like a cat on hot bricks; on tenterhooks [例]面对记者,他如坐针毡。Being confronted with the reporters, he *felt as if sitting on a bed of nails*.

## 【茹毛饮血】

eat animal flesh raw and drink its blood (eat birds and animals raw); live the life of a primitive man [例]驻扎在山区的士兵过着茹毛饮血的生活。The soldiers stationed in the mountain area *were living the life of primitive men*.

## 【乳臭未干】

still smell of one's mother's milk; be young and inexperienced; one's mouth is full of pap; be unfledged; babes and sucklings; be wet (not dry) behind the ears [例]他被一个乳臭未干的小子打败了,认为是奇耻大辱。He considered it a great shame to have been defeated by someone who *was wet behind the ears*.

## 【入不敷出】

Income can't cover outlay; income falling short of the expenditure; unable to make ends meet; live beyond one's means [例]父亲死后,他花钱如流水,很快就入不敷出了。After his father's death, he spent money like water and soon was *unable to make ends meet*.

## 【入国问俗】

on entering a country, inquire about its customs; learn about customs and habits of

the country one goes to

**【入境问禁】**

on entering a country, inquire about the prohibitions; ask about taboos and bans upon arrival in a foreign country

**【入木三分】**

enter well into the board; keen; (calligraphy) having forceful strokes; written in a forceful hand; (of ideas, views, observations) penetrating; profound [例]莎士比亚的作品中对势利鬼有人木三分的刻画。There's *keen* description of snobbish people in Shakespeare's works.

**【入情入理】**

perfectly logical and reasonable; be fair and reasonable; fair and sensible; in (within) reason [例]他的这番陈述入情人理。His statement was *perfectly logical and reasonable*.

**【入土为安】**

burial brings peace to the deceased; be laid to rest; have one's bones buried

**【入乡随俗】**

observe the customs of the place; When in Rome do as the Romans do; A guest must do as his host does.

**【软硬兼施】**

use both tough (hard) and soft tactics; combine hard tactics with soft (harsh and mild) measures; use both persuasion and force (coercion); couple threat with promises; act tough and talk soft; the stick and the carrot [例]敌人软硬兼施,他却不为所动。He remained firm although the enemy *used both persuasion and force*.

**【锐不可当】**

be an irresistible force; cannot be checked (be held back)

**【瑞雪兆丰年】**

Winter snow signifies a year of good crops;

A fall of seasonable snow gives promise of a fruitful year; A timely snow promises a good harvest; A snow year, a rich year; The auspicious snow augurs well for the next year's harvest.

**【若即若离】**

maintain a lukewarm relationship; be neither friendly nor aloof; partly accepting, partly rejecting; half-hearted; keep sb. at arm's length [例]她跟他保持着若即若离的关系,这使他大费猜解。She *maintained a lukewarm relationship with him*, which kept him guessing.

**【若明若暗】**

have a hazy notion about; have a blurred (an indistinct) picture of; have only a vague idea of sth.; ambiguous; equivocal; semitransparent; translucent

**【若无其事】**

as if nothing had occurred; as if nothing was the matter; remain indifferent; nonchalant; casually; calmly [例]他若无其事地从撞坏的车子中爬出来,甚至还冲周围的人微笑。He crept out of his ruined car *calmly*, even smiling at people around.

**【若要人不知,除非己莫为】**

If you do not want a thing to be known, the only way is not to do it; Do not do it if you don't want others to know it; The only way to keep people from knowing something is not to do it; What is done by night appears by day.

**【若隐若现】**

partly hidden and partly visible; appear indistinctly; loom; indistinct [例]山峦在云雾中若隐若现。The mountains were *partly hidden and partly visible* in the cloud and mist.

**【若有所失】**

feel lost; feel as if sth. were missing; look

distracted; look blank [例]他望着父亲离去,若有所失。He *felt lost* as he watched his father walk away.

【若有所思】

seem lost in thought; as if in deep thought; as if thinking of sth.; look pensive; wistful [例]他在会议上一直显得若有所思。He *seemed lost in thought* throughout the meeting.

【弱不禁风】

(of a person) too frail (weak) to stand a gust of wind; extremely delicate; fragile [例]他不愿意带弱不禁风的妻子一起去旅行。He wouldn't take his wife who was *extremely delicate* to the trip.

【弱不胜衣】

too weak to bear the weight of the clothing; extremely weak [例]这个病人看上去弱不胜衣。The patient looked *too weak to bear even the weight of the clothing*.

【弱肉强食】

The weak are the prey to the strong; The weak are at the mercy of the strong; the law of the jungle; The great fish eat up the small; The weakest goes to the wall. [例]这是一个弱肉强食的世界。In this world, *the weak are at the mercy of the strong*.

## S

## 【撒手归西】

go to the West Heaven; die; pass away; pay the debt of nature (pay one's debt to nature)

## 【塞翁失马,焉知非福】

When the old man on the frontier lost his mare, who could have guessed it was a blessing in disguise? Loss sometimes spells gain; A loss may turn out to be a gain; Every cloud has a silver lining; Nothing is so bad as not to be good for something.

## 【三长两短】

sth. unfortunate, esp. death; unexpected misfortune; sth. untoward; unhappy events [例]如果他有什么三长两短,他的妈妈会心碎的。It would break his mother's heart if *anything unfortunate* should happen to him.

## 【三朝元老】

minister to three emperors; a senior statesman of three rulers in succession; an official who stays in power under different regimes

## 【三从四德】

the three obediences (be obedient to father before marriage, to husband after marriage, and to sons when widowed) and the four virtues (morality, proper speech, modest manner and diligent work); spiritual fetter imposed on women in feudal society; wifely submission and virtue

## 【三寸不烂之舌】

powerful three - inch tongue; sb.'s eloquence; (have) a silver (glib, ready, small) tongue [例]凭着他的三寸不烂之舌,他居然说服那个妇女买下了他的东西。He *had a silver tongue* and

persuaded the woman to buy his goods.

## 【三番五次】

again and again; time and again; over and over again; repeatedly [例]他三番五次地骗我。He cheated me *again and again*.

## 【三纲五常】

the three cardinal guides (ruler guides subject, father guides son, and husband guides wife) and the five constant virtues (benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and fidelity) as specified in the feudal ethical code

## 【三个臭皮匠,胜过一个诸葛亮】

Three cobblers with their wits combined equal Zhuge Liang the master mind; The wisdom of the masses exceeds that of the wisest individual; Two heads are better than one

## 【三顾茅庐】

make three calls at the thatched cottage; repeat a whole - hearted invitation; repeatedly request sb. to take up a responsible post

## 【三教九流】

the three religions and the nine schools of thought; various religious sects and academic schools; people in various trades; people of all sorts; people from all walks of life; people of different low professions

## 【三句话不离本行】

never to say three sentences without talking about one's own work; can hardly open one's mouth without talking shop; talk about one's own trade from the outset of a conversation; always the trade talk; talk shop all the time; Cadgers are aye crack-

ing on crook saddles; Cadgers speak of lead saddles [例]他非常热爱他的工作,三句话不离本行。He loved his work so much that he *could hardly open his mouth without talking shop*.

## 【三令五申】

(give) repeated orders and instructions; repeated injunctions

## 【三六九等】

various grades and rank

## 【三人成虎】

three people spreading reports of a tiger makes you believe there is one around; A repeated slander makes others believe; A lie, if repeated often enough, will be accepted as truth.

## 【三人行必有我师】

If three of us are walking together, at least one of the other two is good enough to be my teacher; If three of us are walking together, there will certainly be a teacher for me

## 【三人知,天下晓】

When three know it, all know it; What is known to three, is known to everybody.

## 【三三两两】

in twos and threes; in small crowds; two or three at a time; by twos and three [例]铃声响后,学生们三三两两地走出教室。After the bell rang, the students walked out of the classroom *in twos and threes*.

## 【三生有幸】

the good fortune of three lives; consider oneself most fortunate (to make sb.'s acquaintance, etc.); a fortunate meeting [例]我能跟他一起工作,真是三生有幸。I *considered myself most fortunate* to work with him.

## 【三十六计,走为上计】

Of the thirty - six stratagems (plans), The best is running away (Running away is the

best); Decamping is the best of the thirty - six stratagems; The best thing to do now is to quit; Better make oneself scarce; One pair of heels is often worth two pairs of hands. [例]小男孩打碎了玻璃之后,便三十六计,走为上计了。After he broke the window, the little boy thought *the best thing to do was to quit*.

## 【三思而行】

Think thrice before you act; think the matter over carefully before acting; Avoid acting hastily without considering the possible consequences; Look before you leap; Score twice before you cut once.

## 【三天打鱼,两天晒网】

go fishing for three days and dry the nets for two; spend three days fishing and two days drying nets; lack perseverance; work or study by fits and starts

## 【三头六臂】

(with) three heads and six arms; superhuman; superhuman powers [例]就算他有三头六臂,也别想在这么短的时间内完工。Even if he had *three heads and six arms*, he wouldn't be able to finish his job in time.

## 【三位一体】

three in one; three forming an organic whole; three closely related; three welded into one; the Trinity; trinity

## 【三五成群】

in threes and fours; in knots; in small groups; by twos and threes [例]人们三五成群地走出电影院,并且议论纷纷。People walked out of the cinema *in threes and fours*, still talking about the film.

## 【三下五除二】

neat and quick

## 【三心二意】

undecided; a changeable mind; be double - minded; be many - minded; half

-hearted; have (be in, be of) two minds (about sth.); shilly-shally [例]他从未做好过什么事,因为他总是三心二意。Nothing he has ever done has been done well, because he is always in two minds.

### 【三言两语】

in a few words; a few words spoken; in one word or two; in short [例]他决不是三言两语就可以打发的,你必须给他一个满意的解释。He is not to be dismissed in a few words; you must give him a satisfactory explanation.

### 【三足鼎立】

stand like the three legs of a tripod; divided into three opposing parts; tripartite confrontation [例]老国王死后,他的王国形成了三足鼎立之势。After the death of the old king, his kingdom was divided into three opposing parts.

### 【散兵游勇】

stragglers and disbanded soldiers; stray soldiers after defeat; persons who have not been organized into a collective and act by themselves [例]将军认为他的对手只是散兵游勇,不足为惧。The general thought his enemy was composed of stragglers and disbanded soldiers and so there was nothing to be afraid of.

### 【丧魂落魄】

be driven to distraction; be frightened out of one's life [例]他被这次事故吓得丧魂落魄。He was driven to distraction by the accident.

### 【丧家之犬】

stray (homeless, disowned) dogs (curs); a vagabond; a lost pup [例]自从他们的头目被捕后,他们就像丧家之犬徘徊街头。Ever since their head was arrested, they have been wndering in the streets like stray dogs.

### 【丧尽天良】

heartless; utterly devoid of conscience; conscienceless [例]这些士兵连孩子都杀,真是丧尽天良。These soldiers must have been utterly devoid of conscience to kill even the children,

### 【丧权辱国】

humiliate the country and forfeit its sovereignty; surrender a country's sovereign rights under humiliating terms; natural betrayal [例]接受这样的条件是丧权辱国的。To accept such terms is to humiliate our country and forfeit her sovereignty.

### 【丧心病狂】

frenzied; he seized with crazy ideas, losing all balance of judgement; have cracked brains; unscrupulous; perverse; lose one's senses [例]丧心病狂的凶手杀害了无辜的学生。The frenzied killer killed innocent students.

### 【搔首弄姿】

(of a woman) stroke one's hair coquettishly (in coquetry); be coquettish; coquet with sb.; flirtatious act; giggle and flirt; posture and preen oneself [例]她在客人面前搔首弄姿,希望获得赞美。She stroked her hair coquettishly before the guests in order to win their praise.

### 【骚人墨客】

men of letters; literati; a poet

### 【扫地出门】

drive sb. out of his house and deprive him of everything; drive out sb. in dire poverty; he shattered; (of one's dignity or prestige) he swept away like rubbish

### 【扫地俱尽】

make a clean sweep; with all swept into the dustpan [例]他要扫地俱尽,与一切坏朋友断交。He decided to make a clean sweep and cut the relationship with all the bad friends.

## 【扫眉才子】

a gifted maiden; a girl poet; a female scholar

## 【色厉内荏】

be tough - looking outside but really timid within; firm in the countenance, but weak inside; fierce of visage (mien) but faint of heart; forcible - feeble; an ass in lion's skin [例]她威胁要揍儿子,但是她的儿子知道她是色厉内荏,所以一点不怕。She threatened to beat her son, but her son was not afraid, knowing well that she was tough - looking outside but really timid within.

## 【色授神与】

communication between minds without use of words

## 【森罗万象】

myriad of things; everything under the sun; all-embracing; all-inclusive [例]博物馆中森罗万象。The museum presents *myriad of things*.

## 【森严壁垒】

closely guarded; strongly fortified

## 【僧多粥少】

There are too many (Buddhist) monks and too little gruel; The monks are many and the supply of gruel is meager; cannot meet the needs of the people; not enough to go around

## 【杀回马枪】

wheel around and hit back; give sb. a back thrust; make a backward thrust at one's pursuer; make a Parthian shot (shaft) [例]他在我毫无防备的情况下杀了个回马枪。He made a *Parthian shot* at me when I was totally defenseless.

## 【杀鸡骇猴】

kill the chicken to frighten the amokey; punish someone as a warning to others; make an example of sb. [例]他们严惩

了这个小偷以杀鸡骇猴。The *punished* the thief severely as a warning to others.

## 【杀鸡取卵】

kill the hen to get all its eggs; sacrifice future gains to satisfy present needs; kill the goose that lays the golden eggs

## 【杀鸡焉用牛刀】

What's the need for using a large knife to kill a fowl? Why should one break a butterfly (fly) upon (on) the wheel? Is it necessary to use a steam-hammer to crack nuts? How could people use a sledge-hammer on a gnat?

## 【杀鸡用牛刀】

use a steam-hammer to crack nuts; break a fly upon a wheel; use a sledge-hammer on a gnat

## 【杀气腾腾】

have plenty of fight in one; with a murderous look on one's face; be out to kill; see things bloodshot; bellicose; run amuck (amok) [例]他杀气腾腾地走进来,没人敢看他。He walked in with a *murderous look on his face* and no one dared to look him in the face.

## 【杀人不见血】

kill without spilling blood; kill by subtle means; destroy a person by smooth strategy; kill without leaving any trace [例]别被他的微笑给骗了,他是那种杀人不见血的人。Don't be cheated by his smile, he is the sort of people who *kill without spilling blood*.

## 【杀人眨眨眼】

kill without batting an eyelid; kill (slaughter people) without blinking an eye; murder sb. in cold blood; be trigger-crazy; bloodthirsty [例]他经常扮演杀人眨眨眼的恶魔,但是实际上他是个和蔼的人。Although he often plays the part of a monster who *kills without bat-*



ting an eyelid, in real life he is a kind man.

【杀人放火】

(commit) murder and arson

【杀人可恕,天理难容】

If murder might be pardoned, there would be no reason in the human society

【杀人灭迹】

obliterate traces of murder

【杀人灭口】

kill all so that there won't be any eyewitness left; murder sb. to prevent divulgence of one's secrets; do away with a witness [例]为了防止罪犯杀人灭口,法官下令保护证人。The judge ordered to protect the witnesses, lest the criminal should murder them to prevent divulgence of his secrets.

【杀人如麻】

cut men down as one cuts hemp stalks; kill people like flies; commit innumerable murders [例]这个杀人如麻的恶魔临终前想见神甫,请求宽恕。When the monster who had killed people like flies was dying, he wished to see the priest to ask for pardon.

【杀人越货】

kill a person and seize his goods; (of robbers) murder for property; kill and rob [例]他们杀人越货,无恶不作。They killed people and seized their goods and did all the other evil things.

【杀身成仁】

die to achieve virtue; die for a just cause; sacrifice one's life to preserve one's integrity [例]他觉得能杀身成仁是一件幸事。He considered it his luck to be able to die for a just cause.

【杀身之祸】

a fatal disaster [例]他的书给他带来了杀身之祸。His book brought him a fatal

disaster.

【杀一儆百】

execute one as a warning to a hundred; execute one man to warn a hundred; punish one as an example to others

【沙里淘金】

wash grains of gold out of the sands; get small returns for great effort; get a small return from great effort; extract the essential from a large mass of material [例]他沙里淘金,在整座图书馆中找自己想要的书。He tried to find the books he needed in the whole library building and got small returns for great effort.

【傻头傻脑】

foolish - looking; muddle - headed; clumsy and stupid; foolish; silly; soft in the head [例]这个看上去傻头傻脑的人是个音乐天才。The foolish - looking man is a genius of music.

【歃血为盟】

smear the blood as a sign of the oath; smear the mouth with blood and swear fidelity

【煞费苦心】

laboriously; with much ado; painstakingly; take great trouble; take great pains (over sth. or to do sth.); be at great pains (over sth. or to do sth.); rack (cudgel) one's brains [例]她煞费苦心准备的晚餐获得了好评。The dinner she prepared laboriously received good comments.

【煞费周章】

take much pain; this matter was full of difficulties; with much ado; spare no effort; take great pains

【煞有介事】

make a great show of being earnest; pretend to be serious (about doing sth.); make such a fuss about; pull a sanctimo-

nious face; put on such airs; with airs of importance; with great fanfare; pretentiously; sanctimoniously

【山高水长】

high as mountains and long as rivers; (of nobility of character) as high as the hills and as long as the rivers; one's nobility or reputation lasts forever; of lasting influence; (in praise of one's) deep grace and friendly sentiment

【山高水低】

death; unexpected misfortune; sth. unfortunate

【山盟海誓】

exchange oathe high as the mountains and vows deep as the ocean; (make) a solemn pledge of love; plight one's faith (honor, promise, troth, truth); pledge of eternal love

【山明水秀】

green hills and clear waters; picturesque scenery

【山南海北】

south of the mountains and north of the seas; all over the land; far and wide

【山清水秀】

green hills and clear waters; green mountains and blue waters; picturesque scenery; beautiful country scene

【山穷水尽】

where the mountains and the rivers end; be on one's bones; be at one's last shift; be at the low-water mark; be caught in an impasse and can find no way out; be left high and dry; at the end of one's rope (means, tether, resources); be at one's wit's end; come to a dead end [例]不要逼他,他已经是山穷水尽了。Don't push him, he is *at the end of his rope*.

【山雨欲来风满楼】

The wind sweeping through the tower her-

alds a rising storm in the mountains; The turbulent wind precedes the mountain storm; The rising wind forebodes the coming storm; The gale is raging and the storm is about to burst; Coming events cast their shadows before them

【山珍海味】

delicacies from land and sea; dainties of every kind; all kinds of costly foods; delicacies [例]主人用山珍海味招待客人。The host served the guests with *delicacies from land and sea*.

【山中无老虎,猴子称霸王】

The monkey reigns in the mountains when the tiger is not there; Among the blied the one-eyed man is king.

【删繁就简】

simplify sth. by cutting out the superfluous; reduce to bare essentials; simplify what is complicated

【姗姗来迟】

be slow in coming; be late [例]在北方,春天总是姗姗来迟。In the north, spring is always *slow in coming*.

【煽风点火】

fan (up) the flames (fire); instigate; inflame and agitate people; stir up trouble (and create splits); fan up evil winds and flames; blow the coals [例]恶人们煽风点火,企图在混乱中获利。The evil guys *instigate* people in order to gain interests from the riots.

【潸然泪下】

tears trickling down one's cheeks; shed silent tears; drop a few silent tears [例]每读到林黛玉之死,她总要潸然泪下。She always *sheds silent tears* over the death of Lin Daiyu.

【闪烁其辞】

speak evasively; hedge; dodge about (around); evade issues; shuffle; hum and

haw [例]当被要求出示不在场证据时,嫌疑犯闪烁其辞。When asked to show his alibi, the suspect *spoke evasively*.

【善罢甘休】

let it go at that; leave the matter at that; let it go or give up lightly; willing to let it go [例]你在人前羞辱了他,他岂会善罢甘休? You humiliated him in front of other people; how could he *let it go at that*?

【善恶分明】

distinguish the good from the bad

【善男信女】

devout men and women; devotees to Buddha

【善始善终】

start (begin) well and end well; have a good beginning and a good ending; do well from start to finish; persevere right to the end; not give up an undertaking until the end is reached; see sth. through [例]他教育儿子做事情要善始善终。He told his son that whatever one does, one should *see it through*.

【善有善报,恶有恶报】

Good has its reward and evil has its recompense; Good will be rewarded with good, and evil with evil; Fortune is the good man's prize, but the bad man's bane; get what's coming to one

【善自为谋】

be apt at devising a good plan for oneself; good at taking care of oneself; give a problem careful consideration [例]聪明的革命者应该善自为谋,避免无谓的牺牲。A wise revolutionist should be *good at taking care of himself* and avoid unnecessary loss.

【擅离职守】

leave one's post without permission; unau-

thorized departure from official duty; be absent from one's post without leave [例]他擅离职守,从而造成这次事故。He *left his post without permission*, which was the cause of the accident.

【伤风败俗】

corrupt public morals; offend public decency; breach of morality; pervert the manners and customs; injurious to public morality; indecent; shameless; demoralization [例]在穆斯林国家,伤风败俗者会受到非常严厉的惩罚。In the Moslem countries, those who *corrupt public morals* will receive very severe punishment.

【伤筋动骨】

be injured in the sinews or bones; have a fracture

【伤天害理】

do things offensive to God and reason; extremely savage, cruel and brutal; flagrantly wrongful; grossly unjust; outrageous; devoid of conscience and reason; atrocious [例]他任老母亲活活饿死,实在是伤天害理。He left his mother starving to death, which was *extremely savage, cruel and brutal*.

【伤心惨目】

break the heart and distress the eye; too ghastly to look at; tragic (scene)

【赏罚分明】

be strict and fair in meting out rewards and punishment; reward the worthy while giving due punishment to those who deserve it; awards and punishments rigorously carried out

【赏功罚罪】

give rewards for good service and punishment for faults

【赏心悦目】

find the scenery pleasing to both the eye

and the mind; be a feast for the eye; be a perfect delight to the eye; be pleasant to look at [例]东部的景致固然赏心悦目,西部的景观却是令人敬畏不已。The scenery in the east is *pleasing to both the eye and the mind*, but the landscape in the west is simply breathtaking.

【上不着天,下不着地】

touch neither the sky nor the ground; have nothing to hang on to above and no solid ground to rest one's feet on below; be suspended in mid-air [例]在面试结果出来以前,他的感觉上不着天,下不着地。Before the result of the interview came out, he felt as if he *were suspended in mid-air*.

【上谄下骄】

fawn upon one's superiors and look down upon those below; flatter those in high position and despise those of lower ranks; snobbish [例]他上谄下骄,正直的人都不屑与他为伍。He was so *snobbish* that honest people all avoided him.

【上窜下跳】

run clandestine errands up and down the line; run around on sinister errands

【上梁不正下梁歪】

If the upper beam is not straight, the lower ones will go aslant; If the upper beam is crooked the lower ones are out of plumb; People follow the example of those in high positions; When those above behave unworthily, those below will do the same; Fish begins to stink at the head; A crooked stick throws a crooked shadow

【上气不接下气】

gasp for breath; have difficulty in taking in breath; be out of breath; lose one's breath

【上天无路,入地无门】

There is no road to heaven and no door in-

to earth; helpless, nowhere to turn; no way of escape; in desperate straits; be up against the wall; find no way out

【上无片瓦,下无插针之地】

have neither a tile over one's head nor a speck of land under one's feet to stick a needle (an awl); poverty-stricken; be utterly destitute; as poor as a church mouse

【上无片瓦,下无寸土】

have neither a tile over one's head nor a speck of land under one's feet; not to own a single brick or an inch of land; be utterly destitute; poverty-stricken; as poor as a church mouse

【上下其手】

practice fraud; league together for some evil end; maneuver for some evil end; get up to tricks

【上行下效】

Those below follow the (usu. bad) example of those above; Those in subordinate positions will follow the example set by their superiors; The doings of superiors are imitated by inferiors; If a leader sets up a (n) (bad) example, it will be followed by his subordinates; The inferiors imitate the superiors [例]尽管他也不喜欢每天早起,但是他知道上行下效这个道理,所以他决不能迟到。Although he didn't like getting up early either, he knew that *if a leader sets up a bad example, it will be followed by his subordinates*, so he mustn't be late.

【稍纵即逝】

fleeting; transient [例]他脑海里闪过一个稍纵即逝的念头;也许他的父母可以帮他。A *fleeting* idea went through his mind; maybe his parents could lend him a hand.

【少安毋躁】

Please calm down a little and do not get excited; Don't be impatient, wait for a while; Take it easy, don't make a fuss; Wait for a while; keep your hair on

【少见多怪】

having seen little, get excited easily; things seldom seen are (regarded as) strange; ignorant; consider sth. remarkable simply because one has not seen it before; comment excitedly on a commonplace thing (out of ignorance or inexperience); shocked through lack of experience [例]他真是少见多怪,看到飞机也要大呼小叫。He was so *ignorant* that he cried and shouted at the sight of an airplane.

【少头无尾】

without both the head and the tail; unfinished; imperfect [例]他写了很多少头无尾的文章,足见没有恒心。He wrote a lot of *unfinished* articles, which was a proof of lack of perseverance.

【少不更事】

young and inexperienced; green; unfledged; (as) green as grass (a gooseberry) [例]他少不更事,所以常常被人利用。He was *young and inexperienced*, so he was often used by others.

【少年老成】

a young person lacking in vigor and drive; young but prudent and capable; have an old head on young shoulders [例]父母过多的训诫使他显得少年老成。Too much lectures from his parents made him become a *young person lacking in vigor and drive*.

【少壮不努力,老大徒伤悲】

If one does not exert oneself in youth, one will regret it in old age; Laziness in youth spells regret in old age; To idle away the time in youth will leave sorrow in (at)

age; Idle young, needy old; If you lie upon roses when young, you'll lie upon thorns when old; Reckless youth makes rueful age; Rejoiced at in youth, repented in age.

【舌敝唇焦】

talk till one's tongue and lips are parched; wear oneself out in pleading, expostulating, etc.; argue or talk oneself hoarse; do a lot of talking [例]他说得舌敝唇焦,希望儿子回心转意。He *wore himself out in pleading*, hoping his son would change his mind.

【舍本逐末】

attend to trifles to the neglect of essentials; grasp the shadow instead of the essence [例]他舍本逐末的做法使他的威信受到怀疑。His authority was questioned because he *attended to trifles to the neglect of essentials*.

【舍得一身剐,敢把皇帝拉下马】

He who is not afraid of death by a thousand cuts dares to unhorse the emperor.

【舍己救人】

sacrifice one's life to save others; risk one's life for another; save others' life at the risk of one's own [例]舍己救人的英雄人们会永远记住。He who *sacrifices his life to save others* will be remembered forever.

【舍己为人】

risk one's life for others; sacrifice one's own interests for the sake of others; self-sacrifice [例]他为儿子能舍己为人感到骄傲。He was proud of his son who had *sacrificed his own interests for the sake of others*.

【舍近求远】

sacrifice the near for the distant; seek far and wide for what lies close at hand; go for the abstruse and forget the obvious

[例]他这么舍近求远会不会有什么原因呢? Could there be any reason for him to *seek far and wide for what lies close at hand*?

**【舍车保帅】**

give up a rook to save the king (in chess); make minor sacrifices to safeguard major interest [例]为了避免彻底的失败,我们必须舍车保帅。To avoid complete failure, we must *make minor sacrifices to safeguard major interests*.

**【舍生取义】**

lay down one's life for a just cause; sacrifice oneself for justice; die for principle; prefer honor to life [例]我们的民族能得以生存是因为总是有愿意舍生取义的人。Our people has survived because there are always people who are willing to *lay down their lives for a just cause*.

**【舍生忘死】**

risk one's life; disregard one's own safety [例]战士们舍生忘死地捍卫着祖国。Our soldiers are *risking their lives* to protect our country.

**【舍我其谁】**

If I can't do it, who can? Who bet myself can do it?

**【设身处地】**

put oneself in sb. else's position; be considerate; look at sth. from the angle of others; be in (put oneself in) sb. 's shoes [例]不要这么固执。设身处地为别人想想吧。Don't be so stubborn. Just *put yourself in others' position*.

**【摄魂夺魄】**

hold spellbound; be under the spell

**【身败名裂】**

One's personal reputation is ruined; lose all standing and reputation; bring disgrace and ruin upon oneself; be utterly discredited; Sb. 's name is mud; mud - slinger

[例]丑闻暴露后,他身败名裂。After the scandal was made public, *his personal reputation was ruined*.

**【身不由己】**

One's limbs no longer obey one; lose one's balance (control); in spite of oneself; constrained by circumstances; not of one's own accord (freewill); unable to contain oneself; under compulsion; involuntarily [例]既然大家都在嘲笑小丑,他身不由己地也跟着笑。Since all the other persons were laughing at the clown, he also laughed *in spite of himself*.

**【身价百倍】**

One's value shoots up hundredfold; skyrocket to fame; have a big rise in social status; find oneself substantially elevated in fame and status; receive a tremendous boost in one's prestige; come up (rise) in the world [例]自从首相不经意间称赞了那个演员之后,她顿时身价百倍。The actress *skyrocketed to fame* after the premier made a casual but favorable comment on her.

**【身教胜于言教】**

Practice (Example) is better than precept; A good example is the best sermon; Examples move more than words; The example of good man is visible philosophy.

**【身临其境】**

personally go through a situation; be personally on the scene (spot); visit the place in person [例]他的描述令大家感到身临其境。His description made us feel as if we *had been personally on the scene*.

**【身强力壮】**

(of a person) strong; tough; sturdy; hearty as a buck; in good (fine) fettle [例]这个乞丐看上去身强力壮,为什么会当乞丐? The beggar looks *strong*;

what has made him a beggar?

【身体力行】

earnestly practice what one advocates; set an example by personally taking part; practice what one preaches [例]真正的圣人总是身体力行自己的主张。Real saints will *practice what they preach*.

【身外之物】

things that are not part of one's body; external things; mere worldly possessions [例]说到底,金钱是身外之物。After all, money is *mere worldly possessions*.

【身先士卒】

lead one's men in a charge; lead one's men in an act; charge at the head of one's men [例]他一向身先士卒,故而为士兵们所敬爱。He always *led his men in the charge* and was therefore respected and loved by his soldiers.

【身在福中不知福】

Growing up in happiness, one often fails to appreciate what happiness really means; not appreciate the happy life one enjoys; take one's good fortune for granted [例]儿媳妇身在福中不知福,把老婆婆看成了累赘。The daughter - in - law *didn't appreciate the happy life she was enjoying* and considered her mother - in - law a burden.

【深不可测】

too deep to be measured; have no bottom; fathomless; plumbless; abysmal; extremely abstruse [例]他的心机深不可测。His heart is *fathomless*.

【深藏若虚】

be modest about one's talent (learning); not be given to boasting or showing off; hide one's light (candle) under a bushel [例]他深藏若虚,从不当众发言。He *is modest about his learning* and never makes a speech in public.

【深仇大恨】

have a dead (immense, bitter and deep-seated, profound) hatred for; great enmity and deep hostility [例]他对这个贪官怀有深仇大恨。He *had a dead hatred for* the corrupt official.

【深更半夜】

in the dead of night; in the depth of night; the midnight hours; deep in the night [例]他总是深更半夜才回家。He always returned *in the dead of night*.

【深沟高垒】

deep trenches and high ramparts; strong defense [例]这个镇子深沟高垒,很难攻克。The town had *strong defense* and was difficult to take.

【深居简出】

dwelt in deep seclusion and rarely come out; live in solitude; live in the seclusion of one's own home; live with few social contacts; live a secluded life [例]自从丈夫去世后,她就深居简出。She had *lived in solitude* since her husband died.

【深明大义】

be deeply conscious of the righteousness of a cause; know clearly the right thing to do and principles to follow; understand the important principles thoroughly

【深谋远虑】

think deeply and plan carefully; be circumspect and far-sighted; farseeing and thoughtful; foresighted [例]这位将领深谋远虑,并不惧怕人数上占优势的敌人。The general *was circumspect and far-sighted* and did not fear the enemy who outnumbered them.

【深情厚谊】

profound sentiments of friendship [例]他的礼物满载着深情厚谊。His gifts carried *profound sentiments of friendship*.

【深入浅出】

explain the profound in simple terms; (of articles or speeches) be described penetratingly with simple language; with profundity and an easy - to - understand approach; be simple but profound [例]这本书写得深入浅出,所以很受欢迎。The book *explains the profound in simple terms*. That's why it is so popular.

#### 【深入人心】

capture the hearts of people; win support among the people; strike root in the hearts of the people; strike fire into one's heart; strike a deep chord in the hearts of the people; find its way deep into the hearts of the people [例]革命虽然失败了,但是民主的观念已经深入人心。The revolution failed, but the idea of democracy had *captured the hearts of the people*.

#### 【深山老林】

remote, thickly forested mountains; deep mountain forests

#### 【深思熟虑】

deep and careful consideration; ponder deeply (over); long deliberation; cogitative; chew the cud; put on one's thinking cap [例]经过深思熟虑,他决定接受邀请。After *deep and careful consideration*, he decided to accept the invitation.

#### 【深文周纳】

frame and punish severely; (of feudal officials, judges, etc.) use every means to have an innocent person pronounced guilty; convict sb. by deliberately misinterpreting the law

#### 【深恶痛绝】

hate deeply; cherish (have) an undying (a bitter, implacable, deep-seated) hatred for; hate like poison; abhor; detest [例]法官对年轻人虐待老人的行为深恶痛绝。The judge *had a bitter hatred* for young people maltreating old people.

#### 【神不知,鬼不觉】

unknown to god and ghost; in great secrecy; (do sth.) without anybody knowing it

#### 【神采奕奕】

glowing with health and radiating vigor; brim over with health and spirits; brim with energy and vitality; beaming and buoyant in spirits; as fit as a fiddle; in pretty good fettle; full of beans [例]她七十多岁,依然神采奕奕。She is already in her seventies, yet she is still *glowing with health and radiating vigor*.

#### 【神出鬼没】

appear like a god and disappear like a demon; appear and disappear mysteriously; come and go like a shadow; alert and quick; dazzling mobility [例]这支队伍神出鬼没,令敌人十分头疼。This army *came and went like a shadow*, which annoyed its enemy very much.

#### 【神工鬼斧】

superlative craftsmanship; extraordinary as if done by the spirits; supernatural (uncanny) workmanship; finger of God [例]这座山看上去真是神工鬼斧。This mountain looks as *extraordinary as if created by the spirits*.

#### 【神乎其神】

miraculous; fantastic; wonderful [例]他的经历被影片表现得神乎其神。His experiences seemed *fantastic* in the film.

#### 【神魂颠倒】

be infatuated; one's mind is confused by; be mad about (sb.); enrapt; be out of one's mind; be carried away with; be entranced at (with); be dead gone on [例]歌迷们在现场演唱会上显得神魂颠倒。The fans *were infatuated* at the live concert.

#### 【神机妙算】

ability to divine the unknown; wonderful



foresight; crafty plan; admirable calculations; wonderful (divine) strategy [例]我们的敌人好像会神机妙算,总是能比我们领先一步。Our enemy seemed to have the *ability to divine the unknown* and was always one step ahead of us.

#### 【神妙莫测】

so subtle as to be difficult to guess what comes next; darkling [例]这本侦探小说写得神妙莫测。This detective story is *so subtle as to be difficult to guess what comes next*.

#### 【神气十足】

very arrogant; extremely pompous; overweening pride; with an air of great importance; looking triumphant; (as) proud as Punch; put on grand airs [例]他穿上新袍子,神气十足。He looked *very arrogant* in his new robe.

#### 【神色自若】

be perfectly calm and collected; show composure and presence of mind; look unperturbed; with an easy self - possessed mien; not turn a hair [例]警察出现时,他神色自若。He *was perfectly calm and collected* when the police showed up.

#### 【神思恍惚】

be distracted; in a confused state of mind; be in a trance; be perturbed in spirit; absent - minded; have a slate missing (loose) [例]自从孩子丢失以后,她一直神思恍惚。She *has been distracted* since her child was lost.

#### 【神通广大】

he infinitely resourceful; have far - reaching supernatural power; have something going for one

#### 【审时度势】

judge the hour and size up the situation; make an assessment of the situation; see how the gander hops; see how the land

lies; see (find out) how the wind blows [例]他审时度势,决定留在广州。After *judging the hour and sizing up the situation*, he decided to stay in Guangzhou.

#### 【甚嚣尘上】

making a lot of noise; the dust and din of sb. fill the air; cause a temporary clamor [例]在军阀的支持下,反动者的言论甚嚣尘上。With the support of the warlords, the reactionaries *made a lot of noise*.

#### 【升官发财】

win promotion and get rich; (be out for) power and money [例]很多人都梦想着升官发财。Many people are dreaming of *winning promotion and getting rich*.

#### 【升堂入室】

pass through the hall into the inner chamber; become highly proficient in one's profession; gain the mastery of; reach a higher level in one's studies [例]他在古典文学方面的造诣已是升堂入室了。He *has become highly proficient in classic literature*.

#### 【生搬硬套】

apply (copy) mechanically; copy mechanically in disregard of specific conditions; copy mechanically and apply indiscriminately [例]先进的技术不可生搬硬套,不然也许反而会造成危害。Advanced techniques *mustn't be applied mechanically*, otherwise they may cause harm.

#### 【生动活泼】

vivid and vigorous; lively [例]他对太平洋岛屿的描写生动活泼。His descriptions of the Pacific islands are *vivid and vigorous*.

#### 【生花妙笔】

a pen that can grow blossoms; (straight from) a gifted pen; (written with) a graphic pen; a brilliant style of writing; a

delicate touch; superb literary talent [例] 诗人们的生花妙笔很快就使这个地方远近闻名了。 *The gifted pens of the poets soon made this place widely known.*

**【生拉活扯】**

drag sb. out to do sth. by force as well as by persuasion; drag sb. along against his will; stretch the meaning (in speaking); far - fetched

**【生离死别】**

be parted in life and separated by death; part forever; eternal separation between loved ones in life or death; part never to meet again

**【生灵涂炭】**

The people are amid mire and charcoal; The people are plunged into an abyss of misery; in great distress; people in great affliction [例] 残暴的统治使得生灵涂炭。 *The people were plunged into an abyss of misery by the cruel reign.*

**【生龙活虎】**

doughty as dragon and lively as a tiger; with furious energy; brimming (bursting) with energy; full of vim and vigor; be alive and kicking [例] 这些生龙活虎的年轻人渴望投入战斗。 *These young men with furious energy were eager to go to the battlefield.*

**【生米煮成熟饭】**

The rice is already cooked; There is no remedy over it; What's done can't be undone.

**【生气勃勃】**

full of life (vitality); dynamic and vigorous; alive with activity; alive and kicking; ha vivid with life; like a steam - engine; spirited [例] 春天的早晨生气勃勃, 充满希望。 *The spring morning is full of vitality and hope.*

**【生杀予夺】**

hold power over sb.'s life and property; have sb. completely in one's power; have sb.'s fate in one's hands [例] 国王对他的百姓有生杀予夺的权力, 但是百姓也有造反的可能。 *The king has his people completely in his power. Even so, the people also may rise up against him.*

**【生死存亡】**

life or death; question of survival or not; question of living or dying; life - and - death [例] 在生死存亡的关头最能考验一个人。 *A man is best tested when facing the question of life or death.*

**【生死攸关】**

(a matter of) life and death; (a matter of) vital importance; life - or - death [例] 能否及时把病人送到医院是生死攸关的事。 *It is a matter of life and death whether the patient can be sent to the hospital in time.*

**【生吞活剥】**

swallow sth. raw and whole; accept sth. uncritically; gulp down uncritically; transplant indiscriminately; force an interpretation of text without understanding; skin alive; tore out of context

**【生于忧患, 死于安乐】**

Life springs from sorrow and calamity, death comes from ease and pleasure; thrive in edversity and perish in soft living

**【声东击西】**

make a feint to the east but attack in the west; pretend to attack the east while attacking the west; make a feint; shoot at a pigeon and kill a crow; look one way and row another [例] 他声东击西, 假装要去北京, 但实际却去了广州。 *He made a feint to go to Beijing, but actually went to Guangzhou.*

**【声泪俱下】**

shedding tears while speaking; in a tearful

voice [例]他声泪俱下地讲述继母是如何虐待他的。He described how his stepmother had maltreated him *in a tearful voice*.

【声名狼藉】

with a bad reputation; fall into disrepute; one's reputation is ruined; unsavory reputation; notorious; disreputable [例]他因为剽窃而声名狼藉。He had an *unsavory reputation* because of plagiarism.

【声色俱厉】

severe (stern) in voice and countenance; speak in a cross tone and with a severe expression; come down hard on; come down like a ton of bricks [例]将军声色俱厉地命令抢了村民东西的士兵站出来。The general, *stern in voice and countenance*, ordered the soldier who had robbed the villager to step forward.

【声势浩大】

great in strength and impetus; large-scale; mammoth; influential; grand; in a big way [例]上个月,全国各地均有声势浩大的游行。Last month, there were *large-scale* demonstrations all over the country.

【声嘶力竭】

hoarse and exhausted; shout oneself hoarse; shout oneself blue in the face; shout at the top of one's voice; scream one's head off [例]演讲者喊得声嘶力竭,还是得不到听众的支持。The speaker *shouted himself blue in the face*, yet there was still no supportive response from the audience.

【声威大震】

gain resounding fame; gain great fame and high prestige; make a noise in the world [例]他击败了前世界冠军后声威大震。He *gained resounding fame* by defeating the former world champion.

【省吃俭用】

eat sparingly and spend frugally; save money on food and expenses; live frugally; be economical in everyday spending; stint oneself; practice austerity [例]将军一生省吃俭用,以浪费为耻。The general *lived frugally* all his life and considered waste a shame.

【胜败乃兵家之常】

Defeats or victories are ordinary things to a general; Victory and defeat are the soldier's lot; Victory and failure are common things among soldiers.

【胜不骄,败不馁】

not puffed up by success, nor dismayed by failure; not dizzy with success, nor discouraged by failure [例]他胜不骄,败不馁,稳步前进。Not *puffed up by success, nor dismayed by failure*, he is making steady progress.

【胜任愉快】

be well qualified; prove more than equal to the task; very competent at a job [例]倘若不能胜任愉快,你还是辞职吧。If you *are not well qualified*, you had better quit.

【盛极一时】

prevail for a time; be in fashion in one's time (for a time); be all the rage at the moment [例]现在,交际语言教学法盛极一时。The communicative approach in language teaching is *all the rage at the moment*.

【盛名之下,其实难副】

It is hard to live up to a great reputation; One's fame is greater than one deserves; The lion is not so fierce as he is painted. [例]这个演员一夜成名,但是盛名之下,其实难副。The actor became famous overnight, but *it was hard for him to live up to this great reputation*.

## 【盛气凌人】

put on airs and browbeat others; be pushy and overbearing; carry an arrogant air; lift up one's horn; get up on one's hind legs; arrogant; dominating; give oneself (put on) airs; be (get) on one's high horse [例]老板的太太盛气凌人。The boss' wife is pushy and overbearing.

## 【盛情难却】

be ungracious not to accept sb.'s invitation; difficult to refuse such kindness (hospitality); difficult to decline sb.'s generous intentions (good wishes) [例]我不想赴宴,但是盛情难却。I didn't want to go to the dinner, but it would be ungracious not to accept their invitation.

## 【盛衰荣辱】

prosperity and decline, glory and humiliation; the ups and downs; rise and fall; vicissitudes of life [例]他见惯了人世间的盛衰荣辱,所以不会被名利所诱惑。He has seen too much of the ups and downs of life, therefore won't be tempted by fame and gain.

## 【尸横遍野】

a field littered with corpse [例]战争之后,尸横遍野。The battle left the field littered with corpse.

## 【尸位素餐】

hold a sinecure job and eat white rice; hold down a job without doing a stroke of work; get pay without doing any work; neglect the duties of an office while taking the pay; feed at the public trough; feast at the public crib [例]这些官吏终日无所事事,都是尸位素餐。These officials kept idle all day and every day. They all held down a job without doing a stroke of work.

## 【失败为成功之母】

Failure is the mother of success; Failure is

the only high-road to success; Failure teaches success.

## 【失魂落魄】

be scared out of one's wits; be driven to distraction; panic-stricken; lose one's soul (wits) [例]小偷被一道闪电吓得失魂落魄。The thief was scared out of his wits by the lightning.

## 【失之东隅,收之桑榆】

lose at sunrise and gain at sunset; make up on the roundabouts what you lose on the swings; lose at the start and win at the finish; lose in hake but gain in herring; What one loses on the swings, one gets back on the roundabouts [例]这个商人没想到他能够失之东隅,收之桑榆。The businessman hadn't expected that he could make up on the roundabouts what he lost on the swings.

## 【失之交臂】

miss a good chance; lose (opportunity, sth.) close at hand; fail to meet sb. by a narrow chance; miss sth. very desirable; miss the hos [例]我一直想见见他,没想到却失之交臂。I had been looking forward to seeing him, but I failed to meet him by a narrow chance.

## 【师出无名】

dispatch troops without a just cause; send the army out without a righteous cause; There is no excuse for the campaign; do sth. without proper excuse; fighting for an unjust cause [例]镇压学生师出无名。There was no excuse for the campaign against the students.

## 【师心自用】

self-opinionated; act and show overconfidence in oneself; act with self-assurance; not willing to listen to advice [例]这帮学者师心自用,为人所取笑。These scholars were self-opinionated and

were laughed at by people.

【师直为壮】

An army fighting for a just cause has high morale; A troop fighting for the just is invincible.

【十恶不赦】

guilty of unpardonable evil; guilty beyond forgiveness; unpardonable crime; too wicked to be pardoned [例]这个十恶不赦的坏蛋终于受到了法律的惩罚。The bad guy who was *guilty of unpardonable evil* was finally punished by law.

【十目所视,十手所指】

with many eyes watching and many fingers pointing at; all eyes see it and all fingers point to it; One cannot do wrong without being seen; useless to hide

【十拿九稳】

nine chances (cases) out of ten; ninety percent sure; practically certain; the matter is well in hand; ten to one; a sure thing for; in the bag; (as) sure as hell (fate); It's dollars to doughnuts (buttons); Lombard Street to a China orange [例]这位教练认为他的队获得冠军是十拿九稳的事。The coach was *ninety percent sure* that his team would win the championship.

【十年寒窗】

ten years' hard study at a cold window; persevere in one's long-term studies in spite of hardships; bury oneself in books for a long time; a student's long years of hard study [例]他十年寒窗,终于成为一位著名的学者。He *persevered in his long-term studies in spite of hardships* and finally became a famous scholar.

【十年树木,百年树人】

It takes ten years to grow trees but a hundred years to bring up a generation of good men; To bring up people of talent is no

easy job and takes a long time; It is a long-term plan to bring up man of talent. [例]十年树木,百年树人,所以我们在教育上不可以急功近利。It takes ten years to grow trees but a hundred years to bring up a generation of good men; therefore we mustn't be too eager for quick success and instant benefit in education.

【十全十美】

be flawless and perfect; be perfect in every way; be all it should be; the pink of perfection; the acme of perfection; be out of this world; leave nothing to be desired [例]在她的眼中,丈夫是十全十美的。In her eye, her husband was *flawless and perfect*.

【十室九空】

Nine houses out of ten are deserted; Nine out of ten houses are stripped bare; Almost all (nine-tenths) houses were empty after the raid; a scene of desolation after a plague or war when the population is decimated [例]旱灾之后,这座城镇十室九空。After the drought, *nine houses out of ten* in the town were deserted.

【十万火急】

extremely urgent; most emergent; posthaste [例]我有十万火急的事情要汇报,必须半夜把将军叫醒。Since I had an *extremely urgent* matter to report, I had to call up the general at midnight.

【石沉大海】

like a stone dropped (sunk) into the sea; it disappears forever; it has produced no reaction; no ecbu; never to be seen or heard of again [例]我给他写了几封信,但是都石沉大海。I wrote him several letters, but *they have produced no reaction*.

【石破天惊】

earth-shattering and heaven-bettering;

devastating (opinion, event); a great concussion (shock); remarkably original and forceful (music, writing, etc.) [例]他一语既出,如石破天惊,我们都哑口无言。We were all speechless at his *devastating* words.

#### 【时不可失】

must not lose the opportunity; Now for it! Now or never! There is no time to lose; There is no time like the present. [例]时不可失,我们应该在会上向部长汇报这件事。We *mustn't lose the opportunity* to report this matter to the secretary at the meeting.

#### 【时不我待】

Time will not wait for us; Time and tide wait for no man; Time stays for no man. [例]时不我待,我必须趁还年轻多努力。Time and tide wait for no man; I must work hard while I'm still young.

#### 【时不我与】

time is running out; lost time is never found again [例]时不我与,再不行动就来不及了。Time is running out; it will be too late if we don't take action now.

#### 【时乖命蹇】

The time and fates are against one; unfortunate; have bad luck in life; be born under an evil star; one's sun is set; ill-fated; have the hand of fate against one; be down on one's luck; ha out of luck [例]她一生时乖命蹇,但是从不轻言放弃。She led an *unfortunate* life all her life, but she never gave up easily.

#### 【时势造英雄】

the times produce their heroes; He is born in a good hour who gets a good name. [例]时势造英雄。换个时代,拿破仑就不会取得那样的成就了。The times produce their heroes. Napoleon wouldn't have achieved that much if he had been

born into another age.

#### 【时移俗易】

Customs change with the passage of time; Times change, and with them customs and habits too; Other times, other manners [例]时移俗易,现在即使在农村也有很多年轻夫妇不再跟父母住在一起了。Customs change with the passage of time; many young couples no longer live with their parents even in the countryside.

#### 【识时务者为俊杰】

Whosoever understands (the signs of) the times is a great man; A brave man knows how to how to circumstances; He is wise who understands the times; Those who suit their actions to the times are wise; Time-servers are clever; Adapt yourself to the times; A great man knows how to ride the tide of his times. [例]识时务者为俊杰。你还是投降吧。A brave man knows how to bow to circumstances. You'd better surrender.

#### 【识途老马】

an old horse which knows the way; a wise old bird; a person of rich experience; an old stager; a worldly-wise man [例]他是匹识途老马,年轻的老板经常向他征询意见。He was a wise old bird and the young boss often went to him for advice.

#### 【实事求是】

seek truth from facts; be practical and realistic; get the truth by verification of the facts; in a truth-seeking way; based on facts; down-to-earth; have one's feet on the ground

#### 【拾金不昧】

not pocket the money one picks up; return the money found [例]这个出租车司机拾金不昧,把钱归还了失主。The taxi driver didn't pocket the money he picked up

but returned it to its owner.

【拾人牙慧】

pick up phrases from sb. and pass them off as one's own; offer another's ideas as one's own; steal others' ideas (sayings); pick up what others say or write; plagiarise [例]看看这篇文章!作者又在拾人牙慧了。Look at this article! The writer is *stealing others' ideas* again.

【食而不化】

eat without digesting; read without understanding [例]食而不化,读书又有何用? What's the use of reading if one *reads without understanding*?

【食古不化】

swallow ancient learning without digesting it; be pedantic; read ancient teachings without digesting them; be slave to the ancients [例]食古不化妨碍了他取得更大的成就。Being *pedantic* impeded his making greater achievement.

【食肉寝皮】

want to eat his flesh and sleep on his hide—descriptive of bitter hatred for one's enemy; swear revenge; want to see the person one hates destroyed

【食言而肥】

eat one's words; fail to live up to promise; fail to make good one's promise; break faith with sb.; break a promise; be worse than one's word; swallow one's words; go back on one's word; break one's word [例]他们食言而肥,没有照协议办。They *went back on their word* and didn't observe the agreement.

【史无前例】

without precedent in history; unprecedented in history; without parallel in history; without (beyond) example; unheard of [例]两次世界大战给人类带来了史无前例的痛苦。The pain that the human

world suffered during the two world wars was *without parallel in history*.

【矢口抵赖】

flatly deny; refuse to admit even unto death; never admitted [例]他矢口抵赖曾经借过朋友的钱。He *flatly denied* ever borrowing money from his friend.

【矢志不移】

Swear will never change; vow to adhere to one's chosen course; One's resolve is unshaken; take an oath not to change one's mind [例]他决定要报效祖国,矢志不移。He was determined to serve his motherland and *vowed to adhere to his chosen course*.

【始终不懈】

forever strive without ceasing; be unremitting from beginning to end; persistent; unremittingly [例]为了实现理想,人应该始终不懈地努力。To realize one's dream, one should *strive forever without ceasing*.

【始终不渝】

unswervingly; consistent; steadfast; firm and unchanging all along; remain faithful to one's promise; always persist firmly in [例]他始终不渝地投身于聋哑人的教育事业中。He was *unswervingly* dedicated to the education of the deaf-mutes.

【始终如一】

remain the same from beginning to end; consistent; constant; persistent [例]他的态度始终如一。His attitude was *consistent*.

【世上无难事,只怕有心人】

All difficulties on earth can be overcome if men but give their minds to it; Nothing is difficult to a man with a will; Where there is a will, there is a way; Nothing is impossible to a willing heart; It is dogged that (as) does it; Nothing in the world is

difficult for one who sets his mind to (on) it.

**【世世代代】**

from generation to generation; for generations; generation after generation; throughout the ages; age after age [例]这是我们世世代代居住的土地,我们必须保卫她。We live on this land *from generation to generation*, so we must protect her.

**【世态炎凉】**

the way of the world, now hot, now cold; inconstancy (fickleness) of human relationships

**【世外桃源】**

the land of Peach Blossoms; away from the turmoil of the world; a fictitious land of peace; a haven of peace [例]世上没有世外桃源,逃避是没用的。It's useless to run away, for you can't find any place that is *away from the turmoil of the world*.

**【事半功倍】**

get twice the result with half the effort; half the work with double the result; get better result with less effort [例]在决策前先做一番调查会收到事半功倍的效果。Doing some research work before you make any decision will enable you to *get twice the result with half the effort*.

**【事倍功半】**

do twice the work with half of results; get half the results with double the effort; labor hard to little avail; The mountain has brought forth a mouse; The mountain labors and brings forth a mouse.

**【事必躬亲】**

take care of every single thing personally; see (attend) to everything oneself [例]好的领导没有必要事必躬亲,他应该是一个好的组织者。It's unnecessary for a good leader to *take care of every single*

*thing personally*. He should be a good organizer.

**【事不关己,高高挂起】**

Let things drift if they do not affect one personally; Another's care will not rob one of sleep; Things of no personal concern are relegated to the background.

**【事不宜迟】**

The matter demands no delay; It permits of no delay; We must attend to the matter immediately; One must lose no time in doing it; Delays are dangerous.

**【事出有因】**

It is by no means accidental; There is good reason for it; Where there is reek, there is heat; Everything hath its seed; There is no smoke without fire; Every why has a (its) wherefore [例]经他解释之后,我们才知道事出有因。It was only after he explained it that we knew *it was by no means accidental*.

**【事非经过不知难】**

You never know how hard a task is until you have done it yourself; You never know till you have tried.

**【事过境迁】**

The incident is over and the circumstances are different; The matter is past and the situation has changed [例]他以事过境迁为理由拒绝帮助我。He refused to help me and the excuse was that *the incident was over and the circumstances were different*.

**【事后诸葛亮】**

claim wisdom after the event; wise behindhand; wise behindhand; afterthought

**【事实胜于雄辩】**

Facts are more eloquent than words; Facts are stronger than arguments (rhetoric); Facts speak louder than words; The effect speaks, the tongue needs not



## 【事与愿违】

Things go contrary to one's wishes; Events do not happen as one wishes; Things go athwart; a result cross to the purpose

## 【事在人为】

Man is the determining factor in doing things; It all depends on human effort; It is man who disposes. [例]事在人为,他们终于在大河上架起了一座桥。At last they built a bridge over the big river, which proves that *man is the determining factor in doing things*.

## 【势不可当】

overwhelming; be irresistible; come down like a brick; Nothing can hold it back; be a (general) trend which cannot be halted; carry all (everything, the world) before one [例]改革的浪潮势不可当。The tide of reform is *overwhelming*.

## 【势不两立】

impossible for both to exist together; completely incompatible; one of the two must be destroyed; irreconcilably hostile to each other; mutually exclusive; diametrically opposed to; extremely antagonistic; implacable hostility; at the opposite pole to; irreconcilable [例]我跟他势不两立,你从中只能选一个朋友。He and I are *completely incompatible*; you must choose a friend between us two.

## 【势成骑虎】

in the position of one riding a tiger; unable to get down and dangerous to go on; an awkward position from which there is no retreat; a situation from which it is hard to extricate oneself; be up a gum tree [例]他势成骑虎,只好听天由命。As he was *in an awkward position from which there is no retreat*, he had to trust to luck.

## 【势均力敌】

be evenly matched; match each other in

strength; be in an equilibrium; nip and tuck; nip - and - tuck; equal (even) scale; close; level; tight; be all square; a Roland for an Oliver; Diamond cut diamond [例]两队势均力敌,谁也不敢有失误。The two teams *were evenly matched* and neither of them could afford any mis-play.

## 【势如破竹】

like splitting a bamboo; with irresistible force; easily overcome all obstacles; press on irresistibly from a commanding height; developing apace; push forward from victory to victory without a hitch; carry all (everything, the world) before one; like a hot knife cutting through butter [例]斯巴达克的队伍势如破竹,打败了罗马军团。Spartacus' army defeated the Roman legion *with irresistible force*.

## 【势焰熏天】

One's position and power dominate the world (like flame darkening the sky); One's fury beclouds the sky.

## 【势在必行】

be imperative (under the circumstance); must be enforced [例]现在,开放国门是势在必行的。Now it is *imperative* for our country to open to the world.

## 【视而不见,听而不闻】

look but not see, listen but hear not; look at but not pay attention to, listen to but hear nothing; see and hear it without taking any notice

## 【视而不见】

look but see not; wink at; see it but pay no attention to; blind; turn a (one's) blind eye to; shut (close) one's eye to [例]他对地上的垃圾视而不见。He *turned a blind eye to* the litter on the ground.

## 【视如敝屣】

regard as worn-out shoes; cast aside as worthless; have a great contempt for [例] 这个著名画家的作品曾经被视如敝屣。The works of the famous painter were once *cast aside as worthless*.

## 【视如寇仇】

regard (look upon) sb. as one's enemy [例] 市民们将警察视如寇仇。The citizens *regarded* the police as *their enemy*.

## 【视若无睹】

take no notice of what has been seen; show no concern for; ignoring; turn a blind eye to; shut one's eyes to (against) [例] 开发商对环境污染视若无睹。The developer *turned a blind eye to* the pollution of the environment.

## 【视死如归】

take death calmly (like going home); look death calmly in the face; look upon death with ease; face death unflinchingly (with equanimity); defy death [例] 他心中充满着对未来的希望, 视死如归。With the hope for the future, he *looked death calmly in the face*.

## 【视同儿戏】

consider as mere children's play; treat (a serious matter) as a trifle; trifle with [例] 这个富翁之子把法律视同儿戏。The son of the millionaire *treated* law as a *trifle*.

## 【视同路人】

regard as a stranger; make a stranger of; cut sb. dead; give sb. the go-by [例] 他成功后就把一些过去的朋友视同路人。After he succeeded, he began to *regard* some of his former friends as *strangers*.

## 【视为畏途】

regard as a road full of dangers; keep away from sth.; regard as dangerous; be afraid to undertake [例] 他将阅读古典

书籍视为畏途。He *kept away from* classic works.

## 【视为知己】

regard as a good friend; treat sb. as a bosom friend [例] 我将他视为知己, 因为他从不欺骗我。I *regard* him as a *good friend* because he never cheats me.

## 【恃才傲物】

rely on one's own skill (ability) and look down upon others; self-conceited and insolent on account of one's ability; be inordinately proud of one's ability; be conceited and contemptuous [例] 他致命的错误就是恃才傲物。His fatal mistake was that he *relied on his own skill and looked down upon others*.

## 【恃强凌弱】

use one's strength to bully the weak; play the bully [例] 他们以为是在主持正义, 其实是在恃强凌弱。They think they are doing justice, but actually they are *using their strength to bully the weak*.

## 【拭目以待】

wait and see; on the alert; watchful [例] 他说他真的要戒酒了, 让我们拭目以待吧。He said he had decided to quit alcohol and that he meant it; so let's *wait and see*.

## 【是非曲直】

truth and falsehood; rights and wrongs; merits and demerits [例] 无论如何, 是非曲直是要弄清楚。Anyhow, we must distinguish between *truth and falsehood*.

## 【是非自有公论】

The public will judge the rights and wrongs of a case; The public is the best judge. [例] 我不想多争执, 是非自有公论。I don't want to argue anymore. *The public is the best judge*.

## 【是古非今】

praise the past to condemn the present;

denounce the present and praise antiquity; admire everything ancient and belittle present-day achievements; consider anything old as good and reject everything that is modern [例]老人们倾向于是古非今。Old people tend to *praise the past to condemn the present*.

**【是可忍,孰不可忍】**

If this could be endured, what else may not? If this can be tolerated, what cannot? How can this be tolerated? [例]他当众羞辱我,说我是白痴,是可忍,孰不可忍? He humiliated me in public and called me idiot; *how could this be tolerated?*

**【适得其反】**

lead to just the opposite; accomplish the very opposite; on the contrary; run counter to one's desires; be just the opposite of what one wishes; be just the reverse [例]他们太溺爱孩子,结果适得其反。They gave their child too much love and the result *was just the opposite of what they wished*.

**【适逢其会】**

be present to be present at the right moment; be lucky enough to be there at the time; come just at the right time; happen to be present on the occasion

**【适可而止】**

not overdo it; stop before going too far; know when or where to stop; stop where you reach the limit; be satisfied with what is proper; a little wind kindles, much puts out the fire; Bind the sack before it be full; Enough is enough. [例]他最好适可而止,不要逼人太甚。He'd better *not overdo it* and push us too much.

**【嗜杀成性】**

bloodthirsty; bloodsucking [例]这群嗜杀成性的匪徒最后被政府军消灭了。

The *bloodthirsty* bandits were finally destroyed by the governmental army.

**【誓不甘休】**

swear not to stop (rest); swear not to let the matter drop [例]他们不达目的,誓不甘休。They *swore not to stop* until they had reached their goal.

**【誓不两立】**

be irreconcilable; swear not to coexist with one's enemy; resolve to destroy the enemy or die in the attempt

**【誓死不二】**

swear to be loyal forever; remain loyal (faithful) even unto death; pledge to be true to death [例]他的士兵誓死不二。His soldiers *swore to be loyal* to him forever.

**【噬脐莫及】**

One cannot bite one's own navel; It's too late to repent; Regret will not mend matters; impossibility; It is no use crying over spilt milk.

**【收回成命】**

revoke a command; countermand an order [例]他明知错了,但是为了打击对手,他不肯收回成命。He knew he was wrong, but in order to beat his opponent, he refused to *revoke the command*.

**【手不释卷】**

be unwilling to put down the book in one's hand; always have a book in one's hand; be a diligent reader; be very studious [例]在我的印象中,他是手不释卷的。It's my impression that he *always had a book in his hand*.

**【手到病除】**

(in praise of a doctor's skill) Sickness retires at his touch; The disease is cured as soon as one sets his hand to it—descriptive of wonderful medical skill. [例]别的医生束手无策,他却能手到病除。

*Sickness retired at his touch* when the other doctors were at a loss what to do.

**【手疾眼快】**

quick of eye and deft of hand; neat-handed and sharp-eyed; nimble-fingered and lynx-eyed; deft; dexterous [例]他手疾眼快,接住了下落的花瓶。He was *deft* enough to catch the falling vase.

**【手忙脚乱】**

in a frantic rush; busy and bustling without order or method; running around in circles; in a great bustle; be thrown into confusion; in a muddle; frantically busy [例]听说总督要来,大家手忙脚乱。The news that the governor was coming put everyone *in a frantic rush*.

**【手无寸铁】**

bare-handed; unarmed; defenseless [例]警察向手无寸铁的人群开枪,受到严厉指责。The police were severely condemned for shooting at the *bare-handed* people.

**【手无缚鸡之力】**

lack the strength to truss up a chicken; too weak; too feeble; cannot punch one's way out of a paper bag [例]他看上去手无缚鸡之力,不可能是强盗。He looked *too weak* to be a robber.

**【手舞足蹈】**

dance with (for) joy; gesticulate merrily with hands and feet; with vigorous movements of hands and feet; kick up one's heels [例]当女友接受了他的求婚时,他高兴得手舞足蹈。He *danced with joy* when his girlfriend accepted his proposal.

**【手足无措】**

have no room to put one's hands and feet; at a loss as to what to do; all in a fluster; disconcerted; perplexed [例]小孩大哭,

年轻的父母手足无措。The child was wailing and the young parents were *at a loss as to what to do*.

**【守口如瓶】**

keep the mouth shut like a bottle; be tight-mouthed; breathe not a single word; keep one's tongue between one's teeth; be secret as the grave; keep one's lip buttoned; hold (keep) one's card close to one's chest; (as) dumb (close) as an oyster [例]她对此事守口如瓶,连她丈夫也没告诉。She was *tight-mouthed* about this matter and didn't even tell his husband.

**【守株待兔】**

stand by a stump waiting for more hares to dash themselves against it; wait for gains without pains; trust to chance and windfalls [例]既然大家都没有主意,我们决定还是守株待兔。Since none of us had any idea as to what to do, we decided to *trust to chance and windfalls*.

**【首当其冲】**

be the first to be affected; bear the brunt of; stand in the breach [例]一有什么灾害,老百姓永远是首当其冲的。Ordinary people always *bear the brunt* of any disaster.

**【首屈一指】**

come first on the list; top the world (in a certain respect); stand highest in esteem; top; be second to none [例]他们做的蛋糕在这一带首屈一指。The cake they make is *second to none* in this area.

**【首鼠两端】**

shilly-shally; be undecided in course of action; hover between the two; be in two minds [例]能做就做,不能做就别做,何必首鼠两端? Do it if you can and don't if you can't; what are you *shilly-shallying* for?

## 【首尾相应】

The beginning and end correspond with each other; look after both ends [例]一般说来,文章应该首尾相应。Generally speaking, *the beginning and end of an article should correspond with each other.*

## 【寿比南山】

May you live as long as the southern mountain—*form of birthday congratulations*

## 【寿终正寝】

die a natural death; die in bed of old age; pass away peacefully; dead and buried; die in one's bed [例]老人没有受什么痛苦,寿终正寝了。Without suffering any pain, the old man *died a natural death.*

## 【受宠若惊】

receive favors as with fear; receive favour with awed excitement; feel extremely flattered; be overwhelmed by an unexpected favor; overwhelmed by special favor [例]听别人称他大师,他受宠若惊。He *felt extremely flattered* on being called the "master".

## 【受苦受难】

live in misery; have one's fill of sufferings; have a hard time of it; in a difficult and bitter plight; downtrodden [例]受苦受难的人要学会自救,而不是等待菩萨。Those who *live in misery* should learn to save themselves instead of waiting for the salvation of Bodhisattva.

## 【殊深轸念】

express deep solicitude for; feel deeply concerned

## 【殊途同归】

reach the same goal by different routes; Different roads lead to the same goal; arrive at the same end by different means; All roads lead to Rome.

## 【梳妆打扮】

be dressed up; deck oneself out; dress smartly; prink oneself up [例]她梳妆打扮去会男友。She *got dressed up* to see her boyfriend.

## 【疏不间亲】

A merest acquaintance should not say anything to estrange sb. from one who is dear to him; An acquaintance may not sow discord among intimate friends; Relatives are favored (chosen) over outsiders; blood is thicker than water [例]疏不间亲,你是外人,不要煽动他们兄弟不和。Blood is thicker than water. You are a mere acquaintance; don't try to instigate the two brothers to act against each other.

## 【熟能生巧】

Proficiency comes from familiarity; Skill comes from practice; Practice makes perfect.

## 【熟视无睹】

ignore; pay no attention to a familiar sight; not to see right under one's nose; be blind to; be indifferent to; close (shut) one's eyes to (sth.); turn a (one's) blind eye to [例]他对孩子的眼泪熟视无睹,让妻子去料理这一切。He *ignored* his child's tears and let his wife to take care of all this.

## 【鼠目寸光】

a mouse can see only an inch; seek only what is under one's nose; (as) short-sighted as mice; lack of vision and prevision; see no further than one's nose [例]我的搭档鼠目寸光,我想跟他散伙。My partner *seeks only what is under his nose* and I want to say good-bye to him.

## 【鼠窃狗盗】

filch like rats and snatch like dogs; play petty tricks on the sly; be a petty theft [例]这种鼠窃狗盗之事我做不来。I won't do such things as *playing petty tricks*

on the sly.

【数典忘祖】

give all the historical facts except those of one's own ancestors; be ignorant of the history of one's own country; forget one's own origins; forget one's ancestors or ancestral tradition; disown one's forefather

【数一数二】

be considered one of the very best; count at the top, among the best; ranking very high [例]这是我们这里数一数二的饭店。This is considered one of our very best hotels.

【蜀犬吠日】

A dog of Shu barks when the sun comes out (being so rare an occurrence) — referring to astonishment at unfamiliar sights; An ignorant person makes a fuss about something that he alone finds strange.

【束手待毙】

fold one's hands and await destruction; wait for death with tied hands; wait for one's doom with folded arms; wait helplessly for death; resign oneself to extinction; have no resources [例]我们不能就这么束手待毙。We can't just fold our hands and await destruction.

【束手就擒】

submit to arrest with folded arms; allow oneself to be seized without putting up a fight [例]警察一赶到,歹徒们就束手就擒。As soon as the police arrived, the gangsters allowed themselves to be seized without putting up a fight.

【束手束脚】

be bound hand and foot; undue caution; over-cautiousness [例]他束手束脚,成不了大事。He is too cautious to achieve anything great.

【束手无策】

be like having one's hands tied; not know which way to turn; without resource; be at a loss what to do; find oneself in the mire; feel quite hopeless; nail-biting; at one's wit's end; be left stranded [例]大敌当前,这个将军束手无策。Confronted with formidable enemy, the general did not know which way to turn.

【束之高阁】

bundle sth. up and place it on the shelf; lay aside and neglect; put aside from duty (service); put sth. away unheeded; shelve (a matter); pigeonhole [例]他父亲给他买的书都被他束之高阁了。The books bought for him by his father were all bundled up and placed on the shelf.

【树碑立传】

(glorify sb. by) erecting a monument to him and writing his biography; build up sb.'s public image; glorify sb. by singing the praises of his life; sing in praise and calogy of [例]他们要为这个杰出的球星树碑立传。They are going to glorify the excellent football player by erecting a monument to him and writing his biography.

【树大招风】

A tall tree catches the wind; A person in a high position is liable to be attacked; Destruction pursues the great [例]老人提醒才升职的儿子树大招风。The old man warned his son who had just been promoted that a person in a high position was liable to be attacked.

【树倒猢猻散】

When the tree falls the monkeys scatter; Monkeys disperse when a tree falls; When an influential person falls from power, his hangers-on disperse; Members run away when a family or institution falls; Rats

leave a sinking ship; Rats desert a falling house [例]树倒猢猻散,当他落选的消息传来,他的属下都离去了。When the news came that he had lost the election, his followers dispersed like rats leaving a sinking ship.

【树高千丈,叶落归根】

A tree may grow a thousand Zhang high, but its leaves fall back to its roots; A person residing away from home eventually returns to his native soil.

【树欲静而风不止】

The tree desires stillness but the wind will not cease; The tree may prefer calm but the wind will not subside; Contradictions and problems exist in ourselves and in the world though we want to get away from them; Things take their own course regardless of one's will; Things will not occur as one wishes.

【率由旧章】

observe the old rules; act in accordance with established rules; follow the old practice; follow the established pattern; he in (get into) a rut; follow the beaten track [例]新领导要求我们除非另有通知,一切率由旧章。Our new leader told us to observe the old rules unless he gave out new notices.

【双管齐下】

paint a picture with two brushes at the same time; do both things simultaneously; work along both lines [例]我们两个计划双管齐下,不信抓不住小偷。We'll carry out both plans simultaneously. I don't believe we can't catch the thief.

【爽然若失】

not know what to do; be at a loss [例]大家都盼望毕业,但真的毕业了又爽然若失。We all looked forward to graduation, but when we really graduated, we

did not know what to do.

【水到渠成】

Where water flows, a channel is formed; A canal is formed when water comes; sth. achieved without effort; When conditions are ripe, success will come [例]我们做了大量准备工作,这样时候一到,也就水到渠成了。We did a lot of preparation work so that success would come when conditions were ripe.

【水滴石穿】

Dripping water wears through a rock; Constant effort brings success; Little strokes fell great oaks; Constant dropping wears away a stone [例]他相信水滴石穿,自己有一天也能当上世界冠军。He believed that his constant efforts would bring success and he could be a world champion one day.

【水火不相容】

be incompatible as fire and water; Water and fire are antagonistic; exclude (be opposed to) each other like fire and water; irreconcilable; mutual aversion; agree like cats and dogs [例]由于一场误会,他们之间变得水火不相容。Because of some misunderstanding, they became as incompatible as fire and water.

【水火无情】

Floods and fires have no mercy for anybody; Water and fire are relentless; Fire and water have no mercy.

【水落石出】

When the water subsides the rocks emerge; The truth is (comes) out; The whole thing comes to light; Doubt will clear up when facts are known; The truth will prevail in the end; Everything is thrashed out; The murder is out. [例]他发誓不把事情弄个水落石出决不罢休。He swore not to stop until the truth

came out.

【水乳交融】

mixed like water and milk; as well blended as milk and water; inseparable; in complete harmony; complete understanding between friends [例]几天下来,两个孩子已处得水乳交融。After several days, the two kids had been *inseparable*.

【水深火热】

deep water and scorching fire; plunged into deep water and tormented by the heat of fires; extreme misery; an abyss of suffering; bitterest sufferings of the people; keep in suffering; in deep waters (distress); dire suffering [例]在这个暴君的国家里,人民生活在水深火热之中。In the tyrant's kingdom, people lived in *extreme misery*.

【水泄不通】

not even a drop of water could trickle through; (of a crowd, audience) tightly packed; be crowded (closely besieged, tightly surrounded); (of a road) so jammed as to be impassable; like (as thick as) rabbits in a warren [例]由于一场车祸,道路上水泄不通。Due to a car accident, the road was *so jammed as to be impassable*.

【水涨船高】

When the river rises the boat goes up (the boat floats high); A ship rises with the tide; Particular things improve with the improvement of the general situation [例]水涨船高,所以要发展科技,就得发展全民教育。Particular things improve with the improvement of the general situation, so to develop science and technology, we must develop the national education.

【水至清则无鱼】

When the water is too clear there are no

fish; Things do not exist in absolute purity; One should not demand absolute purity.

【水中捞月】

catch (fish for) the moon in the water; dredge up the moon from the water; futile fantasy; make impractical or vain efforts; engage in some altogether fruitless labor; a wild - goose chase; plough the sand; fish in the air; cry for the moon [例]他的贷款计划纯属水中捞月。His plan of getting a loan was purely *futile fantasy*.

【吮痂舐痔】

suck (lick) ulcers and piles of another person; to lickspit; sycophancy; lick sb.'s boots [例]这个人不知廉耻,我想他对上司真的可以吮痂舐痔。I fancy this shameless man really could *suck ulcers and piles of his superiors*.

【顺理成章】

speak (write) logically; To write well, you must follow a logical train of thought; To do some work well, you must follow a rational line; in a clear and ordered pattern; lucid and logical; well reasoned

【顺手牵羊】

lead a goat away in passing, lead away the sheep off hand; take sth. that doesn't belong to oneself; pick up sth. on the sly; pick up sth. in passing; go on (upon) the scamp; walk off with sth. [例]他顺手牵羊,拿走了我的钢笔。He *walked off with my pen*.

【顺水人情】

a favor done at little cost to oneself; a favor that costs one nothing [例]在他这是顺水人情,但是我却迟早得报答他。It was *a favor done at little cost to him*, but I will have to pay him back sooner or later.

【顺水推舟】



push the boat along with the current; do sth. without extra effort; make use of an opportunity to gain one's end; take advantage of a favourable trend [例]既然妈妈也这么说,他就顺水推舟,达到自己的目的。Since mother also said so, he made use of the opportunity to gain his end.

【顺藤摸瓜】

follow the vine to get the melon; track down sb. or sth. by following clues

【顺之者昌,逆之者亡】

Those who submit will prosper, those who resist shall perish (said of the arbitrary, brutal rule of a tyrant).

【瞬息万变】

undergoing a myriad of changes in the twinkling of an eye; fast changing; change quickly; in a state of flux [例]球场上的形势瞬息万变。The situation on the football field is fast changing.

【说曹操,曹操就到】

Mention Cao Cao and there he is; To mention the wolf's name is to see the same; Talk of the devil and he will appear; The devil is never nearer than when we are talking of him; Speak of angels, and you will hear their wings.

【说长道短】

gossip; discuss the failings of others; find faults with; backbite; make captious comments [例]她太喜欢说长道短了。She is too fond of gossip.

【说到做到】

do what one says; live up to one's word; match one's deeds to one's words; be as good as one's word; keep one's word; practice what one preaches [例]他的许诺是动听的,但是不知道他能否说到做到。He has made a nice promise. Only I don't know if he will live up to his word.

【说来话长】

It's a long story; Thereby hangs a tale [例]说来话长。请坐吧。It's a long story. Please sit down.

【说一不二】

mean what one says; stand by one's word; never make a promise one cannot keep; as good as one's word [例]我说一不二。你就等着我的好消息吧。I mean what I say. Just wait for my good news.

【硕大无朋】

gigantic; of unparalleled size; exceptionally large [例]他做了一只硕大无朋的风筝,我怀疑它能不能上天。He made a gigantic kite. I doubted if it could fly.

【硕果仅存】

one of the few still left; rare survival [例]这是那场大火之后硕果仅存的绘画作品之一。This is one of the few paintings still left after the fire.

【丝丝入扣】

all threads neatly tied up; (done) with meticulous care and flawless artistry; (story plot) intricately woven together; completely harmonious [例]他对无业人士的刻画丝丝入扣。He wrote about the jobless people with meticulous care and flawless artistry.

【司空见惯】

a common sight; accustomed to seeing such things; a matter of repeated occurrence; a common occurrence; familiar; They are not regarded as strange; it is quite common for [例]在大学里,大家对浪费粮食的现象已是司空见惯了。Waste of food on the campus has been a common sight to everybody.

【司马昭之心,路人皆知】

Sima Zhao's ill intent is known to all; This Sima Zhao trick is obvious to every man in the street; all too evident; The villain's

design is obvious; a plot (covetous desire) known to all

【私相授受】

privately give and privately accept; make an illicit transfer; have underhand secret dealings; give undercover payments

【私心杂念】

selfish ideas and personal consideration; considerations of self; selfish considerations [例]私心杂念会妨碍一个科学家取得更大成就。 *Selfish ideas and personal consideration* can hinder a scientist from making greater achievements.

【斯文扫地】

The literate is swept into the dust; bring disgrace on the intellectuals; disgrace the intelligentsia

【死不瞑目】

not close one's eyes when one dies; die with a grievance (everlasting regret); die with injustice unredressed or with one's wishes not fulfilled; turn (over) in one's grave; wouldn't be able to lie still in one's grave [例]他说如果不能再见儿子一面,他将死不瞑目。 *He said he'd die with everlasting regret* if he couldn't see his son for the last time.

【死得其所】

die a worthy death [例]对于强盗们来说,为争夺金子面互相残杀至死,倒也是死得其所。 *To the bandits themselves, they had died a worthy death* by killing each other in the fighting for the gold.

【死灰复燃】

The dying ashes burn again; dying embers flaring up (glowing) again; come to life again; The buried past comes alive again; Defeated enemies stage a comeback; rise again from the ashes; re-emergence; resurgence; revival [例]最近,一些迷信活动在某些地区又死灰复燃了。 *Re-*

cently, some superstitious activities have come to life again in some areas.

【死记硬背】

mechanical memorizing; learn by rote; cram up; hammer into [例]死记硬背无助于理解文章。 *Mechanical memorizing* won't help to understand the meaning of the article.

【死里逃生】

barely escape with one's life; escape by a hair - breadth; have a narrow (hair - breadth) escape; escape by the skin of one's teeth; a close (narrow) shave [例]他从海难中死里逃生后,一看到海就紧张。 *After he had a narrow escape* from the shipwreck, the very sight of the sea made him feel nervous.

【死马当活马医】

doctor a dead horse as if it were still alive; make every possible effort; not give up for lost; try last resort to save a hopeless situation [例]明知希望不大,我们也只好死马当活马医,挽救局面。 *Knowing there was little hope, we still made every possible effort* to save the situation.

【死皮赖脸】

brazen - faced and unreasonable; thick - skinned and hard to shake off; utterly shameless; (as) bold as brass [例]他死皮赖脸的,没有接到邀请就去参加了玛丽的生日晚会。 *He was so brazen - faced and unreasonable* that he went to Mary's birthday party without being invited.

【死气沉沉】

dull; lose one's vitality; without vitality; without animation; politically apathetic; like a log; lifeless; spiritless; stagnant; dreary; inert [例]他家里死气沉沉。 *His house is dull.*

【死去活来】

hovering between life and death; half dead; half alive; come round after fainting; within an inch of one's life [例]儿子死的时候,她哭得死去活来。She was *hovering between life and death* in tears when her son died.

#### 【死无对证】

The dead cannot bear witness; lack evidence because of the death of a principal witness; The witness, if any, is dead; Dead men tell no tales.

#### 【死心塌地】

be hell-bent on; Death will not make him change; of an unchangeable disposition; be dead set on; willingly and obediently; resolutely [例]她对丈夫死心塌地。Death will not make her change her love for her husband.

#### 【死有余辜】

Even death would be too good for him; One's crime deserves more than death; Even death would not expiate all one's crimes [例]杀害双亲的人死有余辜。Even death would be too good for the man who murdered his parents.

#### 【死子非命】

die an unnatural (a violent) death; meet an untimely end; a premature death; die with one's boots on; die in one's boots [例]许多平民在这次冲突中死于非命。Many common people *died a violent death* in the conflict.

#### 【四分五裂】

fall apart; be badly split and disintegrated; be rent by disunity; be all split up; be broken up; be torn up; be disrupted; go (come) to pieces; disintegrate [例]庞大的帝国在亚历山大死后不久就四分五裂了。The great empire *fell apart* soon after Alexander's death.

#### 【四海为家】

settle down in any corner of the world (for a certain cause); make one's home wherever one is; lead a wandering life [例]他为了事业一直四海为家,所以始终没有结婚。He was ready to *settle down in any corner of the world for his cause*. That's why he was never married.

#### 【四海之内皆兄弟】

Within the four seas all men are brothers; All the people of the world are brothers.

#### 【四面八方】

on every side; all directions; all quarters; all around; far and near [例]站在马路中间,他觉得四面八方都是车子。Standing in the middle of the road, he felt cars were running towards him from *all directions*.

#### 【四面楚歌】

be in dire straits; be surrounded by the enemy on four sides; he besieged (assailed) on all sides; under fire from all quarters; be utterly isolated; be driven to the wall; land oneself in a tight place [例]我们已是四面楚歌,没人能救得了我们了。We *are in dire straits* and no one can save us now.

#### 【四平八稳】

very steady; very well disposed indeed; lacking in initiative and is overcautious; play (it) safe; calm and steady; well-organized [例]他是个四平八稳的人,就是有点死气沉沉。He is a *well-organized man*, but a little bit dull.

#### 【四体不勤,五谷不分】

can neither use one's four limbs nor tell the five grains apart (said of old-styla intellectuals); can neither do physical work nor distinguish rice from wheat [例]这个富家子弟四体不勤,五谷不分。The rich boy *could neither do physical work nor distinguish rice from wheat*.

## 【四通八达】

extend (lead, communicate) in all directions; accessible from all directions; open to traffic from each direction; open out on all sides [例]为了发展经济,他们建起了四通八达的公路系统。To develop economy, they have built up a road system that *extends in all directions*.

## 【似是而非】

apparently right (true) but actually wrong; like the reality, but not so; look right, but really wrong; appear what it is really not; as like as chalk and cheese; specious [例]他的回答似是而非,许多人都给弄糊涂了。His answer was *apparently right but actually wrong* and many people were confused.

## 【肆无忌惮】

run riot; scruple at nothing; without any scruples; reckless and unbridled; act outrageously; unscrupulously; brazenly; unprincipled; unconscionable; unbridled [例]他能这么肆无忌惮,全仗他当官的父亲。The reason why he could *scruple at nothing* was that he had a father who was an official.

## 【耸人听闻】

sensational; deliberately exaggerate so as to create a sensation; arrest one's attention; create a great sensation; sensation-mongering [例]他的故事是如此耸人听闻,以至于没人相信他了。His story was so *sensational* that no one believed him.

## 【耸入云霄】

rise above the clouds; tower into the clouds; towering into the skies; shoot high up to the sky [例]那座耸入云霄的建筑物是新建的电视塔。The building that *rises above the clouds* is the newly built TV tower.

## 【送旧迎新】

set off the old and welcome the new; ring out the Old Year and ring in the New [例]在此送旧迎新之际,我们的心中充满了欢乐。Our hearts are full of joy as we are *ringing out the Old Year and ringing in the New*.

## 【送往迎来】

see off those who depart and welcome those who arrive; speed the parting guests and welcome the new arrivals; give entertainment to others; greet and say goodbye to (the customers) [例]新年要到了,他忙着送往迎来。As the New Year is approaching, he is busy *seeing off those who depart and welcoming those who arrive*.

## 【颂古非今】

eulogize the past at the expense of the present; denounce the present and extol the past; praise the past to condemn the present [例]颂古非今大可不必,它无助于解决现实的问题。There's no need to *eulogize the past at the expense of the present*, for it won't help to solve today's problems.

## 【搜索枯肠】

rack (ransack) one's brains (for fresh ideas or apt expressions); beat one's brains out [例]他坐在考场里,搜索枯肠。He was *racking his brains* in the examination room.

## 【俗不可耐】

unbearably vulgar; unbearably common; vulgar in the extreme [例]他的所谓天才之作其实俗不可耐。His so-called work of genius is actually *unbearably vulgar*.

## 【夙兴夜寐】

rise early and retire late; hard at work night and day [例]在建筑大坝期间,他夙兴夜寐。During the construction of the

dam, he was *hard at work night and day*.

**【肃然起敬】**

(call forth in sb.) a feeling of profound respect; be filled with deep veneration; held sb. in high respect [例]听了他的事迹,我们都肃然起敬。We were filled with deep veneration after we heard about his story.

**【素昧平生】**

know nothing about sb.; have never met before; have never had the honor of making sb.'s acquaintance; not know sb. from Adam [例]我跟他素昧平生,为什么要偏袒他? I have never met him before. Why should I be partial to him?

**【速战速决】**

fight a quick battle to force a quick decision; prompt action and quick decision; make short (quick) work of [例]究竟是速战速决还是静待其变取决于我们的实力。Whether we should fight a quick battle to force a quick decision or wait and see depends on our strength.

**【随波逐流】**

follow the current (crowd); go with the current (tide, times, crowd); drift with the tide (current); sail with the stream; follow the winds and waves; serve the hour (time); time-serving; go (swim) with the stream [例]他的同志们被放逐后,他也就开始做一个随波逐流的人了。After his comrades were exiled, he began to follow the current.

**【随风转舵】**

take one's cue from changing conditions; sail (tack) with the wind; trim one's sails [例]当了多年的秘书,他学会了随风转舵。Working as a secretary for many years, he had learnt to take his cue from changing conditions.

**【随机应变】**

adapt oneself to changing conditions; act according to circumstances; adjust to changing circumstances; decide according to changing situations; rise to the occasion; do as the circumstances dictate; be guided by the turn of events; use (act on) one's own discretion; make decision on the spot; change to suit the occasion; play to the score; as occasion demands [例]将军让他的部下随机应变,不必被动地等待命令。The general told his subordinates to act according to circumstances instead of waiting for his orders passively.

**【随声附和】**

agree to what other people say; echo what others say; follow the crowd; follow the majority blindly; yes-men add their voices to the chorus; chime in with others [例]无论他的领导说什么,他都是随声附和。He agreed to whatever his leaders said.

**【随心所欲】**

do as the heart desires; follow one's inclinations; do as one pleases; at one's own sweet will; in a slipshod way; wilfully; arbitrarily; have (get) one's own way [例]在他的家里,我们可以随心所欲地说笑。We can talk and laugh as we please in his place.

**【随遇而安】**

feel at home wherever one is; be able to adapt oneself to different circumstances; take the world as it is; take things as they are; be happy whatever may happen; make the best of it [例]他随遇而安,从不抱怨。He felt at home wherever he was and never complained.

**【损人利己】**

harm others to benefit oneself; injure others for the sake of one's own advantage; seek satisfaction for oneself at the cost of

others; benefit oneself at the expense of others; gain at others' expense; reap profits at the expense of others [例]他总是损人利己, 所以没有朋友。He always tried to *gain at others' expense*; therefore he had no friends.

【缩手缩脚】

timid and flinching; shrink from doing sth.; become irresolute and passive; be overcautious; be handicapped; timid; have cold feet [例]他做出缩手缩脚的样子是为了逃避责任。He pretended to be *timid and flinching* to shrink from responsibility.

【缩头缩脑】

shrink from responsibility; be timid; be fainthearted; be much subdued [例]他在关键时刻缩头缩脑的样子令人恶心。His *timid* look shown at the critical moment was disgusting.

【所向披靡】

Wherever they went, the hostile army dispersed; mowing down all resistance; sweep away all obstacles; ever triumphant; carry (sweep) all before one [例]这支球队所向披靡, 一举获得了世界杯。This football team *swept away all obstacles* and won the World Cup.

【所向无敌】

ever-victorious; break all enemy resistance; He will never find his fallow; unstoppable; all-conquering; invincible; sweep all before one [例]没有什么人是可以永远所向无敌的。Nobody is *ever-victorious*.

【索然无味】

flat and insipid; in bad taste; frigidity; dry as dust [例]跟原著比起来, 改编的电影显得索然无味。The film was *flat and insipid* compared with the book it was adapted from.

T

【太平盛世】

a time of peace and prosperity; the piping times of peace; halcyon days; the heyday of peace [例]1. 天下几乎没有人不愿意生活在太平盛世。There are few people in the world who do not hope to live in a time of peace and prosperity. 2. 公元七世纪上半叶可算得上是唐朝的太平盛世。The first half of the seventh century can be regarded as the heyday of the Tang Dynasty.

【太岁头上动土】

scratch the Buddha's head; stir the earth over the earth god's head; provoke somebody far more powerful; provoke somebody far superior in power or strength; to beard the lion in his den [例]1. 这只顽皮的小白兔竟敢去招惹大灰狼,真是太岁头上动土。The mischievous small white rabbit dared to provoke a big wolf that was far superior in power. 2. 詹妮弗竟敢当面说那是上司的错,真是太岁头上动土。Jennifer even dared to beard the lion in his den by saying to her boss' face that it was his own fault.

【泰然处之】

take something calmly; behave with great composure in the face of a crisis; bear something with equanimity; with great presence of mind; take it easy; not bat an eyelid [例]1. 无论在工作中碰到什么问题,他总是泰然处之,沉着应付。Whatever problems he comes across in his work, he always remains cool and takes them calmly. 2. 国民党特务前来抓他的时候,他泰然处之、毫无惧色。When the Kuomintang spies came to arrest

him, he showed no fear at all and did not even bat an eyelid.

【泰然自若】

behave with perfect composure; compose one's countenance; keep cool; remain cool and collected; be self-possessed; be as cool as a cucumber; keep a stiff upper lip; not bat an eyelid [例]在网球比赛的决赛中,那位年轻的选手面对经验老到的前世界冠军泰然自若。During the tennis final, the young player was very self-possessed while playing against the experienced former world champion.

【泰山压顶】

bear down on one with the weight of Mount Tai; he overwhelmed; overwhelming force; with the force of an avalanche [例]就算泰山压顶,他也不会皱一下眉头。He won't frown a bit even if it bears down on him with the weight of Mount Tai.

【贪财好色】

he greedy for money and be fond of women; covet after wealth and women [例]1. 贪财好色之徒不会有好下场。A person coveting after wealth and women will come to no good. 2. 他因为贪财好色而受到人们的鄙视。He was held in contempt for being greedy for money and fond of women.

【贪得无厌】

be insatiably greedy; he insatiably avaricious; be greedy of (for) gain; rapacious; insatiable; voracious; skin a flint; skin a flea for its hide [例]不要贪得无厌,要学会知足常乐。Don't be insatiably greedy for everything. On the other hand,

you should learn that content is happiness.

【贪多嚼不烂】

bite more than one can digest; If one spreads oneself too thin, one can achieve little; attempt too much; bite off more than one can chew; have too much on one's plate [例]学英语得一步步来,否则贪多嚼不烂,你会后悔的。English shall be learnt step by step. Otherwise, you will regret if you try to *bite more than you can digest and achieve little*.

【贪官污吏】

avaricious officials and filthy subordinates; corrupt officials [例]政府惩处了这批贪官污吏。The government punished those *corrupt officials*.

【贪婪无厌】

be insatiably greedy (avaricious); be greedy of (for) gain; Avarice knows no bounds. [例]那个贪婪无厌的商人最后被关进了监狱。The businessman who *was insatiably greedy* was eventually put in jail.

【贪名逐利】

hanker after fame and wealth [例]1. 陶渊明不愿意贪名逐利,因此决定隐居乡间。Unwilling to *hanker after fame and wealth*, Tao Yuanming decided to retire into the country. 2. 查尔斯一生贪名逐利,到头来却发现自己众叛亲离。Charles *hankered after fame and wealth* all his life, only to find that he had long been deserted by all his friends and allies.

【贪生怕死】

cravenly cling to life and fear death; no more than a coward; be mortally afraid of death; be afraid to risk one's neck; cowardly [例]假如革命者贪生怕死的话,革命就不会成功。If our revolutionaries *had been afraid to risk their necks*, we wouldn't have achieved success in the rev-

olution.

【贪污腐化】

corruption and degeneration; graft and corruption [例]贪污腐化是社会法制不健全的体现。Corruption and degeneration in a society shows that the legal system needs further improvement.

【贪小失大】

covet a little and lose a lot; suffer big losses for the sake of small gains; go for the small things and miss things that are worthwhile; penny wise and pound foolish [例]1. 目光短浅的人往往贪小失大。A short-sighted person often *suffers big losses for the sake of small gains*. 2. 为了赚外快而去违法的事真是贪小失大。Those who break the law just for the purpose of making some extra money are really *penny wise and pound foolish*.

【贪心不足】

be insatiably greedy; insatiable desire; greedy and dissatisfied [例]像你这样贪心不足的人永远也不会快乐。One who is as *insatiably greedy* as you are will never be happy.

【贪赃枉法】

take bribes and bend (pervert, twist, break) the law; pervert justice for a bribe [例]任何一个政府官员都不应该贪赃枉法。No government officials are allowed to *take bribes and twist the law*.

【昙花一现】

flower briefly as the broad-leaved epiphyll; vanish as soon as it appears; be very short-lived; last briefly; be a flash in the pan; a nine day's wonder; like the morning dew [例]这位年轻导演所执导的第一部出色影片竟然是昙花一现,他再也没能导出第二部影片来。The first excellent film directed by the young director turned out to be *a flash in the*



pan; he never directed another one.

### 【谈古论今】

talk over past and present; talk at random about things past and present [例]这些朋友只要一聚在一起就喜欢谈古论今,直至酣畅淋漓。Whenever these friends get together, they like to *talk at random about things past and present* to their hearts' content.

### 【谈何容易】

by no means easy; not so easy as you thought; Easier said than done. [例]你想开家公司挣钱?谈何容易! You would like to set up a firm so as to earn money? *It's not so easy as you think!*

### 【谈虎色变】

Speaking of tigers makes one pale; turn pale (lose color) at the mention of a tiger; pale at the mere mention of something terrible; become jittery at the mention of something frightful [例]两年前在野生动物园,有一位可怜的司机被老虎给咬死了,从此他的家人谈虎色变。Two years ago, a poor driver was killed by a tiger in the wild animal park. From then on, his family members would *lose color at the mention of a tiger*.

### 【谈天说地】

talk of everything under the sun; chat idly; gossip and chat; shoot (bat, fan) the breeze [例]我要是没有这么多工作,能经常和朋友在一起谈天说地就好了! If only I hadn't so much work and could often *talk of everything under the sun* with my friends!

### 【谈吐如流】

One's words pour out like a flood; talk eloquently; speak fluently [例]那小伙子面试的时候在总经理面前谈吐如流。The young fellow *talked eloquently* while being interviewed by the general manager.

### 【谈笑风生】

talk cheerfully and humorously; chatter happily; make the conversation in a gay manner; a fascinating, lively talk [例]杰姬的公司破产了,但她依然像往常一样和父母谈笑风生,好像什么事也没发生过似的。Although Jackie's company went bankrupt, she still *chattered cheerfully* with her parents as usual as if nothing had happened.

### 【谈笑自如】

go on talking and laughing as if nothing had happened; be completely at ease; be one's usual joking self; undisturbed [例]即使敌人的枪指着他,那位共产党员也还是谈笑自如。Even when the enemy's gun pointed to him, the member of the Communist Party *went on talking and laughing as if nothing had happened*.

### 【痰迷心窍】

phlegm confusing heart; Phlegm blocks the heart; blinded judgement

### 【忐忑不安】

be very upset; be fidgety; be very nervous; vacillatingly uneasy; be ill at ease; be in fidgets; be in a flutter; be on net-tles; on the anxious seat (bench); in fear and trembling [例]1. 两个年轻人的脸上微微露出忐忑不安的样子。The two young men looked a bit *upset*. 2. 这种异乎寻常的沉默使她心中忐忑不安。The unusual silence made her very *nervous*.

### 【叹为观止】

acclaim something as the acme of perfection; Nothing could be better! be lost in wonder; hold it to be the best [例]看到雄伟的长城时,我们都呆住了,这景致真是令人叹为观止。We were *lost in wonder* at the sight of the magnificent Great Wall. Nothing could be better than

that!

**【探囊取物】**

(as easy as) taking something out of one's pocket; like reaching into one's pocket for something; an easy thing to do; achieve one's aim easily; as easy as winking; as easy as stealing candy from a baby [例]在下星期的百米赛跑中拿个第一名对于安德鲁来说简直有如探囊取物。It is *as easy as winking* for Andrew to win the first place in the 100 - meter - dash next week.

**【探头探脑】**

pop one's head in and look about; crane one's neck to peer; peep furtively from behind; poke out one's head to peek at; probe furtively [例]维克多在窗外探头探脑地往办公室里看。Standing by the window, Victor *popped his head in and looked about* the office.

**【汤池铁城】**

boiling moat and iron city; a strong - guarded city

**【堂堂正正】**

impressive and dignified (in personal appearance); upright; open and above - board; fair and square [例]从小父母就教育我要做个堂堂正正的中国人。My parents have been telling me to be an *upright* Chinese since I was a child.

**【螳臂当车】**

A mantis tries to stop a chariot with its feelers; an overestimation of one's own ability (strength); overrate oneself and try to hold back an overwhelmingly superior force; put up a useless resistance; throw straws against the wind; kick against the pricks [例]这些敌人居然妄想分裂祖国,简直是螳臂当车。The enemies even tried to split our country. They were just trying to *throw straws against the*

*wind*.

**【螳螂捕蝉,黄雀在后】**

The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind — warning against covetousness; Covet gains ahead without being aware of danger behind; be so shortsighted as to confine one's attention to immediate interest regardless of aftermath [例]猎人悄悄地朝着小鹿走去,谁知螳螂捕蝉,黄雀在后,有一只老虎正跟在他身后呢。The hunter, *unaware of the danger behind*, walked towards the young deer quietly. Actually, a tiger was following him.

**【糖舌蜜口】**

honey - tongued; honey - mouthed; speak honeyed words; fine - sounding words; sweet words and honeyed phrases [例]1. 唐朝有个宰相叫李林甫,别看这人糖舌蜜口的,心肠可比蛇蝎还要毒。There was a prime minister called Li Liofu in the Tang Dynasty. Although he was *honey - tongued*, his heart was as malicious as snakes and scorpions. 2. 对于那些糖舌蜜口的家伙,我们尤其要提防,因为谁也不知道他的话究竟是真是假。We should guard against those *honey - mouthed* guys in particular because no one knows whether what they say is true or not.

**【糖衣炮弹】**

sugarcoated bullet [例]真正的革命者既能经受炮火的洗礼,又能抵御糖衣炮弹的诱惑。A real revolutionary is not only able to go through the baptism of fire, but also able to resist the temptation of *sugarcoated bullets*.

**【滔滔不绝】**

talk on and on; speak unceasingly; talk without cease; a flow of words; spout eloquent speeches; roll out; most effusive;

talk a horse's hind leg off; talk nineteen to the dozen; talk somebody's ear off [例] 女孩们对于那位男影星非常了解, 谈起他来滔滔不绝。The girls know so well about the male movie star that they can *chat away nineteen to the dozen* about him.

#### 【滔天之罪】

monstrous crimes; horrible crimes; towering crimes; a great sin [例] 对于法西斯主义分子在二战期间所犯下的滔天之罪, 任何一个热爱和平的人都不会忘记。Not a single peace lover will forget *the monstrous crimes* those fascists made during the Second World War.

#### 【饕饕之徒】

gluttons; greedy people [例] 对于那些饕饕之徒来说, 再多的东西也填不满他们的肚子。Those *gluttons* will never feel satisfied no matter how much they have eaten.

#### 【逃灾避难】

seek refuge from calamities; seek refuge from disasters [例] 洪水淹没了整个村庄, 村民们不得不到外地去逃灾避难。The flood inundated the whole village and the villagers had to *seek refuge* in other places.

#### 【逃之夭夭】

make one's get - away; decamp; escape and is nowhere to be found; slip away; show a clean pair of heels; take to one's heels [例] 那些恶棍一见大势不妙, 还没等警察来就逃之夭夭了。When the thugs saw that things were in a bad way, they *took to their heels* before the police came.

#### 【桃红柳绿】

red peach blossoms and green willows; gorgeous springtime [例] 春天的江南是桃红柳绿, 一派生机勃勃的景象。The

spring in the regions south of the Yangtze River is both gorgeous and full of life, where one can see *red peach blossoms and green willows* everywhere.

#### 【桃花薄命】

unlucky is the life of a beautiful woman; miserable beauty [例] 这一连串不幸的遭遇使她坚信她这辈于注定是桃花薄命。The series of misfortunes made her firmly believe that she was destined to be *a miserable woman all her life*.

#### 【桃李不言, 下自成蹊】

Although peach and plum trees do not speak, a path is worn beneath them; A man of true worth attracts admiration naturally.

#### 【桃李满天下】

(of well - known teachers) have students everywhere or all over the world [例] 李老师桃李满天下, 每当他收到学生们给他寄来的信件时, 心里总是万分激动。Mr. Li *has students all over the world*. He feels greatly excited whenever he receives letters from them.

#### 【桃李争妍】

Peach and apricot blossoms rival each other in beauty; Peach and plum trees vie with one another in the splendor of their blossoms. [例] 湖中碧波荡漾, 岸边桃李争妍, 这是多美的一幅画卷啊! The water ripples gently in the lake, while on the bank, *peach and plum trees vie with one another in the splendor of their blossoms*. What a beautiful painting!

#### 【桃腮杏脸】

rosy cheeks and almond face — fair feminine faces [例] 这个唱戏的不仅嗓子好, 人也长得桃腮杏脸的, 所以很快就走红。Having not only a good voice but also *rosy cheeks and a fair face*, the opera singer became popular in a short

time.

【陶然自得】

beppy and carefree; in a happy state of mind [例]那老头儿在公园一角一边拉着胡琴,一边唱着京剧,一幅陶然自得的样子。In the corner of the park, the old man was singing Beijing opera while playing jinghu by himself. He looked *happy and carefree*.

【讨价还价】

bargain; chaffer; haggle (with somebody over the price of something); dickie [例]有些女人买东西喜欢讨价还价。Some women like *bargaining* when they go shopping.

【腾云驾雾】

fly clouds and mist (as immortals do); ride on the mists and clouds; feel dizzy (giddy); travel through space; fast; quickly [例]1. 他只要一抽上烟,便会舒服得好似腾云驾雾一般。So long as he smokes a cigarette, he feels so comfortable as if he were *riding on the mists and clouds*. 2. 昨天晚上,我梦见一位仙女腾云驾雾来到我的面前。Last night, I dreamt that a fairy came to me by *flying clouds and mist*.

【提纲挈领】

take a net by the head - rope or a coat by the collar; concentrate on the main points; bring out the essential points; be concise and to the point; put something in a nutshell [例]1. 要写好一篇文章,提纲挈领是关键。In writing a good composition, it is most important to *concentrate on the main points*. 2. 这位科学家提纲挈领的发言令所有的听众无不叹服。The scientist's speech which *was concise and to the point* made all the audience admire him deeply.

【提心吊胆】

be filled with anxiety or fear; be in constant fear; be beunted with fear; breathless with fear; be in great terror; be on tenterhooks; be in a blue funk; have one's heart in one's mouth [例]1. 他欠了别人一大笔钱,所以整天提心吊胆的,怕债主找上门。He owed someone a large sum of money, so he was *in constant fear* that the debtor might come to him. 2. 别老是提心吊胆的,你这根本就是自己在吓自己。Don't *be so anxious*. You're doing nothing but frightening yourself.

【啼笑皆非】

not know whether to laugh or cry; be in an embarrassing situation in which laughs and cries are out of place; be very embarrassed; be in an awkward situation; find something both funny and annoying; between tears and laughter [例]1. 汤姆知道自己犯了错,便一个劲地朝我们做鬼脸,真是令我们啼笑皆非。Tom knew that he was wrong and so made faces to us, which we *found both funny and annoying*. 2. 这件棘手的事情着实使他陷入了啼笑皆非的境地。The sticky business put him *in an awkward situation*.

【醍醐灌顶】

pour the rich liquor on a man's hand - increase one's wisdom; feel cool and comfortable as if being sprinkled with rich liquor; be enlightened; be filled with wisdom; suddenly feel refreshed [例]经过与哲人的一番对话,凯瑟琳犹如醍醐灌顶,从此不再烦恼。After a conversation with the sage, Katherine *suddenly felt enlightened* and didn't feel unhappy from then on.

【体贴入微】

be extremely considerate (thoughtful); look after with meticulous care; care for with great solicitude; show every possible

consideration [例]大家都一致称赞杰克是个体贴入微的好哥哥。We all acclaimed Jack as an *extremely considerate* brother.

【体无完肤】

a body with no part of the skin left intact; There is not a patch of one's skin left whole; be injured all over the body; have cuts and bruises all over the body; be refuted down to the last point; be scathingly criticised; be a mass of bruises; be smashed into smithereens [例]经历了一场激烈的拳击赛后,亨利被打得体无完肤。After a fierce prize fight, Henry was *injured all over the body*.

【侷恣不羁】

free and easy; unrestrained; untrammelled and romantic in character [例]唐代著名诗人李白为人风流儒雅,侷恣不羁。Li Bai, one of the most famous poets in Tang Dynasty, was cultured, talented, *unrestrained and romantic in character*.

【涕泪交加】

Tears and snivel fall down at the same time; cry with a flood of tears; be extremely sad; be indulged in tears; banquet of brine [例]1. 听了老师的话以后,安妮娅感动得涕泪交加。Having heard what the teacher had told her, Annia was so moved that *tears fell down her cheeks*. 2. 在教练面前,乔丹涕泪交加,反复说道:“我想打篮球。”*Crying with a flood of tears* before the coach, Jordan said repeatedly, “I want to play basketball.”

【替古人担忧】

worry about ancients; be over-concerned about the business of one's forefathers; uncalled-for worries [例]他自己愿意出国去闯一闯,要你替古人担忧做什么呢? He himself is willing to go abroad and try to hew out a path in life, why should

you *worry about* him? It's totally unnecessary.

【替天行道】

enforce justice on behalf of Heaven; act for Heaven to perform righteous acts; carry out the heavenly wishes [例]古时候,那些替天行道的英雄们是很受老百姓尊敬的。In ancient times, the heroes who *enforced justice on behalf of Heaven* were greatly respected by common people.

【天崩地裂】

Heaven rends asunder and earth cracks; the skies falling and the earth opening up; natural disasters; dreadful calamities; earthshaking changes; violent social upheavals

【天不绝人】

Heaven would not fail a man; unexpectedly rescued from a desperate situation

【天不怕,地不怕】

fear neither Heaven nor Earth; fear nothing in heaven or on earth; fear nothing at all; have nothing to fear; nothing daunted

【天差地远】

as far apart as heaven and earth; There is a vast difference between the two; be poles apart; a world of difference

【天长地久】

enduring as long as the sky and earth; enduring as the universe; as long as heaven and earth endure; everlasting and unchanging

【天长日久】

after a considerable period of time; for a long, long time; day after day

【天摧地塌】

(as if) the skies were falling and the earth sinking

【天翻地覆】

The whole world is turned upside down; Heaven and earth have been overturned;

turn the world bottom side up; a social or political upheaval; earthshaking changes

【天府之国】

God's (own) country; Nature's storehouse; Sichuan Province; a land of abundance (plenty)

【天高地厚】

(of friendship, kindness, love, etc.) high as heaven and deep as earth; (of kindness) profound; deep; immensity of universe; complexity of things

【天高皇帝远】

The heaven is high and the emperor is far away there is no help for it; beyond the reach of authorities; It is difficult to get justice; One may do whatever one wishes without fear of interference. [例]这些偷猎者以为天高皇帝远,谁也奈何不了他们。The poachers thought that they were *beyond the reach of authorities* and nothing could be done about them.

【天各一方】

each in a different corner of the world; be scattered to the four corners of the earth; (of a family or friends) live (be) far apart from each other [例]虽然我们天各一方,但我们的心的心是连在一起的。Although we *are far apart from each other*, our hearts are linked together.

【天公地道】

the justice of heaven and earth; absolutely fair; fair and reasonable; fully justifiable [例]我给你钱,你为我工作,这不是天公地道的事吗? I pay you money and you work for me. Isn't that *absolutely fair*?

【天寒地冻】

The weather is so cold that the ground is frozen; very cold; freezingly cold [例]屋外天寒地冻,屋内却温暖如春。It is *freezingly cold* outside the house, while inside it is as warm as spring.

【天花乱坠】

as if it were raining flowers; flowers cascading from the sky — an extravagantly colorful description; give an extravagant description; talk about something in superlative terms; elaborate in high-flown phraseology; praise to the skies; talk somebody's head off [例]今天早上发生的交通事故本来极为平常,但露西娅却把它说得天花乱坠。Lucia gave an *extravagant description* of the traffic accident in the morning which was nothing more than an ordinary one.

【天荒地老】

when (until) the earth and heaven get old; until the end of time [例]纵使天荒地老,我们的爱永不变。The love between you and me will last *until the end of time*.

【天昏地暗】

a murky sky over a dark earth; gloom above and darkness beneath; total darkness; dark all around; in a state of chaos and darkness; total absence of justice [例]一时间,天昏地暗,飞沙走石,我们谁也看不见对方。All of a sudden, it became *so dark all around* with sand flying in the sky and pebbles being swept along the ground that we could not see each other at all.

【天经地义】

nature's law and earth's way; the principles of heaven and earth — right and proper; perfectly justified; an unalterable principle; universally accepted principles; very reasonable indeed; stand to reason [例]有些人认为父母打孩子是天经地义的。Some people think it is *perfectly justified* for parents to beat their children.

【天朗气清】

The sky is clear and bright; The sky is

serene and the air refreshing [例]今天天朗气清,真是个好出去野餐的好日子。  
*The sky is clear and bright today. What a good day to go out for a picnic!*

#### 【天理不容】

Heaven will not tolerate it; Providence would not forgive it; intolerable by the laws of nature; intolerable injustice; God forbid! [例]1. 虐待父母,天理不容。It is *intolerable by the laws of nature* to maltreat one's parents. 2. 内森的上司居然这样刁难他,真是天理不容。It was *intolerable injustice* that Nathan's boss tried every means to make things difficult for him.

#### 【天理良心】

the laws of nature and one's conscience; the course of nature and one's conscience [例]凭着一份天理良心,波琳最后在法庭上说出了事情的真相。Finally, following *the course of nature and her conscience*, Pauline told the truth in the court.

#### 【天理昭彰】

Heavenly principles are clear and transparent; God's justice is manifest; Heaven's justice will always prevail; Heaven at last repays a crime.

#### 【天伦之乐】

family happiness; the happiness of family reunion; the joy of family life together [例]人人都希望自己年老以后能享受天伦之乐。Everyone hopes that he can enjoy *family happiness* when he gets old.

#### 【天罗地网】

nets above and snares below; a net stretched from heaven to earth; a plot in the Heaven, a trap in the earth; tight encirclement; an invisible net preventing all escape; a far-flung police net; spread a situation where there is no escape; a gi-

gantic net; an immense net [例]那个银行抢劫犯终于没能逃过警察布下的天罗地网,于两天之后束手就擒。With *a far-flung police net*, there was no escape for the bank robber who finally got arrested two days later.

#### 【天马行空】

a heavenly steed soaring across the skies; a powerful and unconstrained style [例]那位书法家的字好似天马行空,我几乎一个也不认识。What the calligrapher wrote was in such *a powerful and unconstrained style* that I could hardly recognize a single character.

#### 【天南地北】

far apart from each other; far distant; from different places or areas; rambling; discursive; poles apart [例]他们发誓,无论在天南地北,他们永远都是好朋友。They promise that they will remain friends forever no matter how *far away they are from each other*.

#### 【天南海北】

all over the country; from different places or areas; rambling; discursive [例]余纯顺下定决心要走遍天南海北。Yu Chunshun was determined to travel *all over the country*.

#### 【天怒人怨】

the wrath of God and the resentment of men; The gods are angry and the people are resentful; widespread indignation and discontent [例]战争只能引起天怒人怨,并不能给人民带来任何好处。A war usually brings about nothing good but *widespread indignation and discontent* among the people.

#### 【天女散花】

The heavenly maids scatter blossoms. [例]库克把信撕得粉碎抛向空中,碎片就像天女散花般飘落下来。Cook

tore the letter into pieces and threw them up into the sky. The small pieces floated down as if *the heavenly maids were scattering blossoms*.

【天壤之别】

as far apart as heaven and earth; an immeasurably vast difference; poles apart; a world of difference [例]一百年前的上海和现在的上海相比已经有了天壤之别。There is *a world of difference* between the City of Shanghai one hundred years ago and the present one.

【天上人间】

heaven and earth; an immeasurably vast difference; poles apart; worlds apart

【天生尤物】

a born siren; a born beauty; a flawless beauty; heavenly beauty; sex kitten [例]每个见过她的人都称她为天生尤物。Everyone who has seen her before calls her *a born beauty*.

【天随人愿】

God carries out the wishes of man; Heaven grants man's wish; just (exactly) as one has expected it to be; by the grace of God [例]莉莉从小就想当一名教师。终于天随人愿,她今年夏天考上了一所师范大学。Lily has hoped to be a teacher since her childhood. And this summer she was admitted to a normal university, *just as what she had expected*.

【天网恢恢,疏而不漏】

The net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through; God's justice is inescapable; Heaven's vengeance is slow but sure; The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceedingly small; Murder will out; Justice has a long arm. [例]天网恢恢,疏而不漏,那个杀人凶手终于受到了法律的制裁。Justice has a long arm. The murderer was eventually pun-

ished according to the law.

【天无二日】

There cannot be two suns in the sky at the same time; There cannot be two kings in a country at the same time.

【天无绝人之路】

Heaven never seals off all the exits; Heaven will always leave a door open; There is always a way out; Heaven never cuts off a man's means; Every cloud has a silver lining; When one door shuts, another opens; Every day brings its bread with it; God never shuts one door but He opens another. [例]兄妹俩在森林里迷失了方向,可是天无绝人之路,一位仙女带他们走出了森林。The brother and sister lost their way in the forest. But *heaven never sealed off all the exits* - a fairy came and led them out of the forest.

【天下大乱】

great disorder under heaven; great chaos throughout the world; a state of chaos; in utter disorder; violent upheavals; the world going topsy-turvy; in a tumult [例]有些心怀叵测的政客四处散播谣言,试图搞得天下大乱。Some politicians with evil intents tried to create *great chaos throughout the world* by spreading the rumour everywhere.

【天下第一】

No. 1 in the world; the first under heaven; the best throughout the world; unequalled; peerless [例]中国的丝绸天下第一,这是毫无疑问的。The silk produced in China is undoubtedly *the best throughout the world*.

【天下太平】

The whole world is at peace; All is at peace; piping times of peace for the country; All is quiet in the world; All's right with the world. [例]平民百姓都希望能



过上天下太平的日子。All common people hope that they can live a peaceful life *in a peaceful world*.

【天下为公】

The world belongs to everybody; the whole world as one community

【天下乌鸦一般黑】

All crows under the sun are black; All crows are equally black; Crows are black the world over; Evildoers are the same the world over; Evil people are bad all over the world; In every country dogs bite. [例]备受压迫的村民们离乡背井来到省城,却不料天下乌鸦一般黑,那里的官吏一样贪婪。The villagers under the hoof were forced to leave their homes and came to the provincial capital. However, *all crows are equally black*. The government officials there were just as greedy.

【天下无敌】

There is none under Heaven to equal him; There is none to equal him on earth; invincible; all-conquering; ever-victorious [例]罗宾原以为自己的武功天下无敌,结果却被对手打得鼻青脸肿。Robin had thought that his Kungfu was the best in the world and *there is none to equal him*, but he was beaten black and blue by his rival.

【天下无难事,只怕有心人】

Nothing in the world is difficult for one who sets his mind to it; All difficulties on earth can be overcome if men but give their minds to it; It is dogged as does it; Where there is a will, there is a way.

【天下无双】

unequaled in the world; none such under Heaven; matchless; unique; without equal [例]他的文学才华天下无双。His literary talent is *unequaled in the world*.

【天下一家】

All under heaven are one family.

【天旋地转】

The sky and earth were spinning round; The heaven revolves and the earth turns; dizzy; vertiginous; (to feel) one's head swim [例]1.听说丈夫受了重伤,琳达顿时觉得天旋地转,晕倒过去。Having heard that her husband had been seriously injured, Linda felt as if *the sky and earth were spinning round* and fell down in a faint. 2.她起初的症状就是经常头晕,觉得天旋地转。The early symptoms were just that she often felt very *dizzy*.

【天涯海角】

the end of the sky and the corners of the sea; the ends of the earth; the world's end; the remotest corners of the earth; the back of beyond; remote regions; separated worlds apart; a long way off; many different parts of the country; [拉] *ultima Thule*; every nook and corner [例]1.只要能和他爱的人在一起,西蒙愿意走到天涯海角。Simon would go to *the ends of the world* so long as he could be together with his lover. 2.兰顿走遍了天涯海角,发现家才是最好的地方。Langton travelled to *many different parts of the country* only to find that home was the best place.

【天衣无缝】

a seamless heavenly robe; a divine garment without seams; flawless; faultless; perfect; free from defect; natural and perfect; without blemish [例]那对假夫妻在敌人面前的表演简直是天衣无缝。The pretended couple's acting before the enemy was *faultless*.

【天有不测风云】

There are unexpected storms in nature; A storm may arise from a clear sky; Some-

thing unexpected may happen any time; Fortune is fickle (variant); Nothing is so certain as the unexpected. [例]天有不测风云,就在考试的前一天,他却因车祸住进了医院。Something unexpected may happen any time. Just one day before the examination, he was sent to hospital due to a car accident.

#### 【天灾人祸】

natural and man-made calamities; natural calamities and man-made misfortunes [例]这一年,他家遭了天灾人祸,农田被淹没,而老母又病重。This year he suffered both natural calamities and man-made misfortunes - his farmland was flooded while his old mother got a serious disease.

#### 【天造地设】

created by Heaven and put in place by Earth; created; made by nature; natural creation; ideal; heavenly; made for [例]人人都说这男孩和那女孩是天造地设的一对。Everybody thinks that the boy and the girl are made for each other.

#### 【天真烂漫】

innocent and artless; naive; simple and unaffected [例]孩子们天真烂漫的笑语吸引了全车人的注意力。The children's innocent and unaffected talking and laughing attracted the attention of all the people in the bus.

#### 【天知地知,你知我知】

No one knows besides you and me; There's no one except you and me who know about it; in strict confidence; Between you and me and the gatepost; between ourselves [例]这个秘密天知地知,你知我知,千万别告诉别人。Don't tell others about the secret. It's only between you and me.

#### 【天之骄子】

God's favoured one; an unusually lucky

person; the chosen of God [例]在中国,大学生被称为“天之骄子”。In China, university students are called "God's favoured ones".

#### 【天诛地灭】

be executed by heaven and destroyed by earth; be destroyed by heaven and earth; stand condemned by God; May the gods strike (sb.) down! May Heaven and Earth rain the worst curses upon one's head! be damned [例]马克向贝蒂发誓说:“我若是说谎,便天诛地灭!” Mark swore to Betty, "If I lied to you, may the gods strike me down!"

#### 【天姿国色】

a matchless beauty; a rare beauty; he indescribably beautiful; be unequalled in beauty; possessing unsurpassing beauty [例]陈圆圆天姿国色,引得无数英雄为之倾倒。Chen Yuanyuan was indescribably beautiful so that numerous heroes were infatuated with her.

#### 【天字第一号】

the world's number one; the greatest in the world; number one; the very best; par excellence; A-1 [例]辛吉斯目前被认为是天字第一号的网球女选手。Hinges is currently regarded as the world's number one female tennis player.

#### 【天作之合】

a heaven-made match; a union made by heaven [例]A公司与B公司最近强强联手,新闻界称之为“天作之合”。Company A and Company B have recently consolidated to form a single large company, which is called by the mass media "a union made by heaven".

#### 【添枝加叶】

add a few branches and leaves; embellish (a story); embroider; add details of a story; blow up [例]原本平淡无奇的小

事,经他添枝加叶地一说,倒也生动了不少。It was originally nothing more than a trifle, but it was given more life after he *embellished* it.

【添砖加瓦】

add bricks and tiles; do what little one can to help; contribute one's bit to; work (together) to build; do one's bit to help; do one's little bit [例]我们应当竭尽全力为社会主义现代化建设添砖加瓦。We should try out best to *do our bit to help build socialist modernization*.

【恬不知耻】

not feel ashamed at all; with no sense of shame; impudent; shameless; dead (lost) to shame; be impudent to the extreme; have the effrontery to (do); past all sense of shame; blush like a black (blue) dog [例]保罗为了钱财甩掉了他的女朋友,居然还恬不知耻。Paul *didn't feel ashamed at all* at the fact that he had sponged off his girlfriend for the sake of money.

【恬淡无为】

indifferent to fame and gain [例]这些年来,爱默生一直恬淡无为,隐居在森林里。These years, Emerson has been living in solitude in the forest, *indifferent to both fame and gain*.

【甜酸苦辣】

sweet, sour, bitter and biting; all sorts of joys and sorrows; the sweets and bitters of life [例]她这一生尝遍了世间的甜酸苦辣。She has experienced *all sorts of joys and sorrows* all her life.

【甜言蜜语】

sweet words and honeyed phrases; speak heneynd words; fine - sounding words; sugary (honeyed, candied) words; glib talk; soft sawder; blarney; cajolment; honey - lipped; honey - tongued;

smooth - tongued [例]1. 大多数恋爱中的女人对于情人的甜言蜜语总是深信不疑。Most women in love firmly believe *the honeyed words* spoken by their lovers. 2. 你别在我面前甜言蜜语的! 我知道你心里打的什么主意。Don't be so *honey - tongued* before me! I know what you have in your mind.

【挑肥拣瘦】

pick the fat and choose the thin; be choosy; be picky; difficult to please; be fastidious; choose whichever is to one's advantage [例]像你这样挑肥拣瘦的人可真难伺候! How difficult it is to please a person who is as *picky* as you!

【条分缕析】

analyse point by point; make a careful and detailed analysis; make a fine analysis; make a thorough - going analysis; analyse meticulously

【调嘴弄舌】

gossip; incite trouble between people by talking behind their backs; cause alienation between friends by spreading rumors; tittle - tattle about people behind their backs; speak ill of sb.; stir up enmity [例]这女人最爱调嘴弄舌了,真令人讨厌! The woman loves nothing better than *gossiping*. How disgusting!

【挑拨离间】

incite one against the other; alienate one person from another; forment disunity and dissension; poison the relations between; drive a wedge between ...; make mischief between; cast a bone between ...; make bad blood between persons; sow discord among ...; play one person off against another [例]他的话你可别信,他这是在挑拨离间,试图破坏你们的夫妻感情。Don't believe what he has said to you. He is trying to *poison the relations between* you

and your husband.

【跳梁小丑】

a buffoon who performs antics; petty scoundrel; contemptible rebel; mischief maker; clown; one of the small fry among rascals [例]那帮人不过是些跳梁小丑而已,你又何必在意他们对你的看法呢? Those people are nothing but *petty scoundrels*. It's totally unnecessary for you to mind what they think of you.

【铁案如山】

an ironclad case; The evidence is mountain-high!; (a case) borne out by ironclad evidence; irrefutable (unchangeable) conviction [例]已是铁案如山,不容你再狡辩。This is an *ironclad case*, so it's no use denying it.

【铁杵成针】

An iron pestle can be ground down to a needle; Long, persistent practice makes perfect; Perseverance will prevail; Little strokes fell great oaks; Constant dripping wears the stone. [例]每当哈利遭受挫折的时候,他妈妈都会给他讲铁杵成针的道理。Whenever Harry suffers a setback, his mother will tell him that *perseverance will prevail*.

【铁面无私】

impartial and incorruptible; unmoved by personal appeals; be just and stern; not to spare anyone's sensibilities; a man of integrity and justice [例]要想做一个好法官,你首先得学会铁面无私。If you want to be a good judge, you have to learn to *be just and stern* at first.

【铁石心肠】

iron-hearted; a heart of stone (iron, steel); a stony (rocky) heart; marble-hearted; hardhearted; he deaf to all feelings; unmoved by feeling; weep millstones; as hard as the nether millstone

[例]1.我并不是铁石心肠,我所做的一切都是为了你好。My heart is not made of iron. Whatever I do is for your good. 2.海伦的丈夫之所以在她面前表现得铁石心肠,是为了使她免受牵连。The reason why Helen's husband appeared so iron-hearted was that he didn't want to involve her in trouble.

【铁树开花】

the iron tree in blossom; the iron tree bursting into blossom; something seldom seen or hardly possible; rare occurrence; once in a blue moon [例]约翰居然说要和我们一起去跳舞,这可真是铁树开花! To our surprise, Jobo said he would like to go dancing with us. What a rare occurrence!

【铁证如山】

The ironclad details pile up mountain-high; irrefutable proof; conclusive evidence; ironclad evidence; ironclad fact which one can never succeed in denying; That's incontrovertible proof. [例]你受贿的事实已是铁证如山了,所以你现在惟一的选择就是和警方合作。The evidence that you've taken bribes is conclusive, so co-operation with the police is your only choice now.

【听而不闻】

listen but not hear; hear but not understand; hear but pay no attention; turn a deaf ear to [例]对于我说的话你总是听而不闻,总有一天你会后悔的。You always *turn a deaf ear to* what I say to you, but you're bound to regret it one day.

【听而不闻,视而不见】

listen but not hear, look but not see; listen to but hear nothing, and look at but not pay attention to; pay no attention to; turn a deaf ear to [例]对他这种人,我觉得你最好的态度就是听而不闻、视

而不见。I think your best attitude to a person like him is to *pay absolutely no attention to* whatever he says or does.

#### 【听其言而观其行】

listen to what one says and watch what one does; listen to a person's words and watch his deeds; judge people by their deeds, not just by their words [例]在评价一个人之前,我们应该听其言而观其行。Before we form a judgement of a person, we should *not only listen to what he says but also watch what he does.*

#### 【听其自然】

let things take their own course; leave matters to develop themselves; let things take their natural course; leave things to chance; leave the matter as it is; let it go at that; let it be as it likes; Let nature take its own course; let the world wag (as it will); let it have its swing; laissez-faire; let things slide [例]现在我们做什么都为时已晚了,还是听其自然吧。It's too late for us to do anything now, so *let's just leave it to chance.*

#### 【听天由命】

be resigned to one's fate; submit to (obey) the will of Heaven; bow to fate; trust to luck; wait for one's fate; leave things to chance; let fate have its way; happy-go-lucky [例]在升职这件事上,你不能听天由命。相反,你应该尽最大的努力争取这个机会。With regard to your promotion, you can't *wait for your fate.* On the contrary, you should try your best to get the opportunity.

#### 【听之任之】

let something go unchecked; let matters drift; let one have one's own way; allow someone or something to continue; take a laissez-faire attitude; let things go hang [例]对于这种不良行为,我们不能听

之任之,而是应该予以制止。We shouldn't *allow such bad actions to continue.* Actually, we should try to prevent them from happening again.

#### 【亭台楼阁】

pavilions, terraces and open halls; pavilions, terraces and towers; airy pavilions and pagodas [例]在苏州的园林里,人们可以观赏到风格迥异的亭台楼阁。In the gardens in Suzhou, one can enjoy the sight of *pavilions, terraces and towers of different styles.*

#### 【亭亭玉立】

(of a woman) slim and graceful; (of a tree, etc.) tall and erect [例]几年不见,简已经出落成一个亭亭玉立的少女了。Jane whom I haven't met for several years is now a *slim and graceful* young lady.

#### 【挺身而出】

step out (forward) courageously; step forth (forward) boldly; come out (forward) bravely; stand up and volunteer to help; bell the cat; bolster oneself up [例]人群中,一个青年男子挺身而出,跳下河去救落水的孩子。A young man *stepped out courageously* from the crowd and jumped into the river to save the drowning child.

#### 【挺胸凸肚】

stretch the chest and expand the belly; a high breast and big belly; stick out one's chest; stand straight in a gesture of self-confidence; tough and cocky; pot-bellied [例]他在员工面前总是挺胸凸肚的,深怕人家不知道他就是这家饭店的老板。He always *sticks out his chest and expands his belly* before the employees in case that they don't know he is the boss of the restaurant.

#### 【铤而走险】

rush headlong into danger; rush hastily into danger; take desperate risks; become reckless in desperation, like an animal at bay; make a reckless move; risk danger when in desperation; neck or nothing [例] 贫穷迫使他铤而走险, 成为毒贩。Poverty drove him to *take risks* as a drug dealer.

#### 【通风报信】

divulge (furnish) secret information; send news secretly; pass on information to; tip somebody off [例] 由于他及时地来通风报信, 我们的同志没有落入敌人的魔爪。Our comrades didn't fall into the hands of the enemy as he had *sent the secret message* to us in time.

#### 【通观全局】

take a comprehensive view of the situation as a whole; take an overall view of the situation; on the whole; in general [例] 在做决定之前, 我们首先要通观全局。We should *take a comprehensive view of the situation as a whole* before we make a decision.

#### 【通力合作】

give full co-operation to; make a united (concerted) effort; co-operate with a common effort; pull well together [例] 只要我们通力合作, 就一定能取得最后的胜利。So long as we *pull well together*, we will surely win the final victory.

#### 【通情达理】

show common (good) sense; be understanding and reasonable; be reasonable and fair; use reason; stand to reason; have the grace to do sth. [例] 你妈妈是个通情达理的人, 她会理解你所做出的选择的。Your mother is a woman of *good sense*. She will understand the choice you've made.

#### 【通宵达旦】

throughout the whole night until the dawn; all night till dawn; throughout the night; all night; all night long; round the clock [例] 为了能按时完成这项艰巨的任务, 杰西卡通宵达旦地工作着。Jessica worked *round the clock* so as to accomplish the arduous task on time.

#### 【同病相怜】

Similarly afflicted people pity (feel pity for) each other; Victims of the same disease show mutual sympathy; Fellow sufferers sympathize (commiserate) with one another; companions in misfortune; Misery loves company; Adversity (misery, poverty) makes strange bedfellows. [例] 这两个没有工作的人因为同病相怜而成为好朋友。The two jobless men became good friends because they were *companions in great misfortune*.

#### 【同仇敌忾】

share a bitter hatred of the enemy; fight with a common hatred against the enemy; treat one as a common enemy; fight shoulder to shoulder against the enemy [例] 解放区的军民同仇敌忾, 共同抵抗日寇的侵略。Both the army and the people in the liberated area, *filled with a common hatred*, fought shoulder to shoulder against the invading Japanese enemy.

#### 【同床异梦】

share the same bed but dream different dreams; have different dreams in the same bed; sleep in the same bed but dream different dreams; share the same bed but not the same dreams; be strange bedfellows; share the same work but not the same will; be thrown together but each having a different problem (ambition) [例] 这对夫妻看似情投意合, 实际上早就同床异梦了。The couple looked as if they loved each other deeply, but in fact they had

long been *sharing the same bed but not the same dreams*.

### 【同甘共苦】

share joys and sorrows; share happiness and sufferings; share prosperity and adversity; share sweets and bitters; for better or for worse; through thick and thin; through fair or foul [例]在刚刚成家的那几年里,夫妻俩同甘共苦,日子过得非常幸福。During the first few years after they got married, the wife and the husband *went through thick and thin together* and they were very happy.

### 【同归于尽】

die together; All perish together; All come to an end; All go to ruin; and up in ruin together; end up in common ruin; turn to ashes with somebody [例]她宁愿和敌人同归于尽,也不愿意向敌人投降。She would rather *die together* with the enemy than surrender to them.

### 【同流合污】

associate oneself with an evil person (element); join in one's evildoings (cesspool); play a part in someone's vile actions; act in collusion with; go along with someone in his evil deeds; wallow in mire with somebody; Birds of a feather flock together; foul one's hands with somebody; work hand in glove with somebody [例]一个正直的人是不可能和腐败的官僚同流合污的。A man of integrity is unlikely to *act in collusion with* any corrupt officials.

### 【同日而语】

be named on the same day with; be mentioned in the same breath (at the same time) [例]今日强大的新中国与过去那个落后的旧中国已不可同日而语了。The old backward China can no longer *be mentioned in the same breath*

with the new powerful China today.

### 【同生共死】

live and die together; share life and death with somebody [例]战地记者一次又一次地被那些同生共死的战士们所感动。The war correspondent was moved again and again by those soldiers who *shared both life and death together*.

### 【同室操戈】

family members drawing swords on each other; internal strife; a quarrel among brothers in the same family; fight against one's own men; fratricide; internecine feud (fight) [例]姐妹俩为了争夺父母的遗产不惜同室操戈。The two sisters had absolutely no scruples about *quarrelling and fighting with each other* in order to get their parents' legacy.

### 【同心同德】

with one heart and one mind; be one heart with somebody; of one mind and principle; do something wholeheartedly with somebody; be dedicated heart and soul to the same cause [例]各民族人民同心同德,共同建设我们的祖国。People of various nationalities work *with one mind* together to build our country.

### 【同心协力】

unite in a concerted effort; work in concert with somebody; work together with one heart; work in full co-operation and with unity of purpose; pull together; ha of one mind; shoulder to shoulder [例]我们大家同心协力,终于克服了所有的困难。All of us *united in a concerted effort* and overcame all the difficulties.

### 【同舟共济】

People in the same boat help each other; share the same boat to cross a river; share with somebody in trouble; pull together to tide over difficulties; row (sail) in the

same boat; sail on the same tack; Two in distress make trouble less. [例]在金融危机那段时期,公司上下同舟共济。During the financial crisis, everyone in the company pulled together to tide over the difficulties.

#### 【童男童女】

young boys and girls; minors of both sexes [例]在这篇神话故事里,龙王每年都要吃掉一对童男童女。In this fairy story, the Dragon King ate a young boy and a young girl each year.

#### 【童叟无欺】

Neither the old nor the young will be cheated; cheat no one, neither the old nor the young; be equally honest with aged people and children customers; deal honestly with one's customers [例]虽然小店门口的木板上写着“童叟无欺”,可店主卖的东西大多是伪劣产品。On the wooden board at the gate of the small shop, one can see the sentence "Neither the old nor the young will be cheated." However, most commodities sold by the shopkeeper are fake and poor.

#### 【童心未泯】

One's childish disposition remains; still preserve traces of childishness; still retain childlike innocence [例]那个老奶奶童心未泯,经常和孙子们在一起玩电子游戏。The old granny still preserves traces of childishness. She often plays video games together with her grandsons.

#### 【童言无忌】

Children say what they like; take no offence at a child's babble; Children and fools speak the truth. [例]童言无忌,你别太放在心上。It's just a child's babbling. Don't take it to heart.

#### 【铜墙铁壁】

a wall of bronze or iron; a bastion of iron;

like walls of brass and iron; (be strong as) walls of bronze; impregnable fortress; a stronghold; tower of strength [例]战士们跳进江里,手挽着手站成一排,好像铜墙铁壁一样。Jumping into the river, the soldiers stood in a line hand in hand, like walls of brass and iron.

#### 【痛不欲生】

be so overwhelmed with grief that one hardly wishes to live; grieve to the extent of wishing to die; be overwhelmed with sorrow [例]朱丽叶死在罗密欧的怀里,罗密欧痛不欲生。When Juliet died in Romeo's arms, he was overwhelmed with sorrow.

#### 【痛彻心扉】

cut somebody to the heart; deep grief; extraordinary pain; anguish [例]周恩来总理的逝世使得每个中国人都痛彻心扉。Every Chinese felt deep grief over the death of Premier Zhou Enlai.

#### 【痛定思痛】

recall past pains - as a warning for the future; reflect sufferings and pains after they are gone; draw a lesson from a painful experience; think over the reason after this bitter lesson [例]这次考试亨特又不及格,痛定思痛,他决心开始努力学习。Hunter failed again in the examination. He thought over the reason and made up his mind to study hard.

#### 【痛改前非】

thoroughly rectify one's errors; earnestly repent and reform former faults; make a clean break with one's past errors; make a determined effort to turn over a new leaf; sincerely mend one's ways [例]如果他真想下决心痛改前非的话,我们肯定会尽力帮助他的。If he is determined to turn a new leaf, we're sure to try our best to help him.



## 【痛哭流涕】

cry and shed bitter tears; weep bitterly; wail; cry one's heart out; wail and whine [例]小姑娘养的狗丢了,她伤心地痛哭流涕。The young girl *cried her heart out* when her pet dog was lost.

## 【痛快淋漓】

satisfying in every respect; extremely comfortable; with great eloquence; with great verve and gusto; roundly [例]作者在他的小说中痛快淋漓地讽刺了那些自私自利的人。The author satirizes in his novel those selfish people *with great eloquence*.

## 【痛心疾首】

heartache and headache - with deep hatred and resentment; resent or hate deeply; with bitter hatred; feel bitter about...; be very distressed about...; feel deeply grieved; cut one to the heart [例]每每回忆往事,他总是痛心疾首,不能原谅自己。Whenever he recalls the past, he *feels deeply grieved* and can never forgive himself for what he did.

## 【偷工减料】

use inferior materials and turn out substandard goods; give less than what is due in regard to workmanship and material; do short-cut workmanship; cheat in work and cut down material; below standard; sloppily made; not up to the standard; cheat on government contracts; jerry-build [例]根据合同的规定,这个木匠要是偷工减料的话,我们是有权解雇他的。According to the contract, if the carpenter *uses inferior materials and turn out substandard goods*, we have the right to fire him.

## 【偷鸡不着蚀把米】

try to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice; Go for wool and come back

shorn. [例]格林本想偷点钱买台电视机的,没想到却被送进了监狱,真是偷鸡不着蚀把米。Green had thought of stealing some money to buy a TV set, but he was put in prison for that. This is what we call "go for wool and come back shorn".

## 【偷鸡摸狗】

steal a fowl or a dog; steal; pilfer; crooked dealings; under - the - table dealings; engage in extramarital sex; have illicit relations with women [例]解放前,他家里很穷,所以他只好靠偷鸡摸狗来维持生计。His family was very poor before liberation, so he had to make a living by *sterling*.

## 【偷梁换柱】

steal the beam and pillars and replace them with rotten timbers; substitute the fake for the genuine; resort to fraudulence; perpetrate a fraud; try by underhand means to ...; deceiving; fraudulent [例]艾丽斯使出偷梁换柱这一招,结果戴西成了她的替罪羔羊。Alice *perpetrated a fraud* so that Daisy became her scapegoat.

## 【偷天换日】

steal the sky and put up a sham sun - to play a sly trick; audacious scheme of cheating people; substitute the fake for the genuine; perpetrate a gigantic fraud; in an underhand attempt

## 【头昏眼花】

with head giddy and eyes dazzled; feel dizzy and with one's eyesight dimmed; feel faint and vision blurred; One's head begins to swim and one's eyes are misted; dizzy; giddy; One's wits are wandering; mentally confused; light-headed; punch-drunk; be afflicted with vertigo; have a dizzy spell; rocky; see stars [例]克里斯在电

脑前连续工作了十几个小时。当他站起身来的时候,感到有点头昏眼花。Having been working unceasingly on the computer for more than ten hours, Chris felt a bit *dizzy* when he got up.

#### 【头破血流】

heart broken and bleeding; be badly battered; have one's head broken; ba given a good beating; run into bumps and bruises; bang (run) one's head against a (brick) wall [例]可怜的小偷被一群人打得头破血流。The poor thief was badly battered by a group of people.

#### 【头疼脑热】

headache and slight fever; slight illness [例]要是有什么头疼脑热的,你可别忘了吃药。If you suffer from some slight illness, don't forget to take some medicine.

#### 【头痛医头,脚痛医脚】

treat the head when the head aches, treat the foot when the foot hurts; treat symptoms but not the disease; take stop-gap measures; take only palliative measures for one's illness; sporadic and piecemeal steps [例]不管做什么事情,事先都要有个总体的把握,头痛医头,脚痛医脚的做法是要不得的。One has to have an overall plan first before he does anything. It's no good treating symptoms but not the disease.

#### 【头头是道】

clear and logic; closely reasoned and well argued; plausible; well-grounded and reasoned; with reason; methodical; appear impressive [例]那位生物学家关于基因工程的演讲虽然并不幽默,但确实是头头是道。The biologist's speech on genetic engineering was in no way humorous, but it was certainly clear and logical.

#### 【头重脚轻】

One's head is heavy and one's feet light; feel one's head heavy and one's feet light; heavy-headed; top-heavy [例]阿加莎晚上喝了两杯红葡萄酒,觉得有点头重脚轻。Agatha had two glasses of red wine in the evening and felt a bit top-heavy.

#### 【投笔从戎】

renounce the pen for the sword; give up literature for a military career; throw aside one's writing brush and join the army; throw away one's pen and become a soldier; join the army; join military service [例]在妻子的鼓励下,那位有名的诗人最终做出了投笔从戎的选择。Encouraged by his wife, the well-known poet eventually chose to throw away his pen and joined the army.

#### 【投机取巧】

seize every chance to gain advantage by trickery; take advantage of the moment; be opportunistic; choose the easy way; wheel and deal [例]1. 提防着他点儿!他可会投机取巧了。Watch out for him! He is opportunistic. 2. 科学是严肃的,绝对没有投机取巧的路好走。Science is serious. There is absolutely no easy way for one to take.

#### 【投其所好】

cater to one's fancy; agree to whatever another is pleased with; after one's fancy; offer one what one is hankering after; hit on what one likes; every one to his taste; to one's liking; cater for (to) [例]几个下属都知道他们的上司喜欢花,于是他们便投其所好,在她生日那天把她的办公室布置得像花园一样。Knowing that their boss liked flowers, the subordinates made her office look like a garden on her birthday in order to please her.

## 【投鼠忌器】

hesitate to pelt a rat for fear of smashing the dishes beside it; throw something at a rat, but afraid to break the vase; hold back from taking action against an evildoer for fear of involving good people; have scruples about doing something; Burn not your house to rid it of the mouse. [例]他想去报警,说他知道是哪些人抢劫了银行。但是同时他又投鼠忌器,怕他儿子也会因此遭到逮捕。He wanted to report to the police that he knew who had robbed the bank. However, he *hesitated* because he was afraid that his son might also be arrested for it.

## 【投桃报李】

get a peach and send a plum; give a plum in return for a peach; exchange gifts; return present for present; return a favor with a favour [例]张奶奶当年收养他的时候,并没有指望他以后会投桃报李。When Granny Zhang adopted him at that time, she never expected that he would *return a favour with a favour* one day.

## 【突飞猛进】

make a spurt of progress; advance swiftly and vigorously; (reake) spectacular progress; phenomenal growth; make giant strides; advance by leaps and bounds [例]在艾琳的帮助下,卡罗尔的英语成绩突飞猛进。With Eileen's help, Carol *made spectacular progress* in English.

## 【突然袭击】

sudden onslaught; sudden attack; take somebody by surprise; surprise attack [例]二战初期,德国对波兰发动了突然袭击。At the beginning of the Second World War, Germany made *a surprise attack* on Poland.

## 【突如其来】

arise suddenly; arrive suddenly (unexpectedly); come all of a sudden; happen unexpectedly; all of a sudden; appear (come) out of the blue; a bolt from the blue [例]面对突如其来的爱情,爱德华不知所措。Edward was at a loss what to do to deal with the love that *came unexpectedly*.

## 【图财害命】

murder for money [例]那家伙胆大包天,居然敢在光天化日之下图财害命。The guy was so audacious (reckless) that he even committed *murder* in the broad daylight just *for money*.

## 【图谋不轨】

plan (engage) in illegal activities; plan a rebellion; plot an uprising; hatch a sinister plot; incite (scheme) sedition [例]图谋不轨的人是不会有好下场的。One who *engages himself in illegal activities* will come to no end.

## 【图穷匕见】

When the map was spread out, a dagger was exposed; The plot is revealed in the end; The real intention is revealed in the end; the discovery of a plot [例]在我耐心地听完他那感人的故事之后,他向我借钱的用意终于图穷匕见。After I patiently listened to his moving story, *his real intention* of borrowing some money from me was *revealed in the end*.

## 【徒劳无益】

make a futile effort; One's efforts come to naught; work to no avail; flog a dead horse; carry coals to Newcastle; draw water in a sieve; plough the sands [例]你想向老师解释你考试作弊的理由,实在是徒劳无益。You're *making a futile effort* by trying to explain to the teacher why you cheated on the exam.

## 【徒有虚名】

enjoy undeserved fame; have an undeserved reputation; enjoy a reputation unwarranted by any real learning; in name, not in reality; titular [例]原来他这个所谓的“百万富翁”只是徒有虚名。The so-called “millionaire” is nothing but a person enjoying an undeserved reputation.

## 【徒子徒孙】

disciples and followers; adherents; successors; hangers-on and their spawn [例]孔子的徒子徒孙很多。Confucius has a large number of disciples and followers.

## 【涂炭生灵】

plunge the people into the depths of suffering; plunge the people into an abyss of misery; cruelly injure (slaughter) the people [例]二战期间,日本政府不断地向邻国发动战争,涂炭生灵。During World War II, the Japanese government ceaselessly waged wars against the neighbouring countries and plunged the people there into an abyss of misery.

## 【涂脂抹粉】

put on rouge and powder; apply rouge and powder; powder and rouge; apply cosmetics; apply facial makeup; prettify; whiten; embellish; varnish; highly-painted; doll up; make up; deck oneself out [例]群众的眼睛是雪亮的,你再怎么涂脂抹粉也是枉然。The masses have sharp eyes. It's no use trying to whiten it.

## 【土崩瓦解】

Earth collapses and tiles disintegrate; disturbances of the earth and collapse of the tiles; disintegrate; fall apart; break up; crumble; fall into pieces; collapse like a house of cards [例]在那次强烈的地震中,台湾有很多质量不过关的建筑物

土崩瓦解了。Many buildings of poor quality in Taiwan fell apart in the strong earthquake.

## 【土豪劣绅】

local tyrants and evil gentry; local despots and bad gentry; despotic landlords [例]解放前,贫苦的农民深受土豪劣绅的压迫。Before liberation, the poor farmers were oppressed by local tyrants and evil gentry.

## 【土生土长】

locally born and bred; born and raised locally; born and brought up on one's native soil (in one's native land); earth-bred; home-born; indigenous; local-born [例]他们都是土生土长的当地人,不会说普通话。They are all locals born and raised here, and they don't know how to speak mandarin.

## 【土洋结合】

combine indigenous and foreign methods; combine native and foreign methods; use traditional and modern methods; employ both simple and sophisticated methods [例]日本人士洋结合,以建立强大的经济。The Japanese combined indigenous and foreign methods to build a strong economy.

## 【吐故纳新】

exhale the old and inhale the new; get rid of the stale and take in the fresh; renovate; revamp [例]激烈的竞争要求我们不断吐故纳新,以跟上时代的步伐。The intense competition makes it necessary for us to get rid of the stale and take in the fresh so as to keep pace with the times.

## 【兔死狐悲】

The fox is sad at the death of a hare; The fox mourns over the death of the hare; When the hare dies, the fox grieves; feel sad for the loss of one's kind; mourn over

the friend's death; sympathy with one of its kind; Rogues weep when they see those of their own kind meet their just fate; Like mourns (over) the death of like. [例]兔死狐悲,物伤其类。同是国有企业,他们破产了,我们又怎能不感伤呢? *Like mourns (over) the death of like.* Their state - owned enterprise went bankrupt. Ours is also a state - owned enterprise, so how can we keep from feeling sad for them?

#### 【推波助澜】

help churning up waves and billows; make a stormy sea stormier; increase troubles; aggravate a complicated situation; encourage and increase one's influence; instigate; add fuel to the flames; fan the fire; egg somebody on [例]要不是你推波助澜,他们说说不定都已经结婚了。If you hadn't *added fuel to the flames*, they might have been married.

#### 【推陈出新】

weed through the old to bring forth the new; weed out chaff to get something new; bring forth the new through the old; develop the new through critical assimilation of the old; discard what has outlived its time and develop the new [例]观众的口味随着时代在变,这就决定了我们节目的内容也必须推陈出新。The audience's taste changes with the times, which makes it necessary for us to *develop some new programs and discard some old ones that have outlived their time.*

#### 【推诚相见】

deal with somebody in good faith; treat somebody with sincerity; talk frankly without hedging about; open one's heart (mind) to somebody [例]我们的英语老师对班上的学生推诚相见,所以大家都喜欢她。Our teacher of English

*treats all the students in our class with sincerity and are liked by all of us.*

#### 【推崇备至】

have the greatest esteem for; admire somebody very much; laud somebody (something) to the skies [例]天底下他只对一人推崇备至,那人就是他的父亲。There is only one person in the world *for whom he has the greatest esteem* - his father.

#### 【推而广之】

give extended application; apply (introduce) broadly; by a logical extension of this point; improve on this [例]好的学习方法应该推而广之,让大家都得利。Good learning methods should be *introduced broadly* to more and more people so that everyone can benefit from them.

#### 【推己及人】

consider others in one's own place; put (place) oneself in another's place; devolve one's own thought to others; he considerate; treat other people as you would yourself; Do unto others as you would do unto yourself; Do as you would be done by. [例]一个人为人要有同情心,能够推己及人。As a human being, one should not only have sympathy for others but also be able to *treat other people as you would yourself.*

#### 【推三阻四】

decline with all sorts of excuses; make all sorts of excuses; fob somebody off with excuses; give the run-around [例]罗达叫她丈夫有空就去看看丈母娘,可他总是推三阻四。Rhoda would like her husband to visit her mother when he is free, but he *declines with all sorts of excuses.*

#### 【推贤让能】

recommend the worthy and give place to the able; select the worthy and give way to

the able; promote the worthy and able; select the capable men and put them in power [例]能像你一样推贤让能的人不多了。There are not many people who can *recommend the worthy and give place to the able* as you do.

#### 【推心置腹】

place one's heart in the body of another man - loyal friendship; treat a person with sincerity; repose full trust in somebody; show the greatest consideration; wear one's heart on one's sleeve; heat to heart; open one's heart (mind) to somebody [例]能有你这样推心置腹的朋友,我已经心满意足了。I'm very satisfied with having such a friend as you who can *open your heart to me*.

#### 【退避三舍】

retreat ninety li - give way to somebody to avoid a conflict; avoid somebody like a plague; keep a good distance from somebody; withdraw from somebody; give one a wide berth; keep somebody at arm's length [例]他是个令人讨厌的家伙,因此大家都对他退避三舍。He is so disgusting that everyone *avoids him like a plague*.

#### 【吞吞吐吐】

speak a word and swallow the next word; mutter and mumble; hesitate in speaking; speak in a halting way; speak with great reserve; hem and haw; mince one's words; prunes and prism [例]你要是再像现在这样吞吞吐吐的话,别人会以为你在撒谎呢。If you go on *speaking as falteringly* as you're now, other people will think that you're lying.

#### 【吞云吐雾】

inhale clouds and exhale mists; swallow clouds and blow fogs; smoke tobacco (opium); smoke; opium smoking [例]这

家公司有个吸烟区,专供瘾君子在里面吞云吐雾。There is a smoking area in the company where smokers can *smoke* freely.

#### 【囤积居奇】

store up goods to make a good bargain; buy up something in order to sell it at a profit later on; store up goods and raise their prices; corner (engross, hold) the market; hoard and corner; be on the long side of the market; hoard and profiteer; play the market [例]很多不诚实的商人企图借囤积居奇来趁机牟利。Many dishonest businessmen try to make their fortune by *cornering the market*.

#### 【拖儿带女】

be tied down by small children; support one's sons and daughters [例]这些年,她一个人拖儿带女的,日子过得非常艰难。Having to *support her sons and daughters* alone, she has been leading a difficult life these years.

#### 【拖泥带水】

be dragged through mud and water; leaving traces of water and mud; do things sloppily; messy; slovenly; not clear-cut; muddled (as a style of writing, speaking, acting, etc.); not go the whole hog [例]做事情不要拖泥带水,应该干脆利落,当机立断。Don't *do things sloppily*. Instead, you should do things neatly and take prompt action at the right moment.

#### 【拖人下水】

drag somebody down into the water; pull someone into the water; drag somebody into the mire; involve somebody in evil-doing (trouble); drag somebody into the abyss; get somebody involved in trouble; implicate; entangle; bring into difficulties; get somebody into hot water [例]你想跟他

吵架就吵好了,可别拖人下水。Go ahead if you want to quarrel with him. Don't *drag me into it*.

【脱口而出】

escape one's lips; pass one's lips; let slip; speak by impulse (without forethought); say something unwittingly; come (in) pat; blurt out; One's tongue runs before one's wit; off the top of one's head [例]老师刚问好问题,他的答案就脱口而出。The minute when the teacher asked the question, his answer *came pat*.

【脱胎换骨】

be reborn; remould oneself thoroughly; undergo a thoroughgoing change; create new things out of the old; converted; transformed; cast off one's old self and take on a new self; turn (over) a new leaf [例]刑满释放的时候,泰勒向父母亲保证一定脱胎换骨,重新做人。When he was released after serving the full term

of a sentence, Tyler promised his parents that he would *turn over a new leaf* and make a new man.

【脱颖而出】

the point of an awl sticking out through a bag; An awl - point finds its way out of the bag — talent shows itself; become eminent; emerge; come out in the open; come to the fore; make one's way [例]尤拉在这次作文竞赛中脱颖而出,夺得第一名。In the composition contest, Yula *emerged* and got the first prize.

【唾手可得】

extremely easy to obtain; with extreme ease; get something without the least difficulty; within easy reach; get (win) something with hands down; without lifting a finger [例]她要想取得这份文件简直就是唾手可得。If she wanted to, she could get the document *without lifting a finger*.

## W

## 【挖空心思】

think hard; All possible means have been tried; rack (cudgel) one's brains; work one's head to the bone [例]斯威夫特挖空心思,想获得提升的机会。Swift tried all possible means in order to get promoted.

## 【歪打正着】

but harvest exactly what one wishes; do sth. unintentionally; score a lucky hit; hit the mark by a fluke [例]为了让病人安静一会儿,他把病人打晕了过去。没想到歪打正着,居然治好了她的失忆症。In order to keep the patient silent, he beat her until she lost consciousness. But he hadn't expected that he scored a lucky hit and cured her amnesia.

## 【歪风邪气】

evil winds and noxious influence; unhealthy trends and evil practices; gust of evil wind; bad (negative) tendency; malpractice; perverse (evil) trends [例]社会上的歪风邪气应该坚决予以制止。The unhealthy trends and evil practices in society should be checked determinedly.

## 【歪门邪道】

crooked ways (means); dishonest practices; sinuous ways [例]由于平时不用功,他只能用些歪门邪道来应付期末考试。As he didn't work hard, he had to employ some dishonest practices so as to pass the final examinations.

## 【歪七竖八】

jumbled; crooked; twisted [例]桌子上歪七竖八地放着些酒瓶和酒杯。Various wine bottles and glasses were jumbled up on the table.

## 【外刚内柔】

be soft inside but hard outside; be soft inside despite one's hard shell [例]你对她太不了解了,她这人其实是外刚内柔。You don't know her at all. In fact, she is soft inside despite her hard shell.

## 【外强中干】

outwardly strong but inwardly dried up; strong in appearance but weak inside; be strong without but feeble within; apparently rich and successful, but actually in financial trouble; be fierce of visage and faint of heart; forcible - feeble [例]敌军只是外强中干的纸老虎而已。The enemy troops are nothing but paper tigers which are strong in appearance but weak in reality.

## 【外柔内刚】

be soft outside but hard inside; be outwardly soft but inwardly hard; gentle in manner, resolute in deed; an iron fist (hand) in a velvet glove [例]丈夫去世后,外柔内刚的她挑起了家庭的重担。After the death of her husband, she, who was soft outside but strong inside, bore the heavy load of the family on her shoulders.

## 【纨绔子弟】

fellows with white silken breeches; rich men's sons; playboy; dandy; fops; profligate sons of the rich; a good-for-nothing young man from a wealthy family [例]不要整天和那些纨绔子弟混在一起。Don't hang out all day with those playboys.

## 【完璧归赵】

return the jade intact to the State of Zhao; return something to its owner in good con-



dition; return a thing whole to its owner  
[例]谢谢你的钢笔,现将它完璧归赵。  
Thank you for your pen. I'm going to *return it to you intact*.

#### 【完美无缺】

flawless and perfect; faultless; impeccable; leave nothing to be desired; as good as gold [例]在拉曼眼里,罗斯是完美无缺的。Rose is *flawless and perfect* in Raman's eyes.

#### 【玩火自焚】

Whoever plays with fire will get burnt; play with fire and perish by it; burn oneself by playing with fire; burn one's own fingers; He who plays with fire will get burned. [例]参与贩毒无异于玩火自焚。Taking part in drug dealing is nothing different from *burning oneself by playing with fire*.

#### 【玩世不恭】

show no respect for the world; disdain worldly affairs; be cynical; take a cynical attitude towards life; treat all things indecorously; live in defiance of conventions; a hippy [例]正经点儿,别这样玩世不恭! Be serious! Don't be so cynical!

#### 【玩物丧志】

trifle with playthings and lose one's lofty aspirations; Riding a hobby saps one's will to make progress; ride hobby horse and forget to make progress; play through life and have no serious ambition; sap one's aspiration by seeking pleasures; Excessive attention to trivia saps the will. [例]许多家长都认为电子宠物会令孩子玩物丧志。Many parents think that *excessive interest* in electric pets will *sap their children's will to make progress*.

#### 【顽固不化】

obstinate and unchangeable; incorrigibly obstinate; bigoted; bull-headed; head-

strong; obdurate; be set in one's way [例]这个顽固不化的老头儿不同意把自己的女儿嫁给那个商人。The *obstinate* old man refused to give consent to her daughter's marriage with the businessman.

#### 【宛然在目】

as if in front of one's eyes; as if reappear in one's mind's eye [例]昔日的快乐时光至今仍宛然在目。The happy old days have been *in my mind's eye* up to now.

#### 【万变不离其宗】

change ten thousand times without departing from the original aim or stand; No matter how many changes one has made, he has not departed from his line; remain essentially the same despite apparent changes; The methods used may vary, but the principle is the same; In none of his change has he departed from his stand; The central theme remains the same. [例]这家杂货店的经营手法万变不离其宗。The management tactics of the grocery store *remain essentially the same despite some apparent changes*.

#### 【万不得已】

have no other choice but ...; have no alternative; as a last resort; out of absolute necessity; cannot but ...; if the worst comes to the worst [例]不是万不得已,她是绝不会开口向他借钱的。She wouldn't have asked him to borrow her some money if she had had any other choice.

#### 【万夫不当】

Ten thousand men cannot prevail against him; have the strength that ten thousand men cannot withstand; ... can overcome even ten thousand soldiers; he mightier than a thousand; Any number of men cannot withstand him; invincible [例]要想

取得战斗的胜利,拥有一万名万夫不当的将领是非常重要的。To win the victory in a battle, it's very important to have a general who *has the strength that ten thousand men cannot withstand*.

### 【万古长青】

be evergreen; be forever green; remain fresh forever; last forever; be everlasting; flourish forever; ever new [例]愿我们的友谊万古长青! May our friendship *last forever!*

### 【万古流(留)芳】

leave a good name that will live forever; leave a good name to posterity; One's fame will never die; will be remembered throughout the ages; have a niche in the temple of fame [例]岳飞精忠报国的精神万古流芳。Yue Fei *has a niche in the temple of fame* for his patriotism.

### 【万贯家财】

vast wealth; very rich; very wealthy [例]如果你没有了朋友,纵使有万贯家财也不会快乐。If you have no friends, you won't feel happy even if you're *very wealthy*.

### 【万家灯火】

lamps and candles of a myriad families; The lights of ten thousand homes are on; a myriad twinkling lights (of a city); Night has fallen. [例]1. 当他回到家时,已是万家灯火了。When he got back home, *night has fallen*. 2. 远远望去,万家灯火犹如满天的繁星。Seen from a great distance, *the numerous twinkling lights* looked like twinkling stars studded in the sky.

### 【万箭穿心】

(feel) as if one's heart had been pierced by ten thousand arrows; One's heart ached as if pierced by ten thousand arrows; very greatly distressed; in great distress [例]

吸毒成瘾的人经常会觉得有如万箭穿心。A drug addict often *feels as if his heart were pierced by ten thousand arrows*.

### 【万劫不复】

beyond redemption; doomed eternally; irretrievable [例]事已至此,他的事业已经到了万劫不复的地步了。At this stage, his career is *doomed eternally*.

### 【万籁俱寂】

All sounds are still (hushed); All sounds of nature stopped; A profound silence prevails over all; complete silence of the night; All is quiet; Silence reigns supreme; in the dead of the night; silent as the grave (tomb) [例]雷蒙喜欢独自一个人在万籁俱寂的夜里思考各种各样的问题。Lemon likes musing over different problems *in the dead of the night* alone.

### 【万里长城】

the Great Wall [例]中国的万里长城是世界上最古老的城墙。The Great Wall of China is the oldest wall in the world.

### 【万马奔腾】

Ten thousand steeds gallop; (like) ten thousand horses galloping ahead; go full steam ahead [例]尼亚加拉瀑布如万马奔腾般飞流直下。Niagara Falls come roaring down *like ten thousand horses galloping ahead*.

### 【万念俱灰】

All thoughts (ambitions) are blasted; All hopes are dashed to pieces; be utterly disheartened; tired of earthly life; abandon oneself to despair; be in the slough of despond [例]那个赌徒的妻子万念俱灰,决定一死了之。All the hopes of the gambler's wife *were dashed to pieces* and she decided to kill herself.

### 【万全之策】

a completely safe plan; an absolutely safe

measure; a surefire plan; a perfect scheme; a sure card [例]经过一番周密的思考,乔治终于想出了一个万全之策。Having thought it over, George came up with *a completely safe plan*.

### 【万人空巷】

All the people of the place have turned out to ...; The whole town turns out (to welcome somebody or celebrate some event). [例]今年的灯会很成功,几乎到了万人空巷的地步。The lantern show this year was such a big success that almost *all the people in the town went to visit it*.

### 【万事大吉】

everything propitious (auspicious); Everything is just fine; All is well and propitious; Everything is in order; everything opportune; Time and tide are favorable; with (the sun of) fortune smiling; Everything goes off without a hitch; on top of the wadd [例]只要你母亲不反对就万事大吉了。Everything will be fine so long as your mother makes no objection to it.

### 【万事亨通】

Everything runs smoothly; Everything is prosperous and successful; Everything goes well; sail before (with) the wind; on top of the world [例]祝您来年万事亨通! I wish you *every luck* in the coming year!

### 【万事俱备,只欠东风】

All is ready, but there is no east wind; Everything is ready, and all that we need is an east wind; All is ready except what is crucial. [例]婚礼就要开始了,可是新娘还没到,这可真是万事俱备,只欠东风。The wedding ceremony is going to start, but the bride hasn't arrived yet. So *all is ready except what is crucial*.

### 【万寿无疆】

(wish somebody) a long life; long live forever; Many happy returns of the day to eternity. [例]父亲过生日时,肯尼祝他万寿无疆。On his father's birthday, Kenny wished him *a long life*.

### 【万水千山】

ten thousand crags and torrents; a myriad of rivers and thousands of hills; a long and arduous journey; the trials of a long journey; far apart [例]几年来,他踏遍了祖国的万水千山,拍下了无数张珍贵的照片。In the past years, he went through *ten thousand crags and torrents* in the country and took numerous valuable photographs.

### 【万死不辞】

not to shrink from a myriad deaths; willing to risk any danger to help; not to recoil from death; willing to risk any danger to do one's duty [例]卢卡斯是个很讲义气的人。为了帮朋友的忙,他愿意赴汤蹈火,万死不辞。Lucas is a person so loyal to his friends that he is *willing to risk any danger to help* his friends.

### 【万无一失】

have ten thousand tries without one miss; surefire; perfectly safe; one hundred percent safe; cannot fail under any circumstances; no risk at all; not a chance of an error; no danger of anything going wrong; he on the safe side; (as) safe as houses (anything, the Bank, the Bank of England) [例]请你把这份机密文件放在银行的保险箱里,确保万无一失。Please put the confidential paper in the bank's safe so as to make sure that it will *be one hundred percent safe*.

### 【万象更新】

Everything is fresh again; Everything looks fresh and gay; Everything takes on a completely new look. [例]春天来了,万物

复苏,祖国大地一片万象更新的景象。  
Spring comes again and *everything looks fresh and gay* all over the country.

#### 【万众一心】

Ten thousand people are of one heart; millions of people are all of one mind; millions of people united as one man; all united in one purpose; united as one; all of one heart; with one heart and one mind [例]1997年,全中国人民万众一心、齐心协力与洪水作斗争。In 1997, all the Chinese people were *united in one purpose* to fight against the floods.

#### 【万紫千红】

innumerable flowers of purple and red; a riot (blaze, profusion) of colour [例]植物园里百花盛开,万紫千红。In the botanical garden, flowers of all sorts are blooming in *a riot of colour*.

#### 【汪洋大海】

a vast expanse of water (of the sea); boundless seas; a mighty ocean; big seas [例]小船在汪洋大海中孤零无依地漂泊了三天。The boat drifted helplessly for three days in the *boundless sea*.

#### 【亡命之徒】

ruffian; gangster; badman; refugees from justice; fugitive; a person ready to do any reckless act; desperado [例]从监狱逃出来以后,刘易斯就成了一个亡命之徒。Lewes became *a fugitive* when he escaped from prison.

#### 【亡羊补牢】

mend the fold after a sheep is lost; mend the fold after the sheep have been stolen; learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones; It's never too late to mend.

#### 【王公贵人】

the nobility; the aristocracy; noblemen; aristocrats; nobles [例]在封建社会,王公贵人过着奢侈的生活。In feudal so-

ciety, *the nobles* all lived in luxury.

#### 【王孙公子】

aristocrat; descendants of the nobility; blue-blooded young men

#### 【王子犯法,庶民同罪】

If a prince violates the law, he must be punished like an ordinary person; Anyone, no matter who he is, who violates the law must be dealt with according to the law; All men are equal in the eyes of the law.

#### 【网开一面】

leave one side of the net open; a net open on one side; give wrongdoers a way out; purposely give the offenders a chance to turn over a new leaf; give lenient treatment to sb. [例]法律面前人人平等,绝不允许对任何人网开一面。All men are equal in the eyes of the law and no one shall be given *a way out*.

#### 【枉费工夫】

waste one's time; waste one's time and energy [例]这件事不会有结果的,你就别枉费工夫了。Nothing will come of it, so please don't *waste your time and energy* on it.

#### 【枉费时日】

waste one's time

#### 【枉费心机】

waste one's efforts; waste one's labour; rack one's brains in vain; try in vain to...; have had all one's pains for nothing; go on a wild goose chase; flog a dead horse [例]我试图阻止我弟弟一个人出去旅游,可是枉费心机。I *tried in vain* to dissuade my younger brother from taking a trip alone.

#### 【惘然若失】

feel disturbed as if having lost something; feel lost; look blank; wear a blank look; be all adrift [例]最近我跟她说话的时候

候,她老是惘然若失,不知道她到底出了什么事。Recently, when I speak to her, she always wears a *blank look*. I wonder what on earth has happened to her.

#### 【妄自菲薄】

underestimate oneself for no reason; improperly belittle oneself; look down upon oneself; think lightly of oneself; undervalue oneself; underestimate one's capabilities; have a sense of inferiority; inferiority complex [例]我们要自信,不要妄自菲薄。We must be self-confident instead of *underestimating ourselves*.

#### 【妄自尊大】

have too high an opinion of oneself; be self-important; be self-conceited; be overbearing; have a sense of superiority; be eaten up with pride; be puffed up with self-importance; give oneself airs; think no small beer of oneself; get (grow) too big for one's boots; have (suffer from) a swollen head [例]我真受不了杰奎琳那副妄自尊大的样子。I really cannot put up with Jacqueline who always *has too high an opinion of herself*.

#### 【忘恩负义】

forget sb.'s kindness and turn one's back upon him in return; be ungrateful; devoid of all gratitude; turn on one's friend; ingratitude; feel no obligation to a benefactor; bite the hand that feeds one; kick down the ladder [例]那个忘恩负义的家伙居然把自己的养母赶出了家门。The man *was so ungrateful* that he even drove his foster mother away from home.

#### 【忘年交】

a friendship in which the difference of years is forgotten; friendship between generations; intergenerational friendship; friends despite great difference in age

[例]自从在地震中幸存下来以后,他们就成了忘年交。They have been *good friends despite great difference in their age* since they both survived the earthquake.

#### 【忘乎所以】

be so excited that one forgets what he should do; forget oneself in one's elation; lose all bearings in a moment of pride and satisfaction; get a swollen head; be carried away [例]得知自己已经被北京大学录取了,那女孩都有点忘乎所以了。Upon hearing that she had been admitted into Beijing University, the girl almost *forgot herself in a moment of excitement*.

#### 【望尘莫及】

see the dust raised by a person ahead but be unable to overtake him; so far behind that one can only see the dust of the rider ahead; too inferior to bear comparison; cannot catch up with ...; fall far behind; hopelessly behind; be a far cry from ...; can't (is not fit to) hold a candle to [例]她的英语水平这么高,让我们望尘莫及。Her English is so good that we *can never catch up with her*.

#### 【望穿秋水】

gaze anxiously till one's eyes are worn out; strain one's eyes by gazing; eagerly await; look forward to with impatient expectancy; expect to see somebody who never comes; yearn for; crave for [例]海伦娜望穿秋水,等了她丈夫二十年。Helena *has been waiting anxiously for* the return of her husband for twenty years.

#### 【望而却步】

shrink back at the sight of (something dangerous, difficult); direct one's eyes upon ... and step back; flinch; halt in face of [例]排队买电影票的人太多了,令我望而却步。I *shrank back at the sight of* such a long queue waiting to buy

film tickets.

**【望而生畏】**

be terrified (awed) by the sight of ...; be daunted at the sight of ...; awe - inspiring; inspire awe even from a distance; stand in awe (of) [例]那只凶猛的猎豹令人望而生畏。The ferocious leopard *inspires awe even from a distance*.

**【望风而逃】**

flee at the mere sight of (the oncoming force); run away at the rumour of the approach of ...; flee before somebody; turn tail at the mere rustle of a leaf [例]敌人得知我军已占领南京,望风而逃。The enemy *fled at the rumour that our army had seized the City of Nanjing*.

**【望梅止渴】**

quench one's thirst by thinking of plums; look at plums to quench one's thirst; quench one's thirst by watching plums; vain hopes; imagined satisfaction; console oneself with false hopes; feed on fancies [例]珍妮想当影星的梦想只是望梅止渴而已。Jeanne's dreams about being a movie star are nothing but *a vain hope*.

**【望文生义】**

take the words too literally; interpret without real understanding; give a strained interpretation without understanding [例]英语课上,我对这个句子望文生义的解释令同学们忍俊不禁。In the English class, *my interpretation of the sentence without real understanding* provoked the whole class into laughter.

**【望闻问切】**

look, listen, question and feel the pulse - four ways of diagnosis [例]中医看病的方法主要是望闻问切。Looking, listening, questioning and feeling a patient's pulse are the four major ways of diagnosis for a practitioner of Chinese medicine.

**【望洋兴叹】**

lament one's littleness before the vast ocean; gaze at the ocean and complain of its infinitude; bemoan one's inadequacy in the face of a great task; feel inadequate and frustrated; feel powerless and frustrated; view with despair the vast work to be done

**【望子成龙】**

long to see one's son become a dragon; hope one's children will have a bright future; hold high hopes for one's child; have great ambitions for one's child [例]望子成龙并不是件坏事,但是父母不能过分压制孩子爱玩的天性。It's nothing bad for parents to *hold high hopes for their children*, but it's really bad if they try to suppress a child's nature of loving to have fun.

**【危机四伏】**

A crisis of dangers lurks in four corners; Crises occur here and there; be threatened by growing crises; beset with crises; crisis - ridden [例]在危机四伏的敌占区,我地下党员成功地完成了侦察任务。In the *crisis - ridden enemy - occupied area*, the underground Communist Party member accomplished the task of gathering intelligence about the enemy.

**【危言耸听】**

exaggerate things just to scare people; say frightening things just to raise an alarm; make an inflammatory statement; statement in order to create a sensation; an alarmist talk; raise a false alarm [例]"你别危言耸听了,离期末考试还有三个月呢!"说完这些,吉米拿起篮球就走了。"Don't try to *scare me by exaggerating things*. There're three months before the final examinations." With these words, Jimmy took the basketball and went

out.

**【危在旦夕】**

The danger lies between morning and evening - death is imminent; be in deadly danger; be in imminent danger; be on the verge of death (destruction); One's hour has come; at death's door; at the last gasp [例]飞机出现了故障,机上的乘客危在旦夕。There was something wrong with the plane and all the passengers were on the verge of death.

**【威风凛凛】**

majestic - looking; of awe - inspiring appearance; with great dignity; awful air; dignified manners [例]人民解放军威风凛凛地走过天安门,接受国家领导人的检阅。The People's Liberation Army walked past the Tian'anmen Square with great dignity for their inspection by the leaders of our country.

**【威迫利诱】**

compel by threat and lure with money; intimidate by force and beguile with money; practice intimidation and bribery; coerce and coax; combine threats with inducements; alternate intimidation and bribery; resort to all kinds of threats and inducements; by carrot and stick [例]敌军军官妄想凭借威迫利诱的手段使方志敏屈服。The enemy officer tried in vain to make Fang Zhimin surrender by a combination of the carrot and the stick.

**【威武不屈】**

not bow to pressure; not submit to force; not be subdued by force; Neither threats nor force can bend him; firm and unyielding [例]他威武不屈,宁死不降。Neither threats nor force can bend him and he would rather die than surrender.

**【威震天下】**

inspire awe throughout the country; One's

majesty is felt throughout the whole country; hold the world in awe; win world-wide renown; known far and wide for [例]这位大侠武功超群、威震天下。The fighting skill of the chivalrous man excels all and he *inspires awe throughout the country*.

**【微不足道】**

so small that it is not worth mentioning; not worth mentioning; insignificant; inconsiderable; trivial matters hardly worth mentioning; paltry; negligible; knee-high to a mosquito; cut no figure; peanuts [例]进入大学以后我才认识到,相比其他同学而言,我所学的那点知识简直是微不足道。It was only after I had entered university that I realized that, compared with the other students, my knowledge was *barely nothing worth mentioning*.

**【微服私行】**

travel disguised as a commoner in plain clothes; (of officials) go and inspect in disguise; travel incognito [例]清朝的乾隆皇帝曾几次去江南微服私行。Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty travelled disguised as a commoner in plain clothes to the south of the Yangtze River for several times.

**【微乎其微】**

very little; minute; very insignificant; negligible in quantity; next to nothing; peanuts [例]虽然他个人的力量微乎其微,但是十几年来,他一直坚持在荒山上植树。Although his personal strength was *very little*, he persisted in planting trees on the barren hill.

**【巍然屹立】**

stand (rise) majestically like a mountain; stand impressively high like a mountain; stand as firm as a rock; stand lofty and

firm; tower over; stand rock - firm [例] 这真是个奇迹, 茫茫沙漠之中竟巍然屹立着一棵大树。It is really a wonder that a big tree *stands firm* in the midst of the desert.

### 【为非作歹】

do evil; do all sorts of evil; perpetrate all kinds of evils; break the law; commit crimes; carry on misdeeds; engage in lawlessness [例] 为非作歹的人应该受到严厉的惩罚。Those who *break the law* should be severely punished.

### 【为富不仁】

The rich are not benevolent; be rich and cruel (heartless); be one of the heartless (unscrupulous) rich [例] 在旧中国, 许多地主为富不仁, 激起了农民们的强烈不满。In the old China, many landlords *were both rich and cruel*, which caused strong dissatisfaction among the farmers.

### 【为人师表】

be a model for others; be a model of virtue for others [例] 作为一名教师, 在学生面前为人师表是很重要的。As a teacher, it's very important for him to be a *model for his students*.

### 【为所欲为】

do as one pleases; do whatever one likes; do whatever one wants to; act wilfully; be free to do what one likes; have (get) one's own way; have (take) one's full swing [例] 从小就为所欲为的人将来是不会有出息的。A child who always *gets his own way* will not have a promising future.

### 【违法乱纪】

violate the law and discipline; break laws and violate discipline; offences against law and discipline; violations of the law and breaches of discipline [例] 我们要坚决打击违法乱纪的行为。We should take

strong measures against *violations of the law and breaches of discipline*.

### 【违心之言】

words uttered against one's conscience; insincere talk; statement contrary to one's inner belief; utterances contrary to right [例] 弗兰克对自己前天在会上所说的违心之言深感歉疚。Frank felt deeply sorry for *what he had said against his conscience* the day before yesterday at the meeting.

### 【围魏救赵】

besiege Wei to rescue Zhao; relieve the State of Zhao by besieging the State of Wei; relieve the besieged by besieging the base of the besiegers; relieve the besieged ally by attacking the home base of the besiegers

### 【惟妙惟肖】

absolutely lifelike; be imitated to perfection; be so ingeniously imitated as to look exactly like the original; be the very image of; almost identical with; with minute exactitude; be true to life; fit to a hair; be in facsimile [例] 齐白石画的虾惟妙惟肖。The shrimps painted by Qi Baishi *are strikingly true to life*.

### 【惟利是图】

after nothing but money; be intent on nothing but profit; be bent solely on profit; be interested only in personal gain; care only for money; put profit - making first; profit - before - everything; profit - grabbing; try to turn everything to one's own advantage; on the make [例] 经商时不能惟利是图, 而应该取财有道。In running a business, one should not *be bent solely on profit*. Instead, one should know how to make money properly.

### 【惟命是从】

attend to every order given; act upon every



order given; be absolutely obedient; always do as one is told; be guided entirely by the orders of ...; follow the dictates of others; at sb.'s disposal; be moulded like a wax; do one's bidding; be at one's beck and call; be under one's thumb; dance to one's tune [例]迪尔是个对太太惟命是从的人。Dill is *absolutely obedient* to his wife.

### 【惟我独尊】

hold none but oneself in respect; extremely conceited; overweening; assume an air of self-importance; terribly self-conceited; supremacy over all; overlordship; have too high an opinion of oneself; think no small beer of oneself [例]科顿目空一切、惟我独尊。Cotton is so *self-conceited* that he looks down upon everyone else except himself.

### 【委曲求全】

compromise out of consideration for the general interest; make concessions to achieve one's purpose; yield ground for the sake of a solution; stoop in order to accomplish something; suffer a wrong for the sake of the general interest; meet one more than halfway [例]为了孩子能有个完整的家,她只能委曲求全,维持这段并不幸福的婚姻。She had to *make concessions and maintain* her unhappy marriage with her husband *in order that* her child could have an intact family.

### 【娓娓动听】

be pleasing to the ear; speak with absorbing interest; talk in an impressive way; smooth-spoken; rattle out the most attractive rhetoric; a very plausible way of talking [例]李明娓娓动听地叙述了他那次在云南历险的经历。Li Ming *talked vividly* about his adventure in Yunnan.

### 【娓娓而谈】

talk volubly; talk familiarly on and on; talk effusively [例]说到象棋,陈先生可以娓娓而谈。Mr. Chen can *talk familiarly on and on* about Chinese chess.

### 【萎靡不振】

spiritless; dispirited; dejected and apathetic; downcast; in low spirits; feel (look) blue; have one's heart in one's boots [例]这次考试的失利使得他萎靡不振。His failure in the examination made him *in low spirits*.

### 【唯唯诺诺】

mumble "yes, yes"; say "yes, yes" repeatedly; be a yes-man; be obsequious; servile; with servility; agree with everything that is said to one [例]凯茜对她的丈夫总是唯唯诺诺。Kathy is a submissive wife who always *says yes to everything* her husband says.

### 【为国捐躯】

lay down one's life for one's country; die for one's country [例]许多仁人志士在抗战期间为国捐躯。Many people with high ideals *died for their country* during the Anti-Japanese War.

### 【为虎添翼】

add wings to a tiger; give wings to a tiger; lend support to evildoers; assist an evildoer; add to the power of a tyrant to do evil [例]欧文为虎添翼,纵容毒贩将大量海洛因带出边境。Irvin *assisted* the drug dealer by conniving at his crossing the border with a large amount of heroin.

### 【为虎作伥】

hulp a tiger victimize people; help a tiger to pounce on its victims; help a villain to do evil; act as the paws of the tiger; assist an evildoer; play the jackal to the tiger; serve as the enemy's jackal; hold a candle to the devil [例]希尔顿为虎作伥,帮助

珠宝抢劫犯销赃,最终被警方抓获。Hilton helped the robbers to sell the stolen jewels and was eventually arrested by the police.

#### 【为民除害】

get rid of an evil for the people; eliminate a public scourge; do away with the things that are harmful to the people; rid the people of a pest [例]为民除害、除暴安良的英雄人物总是为人们所称道。Those heroes who get rid of the evil and cruel and protect good people are always commended.

#### 【为民请命】

plead for the people; plead in the name of the people; plead for the life of the people [例]哈姆林不畏权势、为民请命,在当地赢得了人们的尊敬和爱戴。Hamlin was not afraid of those in great power and pleaded in the name of the people, so he was loved and held in high esteem by the locals.

#### 【未卜先知】

know without consulting an oracle; know beforehand without casting lots; foresee; have foresight; foretell; predict; prophesy [例]我怎么知道她明天会不会来?我又没有未卜先知的本领。How can I know if she is coming tomorrow? I cannot foresee the future.

#### 【未竟之志】

unaccomplished intention; unrealised ambition [例]为了实现父亲的未竟之志,格雷丝放弃了出国学习的机会,留在国内经营父亲生前留下的公司。In order to realise her father's unrealised ambition, Grace gave up the opportunity of studying abroad and stayed to run the company left by her father before his death.

#### 【未老先衰】

become senile before one's age; get old

before one's age (time); decrepit before old age; older than one's age; prematurely senile [例]由于长期的劳累,芬恩才三十几岁就长了很多白头发,真是未老先衰。Having been working hard for a long time, Finn, who is in her thirties, has a lot of grey hair on her head and looks much older than her actual age.

#### 【未雨绸缪】

get prepared before it rains; take precautions; save against a rainy day; provide against the future; take preventive measures; repair the house before it rains; make hay while the sun shines; cast an anchor to windward; Have thy cloak made for when it begins to rain. [例]吉尔曼未雨绸缪,想要存些钱。Gilman would like to have some money saved against a rainy day.

#### 【位卑言高】

in humble station with high talk; lower orders declaiming on high matters

#### 【味如鸡肋】

The taste is no better than chicken ribs; insipid; Though it is insipid, one loathes to part with it; be of little or no value [例]这篇文章读起来味如鸡肋。The article reads as insipid as a chicken rib tastes.

#### 【味如嚼蜡】

taste like wax; The taste is no better than tallow; It is like chewing wax; insipid; (What they wrote) is quite flat; flat and tasteless; very dull; be as dry as dust [例]这家餐厅的特色菜味如嚼蜡。The specialty of the restaurant tastes no better than tallow.

#### 【畏首畏尾】

fear both the beginning and the end; show fears before and after doing a thing; be overcautious; be full of misgivings; be

frightened all over; excessive fear; be filled with misgivings and fear; worry about this and that; scared (be afraid) of one's own shadow; get (have) cold feet [例] 1. 塞缪尔做什么事都畏首畏尾的。Samuel is *overcautious* in doing everything. 2. 她畏首畏尾的, 真烦人。Her *doubts and hesitations* are really tiresome.

#### 【畏缩不前】

recoil in fear; hang back in face of danger; shrink because of fear; flinch from; hesitate to press forward; get (have) cold feet [例] 一个人不管碰到什么困难, 都不能畏缩不前。One mustn't *shrink back from* any difficulties.

#### 【蔚为大观】

present a splendid sight; be a sight to behold (see); make an impressive sight; It's a grand sight to see! afford a magnificent view [例] 哈里斯使飞机在观众眼前消失的魔术, 蔚为大观。Harris' magic of making the plane disappear before the audience's eyes is a *grand sight to behold*.

#### 【温故知新】

learn something new by studying something old; review the old and learn the new; review what you have learned and know what is new; Reviewing the past helps one to understand the present; gain new insights through restudying old material [例] 身为学生, 你们应该知道温故知新的道理。As students, you should know that you can *learn something new by studying something old*.

#### 【温良恭俭】

gentle, kind, modest and courteous; temperate, kind, courteous and restrained; adopt mild reformism instead of using force in the revolutionary struggle; submissive

#### 【温情脉脉】

full of tender feelings; too soft-hearted [例] 艾丽斯对大卫温情脉脉, 可是大卫却似乎无动于衷。Iris is *full of tender feelings* towards David while David seems not impressed at all.

#### 【温柔敦厚】

gentle and magnanimous; tender and gentle; gentle and kind [例] 这男孩温柔敦厚, 深受女孩子的青睐。The boy is so *gentle and magnanimous* that he finds favour in many girls' eyes.

#### 【温文尔雅】

gentle, cultured and elegant; gentle and cultivated; refined and cultured in manners; with pleasant and courteous behaviour; polished [例] 那位温文尔雅的学者说起话来慢条斯理的。The *gentle and cultured* scholar speaks slowly and unkurriedly.

#### 【文不对题】

The heading and article have nothing to do with each other; irrelevant to the subject; get off the subject; beside the point (mark); wide of the mark [例] 他的回答案不对题, 老师严厉地批评了他。His answer was totally *irrelevant to the question* and the teacher criticised him severely.

#### 【文采风流】

elegant in manner, attitude and speech

#### 【文从字顺】

readable and fluent; clear and idiomatic; clear and smooth; properly worded [例] 你这份求职申请文从字顺, 我认为可以寄给那家电脑公司。Your job application is *clear and smooth*. I think you can mail it to the computer company.

#### 【文房四宝】

"the four precious articles of the writing table" - writing brush, ink stick, ink slab and paper; "the four treasures of the

study" - writing brush, ink stick, ink slab and paper; stationery; writing materials; a writer's four essentials [例]他的书桌上文房四宝样样齐全,由此可见他是个爱好书法的人。From *the writing brushes, ink sticks, ink slab and paper* on his writing table, one can see that he must be a lover of Chinese calligraphy.

#### 【文过饰非】

cover up one's errors; gloss over one's fault; hide (veil, conceal) one's misdeeds; explain away one's mistakes; slur over and excuse one's crimes; varnish errors; whitewash faults [例]一个人犯了错误时,最忌讳的就是文过饰非。If one makes a mistake, the worst choice for him is to try to *gloss it over*.

#### 【文如其人】

The writing mirrors (reflects) the writer; The style is the man; Like author, like book; The house shows the owner. [例]文如其人,你可以从这本小说的风格上猜出它的作者是谁。The *writing mirrors the writer*; you can tell who is the author from the style of the novel.

#### 【文武双全】

possess both literary and martial talents; be well - educated and trained in military exercises; he accomplished with both the pen and the sword; he adept with both the pen and the sword; he well versed in both literature and military affairs; be endowed with civil and military virtues [例]1. 祖国的现代化建设非常需要文武双全的人才。Those who *are accomplished with both the pen and the sword* are greatly needed in constructing modernisation in our country. 2. 霍尔曼既是一位有名的作家,又是一名优秀的击剑运动员,你完全可以说他文武双全。Holman is a well - known writer and an excellent

fencer. You might say he *is adept with both the pen and the sword*.

#### 【文责自负】

The author takes sole responsibility for what he writes; The writer is responsible for the consequences of his articles. [例]文责自负,你不要随意删改我的作品。As the *author of this article, I will take sole responsibility for my views* and you're not allowed to make any changes to it.

#### 【文质彬彬】

elegance and solidity equally combined; balance of outward grace and solid worth; gentle; suave; cultured and refined; elegant and graceful in manners; well - mannered; well - behaved; refined; urbane [例]杰里米戴上这副金丝眼镜,显得文质彬彬的。Jeremy looks quite *elegant and graceful* with the gold - frame spectacles.

#### 【闻风而起】

rise upon catching wind of the news; rise up on hearing the news; go into action without delay; respond immediately to a call; take action as soon as one hears ... ; quick to response [例]听到北方起义以后,全国其他各地的人们也闻风而起。On learning the revolt in the north, people in the other areas of the country also *rose in response*.

#### 【闻风而逃】

escape on getting wind of something; run away upon learning the news; get wind of something and escape [例]听到八路军即将到来的消息以后,敌人闻风而逃。The enemy *ran away upon hearing that* the Eighth Route Army men were coming here soon.

#### 【闻风丧胆】

become terror - stricken (panic - stricken) at the news; he frightened out of one's

wit on hearing ...; tremble with fear on hearing of ...; lose courage when one hears ... [例]在抗日战争期间,这两位普普通通的农民变成了使日本鬼子闻风丧胆的英雄。During the Anti-Japanese War, the two ordinary farmers became great heroes who made the Japanese invaders *tremble with fear at the mere mention of them*.

#### 【闻过则喜】

feel happy when told of one's errors; feel glad to have one's errors pointed out; thankful for being told about one's mistakes; accept somebody's criticism with good grace [例]加登这个人很谦虚的,闻过则喜,所以你不必担心向他提出意见以后他会生气。Garden is very modest and he will *feel happy to have his errors pointed out*. Therefore, you don't have to worry that he will be offended if you put forward some suggestions to him.

#### 【闻鸡起舞】

rise up upon hearing the crow of a rooster and practise with the sword; be roused into action

#### 【闻名不如见面】

Knowing a person by repute is not as good as meeting him face to face; To know a person by repute is not as good as seeing him in the flesh; Knowing someone by his reputation is not as good as meeting him in person.

#### 【闻所未闻】

hear what one has never heard before; unheard-of; never heard of such a thing; have never even heard of it; hear of many strange things that one has hitherto been unaware of; unprecedented; It likes creation. [例]你刚才作的这种解释真是闻所未闻。The explanation you've just made is *never heard - of*.

#### 【刎颈之交】

friends sworn to death; bosom friends who are willing to die for one another; a friendship that would lead persons to die for each other; intimate friendship; sworn friends; bosom friends; Damon and Pythias [例]放心吧。小李和我是刎颈之交,她肯定不会出卖我的。Take it easy. Xiao Li and I are *friends sworn to death* and I'm sure that she won't sell me out.

#### 【稳操胜券】

have full assurance of success; be bound to succeed; be sure to win; Victory is within one's grasp; be in the bag; have the game in one's hands [例]对于下星期三举行的数学竞赛我稳操胜券。I *have full assurance of my success* in the mathematics contest next Wednesday.

#### 【稳如泰山】

as stable (secure, solid, steady) as Mount Tai; as steady as Mount Taishan; standing firmly in place; safe from all danger; as firm as a rock [例]四五个人冲上去想把他扳倒在地,可是他一动不动,稳如泰山。Four or five people rushed up and tried to make him fall down on the ground. However, he was *as firm as a rock* and didn't even move a bit.

#### 【稳扎稳打】

go ahead steadily and strike sure blows; go about things steadily and surely; wage steady and sure struggles; proceed steadily and step by step; slow and steady; play safe [例]你才刚干这行不久,必须稳扎稳打。You're new to the trade and must *go about things steadily and surely*.

#### 【问心无愧】

examine oneself, feeling no shame; feel no qualms upon self-examination; have nothing to be ashamed of; have a clear

conscience; peace of conscience; have nothing on one's conscience [例]我已经尽了全力,我自认为问心无愧。Having tried my best, I think I *have nothing to be ashamed of*.

#### 【瓮中之鳖】

(like) a turtle in a jar; a captive turtle in an earthen jar; something trapped; something bottled up; inescapable situation; caught in a trap; (like) a rat in a hole; a sitting duck [例]啊!这只螃蟹现在成了瓮中之鳖,再也跑不掉了。Ah, the crab is now *like a turtle in a jar*! It has no way to escape.

#### 【瓮中捉鳖】

catch a turtle in the jar; catch turtles in a pot; go after an easy prey; a sure catch; catch a rat in the hole [例]罪犯的藏身之处已经完全被警察包围了,现在要抓他犹如瓮中捉鳖。The place where the criminal hid himself was surrounded by the police on all sides. Thus, if the police wanted to arrest him, it would be as easy as *catching a rat in a hole*.

#### 【我行我素】

stick to one's old way of doing things; persist in one's old way (no matter what others say); do things one's own way; go (take, have, get) one's own way; go (gang) one's own gait [例]达芙妮总是我行我素,从不考虑别人的感受。Daphne always *does things her own way* without ever thinking about how others may feel.

#### 【卧榻之侧,岂容他人鼾睡】

How can an outsider be allowed to sleep beside my bed? How can one tolerate others encroaching on one's preserve?

#### 【卧薪尝胆】

sleep on brushwood and taste gall; lie on faggots and taste gall; nurse vengeance; endure hardships to accomplish some am-

bition; in determination for revenge; inure self for future trials; put up with an insult in order to take revenge; undergo self-imposed hardships so as to strengthen one's resolve to wipe out a national humiliation; eat (swallow) the leek [例]自从上次比赛失利以后,埃文斯一直在卧薪尝胆,积极投入训练,准备明年东山再起。Since he lost in the last game, Evans has been *enduring hardships* by throwing himself into training so as to stage a comeback next year.

#### 【握手言欢】

shake hands and chat away cheerfully; hold hands and make up; greet someone with a hearty handshake; shake hands to show affection; bury the hatchet [例]在我们的帮助下,这两个好朋友终于消除了误会,握手言欢了。With our help, the misunderstanding between the two good friends was cleared up and they *shook hands and made up*.

#### 【乌合之众】

a crowd assembled like crows; a mob; a disorderly crowd; rabble; an undisciplined band; a gathering of gangsters; a motley crowd; sheep without a shepherd [例]警方驻扎在大楼四周,以防止这群乌合之众找麻烦。The police were stationed around the building to prevent *the motley crowd* to make trouble.

#### 【乌烟瘴气】

black smoke and pestilential vapours; lie-foul the atmosphere; pestilential atmosphere; a foul atmosphere; pandemonium; (throw) everything into confusion; chaotic; smoky [例]那个厂长把厂子搞得乌烟瘴气的。The manager gave the factory *a foul atmosphere*.

#### 【污泥浊水】

filth and mire; filthy mire; the mire [例]

连续下了几天暴雨之后,原本平整的操场现在满是污泥浊水。After the storm lasted a few days, the playground which was quite neat is now just a *filthy mire*.

【巫山云雨】

Wushan's clouds and rain - said of having sexual intercourse; unite in sexual intercourse

【呜呼哀哉】

Alas! Oh what a pity! dead and gone; All is lost; How sorrowful! Woe is me! breathe one's last; kick the bucket; (as) dead as mutton [例]他还没等到梦想变成现实就呜呼哀哉了。He *breathed his last* before his dreams came true.

【无边无际】

boundless; limitless; infinite; vast; unlimited [例]无边无际的大草原上,一群群绵羊在悠闲地吃着草。Groups of sheep are grazing in a leisurely manner on the prairie of which you can see no limits.

【无病呻吟】

moan and groan without being ill; groan while not in real pain; make a fuss about an imaginary illness; make a fuss about nothing; pain without cause; baseless anxiety; adopt a sentimental pose [例]当科妮莉亚的家人发现她其实是无病呻吟的时候,便都不理睬她了。When Cornelia's family members found that she was actually *moaning and groaning without being really ill*, they no longer paid any attention to her.

【无底洞】

a bottomless pit; abyss; insatiable desires; something that can never be filled up [例]把钱花在抽烟喝酒上就如同把钱丢进了无底洞。Spending money on smoking and drinking is nothing better than throwing money into a *bottomless pit*.

【无的放矢】

aimless shooting; shoot an arrow without a target; shoot at random; aimless and fruitless; let fly at nothing

【无地自容】

have no place to hide oneself; find nowhere to hide oneself for shame; look for (seek) a hole to crawl into; feel too ashamed to show one's face; One wishes one could sink through the ground for shame; have not a leg to stand on [例]听到老师在班上批评他,科迪的脸腾地就红了,觉得简直无地自容。Hearing that the teacher was criticising him, Cody blushed with embarrassment and *wished that he could sink through the ground for shame*.

【无动于衷】

unmoved; aloof and indifferent; untouched; unconcerned; he dead (lost) to all feeling; with nonchalance; without compunction; be hardened to; turn a deaf ear to; stand by [例]莉塔告诉她丈夫说她肚子很疼,可他只是无动于衷地看了她一眼。When Leta told her husband that she had a bad stomach ache, he looked at her *with nonchalance*.

【无毒不丈夫】

He who does not resort to violent treachery when it is necessary is not a true man; To become somebody requires ruthlessness; A real man lacks not in venom; Ruthlessness is the mark of a truly great man.

【无独有偶】

not come singly but in pairs; It is not unique, but has its double; It happens that there is a similar case; not alone, but with a good prototype; not alone, but with company; It is not unique, but has its counterpart. [例]小王家的隔壁邻居是个古怪的老头儿。无独有偶,我家的

隔壁邻居也是这样一个人。Xiao Wang's next-door neighbour is an eccentric old man. And it happens that my next-door neighbour is a similar case.

### 【无恶不作】

stop at no evil; There is no crime of which one is not guilty; commit all sorts of crimes (atrocities); do every imaginable evil; be as wicked as possible; One's evil doings know no limits. [例]那个无恶不作的歹徒最终被判处死刑。The scoundrel who had committed all manner of crimes was eventually sentenced to death.

### 【无法无天】

defy laws human and divine; think nothing of either man-made or divine laws; be absolutely lawless; One's madness knows no bounds; stop at nothing in breaking the law; run wild and stir up trouble; devil-may-care; licentious; unruly; rampant; outrageous; run riot [例]有些年轻人仗着自己的父母是政府官员,经常大吃大喝,无法无天。Some young people, thinking that they can rely on their parents who are government officials, often eat and drink extravagantly and have absolutely no respect for the law.

### 【无风不起浪】

There are no waves without wind; Nothing comes of nothing; There is no smoke without fire. [例]“无风不起浪嘛!”马丽莎神秘地笑了一下,说道,“她要是没做过那事儿,人家怎么会说她呢?” “There is no smoke without fire,” said Malisa with a mysterious smile on her face, “If she hadn't done it, how would people have talked about her?”

### 【无功受禄】

get a reward without deserving it; get a reward without real achievement; do nothing

to deserve the favor [例]如果我收下你给我的这笔钱,那我就是无功受禄了。If I take the money you give me, it means I get a reward without deserving it.

### 【无关大局】

not affect the general situation; have no effect on the overall situation; have no bearing on the overall situation; do not matter very much; of no great importance; of little account; insignificant; a side issue [例]反正今天公司停电,大家放假一天也无关大局。It won't matter very much if we all have one day off as the electricity is cut off today in our company.

### 【无关痛痒】

do not make one feel painful or itchy; of no importance; of no concern; be completely indifferent to; (of remarks) irrelevant (pointless); (of comments) without any bite; superficial [例]他那无关痛痒的自我批评引起了大家的反感。We are all disgusted with his superficial self-criticism.

### 【无官一身轻】

One feels carefree when he is relieved of official duties; happily withdrawn from office; It is blessing to hold public office no more (to be no more an official); Out of office, out of care; Far from court, far from care.

### 【无后为大】

Having no male heir is the gravest of the three cardinal offences against filial piety.

### 【无稽之谈】

baseless gossip; unfounded talk; fiction; pack of nonsense; yarns; a fishy story; sheer nonsense; a tale of a tub; a latrine rumor; a cock-and-bull story; traveller's tale [例]真是无稽之谈!我和她认都不认识,怎么可能和她一起去北京呢? Sheer nonsense! I don't know



her at all. How was it possible for me to go to Beijing together with her?

#### 【无计可施】

without any plan that might be used; utterly without resources; There is nothing one can do; feel helpless; be at a loss as to what to do; can see no way out of the difficulty; be at one's wits' end; at the end of one's tether; be up the creek (without a paddle) [例]看到公司出现严重亏损,作为总经理的他却无计可施,回天乏术。Knowing that the company had a great deficit, he, as the general manager, felt helpless and could do nothing to save the situation.

#### 【无济于事】

of no help to the matter; It does not help the matter; useless; unhelpful; That won't help things at all; of no avail; to no effect; a grain of wheat in a bushel of chaff [例]无论这个医生多么努力地去抢救那个病人,但无济于事,病人最后还是死了。No matter how hard the doctor tried to rescue the patient, it was of no avail - the patient died anyway.

#### 【无家可归】

have no home to go (return to); without a home to go back to; homeless; wander about (without a home to go to); roofless; without a roof; no roof over one's head [例]虽然我现在还没有找到工作,可至少我还不是个无家可归的人。Although I haven't found a job yet, at least I have a roof over my head.

#### 【无价之宝】

priceless treasure; invaluable asset; a treasure that money won't buy; above (beyond, without) price; be all the world to somebody [例]真诚的友谊是无价之宝,是用钱买不到的。Sincere friendship is an invaluable treasure that money

won't buy.

#### 【无坚不摧】

Nothing is hard enough not to be destroyed; No bulwarks are impregnable; capable of destroying any stronghold; be all-conquering; invincible; overrun all fortifications; carry all before one [例]芝加哥公牛队无坚不摧,最终以 105:98 击败了洛杉矶湖人队。Chicago Bulls was invincible and finally beat Los Angeles Lakers 105 to 98.

#### 【无精打采】

depressed; listless; dejected; dispirited and discouraged; languid; feel slack; in low spirits; in the blues; get (have) the blues; out of heart (spirits, humour, sorts) [例]整个下午,他都无精打采的。He looked dispirited all the afternoon.

#### 【无拘无束】

unconstrained; unrestrained; unfettered; be free to do as one likes; remain free; make oneself at home; free and easy; have one's full swing; foot loose and fang-free [例]他们希望能过上一种无拘无束的生活。They hope that they can live a life without any restraint.

#### 【无可比拟】

incomparable; There is nothing comparable to this; matchless; unparalleled; peerless beyond (past, without) compare [例]他在原子能研究上所取得的成果是无可比拟的。The achievement he has made in the study of the atomic energy is unparalleled.

#### 【无可非议】

blameless; irreproachable; above criticism; without rebuke; nothing to object to; unobjectionable; unimpeachable; not to blame; above (beyond) reproach [例]她昨天在会上所作的发言无可非议,

你没有理由扣她的奖金。What she said yesterday at the meeting was *above reproach* and you had no grounds to deduct part of her bonus.

### 【无可否认】

There is no denying it; It cannot be denied that ...; It is not to be denied that ...; There is no denying; undeniable [例]他在工作上所取得的成绩是无可否认的,但是这并不表明他在公司里有为所欲为的特权。It cannot be denied that he has made great achievements in his work, but that doesn't mean that he has the privilege to do whatever he likes in the company.

### 【无可厚非】

cannot fault much; be not altogether inexcusable; give no cause for much criticism; not entirely blameworthy; There is nothing to be said against ...; not to blame; above reproach [例]1. 这本书本来就是你的,你不借给他也无可厚非。The book is yours and you are *not to blame* for not lending it to him. 2. 考夫曼很想赚大钱。这种想法本来无可厚非,可问题是他常常采用不合法的手段赚钱。There is nothing to be said against Kaufman's wish to make a fortune, but the problem is that he often employs illegal means to make money.

### 【无可奈何】

Nothing can be done; have no alternative (choice) but ...; helpless; against one's will; have no way out; be reluctant to; There is no help for it; be forced (compelled, obliged) to ... [例]托马斯在咖啡馆等了她五个小时,可她还是没有出现,后来他只好无可奈何地离开了。Thomas had been waiting for her at the cafe for five hours, but she didn't turn up at all. Later, he *had no alternative but to*

leave.

### 【无可奈何花落去】

Flowers will die, do what one may.

### 【无可无不可】

not care one way or another; uncertain; without any preconceived ideas; indecisive; indifferent; nonchalant [例]托比是个沉默寡言的人,以至于人们对他的存在持无可无不可的态度。Toby is so reticent that people *don't care whether he is present or not*.

### 【无可置疑】

cannot be doubted; indubitable; unquestionable; out of doubt; undoubted; without (beyond, no) doubt; above suspicion; beyond (past) all dispute [例]你可以对他的能力表示怀疑,但是他诚实的品质是无可置疑的。You can doubt his ability, but his honesty *cannot be doubted*.

### 【无孔不入】

There is no opening into which he does not enter - of one who is skilful in intrigue; leave no hole unfilled; seize every opportunity; let slip no chance; penetrate everywhere; be all - pervasive; get in by every opening; poke into every nook and corner; by hook or by crook; have a finger in every pie [例]1. 冬夜里,无孔不入的寒意使得他彻夜难眠。On winter nights, the chill *penetrated everywhere*, which made him lie awake all night. 2. 索菲娅这个人无孔不入,哪里有有钱人,她就往哪里钻。Sophia would *let slip no chance* to get access to the rich.

### 【无理取闹】

make trouble groundlessly; kick up a row for no reason; unreasonable quarrelling; make trouble out of nothing; find fault with somebody for no reason; refuse to listen to reason; utter nonsense and make trouble; frivolous quibbling; mischief - making; be

deliberately provocative [例]她盯着这个无理取闹的孩子,随后便砰的一声关上了门。She stared at the child who *kicked up a row for no reason* and then shut the door with a bang.

### 【无米之炊】

cook a meal without rice; Lacking the necessary materials, one cannot accomplish one's intentions; make bricks without straw [例]巧妇难为无米之炊。No housewife can *cook a meal without rice*.

### 【无面目见江东父老】

feel ashamed to see again people of one's hometown; too ashamed to go back home to see one's elders [例]当他得知自己高考落榜时,他感觉自己简直再无面目见江东父老。When he got to know that he failed in the college entrance examination, he *felt so ashamed that he couldn't bear to see people of his hometown again*.

### 【无名小卒】

a cipher; a man of no mark; nonentity; a nobody; a mere nobody; a nothing [例]他只是个无名小卒而已,你不必把他放在眼里。He is *a nobody* and you don't have to think too much about him.

### 【无名英雄】

a nameless hero; an unknown hero; an unsung hero [例]为了纪念那些在解放战争中英勇牺牲的无名英雄们,我国政府特地建造了这座纪念碑。Our government built the monument specially to commemorate *those unknown heroes* who died during the War of Liberation.

### 【无能为力】

incapable of action; cannot do anything to help; powerless; helpless; beyond (out of) one's power; can do nothing about [例]虽然当地政府请了一位有名的环境专家来治理这条遭到严重污染的河流,可是他对此也无能为力。Although

the local government asked a well-known environmentalist to clean the seriously polluted river, he *could do nothing* to improve it.

### 【无奇不有】

Nothing is too strange (bizarre); all sorts of conceivable fantasies; strange things of every description; Pigs might fly. [例]那条马路当时被称为“神秘之街”,人行道上无奇不有。The street was then called “the mysterious street”, and *strange things of every description* may happen there.

### 【无巧不成书】

There is no story without coincidences; What a coincidence! as luck would have it [例]真是无巧不成书,你刚走他就来找你了。As *luck would have it*, the minute you went out, he came here for you.

### 【无穷无尽】

inexhaustible; boundless; limitless; endless; without end (limit); infinite; unending [例]仰望着这无穷无尽的星空,我思绪万千。Looking up at the *boundless* starry sky, a myriad of thoughts crowded into my mind.

### 【无人问津】

No one shows any interest in ...; Nobody cares to ask about ...; has left without anybody to care for it; There were not any buyers; he unwanted; won't sell; go begging [例]这架照相机价格不菲,而且质量不佳,因此至今无人问津。The price of the camera is very high while its quality is quite poor, so *no one has shown any interest in buying it up to now*.

### 【无人之地】

a place where there is no one; a place where no one puts up a resistance [例]那片沙漠是个荒凉的无人之地。The

desert is a place where there is no one.

【无伤大雅】

do not matter much; do not hurt the important essentials; do not affect the whole; involving no major principle; unimportant defects; nothing serious [例]这桌子的颜色跟我们想要的那种不完全一样,不过这无伤大雅。The colour of the table is not the exact one we want, but it *doesn't matter much*.

【无声无息】

without any sound and notice; neither sound nor smell; without any sound; soundless and stirless (motionless); unknown; obscure; accomplish nothing and have no influence on the external world; obscure; of no reputation; be buried in oblivion [例]春天无声无息地来到了我们身边。Spring has come to us *without any sound and notice*.

【无时无刻】

all the time; incessantly; every hour and moment; without a moment's pause; every minute [例]我无时无刻都在思念远在他乡的父母。I've been missing my parents who are far away *all the time*.

【无始无终】

without beginning and ending; lacking beginning and ending; eternity

【无事不登三宝殿】

No one comes to the Hall of Trinity without a reason; never go to the temple for nothing; I wouldn't come to you if I hadn't something to ask of you; would not go to one's place except on business, for help, etc; go with ulterior motive [例]无事不登三宝殿,我是来问你借钱的。No one comes to the Hall of Trinity without a reason. I'm here to borrow money from you.

【无事生非】

make trouble out of nothing; create problems where none exists; make uncalled-for trouble; stir up trouble; kick up a row; start trouble when things are quiet; be deliberately provocative; make much ado about nothing; make the fur fly [例]妈妈不让儿子出去玩,免得他在外面无事生非。The mother doesn't allow her boy to play outside in case that he may *stir up trouble*.

【无所不包】

leave nothing unincluded; all - encompassing; all - embracing; all - inclusive; Everything is contained therein. [例]《大英百科全书》无所不包。The Britannic Encyclopaedia contains everything in it.

【无所不能】

There is nothing that one cannot do; nothing that cannot be done; be capable of doing anything; omnipotent; almighty; all-powerful [例]对回教教徒而言,真主安拉是无所不能的。To a Muslim, Allah is *omnipotent*.

【无所不谈】

talk about everything under the sun; say one's say [例]他们是交往了二十几年的好朋友,对彼此无所不谈。Having been good friends for more than twenty years, they can *talk to each other about everything under the sun*.

【无所不通】

There is nothing one does not understand; There is no feat of which he is not capable.

【无所不有】

Nothing needed is lacking; have everything; have all [例]他是全世界第一大富翁,人人都认为他无所不有。He is the No. 1 rich man in the whole world. As a result, everyone thinks that he *has everything* he wants to have.

## 【无所不在】

omnipresent; ubiquitous [例]在昨天的晚会上,我们深深地感到真情无所不在。At yesterday's evening party, we all deeply felt that sincere sentiments were omnipresent.

## 【无所不知】

There is nothing that one does not know; know everything; know every subject; omniscient [例]“神大概是无所不知、无所不能的吧,”他这样想道。“*There must be nothing that a god does not know or cannot do,*” he thought.

## 【无所顾忌】

have nothing to fear; unscrupulously; hesitate at no act; without scruple; go all lengths; stop at nothing [例]在有些场合无所顾忌地大声议论他人是不礼貌的。It is impolite to talk loud about others without scruple on some occasions.

## 【无所适从】

not know what course to take; not know whom to obey; with no definite plan to follow; be at a loss as to what to do; not know whom to turn to; be at sea [例]第一次登台演出时,他紧张得无所适从,都不知道该把手往哪儿放。When he first went up on the stage, he was so nervous that he was at a loss as to what to do and he didn't even know where his hands should be put.

## 【无所事事】

have nothing to do; do nothing; idle away one's time; be occupied with nothing; be at an idle and; be at a loose end; idle about; fool around [例]暑假期间,苏珊娜无所事事,于是整天在家里玩电脑游戏。During the summer vacation, Susanna had nothing to do, so she played computer games at home all day long.

## 【无所畏惧】

have nothing to fear; be afraid of nothing; fearless; dauntless; undaunted; utterly without fear; bold; daring [例]我们的战士是无所畏惧的。Our soldiers are fearless.

## 【无所作为】

attempt nothing and accomplish nothing; be in a state of inertia; have no high ideals; not inspiring [例]在当今竞争日趋激烈的社会里,无所作为的人最终是要被淘汰的。In nowadays society where competition is becoming more and more intense, those without high ideals will be eliminated in the end.

## 【无往不利】

go everywhere not without being successful; be ever successful; successful in everything attempted; go smoothly everywhere; lucky in every endeavour; carry all before one; All water runs to his mill. [例]瓦伦丁的运气真好,他不管尝试什么都无往不利。Valentine is so lucky that he is successful in everything attempted.

## 【无妄之灾】

unexpected (accidental) calamities (misfortune); undeserved ill turn; an (unfortunate) accident [例]她对十几年前的那次无妄之灾仍然记忆犹新。The unexpected calamity which happened more than ten years ago is still fresh in her memory.

## 【无微不至】

considerate right down to the most trivial detail; never come short in the smallest details; without any detail not taken care of; meticulously; in every possible way; lavish every care on; (attention, influence) reaches everywhere; to the last atom [例]看到她无微不至地照顾她那残疾丈夫,我们被深深地打动了。We were deeply moved when we saw that she metic-

*ulously* took care of her disabled husband.

【无为而治】

govern by doing nothing that goes against nature - the Taoist idea of government [例]古时候有许多政治家主张无为而治。In the old days, many statesmen held the view that a country should be *governed by doing nothing*.

【无隙可乘】

have not yet found openings to exploit; no loophole to exploit; no crack to get in by; leave no room for; no weakness to take advantage of; give one no chance; watertight [例]这座监狱戒备森严,令囚犯无隙可乘。The prison was so heavily guarded that *no prisoners could see any chance* of escape.

【无懈可击】

find no flaw for attack; flawless; with no chink in one's armour; leave no room for criticism; be hard to fault; invulnerable; nothing to object to; unassailable; unimpeachable; (of comments) watertight; beyond criticism; above reproach [例]今晚的芭蕾舞表演简直无懈可击。The ballet tonight is *flawless*.

【无依无靠】

have no one to depend on; have nothing to depend on; with nobody to fall back on; friendless and helpless; be alone in the world; no one to support for living; have nowhere to turn to for help and support; high and dry [例]我们有责任去帮助那些无依无靠的人。We have the responsibility to help those people who *are alone in the world*.

【无以复加】

can add no more; incapable of further increase; nothing more to be added; at its height; have done one's worst; in the height of; not to be surpassed; to the ut-

most; the best (worst) of its kind; in the extreme; to a fault [例]那个连环杀手残忍到了无以复加的地步,他居然连一个月大的婴儿也不放过。The serial killer was *cruel in the extreme*; he even killed a one-month-old baby.

【无影无踪】

without leaving a trace; disappear completely; gone clean; There is no sign of...; Not the least trace is found; vanish (disappear) without a trace (shadow); fly to the winds; vanish into thin air [例]猎人刚要举起枪,那头小鹿就跑得无影无踪。The hunter was about to raise his gun when the little deer *disappeared without a trace*.

【无忧无虑】

totally without worries; without sorrow and anxiety; carefree; free from care; be light-hearted [例]艾米要是能过上无忧无虑的生活那该多好啊! If only Amy could live a life *totally without worries*!

【无与伦比】

incomparable; unique; unparalleled; None can compare with...; There is no comparison with...; without equal; beyond challenge; beyond compare; lick (beat) all creation; head and shoulders above others [例]我们的产品在市场上是无与伦比的。There is *nothing in the market to compare with our product*.

【无缘无故】

for no reason at all; without any cause or reason; for nothing at all; gratuitous; uncalled-for; unprovoked; without rhyme or reason [例]在旧社会,工人经常无缘无故被老板解雇。In the old society, workers were often dismissed by their bosses *for no reason at all*.

【无中生有】

create something out of nothing; purely fictitious; fabricated; manufacture (invent) out of thin air; create groundless rumours; sheer fabrication; a figment of the imagination; trumped up; invented; unfounded; churn out cock - and - bull stories [例]你别信他的!他完全是无中生有! Don't believe what he has said to you! His story is *a sheer fabrication*.

**【无足轻重】**

not fit to be considered; insignificant; of little importance; count for little (nothing); carry no weight; of no account (consequence); kick the beam [例]有些学生不喜欢学习历史和地理,他们觉得这两门课无足轻重。Some students don't like studying history and geography. They *don't think these two courses are of great importance*.

**【毋庸置疑】**

cannot be doubted; indubitable; unquestionable; out of doubt; undoubted; without (beyond, no) doubt [例]台湾是中国领土的一部分,这是毋庸置疑的事实。The fact that Taiwan is a part of China *cannot be doubted*.

**【五谷丰登】**

The harvests of the five grains were plentiful; an abundant harvest of all food crops; a bumper harvest [例]今年对他们来说是个五谷丰登的好年。This year is a good year of *a bumper harvest* to them.

**【五光十色】**

five lights and ten colours; multicoloured; all sorts of colours; (dazzled by) a riot of colours; a kaleidoscope of changing colours; all kinds of; bright with many colours; gay with variegated colors; motley; varicoloured [例]南京路上到处都能看到五光十色的霓虹灯。One can see *all sorts of dazzling* neon lights on

Nanjing Road.

**【五湖四海】**

the five lakes and four seas; everywhere; all corners of the land; all the seas and lakes everywhere [例]我们学校的学生来自五湖四海。The students of our school come from *all corners of the country*.

**【五花八门】**

five flowers and eight colours; multifarious; all kinds of; a great (motley) variety of; miscellaneous; many and manifold; varied and well - assorted; kaleidoscopic; variegated; manifold; various [例]这家百货商店里五花八门的商品看得人眼花缭乱。The *miscellaneous* collection of goods in the department store makes one's eyes dazzled.

**【五马分尸】**

tear a body limb from limb by five horses - a form of death sentence in ancient times; drawn and quartered; dividing up; sharing out

**【五十步笑百步】**

One who retreats fifty paces mocks (laughs at) one who retreats a hundred; a case of one loser mocking another; one flunker ridicules another; be different in degree but the same in essence; the pot calling the kettle black [例]你这是五十步笑百步。你在嘲笑我有多笨之前干嘛不先看看你自己考了几分? You are like *the pot calling the kettle black*. Why don't you look at how many marks you've got in the examination before you tell me how stupid I am?

**【五体投地】**

the five members fall prostrate in obeisance - the hands, the knees and the head touching the ground; deeply admire; hold in great respect; kneel at the feet of;

throw oneself down at somebody's feet in admiration; worship somebody; admire somebody from the bottom of one's heart [例]柯南非常能干,他的同班同学们都对他佩服得五体投地。Conan is so capable that everyone of his classmates *holds him in great respect*.

#### 【五颜六色】

multicoloured; colourful; of various colours; varicoloured [例]公园里五颜六色的花朵开得煞是好看。The *multicoloured* flowers in the garden look very beautiful.

#### 【五脏六腑】

vital organs; the viscera; internal organs of the body (heart, spleen, liver, lungs, kidneys and entrails)

#### 【忤逆不孝】

disobedient and unfilial to parents [例]像你这样忤逆不孝的儿子应该受到社会的谴责。A son who is as *disobedient and unfilial to parents* as you are should be condemned by the society.

#### 【舞文弄墨】

pervert the law by playing with legal phraseology; engage in word - mongering; show off one's literary skills; indulge in fancy writing; write in a showy style; juggle with words; play on words; spread oneself [例]小王很喜欢舞文弄墨、附庸风雅。Xiao Wang is fond of *indulging in fancy writing* and posing as a lover of culture.

#### 【物归旧主】

return something to its rightful owner; return the things lost to the owner; The article has been restored to its owner; The property is reverted to its original owner. [例]这钱包算是物归旧主了,你可别再把它给弄丢了。The *wallet has been returned to you*. Please make sure that you

don't lose it again.

#### 【物换星移】

Things change and the stars move; change of the seasons; passage of time; Things (aspects) of things have changed; Things change with the passing of years. [例]时光流逝,物换星移,一切都在改变。With the flying of time and *the change of the seasons*, everything is changing.

#### 【物极必反】

Things will develop in the opposite direction when they become extreme; Things always reverse themselves after reaching an extreme; A thing turns into its opposite when it reaches the extreme; When a thing reaches its limit, it begins to return; Things turn into their opposites if pushed too far; Once a certain limit is reached, a change in the opposite direction is inevitable; Extremities last not always; No extreme will hold long; The last drop makes the cup run over.

#### 【物尽其用】

make the best use of everything; make the most of things; let all things serve their proper purposes; turn material resources to good account [例]邵经理把公司的业务安排得妥妥当当,使得人尽其才、物尽其用。Manager Shao arranges the company affairs so well that *everybody and everything is put to the best use*.

#### 【物竞天择】

survival of the fittest in natural selection [例]物竞天择、优胜劣汰是自然界永恒不变的规律。It is a perpetual law in nature that *only the fittest can survive in natural selection*, only the superior will be selected and the inferior will be eliminated.

#### 【物伤其类】

All beings grieve for their fellow beings;



Everyone feels for his fellow creatures;  
Like mourns (over) the death of like;  
Like feels for like.

**【物是人非】**

The things are still there but men are no more the same ones.

**【物以类聚】**

Things of the same kind stick together;  
Things of one kind come together; People of similar (bad) taste and habits like to associate with one another; Birds of a feather flock together; Like attracts like; Like draws to like. [例]物以类聚,我们班那几个足球迷总是在一起。The soccer fans in our class are always together. *Birds of a feather flock together.*

**【物以稀为贵】**

When a thing is rare, it becomes precious; A thing is valued in proportion to its rarity; The rarer a thing is, the more it is worth; The worth of a thing is best known by the want of it; Rarity enhances value. [例]世上的人大都喜欢珍宝,可能是因为他们都觉得物以稀为贵吧。Most people in the world are fond of gems. Maybe it is because they all think that *the*

*rarer a thing is, the more it is worth.*

**【误国殃民】**

harm the country and bring calamities on the people; obstruct national affairs and bring woe to the masses [例]“文化大革命”期间,“四人帮”干了许多误国殃民的事。During the Cultural Revolution, “the gang of four” did many things that *both harmed the country and brought calamities on the people.*

**【误人子弟】**

lead young people astray; harm the younger generation; mislead and cause harm to the young men [例]像他这种除了误人子弟什么也不会的老师早就该开除了。A teacher like him who can do nothing but *lead the young students astray* should have been fired long ago.

**【误入歧途】**

be misled into the wrong path; fall by the wayside; fall into a wrong path; be misled; devious; go astray; off the track

**【雾里看花】**

see flowers through a mist; have a blurred vision

## X

## 【西方净土】

(of Buddhism) the happy land in the west; the heavenly paradise

## 【希奇古怪】

strange and eccentric; rare and odd; bizarre; outlandish [例]这本书里讲的都是些希奇古怪的东西,我一点也看不懂。The book is full of *strange and odd* things and I couldn't understand a bit of it.

## 【希世之宝】

rare treasure; a rare gem of the age [例]在上海博物馆收藏的青铜器中,有一些可算是希世之宝。Among the bronze wares collected by the Shanghai Museum, some of them are *rare treasures*.

## 【息事宁人】

let matters rest and people have peace; make concessions to avoid trouble; patch up a quarrel and reconcile disputants; gloss things over to stay on good terms; a policy of compromise to let everybody have peace; pour oil on troubled waters; live and let live [例]为了息事宁人,他不得不把事情的真实公之于世。He had to disclose the truth to the public for the sake of *peace*.

## 【息息相关】

related as closely as each breath is to the next; be closely bound up with; be inseparably linked with; vitally interrelated; interdependent [例]环境问题与人类在地球上的生活息息相关。Environmental problems are *closely bound up with* the life of human beings on the Earth.

## 【惜老怜贫】

cherish the old and care for the poor; be

kind to the old and generous to the poor; pity the aged and the poor [例]这个年老体衰的乞丐要是让我奶奶看见的话,她一定会帮助他的。她这个人最惜老怜贫了。If my granny saw the poor beggar worn out with age, she would certainly help him because she always *has deep sympathy for the old and the poor*.

## 【惜墨如金】

(of a writer, painter, calligrapher) as careful of his ink as if it were gold; regard one's ink as if it were gold; write (paint) sparingly; abstemious in one's use of ink; not write (paint) easily (readily) [例]我真羡慕那些“惜墨如金”的人。I really admire those who are *careful of their ink as if it were gold*.

## 【熙熙攘攘】

a bustle of activity; coming and going in crowd; hubbub; streams of people busily coming and going; he alive with; hustle and bustle [例]南京路不论是平日还是节假日,总是熙熙攘攘,热闹非凡。No matter it is at ordinary times or on some festivals, Nanjing Road is for ever a scene of *hustle and bustle*.

## 【嘻皮笑脸】

grinning cheekily; smiling and grimacing; with a jerky smile; in a noisy, gay and boisterous manner [例]1. 每次我生气的时候,他总是嘻皮笑脸地逗我开心。Every time when I get angry, he always *grins cheekily and makes faces* to me so as to cheer me up. 2. 对那些整天嘻皮笑脸、无所事事的学生你应该严厉一点。You should be stricter with those students who *grin cheekily* and idle about every

day.

【嬉笑怒骂】

make fun of and curse angrily - write freely; light style of humor and abuse

【习惯成自然】

Once you form a habit, it becomes natural to you; Habit makes things natural; Once used, forever a custom; Habit is second nature. [例]讲究卫生并不是一件很难的事,只要你能坚持,慢慢也就习惯成自然了。It's not very difficult for you to pay attention to hygiene. *Once you persevere and form a habit, it will become natural to you.*

【习以为常】

be a matter of common practice; be used to; get (become) accustomed to; habitual; confirmed; frequent [例]朱迪思每天吃完晚饭后都要出去散一个小时的步,她对此已经习以为常了。Judith has got accustomed to going out for a walk for one hour every day after dinner.

【席地而坐】

sit on mats on the ground; sit on the floor; sit on the ground [例]在篝火晚会上,大家席地面坐,又唱又跳,高兴极了。At the campfire party, all of us sat on the ground, singing and dancing. We all had a very good time.

【洗耳恭听】

cleanse the ears and listen reverently; listen respectfully with cleaned ears; listen respectfully; listen with respectful attention; be all ears; prick up one's ears; strain one's ears for; hang on sb.'s lips [例]那位诺贝尔得主演讲的时候,大礼堂里所有的学生都在洗耳恭听。All the students in the auditorium were all ears when the Nobel Prize winner was making a speech.

【洗心革面】

change one's heart and reform; thoroughly reform oneself; start life anew; turn over a new leaf [例]对于犯罪分子,一方面我们要严惩不贷,另一方面我们还应该帮助他们洗心革面。On the one hand, we should punish criminals severely; but on the other hand, we should also help them turn over a new leaf.

【喜不自胜】

be unable to (can hardly) restrain one's joy; delighted beyond measure; be happy beyond words; be in a transport of joy; have overcome with joy; One's delight knows no bounds; be beside oneself with joy [例]得知自己中了头奖,艾达喜不自胜。Knowing that she had won the first prize in the lottery, Ida was overcome with joy.

【喜出望外】

joy beyond all expectations; be pleasantly surprised; be overjoyed (at an unexpected gain, good news, etc.); to one's unexpected delight; One's joy knows no bounds; be beside oneself with joy; beyond one's wildest expectation [例]詹妮弗听说丈夫有可能会升职,不禁喜出望外。Having heard that her husband might get a promotion, Jennifer was beside herself with joy.

【喜从天降】

Happiness comes from Heaven; One's happiness was so unexpected as though it had dropped down from Heaven; a sudden unexpected happy event; an unexpected piece of good fortune [例]一直不抱任何希望的他居然接到了大学录取通知书,这可真是喜从天降。That he, who never entertained any hope, has got a university admission notification was a sudden unexpected happy event.

【喜怒哀乐】

pleasure, anger, sorrow and joy; the

passions; happy or angry, sad or joyous; human emotions; the gamut of human feeling [例]霍莉这个人不善于掩饰自己,她的喜怒哀乐全都表现在脸上。Holly is not a person who is good at concealing her real emotions. Her *pleasure, anger, sorrow and joy* are all shown on her face.

#### 【喜怒无常】

One's joy and anger are unpredictable; be subject to changing moods; be given to capricious moods; (a man) of moods; temperamental [例]菲利克斯这个人喜怒无常,谁也不愿意跟他合作。No one is willing to cooperate with Felix because he is *a man of moods*.

#### 【喜气洋洋】

jubilant; full of joy; cheerful; be bursting with happiness; be radiant with joy [例]新年就要到了,大家脸上都喜气洋洋的。As the new year approaches, everybody looks *cheerful*.

#### 【喜闻乐见】

love to see and hear; be what one would like to see and hear; well liked; preferred; receive with pleasure [例]越剧是许多老年人喜闻乐见的一种艺术形式。Shaoxing Opera is a form of art that many aged people *love to see and hear*.

#### 【喜笑颜开】

be wreathed in smiles; beam with smiles; light up with pleasure; A smile lights up one's face; be all smiles [例]老王看着自己的孙子喜笑颜开。Lao Wang was *all smiles* looking at his grandson.

#### 【喜新厌旧】

prefer the new to the old; love the new and loathe the old; be fond of the new and tired of the old; be fickle in affection; give up the old for the new; (a man) who would discard the old as soon as he had

something new [例]别担心了,你丈夫不是那种喜新厌旧的人。Don't worry. Your husband is not *a man who would discard the old when he finds someone new*.

#### 【喜形于色】

One's happiness is written on his face; an expression of delight on one's face; light up with pleasure; be visibly pleased; look pleased; cheerful; One's face beams with joy. [例]瞧他那喜形于色的样子,肯定是有什么好消息要告诉我们! Look at his face *lit up with pleasure*! He must have some good news to tell us.

#### 【细声细气】

in a soft voice; soft-spoken; gentle-voiced [例]乔治娅说起话来总是细声细气的,深怕吵醒了谁似的。Georgia always speaks *in a soft voice* as if she were afraid of waking someone up.

#### 【细水长流】

Water flowing out in a trickle takes a long time to exhaust; A small stream flows far; economize to avoid running short; plan on a long-term basis; go about sth. little by little without a letup; small but steady income [例]我们俩的工资都不算高,所以我们得学会细水长流。Being not very well-paid, we have to learn to *economize to avoid running short*.

#### 【细针密线】

fine needle and closely wrought threads; work meticulously; delicate and fine needlework; in fine, close stitches [例] 1. 这衣服细针密线的,肯定是个出色的裁缝师傅做的。The dress is *in fine and close stitches*. It must have been made by an excellent tailor. 2. 汉斯工作起来细针密线的,从来也没出过差错。Hans works *in a meticulous way* and has never made even a single mistake.

#### 【细枝末节】

small branches; minor details; nonessentials; side issues; petty matters of no importance; trifles [例]在这样一个关键时刻,我们应该抛开那些细枝末节的问题。At such a critical moment, we should give no consideration to all those *minor details*.

【虾兵蟹将】

shrimp soldiers and crab generals; ineffective army (troops); poorly trained forces; hopeless soldiers; numerous underlings [例]国民党的那些虾兵蟹将根本就不堪一击。The *ineffective troops* of the Kuomintang could not withstand even a single blow.

【瞎子摸鱼】

A blind man gropes for fish; act blindly [例]如果你继续像“瞎子摸鱼”似的干下去的话,我非解雇你不可。If you go on *acting blindly* as if you were a *blind man groping for fish*, I will have to fire you.

【狭路相逢】

(of adversaries) meet face to face on a narrow path; encounter somebody on a narrow path; come into unavoidable confrontation; he squeezed into an ever-shrinking domain; inevitable revenge [例]那两个仇人狭路相逢,分外眼红。When the two foes *met face to face on a narrow path*, their eyes blazed with hatred.

【瑕不掩瑜】

One flaw cannot obscure the splendor of the jade; The flaws do not detract from the jade's essential beauty; Defects cannot obscure virtues; Defects do not outweigh merits; Blemishes do not detract from man's greatness.

【下笔成章】

write something logical, coherent, pre-

sentable, readable, etc. without the need for a draft; have a flowing and agile pen; compose quickly, easily and well without any effort; have a ready pen; write quickly and skillfully; write like an angel [例]像他这样下笔成章的人最适合当记者或是编辑了。A person like him who *writes like an angel* is most suitable to work as a journalist or an editor.

【下笔千言】

Thousands of words flow from one's pen; write quickly; write with amazing speed

【下笔如有神】

write as if with a magic pen; write quickly and powerfully; write like an angel [例]他下笔如有神,不到半个小时就写好了一篇一千来字的社论。He *wrote so quickly and powerfully* that he finished a one - thousand - word editorial in less than half an hour.

【下不为例】

not to be taken as a precedent; not to be repeated; just for once [例]今天是你第一次迟到,我就原谅你一回,不过下不为例。I will forgive you for being late for the first time, but *don't do it again*.

【下车伊始】

the moment one alights from the official carriage; the moment one assumes an official post; on arrival at a new post [例]下车伊始,他就把周围的下属批评了个遍。The *moment he arrived at the new post*, he criticized all the subordinates around him.

【下里巴人】

Song of the Rustic Poor (a folk song of Chu state); popular literature; popular art; a popular song

【下马威】

make one's influence felt upon dismounting from one's horse; severity and power shown

by an official on assuming office; putting on airs right at the beginning of one's office; pull one's rank on [例]这位新局长刚刚上任就给下属来了个下马威。The head of the bureau, upon assuming the office, *pulled his rank on his inferiors.*

#### 【下情上达】

report the conditions at lower levels to the higher authorities; What is going on at the lower level is made known to the higher level; notify the superior of the feelings of the inferiors [例]基层干部应该做到下情上达。As a cadre at the basic level, one should *report the conditions at the lower level to the higher authorities.*

#### 【下逐客令】

order a visitor unceremoniously to get out; ask an unwelcome guest to leave; bid the visitor good-bye at once so as to get rid of him; see someone off the premises; show somebody the door [例]杰森在我们家很没有礼貌,谁也不喜欢他,于是我们决定对他下逐客令。Jason was so impolite at our home that nobody was fond of him, so we decided to *ask him to leave.*

#### 【仙山琼阁】

a jewelled palace in elfland's hills; a jewelled palace on the mountain of the immortals; a dreamland palace [例]古诗中所描绘的仙山琼阁令人神往。The *dreamland palace* described in some ancient poems has a strong appeal to one.

#### 【先睹为快】

consider it a pleasure to be among the first to read (a poem, articles, etc.); take delight in looking at sth. before others; feel pleasant to have seen sth. first; want to be the first to read; be all eagerness to see sth.; be dying to get the first glimpse of sth. [例]快把你在新疆拍的照片拿

出来,我们要先睹为快。Quick! Show us the pictures you've taken in Xinjiang Province! We *would like to be the first to look at them.*

#### 【先发制人】

overcome someone by acting first; dominate the enemy by striking first; preemptive; act first to foil the enemy; get the upper hand by taking the initiative; He who makes the first start rules others; get (have) the start on sb.; strike first; take the wind out of somebody's sails; catch the ball before the bounce; steal a march on sb. [例]时间已经很紧迫了,我们应该先发制人。Time is pressing, we should *take preemptive measures.*

#### 【先公后私】

put public interests before private ones; Public affairs precede private ones; subordinate one's personal interests to the public good [例]孔繁森同志是先公后私的典范。Comrade Kong Fansen is a good model of those who always *put public interests before their own.*

#### 【先见之明】

foresight; able to discern what is coming; the ability to predict; prophetic vision; far-sighted; far-seeing; provident; prescient; second sight; have a long head [例]她真有先见之明,居然带了把雨伞在身边。She's brought an umbrella with her. How *far-sighted* she is!

#### 【先来后到】

in the order of arrival; First come, first served. [例]总得有个先来后到吧,请你到后面去排队。First come, first served. Could you please wait at the end of the line?

#### 【先礼后兵】

try peaceful means before resorting to force; be courteous before the use of

force; use force only where diplomacy fails; take strong measures only after courteous ones fail; be a gentleman first and a soldier second

### 【先人后己】

put others before oneself; put the interests of other people above one's own [例]我们的老师是一位先人后己的热心人。Our teacher is a warm-hearted person who always puts the interests of others before her own.

### 【先入为主】

The first impression dominates one's mind; First impressions are strongest; Whosoever enters first is master; Preconceived ideas keep a strong hold; be prejudiced (biased) by first impressions; formulate preconceived ideas; The first speaker has the advantage to instill certain notions; First impressions are half the battle. [例]劳雷尔先入为主地认为她家的女佣不老实。Laurel's first and lasting impression is that the maid at her home is not an honest person.

### 【先声夺人】

overawe others by a show of one's strength; forestall one's enemy by displaying one's strength [例]那位拳击选手先声夺人，一下就举起了门口的那座石狮子。Lifting up the stone lion at the gate, the prize fighter overawed others by a show of his strength.

### 【先天不足】

be inherently deficient; congenital shortage of; a feeble constitution; constitutional infirmity [例]像新加坡这样小的一个岛国通常都是先天不足，自然资源匮乏。Such an island country as Singapore generally suffers from an inherent shortage of natural resources.

### 【先下手为强】

take initiatives to get the upper hand; gain an advantage over one by acting first; get the better of one by acting first; Whoever strikes first has the advantage; The best defence is offence; take the wind out of one's sails; The early bird catches the worm. [例]我们的部队先下手为强，抢在敌人的前面占领了有利的地形。Our troops took the wind out of the enemy's sails by occupying the favourable terrain.

### 【先斩后奏】

(ancient general) empowered to kill someone first and report to the Emperor later; execute the criminal first and report later; act first and report afterwards; do things first and ask for approval afterwards [例]我们就来它个先斩后奏，等他知道真相也已经是为时已晚、无能为力了。Let's do it first and then report to him later. When he gets to know the truth, it'll be too late for him to do anything about it.

### 【先知先觉】

a person of foresight and vision; having foresight; prophet [例]这世上先知先觉的人少之又少。A person of foresight can hardly be found all over the world.

### 【纤尘不染】

not soiled even by a speck of dust; not to be stained with a particle of fine dust; be spotlessly clean; maintain one's original pure character; maintain one's personal integrity (during chaotic times); (as) neat (clean) as a new pin [例]这个化学实验室简直是纤尘不染。The chemical laboratory is spotlessly clean.

### 【闲花野草】

wild flowers and grass; promiscuous women; loose women picked up by men; women of easy virtue

### 【闲情逸致】

leisurely and carefree mood; romantic

(poetic) fancy; an easy and interesting life; mood for relaxation; in the mood for; in the right frame of mind [例]我现在可没有闲情逸致陪你出去买东西。I'm not *in the mood for* going shopping together with you.

#### 【闲云野鹤】

(to be as unworldly as) wild stock or floating clouds; the solitary cloud and the wild crane; a recluse with no fixed abode (occupation); someone having no fixed place of abode [例]在我们以前那些同学当中,惟有小李如闲云野鹤一般过着无拘无束的生活。Among our former classmates, only Xiao Li is like *a piece of solitary cloud and a wild crane* living an unrestrained life.

#### 【弦外之音】

overtones; implication; insinuation; the meaning between the lines [例]他刚才这番话中的弦外之音你还听不出来吗? Don't you understand *the overtones* of what he has just said?

#### 【涎皮赖脸】

shameless and loathsome; cheeky; disgusting; slobbering appearance; brazen-faced [例]你已经不是个孩子了,别再一天到晚涎皮赖脸的。You're no longer a child, so don't act like a *cheeky* little boy any longer.

#### 【嫌贫爱富】

despise the poor and curry favour with the rich; snobbish [例]黛博拉的母亲是个嫌贫爱富的人,她不同意自己的女儿嫁给那个穷记者。Debra's mother is a *snob* and she doesn't approve of her daughter's marriage with the poor journalist.

#### 【显而易见】

be easy to see; obviously; evidently; apparently; clearly; It is crystal clear

that...; can be seen with half an eye; as plain as the nose on one's face; writ (written) large; as plain as a pikestaff [例]埃默里那篇作文里的错误显而易见。The mistakes in the composition of Emory's are *obvious*.

#### 【现身说法】

speak from experience; explain sth. (advise sb.) by using one's own experience as an example; use one's own experience to persuade sb. to do sth; cite personal experience; convince sb. in light of personal experience; take oneself as an example [例]那个囚犯在电视上现身说法,奉劝大家要遵纪守法。The prisoner tried to *advise* that we should observe laws and discipline *by citing his personal experience* on TV.

#### 【现世现报】

get punished quickly for the evil one has just done; retribution in one's own lifetime

#### 【相安无事】

live in peace with each other; live together peacefully; get along well with each other; on good terms with each other; at peace; in perfect harmony [例]这两个性情完全不同的女人在一个屋檐下住了十几年倒也相安无事。Although they are two women with entirely different temperaments, they have been *living* under the same roof *peacefully* for more than ten years.

#### 【相得益彰】

benefit by association together; bring out the best in each other; each shining more brilliantly in the other's company; complement each other [例]这两种颜色配在一起倒也相得益彰。The two colours are *a good combination*.

#### 【相逢恨晚】

regret not meeting each other earlier; re-



gret that one didn't know somebody before; It is much to be regretted that we did not meet each other sooner [例]布赖恩和西塞莉一见钟情,两人大有相逢恨晚之意。Brian and Cicely fell in love with each other at first sight and they both regretted not to have known each other before.

#### 【相辅相成】

complement each other; supplementary to each other; be inseparably interconnected [例]这两种措施相辅相成,我想一定会起到很好的效果。The two measures are complementary to each other and I'm sure a good result will be achieved.

#### 【相敬如宾】

(of husband and wife) treat each other like guests; be always courteous to each other like guests; treat each other with respect; never fail in mutual respect and attentions [例]他俩自结婚以来一直相敬如宾。They have been treating each other with respect since their marriage.

#### 【相亲相爱】

love each other devotedly; be deeply attached to each other [例]我们是相亲相爱的一家人。We are of the same family loving each other devotedly.

#### 【相濡以沫】

mutual help and relief in time of difficulty; help each other when both are in humble circumstances [例]五十年来,这对老夫妻相濡以沫,共同经历了很多风风雨雨。For fifty years, the old couple have experienced numerous hardships by helping each other.

#### 【相生相克】

mutual promotion and restraint (between the five elements) - a concept held by the ancients to explain natural phenomena and later used in traditional Chinese medicine, etc; reinforce and counteract each other

#### 【相提并论】

put in the same class (category); regard in the same category; hold a stick (candle) to; name in (on) the same day; place on a par with; mention in the same breath [例]这两篇文章根本就不能相提并论。The two articles cannot be mentioned in the same breath at all.

#### 【相形见绌】

appear deficient in comparison; pale by comparison; overshadowed; be inferior by comparison; compare unfavourably with; eclipse; be outshone; be put (cast, thrown) into the shade; take the shine out of; put sb. to shame; pale before (by the side of) [例]在那些知名的大企业面前,我们这家小公司实在是相形见绌。When compared with those well-known big enterprises, our small company looks very poor.

#### 【相形失色】

be tarnished by comparison; lose countenance by comparison; pale by comparison; dwarfed in comparison with something; show a great difference by comparison; overshadowed; be outshone; take the shine out of; be put (cast, thrown) into the shade; put sb. to shame; pale before (by the side of) [例]与她的聪明才智相比,你就不免相形失色了。She is so clever and intelligent that you are naturally thrown into the shade.

#### 【相依为命】

depend on each other for survival; One is unable to exist without another; share one's life together; stick together and help each other in difficulties; be bound by a common destiny; be all in all to each other [例]母女俩就这样相依为命地生活了几十年。The mother and the daughter have been dependent on each other for sur-

*vival* for dozens of years.

【相映成趣】

form a charming (delightful) contrast; contrast finely with each other; gain by contrast; set each other off [例]这相邻的两幢楼,一幢古典,一幢现代,相映成趣。The two neighbouring buildings set each other off quite well because one looks classical and the other looks modern.

【香火不断】

endless stream of pilgrims (worshippers) [例]杭州的灵隐寺远近闻名,数百年来香火不断。Being known to all far and wide, Lin Yin Temple in Hangzhou has attracted an endless stream of pilgrims for several hundred years.

【香消玉殒】

The fragrance diminished and the jade perished - death of a pretty woman; A beauty has faded (passed away). [例]迷人的黛安娜王妃在一次车祸中香消玉殒。The charming princess Diana passed away in a car accident.

【降龙伏虎】

subdue the dragon and tame the tiger; overcome powerful adversaries; overcome formidable enemies; subdue wild animals [例]我手下有个降龙伏虎的徒弟,你最好别这么猖狂! I have a disciple who is able to subdue the dragon and tame the tiger, so you'd better not be so wild.

【响彻云霄】

reverberate (resound) through the skies; resound (echo) to the skies; (of sound) soaring; the air resounded with; fill the air; rend the air; make the welkin ring [例]人群沸腾了起来,欢呼声响彻云霄。The crowd became excited and their shouts of joy resounded to the skies.

【想当然】

think it is so - most probably it does not actually happen; assume sth. as a matter of course; assumptions; take sth. for granted [例]凡事不能想当然,要有真凭实据。You cannot take things for granted. Instead, you have to get hold of some solid evidence first.

【想方设法】

try every means; do everything possible; in every possible way; try every way; do one's best; do all in one's power; try by hook or by crook; rack one's brains to find a way; move heaven and earth to; leave no stone unturned [例]敌人想方设法要夺取 523 高地。The enemy tried every means to capture Height 523.

【想入非非】

indulge in fantasy (reveries); daydream; allow one's imagination to run wild; give free rein to one's fancy; far - fetched imagination; wishful thinking; be much given to speculation; have a maggot in one's head; be in the clouds; have a head full of bees; build castles in the air [例]他总是这样。只要哪一个女孩儿对他好一点,他就开始想入非非。He is always like this. So long as a girl is nice to him, his far - fetched imagination begins acting up.

【相机行事】

watch for a proper opportunity to act; act as circumstances dictate; act when the time is opportune; do as one sees fit [例]假如后面有人跟踪你,你要相机行事,尽量把他甩掉。If there is someone following you, you have to try your best to throw him off when the time is opportune.

【相貌堂堂】

dignified in appearance; be of a splendid appearance; be handsome and highly esteemed; have a majestic bearing [例]这

人虽相貌堂堂,心地却十分歹毒。Although that man is of a splendid appearance, he is quite wicked.

**【项庄舞剑,意在沛公】**

Xiang Zhuang performed the sword dance as a cover for his attempt on Liu Bang's life; act with a hidden motive; with ulterior motives; kiss the baby for the nurse's sake

**【逍遥法外】**

free without being punished by the law; go (get) away unpunished; escape without penalty; beyond the arm of the law; get off (escape) scot-free; ha at large; be on the loose [例]两年前杀害这个女孩的凶手现在依然逍遥法外。The man who killed the girl two years ago is still on the loose.

**【逍遥自在】**

he leisurely and carefree; be free and unrestrained; be in a state of enjoyment; live a life of ease; be at peace with the world and oneself; in a state of blissful abstraction; free as air; be at ease [例]路易莎失业以后,倒也逍遥自在。Since Louisa lost her job, she has been living a life of ease.

**【消愁解闷】**

relieve the loneliness and grief; dispel melancholy and worry; banish boredom; divert oneself from boredom [例]自从和妻子离婚以后,卢西恩经常到这家小酒馆来喝上几杯啤酒,以消愁解闷。Since Lucian got divorced with his wife, he often comes to the pub for a few glasses of beer so as to relieve himself of the loneliness and grief.

**【销声匿迹】**

make no sound and leave no trace; keep silent and lie low; keep out of the way; disappear from the scene; nothing is heard

of; efface oneself; abscond quietly; cease to show one's face; fall into the shade; pull (draw) in one's horns [例]1.听说早已销声匿迹的老虎又在那个村庄重新出现,村民们个个人心惶惶。Having heard that tigers which had long disappeared have reappeared in the village, the villagers all felt jittery. 2.从那以后,那位曾经名噪一时的电影明星便销声匿迹了。From then on, nothing has ever been heard of the once well-known movie star.

**【销魂夺魄】**

bewitch the mind and lose the senses; be overwhelmed by one's passions; fascinating; be transported with

**【小不忍则乱大谋】**

Lack of forbearance in small matters upsets great plans; He who cannot take small insults is liable to spoil big plans; A little impatience spoils great plans. [例]小不忍则乱大谋,你们俩如果不能好好相处的话,根本就不可能夺取比赛的冠军。Lack of forbearance in small matters upsets great plans. If you two cannot get along well with each other, it'll be totally impossible for you to win the championship in the contest.

**【小恩小惠】**

petty (small) favours; economic soaps (bait); little deeds of kindness; paltry charity [例]你们是不是想用小恩小惠来拉拢她? Are you trying to draw her over to your side by giving petty favours?

**【小家碧玉】**

beautiful daughter of a humble family; a pretty girl brought up in a lower family; a beautiful girl of humble birth; a pretty girl from a family of moderate means [例]她虽是小家碧玉,但处理起公司事务来比那些大家闺秀却要强得多。Al-

though she is *a girl of a humble family*, she is much more competent in dealing with company affairs than those girls from respectable families.

**【小巧玲珑】**

small and exquisite; little and cute; little and dainty; cleverly carved; lovely [例]梅宝送给我一个小巧玲珑的照相机。Mabel gave me a *cute little* camera made in Japan.

**【小人得志】**

A scoundrel has realised his ambition; a small man achieving success; a small man having greatness thrust upon him; a small man intoxicated by success; Villains hold sway.

**【小试锋芒】**

put the point of a sword to a trial to see how well it thrusts; a casual demonstration of the thrust of a spearhead; show only a small part of one's talent; display just a little of one's strength; manifest a little of one's skill [例]他在这次两百米比赛中的表现只是小试锋芒而已。He *only showed a little of his talent* in the 200-meter dash.

**【小题大作】**

make a big issue out of a small one; make a great fuss about trifles; a great disturbance about a trifle; make a long harvest about (for) a little corn; make a mountain out of a molehill; make much ado about nothing; a storm in a teacup [例]这又不是什么举足轻重的问题,何必那么小题大作呢? This is nothing serious. Why *making such a big fuss over it?*

**【小巫见大巫】**

like a small witch in the presence of a giant witch; feel dwarfed; mediocrity to an intellectual; an amateur to an expert; appear insignificant when compared with;

pale into insignificance by comparison; pale before (by the side of); The moon is not seen where the sun shines [例]我的这个花瓶跟你的那个比起来简直是小巫见大巫。There is *no comparison* between my flower vase and yours.

**【小心翼翼】**

be very careful; be discreet; circumspect; cautious; prudent; punctilious [例]天雨路滑,开车时务必小心翼翼,以防止不必要的意外事故。It's raining and the road is slippery. Therefore, one must drive *carefully* so as to avoid unnecessary traffic accidents.

**【小心翼翼】**

be watchful and reverent; with great care; cautiously; gingerly; be very scrupulous; watch one's steps; walk on egg shells [例]护士们把那位重伤员小心翼翼地移到了直升飞机上,惟恐轻微的晃动会引起他剧烈的疼痛。Being afraid that even the slightest movement may bring about a fierce pain to the severely wounded person, the nurses moved him *with extreme care* into the helicopter.

**【晓行夜宿】**

travel during the day and sleep at night; start at dawn and stop at dusk; go by day and rest by night; start early and halt late [例]主仆二人晓行夜宿,直奔北京而来。The master and the servant, *traveling by day and sleeping by night*, came straight to Beijing.

**【孝子贤孙】**

filial sons and good grandsons; sons reverent to parents and grandsons; dutiful to ancestors; worthy progeny; filial offspring; true sons of [例]有那些孝子贤孙的照料,他们老夫妻俩倒也活得滋润。With *their filial sons and good grandsons* to take care of them, the old couple lead a

easy and carefree life.

**【笑里藏刀】**

hide a dagger in a smile; conceal a knife (sword) in one's smile; cover the dagger with a smile; with murderous intent behind one's smiles; a murderous heart under a smiling exterior; be hypocritical (treacherous); cherish a serpent in one's bosom; an iron hand in a velvet glove; Velvet paws hide sharp claws. [例]我们要注意提防那些笑里藏刀的伪君子。We have to be on guard against those hypocrites who may injure us under the cover of a smiling face.

**【笑容可掬】**

radiant with smiles; beaming with smiles; with a charming smile; wear a broad smile; be all smiles; grin from ear to ear [例]市长笑容可掬地走过来和我们握手。All smiles, the mayor came up to shake hands with us.

**【笑逐颜开】**

A smile has driven all the hard lines off his face and brightened his countenance; smile happily (cheerfully); A happy smile spreads over one's face; be covered with smiles; be wreathed in smiles; beaming with smiles; One's face brightens up; be all smiles [例]笑逐颜开的新郎新娘沉浸在一片幸福与喜悦之中。The bride and groom, beaming with smiles, are both immersed in great happiness.

**【邪不胜正】**

Evil will not prevail over good; Evil can never triumph over virtue; The upright need not fear the crooked.

**【挟天子以令诸侯】**

have the emperor in one's power and order the princes about in his name; control the emperor and then command the nobles

**【斜风细雨】**

light wind and drizzling rain [例]那对情人在斜风细雨中卿卿我我。The two lovers are billing and cooing in the light wind and drizzling rain.

**【泄露天机】**

give away the secrets of heaven; betray God's design; make a secret known; let the cat out of the bag [例]表妹打算在母亲节那天给她妈妈一个惊喜,我答应她一定不泄露天机。My cousin would like to give her mother a pleasant surprise on the Mother's Day and I promised her that I would not give away the secret.

**【卸磨杀驴】**

kill the donkey after it has done its job at the mill; slaughter the donkey the moment it leaves the millstone; get rid of sb. as soon as he has done his job; kick down the ladder [例]他一登上皇帝的宝座就卸磨杀驴,把曾经帮助过他的大臣们全给除掉了。As soon as he ascended the throne, he got rid of all the officials who had helped him a lot.

**【谢天谢地】**

thank heaven and earth; express one's thanks to Heaven and Earth; Thank goodness! Thank Heaven! Thank God! God be thanked! [例]谢天谢地,我的钱包总算找到了。Thank goodness I've found my purse at last.

**【邂逅相逢】**

meet by chance; an unexpected encounter; meet unexpectedly; come across; run into; bump into; chance on [例]我们已经十年没有见面了,今日得以邂逅相逢,真是太高兴了! We haven't seen each other for ten years. How happy it is for us to run into each other today!

**【心安理得】**

feel at ease and justified; One's conscience

is void of offence; have peace of mind; with one's mind at ease; have an easy (clear) conscience; have no qualms of conscience [例]你偷人家东西的时候觉得心安理得吗? Do you *feel at ease and justified* when stealing things from other people?

#### 【心不在焉】

One's heart was no longer in it; absent-minded; inattentive; show lack of concentration; One's mind was occupied with other things; One's mind is miles away; wrapped up in one's own thoughts; absence of mind; in a brown study [例]小明上课的时候心不在焉,连老师叫他回答问题都没有听见。During the class, Xiao Ming was so *absent-minded* that he didn't even hear the teacher asking him to answer a question.

#### 【心慈面软】

kind heart and soft countenance; soft-hearted [例]心慈面软的李奶奶对乞丐的话深信不疑,给了他一百块钱。Granny Li who is *soft-hearted* firmly believed what the beggar had told her and gave him 100 yuan.

#### 【心荡神迷】

feel excited; be infatuated with (by) sb; go (he thrown) into ecstasies over; he in (go into, be sent into) raptures over (about); be carried away; be swept off one's feet [例]一想到昨天晚上遇见的那位美丽清纯的少女,马尔科姆不禁心荡神迷。Malcom was *sent into raptures about* the beautiful and pure girl he met last night whenever he thought of her.

#### 【心烦意乱】

have a troubled heart and a perplexed mind; with troubled mind and distorted thoughts; be terribly upset; confused and worried; be perturbed; annoyed and per-

plexed; restless and disquieted; distracted; out of sorts; One's head is swimming.

[例]这一大堆的脏衣服和宝宝不停的哭闹弄得她心烦意乱。The big heap of dirty clothes and the unceasing crying of the baby *made her head swimming*.

#### 【心腹大患】

a serious disease in one's vital organs; a mortal malady; a serious hidden trouble (danger); a big enemy within; a big threat from within; danger of betrayal or revolt from those closest; one's greatest trouble at home; a sting in one's heart [例]贪污腐败是他们国家的心腹大患。Corruption is *a big threat from within* their country.

#### 【心甘情愿】

be perfectly willing to; be most happy to; be heartily willing to; willingly; with pleasure; be content to; content oneself with; of one's free will; with all one's heart; do sth. with a good grace [例]年轻的教师心甘情愿地来到这所乡村小学教书。The young teacher came to teach in the country elementary school *of her own free will*.

#### 【心高气傲】

proud and arrogant; aim too high and arrogant; be puffed up with pride [例]谁也不会喜欢一个心高气傲的人。No one likes a person who is *proud and arrogant*.

#### 【心狠手辣】

cruel heart and malicious means; cruel and merciless; wicked and merciless; cold-hearted; be extremely cruel to somebody [例]皇后心狠手辣,居然亲手掐死了自己的女儿。The queen was so *cruel and merciless* that she even strangled her own daughter.

#### 【心花怒放】

One's heart bursts into bloom; One's heart

bloom with joy; be elated; be wild with happiness; burst with joy; One's heart sings (leaps) with joy; hilarious; gleeful; happy as a lark; beside oneself with joy; warm (delight, cheer, rejoice) the cockles of one's heart [例] 当中国女子足球队获得世界冠军时, 球迷们个个心花怒放。The football fans all *went wild with joy* when the Chinese women's football team won the world championship.

#### 【心怀鬼胎】

harbour evil designs in one's heart; have ulterior (sinister) motives; entertain dark schemes; conceive mischief; scheme to do evil; with misgivings in one's heart [例] 我早就看出你小子心怀鬼胎, 蓄意破坏他们之间的关系。I've long known that you *harboured some evil designs in your heart* and have been trying to spoil their relationship.

#### 【心怀叵测】

What one harbours in his heart is unpredictable; harbour dark designs in one's heart; have ulterior (sinister) motives; cherish an evil intent towards ...; nurse evil intentions; out of an evil intention

#### 【心慌意乱】

be alarmed and nervous; lose presence of mind; be thrown into confusion; mentally confused; fall into a flutter; in a flurry; in a fluster; lose one's head; lose one's balance [例] 听见门外有人开门, 小偷顿时心慌意乱, 企图跳窗而逃。Hearing someone opening the door outside, the thief *was thrown into a flutter* and tried to get away by jumping out of the window.

#### 【心灰意懒】

be disheartened (downhearted); greatly disappointed; downcast; greatly discouraged; dejected; crestfallen; be utterly despondent; in black despair; lose heart; in

the dumps [例] 无数次的劝说都无法使丈夫戒赌, 她现在已是心灰意懒了。She has tried thousands of times to dissuade her husband from gambling, but to no avail. Now she is *utterly despondent*.

#### 【心急如焚】

burning with impatience; worried to death; One's heart is torn with anxiety; on pins and needles [例] 接到父亲病危的消息后他心急如焚, 连夜赶回了家乡。Having heard that his father was critically ill, he was *worried to death* and rushed back to the hometown that very night.

#### 【心惊胆战】

heart startling and gallbladder trembling; be deeply alarmed; tremble with fear; shiver with fright; panic-stricken; shake with terror; in terror; in a fright; have one's heart in one's mouth; send a chill down one's spine; be all of a jump [例] 小芳听说老师叫她去办公室, 不由得心惊胆战起来。Having been told to go to the teacher's office, Xiao Fang couldn't help *trembling with fear*.

#### 【心惊肉跳】

heart beating (startling) and flesh shivering; make one's heart shivering and one's flesh creep; terrified; tremble with fear; shiver with fright; panic-stricken; shudder with terror; be filled with apprehension; in terror; in a fright; jumpy with fear; One's heart leaped into one's mouth; have one's heart in one's mouth; send a chill down one's spine; be all of a jump; have the jitters [例] 影片中惊险火爆的场面让观众一次又一次地心惊肉跳。The thrilling scenes in the film *made the audience's hearts shivering with fright* again and again.

#### 【心口不一】

say what one doesn't think; speak one way

and think another; speak contrary to one's thought [例]为了照顾别人的面子,人有时候会心口不一。People sometimes say what they don't think to save other people's face.

#### 【心口如一】

say what one thinks; be frank; What one says is indeed what one thinks; He means what he says and he says what he means; faithful to one's words; plain spoken; speak one's mind; practice what one preaches [例]赵辉这个人特别豪爽,说话从来都是直来直去,心口如一。Zhao Hui is unrestrained and frank. He always says what he thinks.

#### 【心宽体胖】

A person with a liberal mind tends to grow plump; be liberal in mind and stout in body; cheerful mind and stalwart body; carefree and contented; fit and happy; Laugh and grow fat. [例]妈妈退休以后没有了工作上的压力,人也就心宽体胖起来。Without any working pressure after my mother retired, she felt fit and happy.

#### 【心旷神怡】

refreshed in mind and body; completely relaxed and happy; be free of mind and happy of heart; carefree and happy; feel on top of the world; braced up [例]呼吸着山中清新的空气,看着那迷人的大自然风光,我不由得心旷神怡。Smelling the fresh air in the mountains and looking at the magnificent natural scenery, I felt on top of the world.

#### 【心力交瘁】

be mentally and physically exhausted; be utterly fatigued, mind and body; Both the mind and strength were worn out; be worn out; dog-tired [例]这学期老师为了提高我们的英语水平,真可谓心力交

瘁。The teacher was worn out in trying to improve our English this semester.

#### 【心灵手巧】

have clever hands and good sense; clever in mind and skilful in hand; quick-witted and nimble-fingered; clever and deft [例]那女孩心灵手巧,会做各种各样的手工艺制品。The clever and deft girl is good at making a variety of handicraft articles.

#### 【心领神会】

The heart receives and spirit knows it; fully understand; understand tacitly; grasp the meaning of; appreciate; readily take a hint [例]他们已经在一起共事十五年了。不管谁打个手势,另外那方马上就能心领神会。They have been working together for fifteen years. If one of them makes a gesture, the other one will immediately understand what it means.

#### 【心乱如麻】

have one's mind as confused as a tangled skein; mind confused like entangled hemp; be terribly upset; greatly disturbed; utterly confused; One's mind is in a turmoil; be in a stew; lose one's balance; throw sb. off his balance [例]听说轮船失事了,妻子心乱如麻。The wife's mind was in a turmoil when she learned of the shipwreck.

#### 【心满意足】

be perfectly content (satisfied) with; happy and content; have one's wishes gratified; rest satisfied; to one's heart's content; rest on one's laurels [例]他在饭店里大吃了一顿,然后心满意足地回到了家里。After having a square meal in the restaurant, he went back home, happy and content.

#### 【心明眼亮】

be sharp-eyed and clear-headed; with



bright eyes and light of heart; see and think clearly; can see things clearly and correctly [例]作为警察,你必须心明眼亮。As a police officer, you must be *sharp-eyed and clear-headed*.

【心平气和】

even-tempered and good-humoured; calm and unruffled; in a composed manner; calm down; be in a calm mood; peace of mind; in one's sober senses; with equanimity [例]我心平气和地向他指出了他在工作中所犯的错误。I pointed out to him the mistakes he had made in his work *in a composed manner*.

【心如刀绞】

feel as if a knife were being twisted in one's heart; heartbreaking; make one's heart bleeding; extremely painful; be torn (pierced) with grief; rend one's heart; feel greatly distressed; cut (stab) one to the heart; The iron entered into one's heart. [例]莉比最心爱的宠物猫被人给毒死了,她心如刀绞。Libby's favourite pet cat was poisoned to death and she *was torn with grief* over it.

【心如古井】

One's heart is as tranquil as an old well; call forth no response in somebody's breast [例]儿子夭折以后,她心如古井,生活对她来说已经完全失去了意义。After his son died young, she felt there was absolutely no purpose in her life and *nothing could call forth any response* from her.

【心如死灰】

One's heart is like dead ashes - utterly dissipated; call forth no response in somebody's breast; dispirited

【心如止水】

One's mind settled as still water; call forth no response in somebody's breast

【心神不定】

uneasy at heart; a restless mind; The mind wanders; be distracted; restless; in a state of discomposure; have no peace of mind; in a disturbed state of mind; preoccupied; in a flutter; have the fidgets; be ill at ease; have sth. on one's mind [例]尼尔好像有心事,他工作的时候心神不定的。Neil seemed to have something on his mind. He was quite *restless* while working.

【心术不正】

One's intention is not right; harbour evil intentions (designs); lack of sincerity [例]奥兰多犯盗窃罪的主要原因之一就是他被某些心术不正的人利用了。One of the main reasons why Orlando was guilty of larceny was that he had been made use of by some people who *harboured evil intentions*.

【心无二用】

One cannot keep one's mind on two things at once; One's mind cannot work on two things at the same time; One should concentrate on one's work.

【心心相印】

Hearts beat as one; Hearts of two are like one; be of kindred spirits; be in perfect harmony with; share the same thoughts and feelings; have mutual affinity; understand each other well; share the feelings of; Mind acts upon mind; whole-hearted response; be of one mind; be deeply in love; be attached to each other; see eye to eye with each other [例]只要咱俩心心相印,还有什么困难克服不了呢? So long as we *are deeply in love* with each other, there will be no difficulties that we cannot overcome.

【心血来潮】

be seized by a whim; suddenly think of something; have a sudden inspiration; An

idea flashes through one's mind; pop into one's mind; be prompted by a sudden impulse; on (an) impulse; act on the spur of the moment [例]帕梅拉心血来潮,突然想学弹吉它。Pamela was seized by a whim to learn how to play guitar.

#### 【心痒难挠】

itch in the heart but unable to scratch it; It is impossible to scratch an itching heart; can hardly resist the temptation; be deeply attracted by [例]看着橱窗里各式各样的洋娃娃,花花真是心痒难挠。Looking at different kinds of dolls displayed in the shop window, Huahua could hardly resist the temptation.

#### 【心有灵犀一点通】

Hearts which have a common beat are linked; Lovers' hearts are closely linked; One's mind is very quick to apprehend every point; (of lovers) be attached to each other [例]这对双胞胎总是心有灵犀一点通。The twins are always quick to understand what the other is thinking about without speaking at all.

#### 【心有余而力不足】

unable to do what one wants very much to do; more than willing but lacking the power to; willing but unable; One's ability falls short of one's wishes; The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. [例]佩吉信心十足地说要爬到黄山的山顶上去,可是她心有余而力不足,才爬到半山腰就爬不动了。Peggy said confidently that she would climb up to the top of the Yellow Mountain. However, her ability fell short of her wish. She could climb no further when she was only half way up.

#### 【心有余悸】

have a lingering fear; One's heart is still fluttering with fear; have not yet got over the scare; be still in a state of shock; with

unforgotten trepidation; tremble (shiver, shudder) at the thought of [例]皮埃尔五岁的时候曾经被狗咬过一次,现在他在路上看见狗也还是心有余悸。Pierre was once bitten by a dog at the age of five. He will still shudder upon seeing a dog in the street now.

#### 【心猿意马】

a heart like a capering monkey and a mind like a galloping horse - restless; One's heart is agile as an ape and one's thoughts swift as a horse; One's thoughts wander; waver in purpose (determination); capricious; be prone to outside attraction; cannot make up one's mind; restless and whimsical; unsettled in mind [例]别再心猿意马了,我真的觉得学生物对你来说是个不错的选择。Don't waver any longer. I do think it's a good choice for you to major in biology.

#### 【心悦诚服】

be completely convinced; gladly and wholeheartedly admit defeat; feel a heartfelt admiration; submit with good grace [例]她那出众的领导才能确实让我们大家心悦诚服。We all felt a heartfelt admiration for her outstanding leading ability.

#### 【心照不宣】

not spell out what one knows at heart; They all understand from their hearts what the matter is but choose not to say so in public; understood but not expressed; have a tacit understanding; not necessary to say more; tacit [例]我们彼此对这个秘密心照不宣。We have a tacit understanding about the secret.

#### 【心直口快】

quick in speech, but straight at heart; One has a quick tongue and never bothers to hide what one thinks; frank; outspo-

ken; straightforward; say the first thing that comes into one's head; say what one thinks without much deliberation; honest - to - goodness; plainspoken and straightforward; open - hearted and outspoken; speak one's mind; wear one's heart on one's sleeve [例]她本来就是心直口快的人,你别把她的话放在心上。She is such a person who always *says what she thinks without much deliberation*. Please don't take her words to heart.

#### 【心中无数】

not know for sure; not know what's what; (work) without clear aims; not know one's own mind; have no idea [例]我请她星期六到我家来打牌,不过她究竟会不会来我也心中无数。I've asked her to come to my home on Saturday to play cards. But I do *not know for sure* whether she is coming or not.

#### 【心中有数】

know something at heart; know fairly well; have a clear idea of the situation and know what to do; know how things stand; know one's own mind; have a pretty good idea; have knowledge of; know the score; know ins and outs; know what's what [例]我对自己的能力心中有数,不需要你来提醒。I *have a pretty good idea of* my own ability. You don't need to remind me of it.

#### 【欣喜若狂】

be wild (mad) with joy; be in an ecstasy of delight; leap with joy (exult); One's joy knows no bounds; as happy as a lark; tread on air; be in (go into) raptures; beside oneself with joy [例]张先生得知自己的弟弟不日就要从台湾来探亲的消息以后欣喜若狂。Having learned that his younger brother was coming from Taiwan in a few days to visit him, Mr. Zhang *was wild with joy*.

#### 【欣欣向荣】

flourishing; prosperous; thriving; booming; full of life and vigour; growing prosperity; springing up vigorously; a lively (an invigorating) atmosphere; on the upgrade [例]自从我国实行改革开放的政策以后,全国各地都是一派欣欣向荣的景象。Since our country reformed and opened to the outside world, one can always see a picture of *prosperity* everywhere.

#### 【新陈代谢】

The old is superseded (replaced) by the new; the transition from the old order of things to the new; The old gives place to the new; metabolism; the suppression of the old by the new [例]1. 年轻人新陈代谢的速度比老年人要快得多。The speed of *metabolism* for the young is much greater than that for the old. 2. 新陈代谢是自然界的普遍规律。It is axiomatic in nature that *the old gives way to the new*.

#### 【新仇旧恨】

new hatred and old; all the old and recent grudges; old scores and new; new hatred piled on old

#### 【新官上任三把火】

A new official applies strict measures for a span; A new broom sweeps clean.

#### 【新婚燕尔】

newly married; newlyweds; happy ending [例]你们才新婚燕尔,怎么就吵架了呢? You've *just got married*. Why are you quarrelling now?

#### 【新来乍到】

newly arrived; have just arrived; newcomer; be new here; be a stranger here [例]你新来乍到,可别一个人出去,要不然你会迷路的。You've *just arrived* here, so don't go out alone. Otherwise, you may

get lost.

**【信口雌黄】**

talk as freely as one can; make irresponsible remarks; wag one's tongue too freely; talk at random; make statements freely without much deliberation; talk sheer nonsense; make deceitful statements or unfounded charges [例]他的话纯属信口雌黄,你别太当真。What he has said is *sheer nonsense*, don't take it too seriously.

**【信口开河】**

talk at random; talk irresponsibly (glibly); say whatever comes to one's mind; (say sth.) without careful thought; aimless talk; make irresponsible remarks; talk sheer nonsense; unbridle the tongue; have a loose tongue; shoot off one's mouth; talk through one's hat

**【信马游缰】**

ride with lax reins; have no fixed opinions; act or do as one pleases; give free rein to; let things take their natural course [例]昆廷信马由缰,朝树林的深处走去。Quentin *gave free rein to his horse* and went towards the depth of the forest.

**【信誓旦旦】**

vow solemnly; pledge sincerely and seriously; oath solemnly pledged [例]尽管拉斐尔信誓旦旦地说他一定会戒烟,但是他总是食言。Although Rafael *vowed solemnly* that he would stop smoking, he always went back on his words.

**【信手拈来】**

pick up sth. at random; get something without effort; have words, material, etc. at one's fingertips and write freely; write without stopping to reflect

**【兴风作浪】**

make waves; raise winds and waves; set winds blowing and wave rolling; incite and create trouble; become active and cause

trouble; manipulate; stir up trouble; fan the flame [例]有些政客企图抓住这次事件,趁机兴风作浪。Some politicians tried to take advantage of the incident and *stir up some trouble*.

**【兴利除弊】**

promote the beneficial and abolish the harmful; promote what is profitable and abolish what is evil; start the good and weed out the corrupt practices; start reforms [例]斯坦利上任后加大力度兴利除弊,惩治腐败。After Stanley assumed office, he tried harder to *start reforms* and fight against corruption.

**【兴师动众】**

move troops about and stir up the people; drag in many people; arouse a lot of people (to do something); have too many people do sth.; employ a tremendous amount of manpower; raise a big rumpus [例]这只是一个普通的研讨会,他们却兴师动众地请了学校所有的领导来参加。It was nothing more than an ordinary symposium, but they *raised a big rumpus* by inviting all the school leaders to take part in it.

**【兴师问罪】**

come with an army to punish somebody for; send a punitive expedition against; denounce somebody publicly for his crimes [例]特玛拉心情本来就on不好,所以当老师向她兴师问罪时,她大发脾气。Being in a low mood, Tamara burst into rage when her teacher *criticized her publicly* for her mistakes.

**【星罗棋布】**

scattered all over like stars studded in the sky or chess pieces dotted on a chessboard; dotted around like stars in the sky or chessmen on the chessboard; as numerous as stars and checkers on the chess-

board; spread all over; scattered about in every direction; all over the place; star-studded; studded with [例]开阔的海面上,数千艘游艇星罗棋布。The open sea is *studded with* thousands of sails of yachts.

【星星点点】

tiny spots; fragmentary; bits and pieces [例]黄色的小花星星点点地开在草地上,真是美极了。How beautiful it is with so many small yellow flowers blooming in the grassland!

【星星之火】

sparks of fire

【星星之火,可以燎原】

A single spark can start a prairie fire; A little spark can cause a conflagration; Little chips light great fire.

【惺惺惜惺惺】

The wise appreciate one another; The intelligent ones sympathise with their own kind; Like loves like. [例]父女俩惺惺惜惺惺,共同熬过了那段艰难的岁月。The father and the daughter *sympathised with each other* and managed to go through the years of suffering together.

【腥风血雨】

a foul wind and a rain of blood - reign of terror; winds carrying an offensive smell of blood; great blood - shed; sanguinary slaughter [例]玛丽和洛根就是在那个腥风血雨的年代相恋的。It was during *the reign of terror* that Mary and Logan fell in love with each other.

【行不更名,坐不改姓】

Whether I travel or stay at home, I do not change my name; One never changes his name no matter whether he travels or stays at home; never conceal one's name; never keep one's identity hidden [例]大丈夫行不更名,坐不改姓,我乃武松是也。As

a real man, *I never change my name* which is Wu Song.

【行将就木】

be getting closer and closer to the coffin; be near death; about to die; be fast approaching death; on the brink of the grave; on the verge of extinction; have one foot in the grave; at death's door; One's days are numbered. [例]这个老头已经行将就木,可他还是抓住钱死死不放。Although the old man *has one foot in the grave*, he grudges to give anyone even a cent.

【行色匆匆】

be in a hurry to depart; be in a hurry to start; be in a rush to go on a trip; be in haste getting ready for a journey; bustle about packing one's luggage; be pressed for time on a journey [例]马上要下雨了,路上的行人都行色匆匆。It was about to rain and the pedestrians *were all in a hurry to go back home*.

【行尸走肉】

a walking corpse and running flesh; a walking skeleton; an utterly worthless person; a dead - alive person; be all but dead; walk around without any feeling or emotion; lump of clay (earth) [例]自从祥林嫂的儿子被狼咬死以后,她就一直过着行尸走肉般的生活。Since her son got killed by a wolf, Sister Xianglin has been living a life *like a walking corpse*.

【行云流水】

(of style of writing) like floating clouds and flowing water; natural and smooth; free - flowing style of writing; with natural grace [例]她的散文如行云流水,读来的确是一种享受。Reading her essays *of a free - flowing style* is indeed great enjoyment.

## 【行之有效】

effective in practice; effectual; prove effective; produce results [例]政府必须采取行之有效的措施来确保国家的经济稳定增长。It is necessary for the government to take *effective* measures to ensure the stable economic growth of the country.

## 【形单影只】

a solitary form, a single shadow; the form of a person with a single shadow; extremely lonely; solitary; lonely and alone; a lone soul; single; all by oneself; ull alone; ull on one's own [例]失去了双亲的孩子形单影只,孤苦伶仃。The child without parents was extremely *lonely* and uncared for.

## 【形迹可疑】

suspicious appearance and movements; suspicious - looking; fishy; one's behaviour being suspicious; not to be trusted; of doubtful aspect [例]警察对一切形迹可疑的人都给予高度的警惕。The police are highly vigilant for any one who *looks suspicious*.

## 【形形色色】

all kinds of; a variety of; various; of various forms; all brands of; diverse; manifold; of every shade; of every description; of every hue; in all their manifestations [例]商场里形形色色的玩具把小男孩吸引了过去。Toys of every description in the shopping mall deeply attracted the little boy's attention.

## 【形影不离】

inseparable like a body and its shadow; never leave each other's side like form and shadow; inseparable; be always together; keep each other's company all the time; stick like glue to somebody [例]热恋中的情人大多都形影不离。Most lovers in hot love are always together. They al-

ways *stick like glue to each other*.

## 【兴高采烈】

jubilant; gleeful; elated; very happy; merry; joyful; hilarious; cheerful; in great form (delight); in high glee; in high spirits; full of beans; on top of the world; in high (full) feather; feel one's oats [例]孩子们一听说星期二要到公园去野餐,马上就兴高采烈起来。As soon as the children learned that they were going to the park for a picnic on Tuesday, they were all *full of beans*.

## 【兴致勃勃】

full of zest (enthusiasm); cheerfully; animatedly; with gusto; with lively interest; a flow of spirits; be of good cheer; in high spirits; with good cheer; in fine feather; tails up [例]昨天晚上,我兴致勃勃地出门去看一个朋友,没想到她看电影去了,我只好很没趣地回家了。I went out *cheerfully* to visit one of my friends yesterday evening only to find that she had gone to the cinema, so I could do nothing but come back home in low spirits.

## 【兴致索然】

uninteresting; dull; have lost all interest in something; not to show a spark of interest in something; drab; bored stiff; dry as dust; bore sb. to death (tears) [例]那场枯燥无味的报告会使得我们兴致索然。We were *bored to death* with the dull and uninteresting public lecture.

## 【幸灾乐祸】

take pleasure in the calamity of other people; feel happy when other people are in difficulties; gloat over one's misfortune; happy over one's misery; derive malicious satisfaction from other's mishap; hugh at other's trouble; gloatingly [例]许晓这次考试不及格,我们大家都替她感到难过,可是小杨却在--边幸灾乐祸。Xu

Xiao failed in the examination and we all felt sorry for her except Xiao Yang who felt very happy over her failure.

【性命交关】

of vital importance; It would cost someone his life; life - or - death; a matter of life and (or) death [例]这是一个性命交关的手术,你一定要把它做好。This is an operation of vital importance, you have to do it well.

【凶多吉少】

more ominous than propitious; bode ill rather than well; forebode disasters rather than blessings; a bad omen; be fraught with grim possibilities; The odds are against us rather than in our favour. [例]那个百万富翁被绑架了,看来凶多吉少。The millionaire was kidnapped and it seemed that he was fraught with grim possibilities.

【凶神恶煞】

devils; fiends; fierce-looking; with malice written all over one's face [例]看着这两尊凶神恶煞似的泥塑菩萨,他心里害怕极了。Looking at the two fierce-looking Buddahs of clay, he was extremely scared.

【汹涌澎湃】

surging; turbulent; tempestuous; torrential; run mountains high; surge forward; choppy (towering, tremendous) waves; wild stormy; roll irresistibly onward; rise in tempestuous waves; rise in a surging tide; sweeping and surging [例]一艘巨轮在汹涌澎湃的大海上航行着。A large ship is surging forward in mountainous waves.

【胸无城府】

have nothing hidden in the mind; open and unreserved; artless; simple and candid; quite open-minded; unrestrained

and frank in nature [例]我喜欢和那些胸无城府的人交朋友。I like making friends with those people who are open and unreserved.

【胸无点墨】

not a drop of ink in one's chest; unlearned; unlettered; uneducated; unschooled; completely illiterate; empty-headed; without much learning or knowledge; not to know (a) B from a buffalo (battledore, bull's foot) [例]我们这个城市有一些书店的老板其实自己胸无点墨。There are some bookstore owners who are unlearned at all in our city.

【胸有成竹】

visualise a bamboo in one's mind before painting it; have a well-thought-out plan beforehand; mentally prepared to deal with a situation; know beforehand how to act; with complete confidence; definite (ready) ideas or plans to meet a situation; have a card up one's sleeve [例]对于如何得到父母的同意,佐伊已经胸有成竹了。As to how to get her parents' approval, Zoe has a card up her sleeve.

【胸中无数】

have no figures in one's head; not know for sure; not know what's what; (work) without clear aims; have no idea of how things stand; feel unsure of sth.; have no idea [例]这件事能否成功,耶尔胸中无数。Yale has no idea whether he will succeed in it or not.

【胸中有数】

have a head for figures; know something at heart; know fairly well; have a clear idea of the situation and know what to do; have a pretty good idea; know the true state of affairs; have a good idea of how things stand; know what's what have knowledge of; know the score; know ins and outs

[例]这块窗玻璃是谁打碎的,我们自己胸中有数。We all *knew clearly* who had broken the window.

### 【雄才大略】

(a man of) great talent and bold vision; outstanding ability; (a statesman or general of) rare gifts and bold strategy [例]要是没有雄才大略,温顿也不会毛遂自荐去那家濒临倒闭的工厂当厂长。If Winton were not a man of *great talent and bold vision*, he wouldn't have recommended himself to be the manager of the factory which stood on the verge of bankruptcy.

### 【雄心勃勃】

very ambitious; with determination and ardour; overboldly aspiring; with high aims (ambitions, aspiration) [例]升职以后,维维安雄心勃勃,要在公司干出一番大事业来。After promotion, Vivian became so *ambitious* that she would like to make some great achievements in the company.

### 【雄心壮志】

lofty aspirations and great ideals; soaring aspirations; great ambitions; high hopes and lofty ambitions [例]一个人要想获得成功,光有雄心壮志是不够的,还要有恒心和毅力。If one wants to achieve success, it's not enough for one to have only *great ambitions*. He should also be determined and perseverant.

### 【休戚相关】

joys and sorrows interconnected; be linked together in common joys and sorrows; be bound by a common cause; be of close concern to each other; share joys and sorrows; mutually affected; feeling of solidarity; vitally interrelated; mutually concerned in case of a good or bad turn [例]国有企业的改革是否成功,与我们国家的前途和命运是休戚相关的。

Whether the reform of the state-owned enterprises will succeed or not is *vitally interrelated* with the future and destiny of our country.

### 【休戚与共】

thrive or decline together; share joys and sorrows together; share the same fate; depend on each other; share one's fortune; in weal or woe; go through thick and thin together; throw in one's lot with [例]两国人民如兄弟般团结在一起,休戚与共,最终把敌人赶了出去。The people of the two countries were united together like brothers. They *went together through thick and thin* and drove away the enemy in the end.

### 【休养生息】

let the people rest and multiply rehabilitation; recuperate and build up strength; recover one's strength; rally [例]战争过后,国家通常需要五、六年的时间来休养生息。After a war, it usually takes a country five or six years to *recuperate itself and build up its strength*.

### 【羞于为伍】

feel ashamed to be associated with somebody; ashamed to be in the same rank with somebody; disdain to be seen in somebody's company; consider it beneath one to be one's colleague (friend) [例]和我们在一个学院工作的沃纳极端地自私自利,外界对他的评价很低,我们对他也都羞于为伍。Werner, who works in the same college with us, is extremely selfish and many people on the outside think very low of him. We all *feel ashamed to be his colleague*.

### 【秀色可餐】

so pretty that one would like to eat it up; ravishingly beautiful; be beautiful enough to feast the eyes



## 【秀外慧中】

beauty without and intellect within; beautiful and intelligent; beautiful in appearance and clever in mind [例]特德的妻子秀外慧中,令他的朋友羡慕不已。Ted's wife is *not only beautiful in appearance but also clever in mind*. All his friends are jealous of him.

## 【臭味相投】

share the same rotten tastes, habits, etc; People of the same ilk like each other; like drawn to like; birds of a feather; be two of a kind [例]他们俩都喜欢抽烟、喝酒、下围棋,真是臭味相投。They both like smoking, drinking and playing chess; they are *two birds of a feather*.

## 【袖手旁观】

put the hands in the sleeves and look on; have nothing to do with a thing; stand by with folded arms; look on unconcerned; remain an indifferent spectator; watch on the sidelines; not lift (stir) a finger [例]一男一女在街上打架,周围有一大群人在袖手旁观。A man and a woman were fighting in the street, with a large crowd around them *looking on with folded arms*.

## 【绣花枕头】

a pillow with an embroidered case; an outwardly attractive but worthless person; good only in looks; fair without but foul within

## 【须眉男子】

a manly man [例]我堂堂一个须眉男子,岂能败在一个小女人的手上? As *a man*, how can I be defeated by a little woman?

## 【虚怀若谷】

have a mind as open as a valley; be very modest; be extremely open-minded; be broad-minded; have a mind open to new

ideas and all suggestions; free from pride and prejudices [例]蒂姆是个虚怀若谷的教授,对年轻教师的建议从不置之不理。Tim is an *open-minded* professor who never ignores the suggestions put forward by young teachers.

## 【虚情假意】

false display of affection; pretended friendship; One's friendliness is all pretence; hypocritical show of cordiality; be very nice to somebody but not actually sincere; put up a phoney show [例]他对你只是虚情假意,没有半点诚意。There is not a bit sincerity in *the false display of his affection* for you.

## 【虚无缥缈】

empty and elusive; (talk which is) abstruse (vague, insubstantial); illusory; vaporous; purely imaginary; visionary and insubstantial; with no reality whatever; completely unreal; nothing to hold on; have no basis in reality; in the clouds [例]远远望去,连绵的群山笼罩在浓雾之中,虚无缥缈,若隐若现。Seen from a distance, the rolling hills, which were shrouded in a heavy fog, *looked unreal* and seemed to be partly hidden and partly visible.

## 【虚有其表】

appear better than it is; impressive in form but disappointing in content; deceptively handsome; good looks without real ability; attractive only from the outside; have all one's goods in the window; a penny plain and two pence coloured [例]那位总统候选人在公众面前慷慨激昂的演说只是虚有其表而已。The speech delivered by the president candidate with strong emotion in public appeared quite *impressive in form but disappointing in content*.

## 【虚与委蛇】

pretend interest and sympathy; deal with sb. courteously but insincerely; put sb. off with fair words; hypocritical; pretend politeness and compliance; play along; stall off [例]万斯对那几个债主虚与委蛇,企图争取更多的时间。Vance tried to *stall off* the creditors for more time.

#### 【虚张声势】

put on a mere show of strength; be swash-buckling; bluff and bluster; make a pompous but empty display of power and influence; maintain the appearance of strength; make pretences (of wealth, of power); make a demonstration (display) [例]对方说是几百个人要来为他们助威,其实他们只不过是虚张声势罢了。The other party said that several hundred people would come to cheer for them, but it was actually *a mere show of strength*.

#### 【嘘寒问暖】

breathe warmth to dispel the cold and ask whether one feels warm enough; ask people whether they feel but (in summer) or feel cold (in winter); inquire after sb.'s health; be concerned about sb.'s well-being; show deep solicitude for sb.; show every concern [例]市长来到地震灾区,对灾民们嘘寒问暖。The mayor came to the earthquake-stricken area and *showed the victims there every concern*.

#### 【徐娘半老】

a faded beauty; be already in her middle age; a woman in her thirty-forties; past her prime [例]她虽是徐娘半老,但却风韵犹存。Although she is *already in her middle age*, she still looks charming.

#### 【栩栩如生】

lifelike; look as if alive; vivid with life; with striking likeness; well portrayed; true to life [例]画上的猫真是栩栩如生。

The cat in the painting *looks as if alive*.

#### 【旭日初升】

The sun is rising; The morning sun rises in the east; like the sun rising in the east — descriptive of a new and dynamic atmosphere; full of vitality (life, promise); budding; promising; growing [例]这帮孩子犹如旭日初升,充满了活力。The group of children are full of vitality, *just like the early morning sun rising in the east*.

#### 【恤老怜贫】

cherish the old and care for the poor; be kind to the old and generous to the poor; pity the aged and the poor

#### 【絮絮叨叨】

talk endlessly; babble; hum about; repeat again and again; harp on; talk one's head off [例]来上海之前,我妈妈每天絮絮叨叨地说了很多“这不该,那不该”的话,我都能一字不落地背出来了。Before I came to Shanghai, my mother *talked endlessly* about what I should do and what I shouldn't do every day and I could recite almost every word of it.

#### 【轩然大波】

a great disturbance; a mighty uproar; a big stir; raise a storm; commotion; a crisis [例]他的这部纪实小说在全国引起了轩然大波。His novel based on some actual events created *a big stir* throughout the country.

#### 【喧宾夺主】

A noisy guest usurps the host's role; A presumptuous guest encroaches upon the rights of the host; The secondary supercedes the primary; A minor issue takes precedence over a major one; overshadow the leading role of sb.; The sauce is better than the fish [例]那位客人怎么能坐在首席?真是喧宾夺主。How can that

guest be seated at the head of the table?  
*The order of host and guest is reversed this way.*

### 【悬梁刺股】

tie one's hair on the house beam and jab one's side with an awl to keep oneself awake - painstaking in one's study; grind away at one's studies

### 【悬崖峭壁】

sheer precipice and overhanging rocks; overhanging cliff; steep cliff [例]黄山虽然风景怡人,可到处是悬崖峭壁,游玩时应注意安全。The scenery of the Yellow Mountain is enchanting, but there are *steep cliffs and precipices* everywhere, so one should make sure that he is safe while touring there.

### 【削铁如泥】

(The sword) would cut clean through iron as though it were mud; keen - edged; very sharp [例]这柄剑在地下埋了三千余年,却仍削铁如泥,真是不可思议。Having been buried in the earth for over 3,000 years, *the sword could still cut clean through iron as though it were mud.* How incredible!

### 【削足适履】

cut the feet to fit the shoes; trim the toes to fit the shoes; apply mechanically others' experience; take improper measures; make fit the Procrustean bed; act in a Procrustean manner

### 【学而优则仕】

A good scholar will make an official; He who excels in learning can be an official; Officialdom is the natural outlet for good scholars. [例]小童的父母从小就向他灌输学而优则仕的想法。Xiao Tong's parents have tried to instil into his mind the idea that *a good scholar will make an official* since he was young.

### 【学非所用】

One does not do what one has learned; What one has learned does not fit him for a certain job; What the students are learning cannot meet the needs of their future profession. [例]大学生找工作时往往担心学非所用,难以发挥一技之长。When a university student tries to find a job, he usually worries that *he may not be able to do what he has learned* and thus cannot give full play to his abilities.

### 【学富五车】

One's mind concealed more knowledge than could have been contained in five cartloads of books; be rich in knowledge [例]小燕虽然出身贫寒,但却学富五车,才高八斗。Although Xiao Yan is of a humble origin, she is *rich in knowledge* and has profound learning.

### 【学以致用】

study for the purpose of application; learn in order to practice; learn in order to meet practical needs; use what one has learned; gear one's studies to practical use [例]要是不能学以致用,读书岂不等于浪费时间? *If one does not learn for the purpose of application*, isn't he wasting time?

### 【雪上加霜】

snow plus frost - one disaster after another; frost added to snow; adding frost to snow; Disasters pile on one another; add to the misfortunes of a man who is already unfortunate; Misfortunes never come singly; The worst came to the worst; It never rains but it pours. [例]他炒股亏了本,而这时妻子又下了岗,真是雪上加霜。*Disasters pile on one another.* He lost a lot of money while speculating in shares and just at this time, his wife lost her job.

## 【雪中送炭】

send charcoal during a snowfall; remember one with charcoal in snowy weather; provide sb. with fuel in the snow; send a present of firewood in cold weather; give timely help; send help in one's hour of need; provide sb. in trouble with help; do yeoman's service; help a lame dog over a stile [例]我正愁手头没有足够的现金,我弟弟就送来了一千块钱,这可真是雪中送炭。I was worrying that I didn't have enough cash in hand when my younger brother came and gave me 1,000 yuan which was really *at a most opportune moment*.

## 【血海深仇】

profound hatred; have a bitter hatred against; a blood feud; intense and deep-seated hatred; a huge debt of blood; implacable hatred; hate one like poison [例]他发誓总有一天要报这血海深仇。He swears that he will collect *the huge debt of blood* one day.

## 【血口喷人】

spit blood on one; venomously slander; make an unfounded and scurrilous attack upon sb.; cast malicious words to injure sb.; smite with the tongue; cast aspersions on sb.; throw (fling, sling) mud at sb. [例]她气愤地叫道:“我没有偷你的字典,你不要血口喷人!”She shouted angrily, “I didn't steal your dictionary, don't *fling mud at me!*”

## 【血流成河】

Blood flows enough to make a river; blood flowing like a stream; Blood flowed in rivers; a large-scale slaughter; a blood-bath; a massacre; a great bloodshed [例]那场战役结束以后,平原上血流成河。When the battle was over, *the blood flew over the plain like water*.

## 【血盆大口】

one's bloody mouth; a large, fierce-looking mouth [例]老虎张开血盆大口,把兔子给吞了下去。The tiger opened *its bloody mouth* and swallowed the rabbit up.

## 【血气方刚】

full of sap (vigour, energy); hot-blooded; in one's hot youth; be impetuous and easily given to passions; the mettle of youth; in the prime of youth; in the green [例]刚刚毕业的大学生们血气方刚,有时候控制不住自己,容易冲动行事。The university students who have just graduated are *in the prime of youth* and sometimes they cannot keep from acting on impulse.

## 【血肉横飞】

flesh and blood flying in every direction - description of a fierce battle or carnage; bodies blown to bits and pieces; bodies smashed to bits; bodies scattered everywhere [例]一枚导弹击中了那个村庄的一幢屋子,顿时血肉横飞。A missile hit one of the houses in the village and all of a sudden, *flesh and blood were flying in every direction*.

## 【血肉模糊】

badly mutilated [例]那个战士浑身血肉模糊,令人惨不忍睹。The soldier was *so badly mutilated* all over that one could hardly bear to look at it.

## 【寻根究底】

inquire deeply into; investigate (probe) thoroughly; trace sth. into its source; get to the root of sth.; get to the bottom of things [例]许多记者都喜欢寻根究底。Many journalists like *getting to the bottom of things*.

## 【寻花问柳】

rove among flowers and willows - visit places of ill fame; visit brothels; go whor-

ing; frequent houses of courtesans; go about in the hope of finding girls

【寻欢作乐】

seek pleasure and make merry; roister; skylark; pursue pleasure; go out on a spree; all beer and skittles; kick up one's heels; he (out) on the tiles [例]他大言不惭地说,人生的意义对于他来说就是寻欢作乐。He said without shame that life was *all beer and skittles* to him.

【寻事生非】

seek a quarrel (with sb.); provoke mischief; make trouble; find fault (with sb.); have a chip on one's shoulder; stir up trouble [例]这孩子一天到晚寻事生非,他妈妈简直就拿他没办法。The kid is always *making trouble* and his mother can do nothing about him.

【寻死觅活】

repeatedly threaten to commit suicide; attempt to commit suicide in order to intimidate sb.; threaten sb. with death; make a scene; kick up a row [例]为了不让他去见他的初恋情人,他的妻子寻死觅活。His wife *threatened to commit suicide* in order to prevent him from seeing his first lover.

【寻踪觅迹】

in pursuit of; trace out; be on sb.'s track; on the track of sb. [例]李探长根据目击证人的证词,寻踪觅迹,最终抓获了罪犯。Captain Li *traced out* the criminal in the end according to what the eyewitness had told him.

【循规蹈矩】

follow rules; follow the custom or law; observe the rules and regulations; stick to convention; too observant of conventional standards; too orthodox in one's behaviour; walk the chalk line; toe the line [例]她讨厌循规蹈矩,喜欢自由自在

地做自己想做的事。She hates *following rules and regulations*, but she likes doing whatever she wants instead.

【循环往复】

move (run) in circles; go and return in following a circle; repeat in endless cycles

【循序渐进】

follow in order and advance step by step; proceed step by step; advance in a systematic manner; follow in proper sequence and make steady progress; by stages; gradual improvement; by graduations; step by step; learn to creep before you leap [例]学习必须循序渐进。When one studies, one has to do it *step by step* and make steady progress in it.

【循循善诱】

guide one onto the right path step by step; guide patiently and systematically; be good at giving methodical and patient guidance; lead one skilfully on (by) orderly method; lead one gradually into good practice; teach with skill and patience [例]老师教育学生不能用强迫的方法,要循循善诱。As a teacher, one should not force his students to do something. Instead, he should *teach them skilfully and patiently* how to do it.

【迅雷不及掩耳】

as swift as a sudden peal of thunder which leaves no time for covering one's ears; as sudden as lightning; hit somebody like a thunderbolt; with the suddenness of thunder; like lightning; with lightning speed [例]金融危机以迅雷不及掩耳之势横扫东南亚许多国家。A financial disaster struck quite a lot of Southeast Asian countries *with the suddenness of thunderbolt*.

【徇私作弊】

phly favourite; phly favouritism and com-

mit irregularities; do wrong to serve one's friends or relatives [例]至于那些徇私作弊的官员,要一律革职并严加惩处。

As for those officials who *played favourite*, they should be removed from office and severely punished.

## Y

## 【鸦雀无声】

so quiet that there is not even a sound from crows and sparrows; Neither crow nor sparrow could be heard; a dead silence; Silence reigns; A hush fell; in perfect silence; absolutely quiet; without a sound; silent as the grave (tomb) [例]老师一走进教室,教室里立刻鸦雀无声,连针掉在地上的声音都能听见。As soon as the teacher entered the classroom, the classroom was immediately *in such a perfect silence* that one might even hear a pin drop.

## 【哑口无言】

be rendered speechless; have nothing to say for oneself; be left wordless; shut up when defeated in argument; tongue-tied; strike dumb; keep mute as a maggot [例]马修上课的时候心不在焉,所以老师问他问题的时候,他哑口无言。As Matthew was absent-minded in class, he was *left wordless* when asked a question by the teacher.

## 【哑然失笑】

can't help laughing; be unable to suppress a laugh; break into laughter; chuckle to oneself; laugh in spite of oneself [例]想起自己前天那愚蠢可笑的行为,辛迪不禁哑然失笑。Cindy *couldn't help laughing* at the thought of her silly and funny act the day before yesterday.

## 【雅俗共赏】

be enjoyed by both the refined and the vulgar alike; appeal to both the more and the less cultured; give pleasure to both scholars and laymen; be admired by both scholars and the common people; suit both

refined and popular tastes; Highbrows and lowbrows alike can enjoy it; It gives pleasure to all; appeal to all [例]这首歌既不属于流行歌曲,也不属于古典乐曲,相信是可以雅俗共赏的。Being neither popular nor classical, the song is believed to be able to *appeal to both the refined and the vulgar*.

## 【烟消云散】

The smoke disappears and the cloud dissipates; vanish like mist and smoke; vanish (disappear) into thin air; evaporate; pass away like a cloud; end in smoke; dispelled; melt away; be gone [例]随着他们俩的相视一笑,他们之间的误解顿时烟消云散。With their smiling at each other, all misunderstanding between them *melted away*.

## 【嫣然一笑】

a captivating smile of a woman; give a pleasant (sweet, charming, winsome, soft) smile; smile gently (gaily) [例]克劳迪娅嫣然一笑,俏皮地对萨姆说道:“那我们走吧”。Claudia *gave* Sam *a charming smile* and said, "Let's go then."

## 【延年益寿】

add to the years of one's life; prolong (lengthen) one's life; extend one's years; be conducive to longevity; promise longevity

## 【严惩不贷】

punish severely without mercy; punish mercilessly; punish with due severity [例]政府下定决心要对走私分子严惩不贷。The government was determined to *punish* smugglers *severely*.

## 【严阵以待】

be in battle array and wait for the arrival of the enemy; stand ready in battle array; be prepared in full battle array; be in combat readiness; be prepared to meet the challenge; get embattled; under arms; square one's shoulders [例]高考就像是一场残酷的战争, 同学们都严阵以待。The college entrance examination is like a cruel war for which the students have to *stand ready in full battle array*.

#### 【言必信, 行必果】

Promises must be kept and actions must be resolute; always be true in word and resolute in deed; true to one's word and firm in one's actions; make good one's word; be as good as one's word [例]安琪拉是个言必信, 行必果的人。Angela is always *true in word and resolute in deed*.

#### 【言不尽意】

Words cannot express all that's in one's heart; Words don't exhaust ideas; Words cannot express all one intends to say; speak with reticence; What one has said does not convey all on one's mind. [例]斯坦利说话没有条理, 往往说了半天还是言不尽意。Stanley does not speak with good order and good reason. Sometimes *what he has said doesn't convey all on his mind*.

#### 【言不由衷】

not speaking from the bottom of one's heart; The words spoken are not from the heart; speak insincerely (falsely); not speak honestly; say what one doesn't mean; be insincere in one's words; speak with one's tongue in one's cheek [例]阿曼达所说的那番话言不由衷, 你可不要当真。Amanda is *insincere in what she has said* to you. Please do not take it seriously.

#### 【言传身教】

teach by personal example as well as verbal instruction; teach by words and influence by deeds; teach by precept and example; set up examples for others with both precept and practice [例]老师就应该起言传身教的作用。A teacher should *teach not only by verbal instruction but also by personal example*.

#### 【言而无文, 行之不远】

Non-elegant words will not become popular; be devoid of literary grace and so cannot spread far

#### 【言而无信】

One's words are not dependable (trustworthy); fail to keep faith; fail to carry out one's promise; go back on one's word [例]如果你老是言而无信, 就没有人愿意和你合作。If you always *go back on your word*, no one will cooperate with you.

#### 【言而有信】

be faithful in word; make good one's promises; be as good as one's word; be true to one's word [例]只有言而有信的人才值得和他交朋友。Only one who is *as good as his word* is worth making friends with.

#### 【言归于好】

become reconciled; make peace with; resume friendship; make it up with somebody; be on good terms again; patch up a quarrel; bury the hatchet; start with a clean slate; smoke the calumet [例]经过双方父母的反复劝解, 这对年轻夫妇重又言归于好了。After their parents had talked with them several times, the young couple were *on good terms again*.

#### 【言归正传】

return to topic; come back to our story; return from the digression; revert to the original topic; resume the thread of one's



discourse; jesting apart; return to one's muttons; get (come) to business [例]言归正传,我认为大学生的主要任务还是学习。 *Reverting to the original topic*, I think the main task for a university student to accomplish is to study.

#### 【言过其实】

exaggerate; overstate; stretch the truth; make a mountain out of a molehill; draw the longbow; turn geese into swans [例]事情还没有这么严重,你言过其实了。 Things are not so bad yet, you've *overstated* the fact a bit.

#### 【言简意赅】

What one says is precise and to the point; concise and comprehensive; compendious; give the essentials in simple language; impart a deep meaning with only a few words [例]这篇文章言简意赅,我给它打了个高分。 The article is *concise and comprehensive*, so I gave it a high score.

#### 【言听计从】

One's words are obeyed, one's plans are carried out; listen to the words and follow the plans; always follow one's advice; act upon whatever somebody says; readily listen to one's advice and accept it; have implicit faith in somebody; act at one's beck and call [例]罗杰对母亲言听计从,即使有时会违背自己的心意。 Roger *always follows his mother's advice*, although it may sometimes go against his own will.

#### 【言外之意】

idea not expressed in words; something beyond the literal words; implied meaning; implication; insinuation; meaning between the lines; what is actually meant [例]诺玛的言外之意就是老板本来应该给她发一份奖金的。 *What Norma actually meant* was that the boss should have given her a bonus.

#### 【言行一致】

Deeds accord with words; One's deeds are consistent with one's words; match words with deeds; suit one's action to one's words; practice what one preaches; be as good as one's word; live up to one's words [例]只有做到言行一致,别人才会信任你。 Only when you are *as good as your word* can other people trust you.

#### 【言者无罪,闻者足戒】

It is not the one who speaks who is guilty, it is up to the one who listens to exercise due caution; Do not blame the man who speaks but take what you hear as a warning; blame not the speaker but heed what he says

#### 【言之有理】

sound reasonable; well-founded; well-reasoned (statement); well argued; sensibly said; said with solid judgement; speak in a rational and convincing way; make sense; hold water; It stands to reason. [例]梅在会上的发言虽然尖锐了些,但也言之有理。 Although what May has said at the meeting is somewhat sharp, it *stands to reason*.

#### 【言之凿凿】

say something with certainty; be positive about something; speak on good grounds; said with definite evidence; speak by the card [例]“我发誓这是真的。”詹妮言之凿凿,但我们却仍旧不敢相信。 “I swear this is true,” said Jenny *with definite certainty*. However, we still didn't believe it.

#### 【奄奄一息】

gasping for breath; dangerously (critically) ill; on the point of dying; One's breath is failing; scarcely a breath left; at one's last gasp; on the brink of the grave; at death's door; on one's deathbed; within an

inch of life [例]迈克尔赶到医院的时候,他的叔叔已经奄奄一息了。When Michael got to the hospital, his uncle had *scarcely a breath left*.

#### 【掩耳盗铃】

plug (cover, stuff) one's ears while stealing a bell; take away (steal) a bell while covering one's ears; deceive oneself; self-deception; bury one's head in the sand; play the ostrich; The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream. [例]明明是弗洛拉自己闯的祸,她却老是去问查出闯祸的人没有,这不是掩耳盗铃吗? It was Flora herself who brought the trouble, but she kept asking if the trouble-maker had been found out. Wasn't she trying to *deceive herself*?

#### 【掩旗息鼓】

lower the banners and muffle the drums; roll up the flags and silence the drums; lower the flags and stop beating the drums; cease hostilities; without attracting attention; cease all activities; draw in one's horns; lie low; cease fire [例]经过一天的激战,将军下令掩旗息鼓,向后撤退。After a whole day's fierce fighting, the general gave orders to *lower the banners, muffle the drums* and make a retreat.

#### 【掩人耳目】

cover other people's eyes and ears; deceive the public; hoodwink people; cover up the story; fool public opinions; cast a mist before somebody's eyes; pull the wool over people's eyes; throw dust into people's eyes [例]那个腐败的政府官员在乡间买了一幢别墅,为了掩人耳目,他对外宣称这房子是他好朋友的。The corrupt government official bought a villa in the country and he tried to *deceive the public* by saying that the owner of the villa was

one of his good friends.

#### 【眼不见为净】

What eyes do not see is regarded as clean; (Food) is regarded as clean so long as you do not see how it is prepared.

#### 【眼不见,心不烦】

What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve for; While the eyes have not seen, one will not feel vexed; Out of sight, out of mind. [例]什么时候等我出国了,你们俩爱什么时候吵就什么时候吵,我也落个眼不见,心不烦。By the time I go abroad, you two can just quarrel with each other whenever you like. Then I *won't feel vexed so long as I don't see it*.

#### 【眼高手低】

great ambition but little talent; have high aims but low abilities; One's ability does not match one's wishes (high goal); quick to criticize but not half as good at doing it [例]曼迪做事情眼高手低,小事不愿做,大事做不好。Having *great ambition but little talent*, Mandy is unwilling to bother about minor assignments while being unequal to major ones.

#### 【眼观六路,耳听八方】

keep one's eyes and ears open; be all attention; be all eyes and ears [例]买房对绝大多数人来说是件大事,需要眼观六路,耳听八方,收集各种相关信息。For most people, buying an apartment is a really big decision. Therefore, they have to *keep their eyes and ears open* and try to collect all sorts of related information.

#### 【眼花缭乱】

be dazzled; the eyes confused by looking at a number of things [例]这家书店里的图书多得让我眼花缭乱。There were so many books in the bookstore that I *was dazzled*.

#### 【眼明手快】

quick of eye and deft of hand; sharp-eyed and quick-moving; see things clearly and act speedily; nimble [例]丹尼尔眼明手快,在千钧一发之际把那个年轻姑娘从铁轨上拉了过来。*Quick of eye and deft of hand*, Daniel got the young lady away from the railroad at the critical moment.

#### 【眼中钉】

deep hatred; the most hated person; a thorn in one's flesh (side) [例]经理嫉妒这位销售人员所取得的成功,视他为眼中钉。The manager was very jealous of the salesman's success and regarded him as *a thorn in his flesh*.

#### 【眼中钉,肉中刺】

a thorn in one's flesh (side)

#### 【艳丽夺目】

of dazzling beauty; of gorgeous beauty; dazzlingly beautiful [例]粉红色的花朵掩映在绿叶丛中,愈发显得艳丽夺目。Set off by the green leaves, the pink flowers look even more *dazzlingly beautiful*.

#### 【燕雀安知鸿鹄之志】

What can a swallow know of the aims of a swan? How can a common fellow read the mind of a great man?

#### 【燕语莺声】

a woman's voice as pleasant as those of nightingales and swallows

#### 【羊肠小道】

a path as narrow and winding as the bowel of a sheep; a narrow winding trail; a meandering path [例]如果我们走这条羊肠小道到目的地,那大约可以少花两小时。We can spend about two hours less in getting to the destination if we take this *narrow winding trail*.

#### 【羊毛出在羊身上】

Without a sheep, there can be no wool - the benefit comes, after all, from a price

one has paid; In the end, you have to pay for what you get; There is no free lunch. [例]作为消费者,你应该知道羊毛出在羊身上。生产商所花费的费用最终总是要转嫁到消费者头上的。As a consumer, you should know *there is no free lunch*. The costs that manufacturers incur are always passed on to the consumers in the end.

#### 【扬长避短】

make the best use of the advantages and bypass the disadvantages; develop the strong points and avoid the weak points; give play to one's strong points and avoid one's shortcomings; use pluses and bypass minuses [例]大学毕业生在求职面试的时候要注意扬长避短。During a job interview, a university graduate should know how to *give full play to his strong points and avoid his shortcomings*.

#### 【扬长而去】

swagger off (stalk off, go off) by oneself, ignoring everyone else; stride away with one's hand in the air [例]那个骑自行车的人撞倒老人后,不顾众人谴责便扬长而去。After knocking down the old man, the bicyclist *went off by himself*, ignoring other people's blame.

#### 【扬眉吐气】

feel proud and elated; a feeling of exaltation upon fulfillment; full of pride; hold one's head high; in high feathers (spirits) [例]中国球迷只有等到中国男子足球队拿到世界冠军的时候才会感到扬眉吐气。Only when China's men football team wins the world championship can the Chinese football fans *feel proud and elated*.

#### 【扬扬得意】

be very pleased with oneself; feel exalted; be well-contented; conceited; self-sat-

isfied; smug and complacent; be puffed up; tread (walk) on air [例]桑姆为刷新了一项吉尼斯世界纪录而扬扬得意,从此不思进取。Sam was *puffed up* with pride when he broke a Guinness record. From then on, he has made no attempt to make further progress.

#### 【阳春白雪】

"The Spring Snow" (a melody of the élite in the State of Chu) - something selected among the best; highbrow art and literature; refined; too literary to suit the taste of the general public

#### 【阳奉阴违】

comply in appearance (in public) but oppose in heart (in private); agree to one's face but act the contrary; feign compliance while acting in opposition; obey outwardly but disobey secretly [例]玛丽常常向朋友抱怨丈夫对她的愿望总是阳奉阴违。Mary often complains to her friends that her husband always *complies with her wishes in public, but opposes her in private*.

#### 【洋洋洒洒】

voluminous and fluent; copious and fluent; at great length [例]如今,在会上作洋洋洒洒的报告不受欢迎了。Nowadays it's unpopular to make a *voluminous* speech at a meeting.

#### 【仰人鼻息】

rely on another for one's every need; be dependent on sb. for a living; live at one's mercy; curry to one's every whim; be at one's beck and call; be led by the nose; under one's thumb [例]安妮只身住在舅舅家里,过着寄人篱下、仰人鼻息的生活。Living at her uncle's alone, Annie had to *be dependent on other people for a living*.

#### 【养兵千日,用兵一时】

Armies are to be maintained for years but used on a single day; maintain soldiers a thousand days for one hour's service; train troops for a thousand days to use them in an emergency

#### 【养儿备老】

raise children to provide against (for) old age; bring up children to guard against troubles in one's late years; Sons are reared to be a support in old age. [例]"养儿备老"是中国人的传统观念,但是现在有相当多的年轻人都选择结婚以后不生孩子。It is Chinese people's traditional idea that *children are reared to be a support in old age*. However, nowadays quite many young people choose not to have children after marriage.

#### 【养家活口】

support (maintain) one's family; earn bread for one's family; provide for a family; feed and clothe one's family [例]为了养家活口,拉里不得不在晚上做一份兼职。Larry had to do a part-time job in the evening in order to *support his family*.

#### 【养精蓄锐】

conserve strength and store up energy; recuperate and build up energy; nourish one's spiritual resources; strengthen the vital forces; freshen up [例]考试前不要熬夜,要为第二天的考试养精蓄锐。Don't stay up too late. You should *conserve strength and store up energy* for tomorrow's examination.

#### 【养老送终】

provide for the aged parent(s) and attend upon their (his, her) funerals; serve parents while living and give proper burial after death [例]托尼希望女婿能为自己养老送终。Tony expected that his son-in-law could *provide for him in his old*

age and give him proper burial after death.

**【养尊处优】**

lead a comfortable life; enjoy a high position and live in comfort; well provided for; live in clover; live in the lap of luxury [例]咪咪是个独生女,在家里深受父母的宠爱,过着养尊处优的生活。The only daughter in the family, Mimi was doted on by her parents and *lived a comfortable life*.

**【妖魔鬼怪】**

monsters of every description; evil spirits of all kinds; demons and ghosts [例]世界上根本就没有什么妖魔鬼怪,那都是人编出来吓唬人的。There are no *demons and ghosts* at all in the world. They are all cooked up by human beings to throw a scare into others.

**【妖言惑众】**

spread fallacies to deceive people; spread rumors to mislead public opinion; Wild rumors mislead the masses; cast spells on people [例]对于那些妖言惑众的人,我们应该严惩不贷。Those who *spread fallacies to deceive people* will be severely punished.

**【腰缠万贯】**

tie myriads of strings of cash around the waist - a wealthy person; wealthy; very rich; wallow in money [例]杰克虽然腰缠万贯,他对公司的员工却非常吝啬。Wealthy as Jack was, he was very stingy to the employees in his company.

**【摇旗呐喊】**

wave the flag and shout to support one's troops in war; voice support for; encouragement given by bystanders; beat the drums for [例]运动场上,每个班级的学生都在为自己的队员摇旗呐喊。On the playground, students of each class are *voicing their support for* their own

players.

**【摇身一变】**

change into another form with one shake of the body; suddenly change into; suddenly change one's tune (attitude, view, identity, etc.); undergo metamorphosis; make an about-face (volte-face) [例]昨天他还是个可怜的流浪汉,今天摇身一变就成了公司的总经理。A poor vagrant yesterday, he suddenly *changed into* the company's general manager overnight.

**【摇头摆尾】**

shake the head and wag the tail; assume an air of complacency (levity); well-content and pleased [例]彼特才刚当选为校长就开始摇头摆尾了。It was not long after Peter was elected school headmaster when he began to *assume an air of complacency*.

**【摇头晃脑】**

wag one's head - look pleased with oneself; assume an air of self-conceit [例]小男孩背诵唐诗时那摇头晃脑的样子真是可爱极了。How lovely it is to see the little boy *wag his head* reciting a poem of the Tang Dynasty!

**【摇尾乞怜】**

wag the tail to arouse pity; wag the tail and flatter; beg like a dog; fawn on; grovel at the feet of; lick the feet of [例]琳达宁愿死也不愿意到敌人面前去摇尾乞怜。Linda would rather die than *grovel at the feet of the enemy*.

**【摇摇欲坠】**

shaking as if about to fall; tottering; crumbling; on the verge of collapse; precarious; hang by a thread (hair) [例]龙卷风过后,镇上很多房子都摇摇欲坠。Many buildings in the town were *on the verge of collapse* after the tornado.

**【遥遥无期】**

not (realizable, etc.) within the foreseeable future; be put off to the indefinite future; leave things to the indefinite future [例]如果巴勒斯坦和以色列之间不能达成和平协议,整个中东地区的和平就遥遥无期。If no peace agreement can be reached between Palestine and Israel, the Middle East peace is *not realizable within the foreseeable future*.

#### 【咬文嚼字】

pay excessive attention to wording; talk pedantically; chew (ruminate) upon a subject; speak like a book [例]如果你说话还这样咬文嚼字的话,我可要失去耐心了。If you keep on  *talking pedantically*, my patience will be worn out.

#### 【咬牙切齿】

gnash one's teeth in anger; grind (clench) one's teeth in hatred (bitterness, etc.); mad with anger [例]贝妮昨天逃学,她妈妈气得咬牙切齿。Benny played truant yesterday and her mother was  *mad with anger*.

#### 【杳如黄鹤】

gone like the yellow crane - nowhere to be found; disappear without a trace; gone forever [例]警方赶到犯罪嫌疑人家中时,他已经杳如黄鹤了。When the police got to the suspect's house, he was  *gone like the yellow crane and nowhere to be found*.

#### 【杳无人烟】

remote and desolate; uninhabited; deserted [例]罗宾游了一天一夜,最后来到了一个杳无人烟的荒岛上。After swimming for a day and night, Robin finally came to an  *uninhabited* island.

#### 【杳无音信】

have never been heard of since; No news has been heard of (him); No news has

been received from sb. for a long time; completely without news [例]自从艾米莉离开广州去了美国以后,她从此就杳无音信了。Since Emily left Guangzhou for the United States,  *no news has been heard of her*.

#### 【杳无踪迹】

disappear without a trace; gone without leaving a trace; vanish [例]三十年前,在这片原始森林里经常有老虎出没,但是现在它们都杳无踪迹了。Thirty years ago, the primeval forest was the haunt of tigers. But now they are all  *gone without leaving a trace*.

#### 【窈窕淑女】

a beautiful, quiet and modest woman

#### 【要害之地】

a place of importance [例]这可是敌人的要害之地,今天晚上一定要拿下来。This is  *a place of importance* for our enemy, so we have to capture it tonight.

#### 【耀武扬威】

make a big show of one's strength; display (show, flaunt, exhibit) one's prowess; swagger before others; bluff and bluster; brandish one's sword; put on airs [例]决不能允许任何侵略者在中国的土地上耀武扬威。No invader is allowed to  *bluff and bluster* in China.

#### 【野心勃勃】

fall of ambition; burn with ambition; be obsessed with ambition; harbor ambitious dreams (wild ambition); be overwhelmingly ambitious [例]希特勒野心勃勃,妄想用武力称霸世界。Burning with  *ambition*, Hitler tried in vain to dominate the world with force.

#### 【叶公好龙】

Lord Ye who claimed to be fond of dragons was scared out of his wits when a real one appeared; Lord Ye's love of dragons; pro-

fessed love of what one really fears

【夜长梦多】

A long night is fraught with dreams; Heaven knows what may happen all this long while; A long delay means many hitches; There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. [例]夜长梦多,我们还是立刻按计划行事吧。A long delay means many hitches. We'd better act according to our plan right now.

【夜静更深】

the dead hours of the night; in the deep (still) of night [例]在这夜静更深之时,罗耶教授还在伏案疾书。In the deep of night, Professor Lauer is still bending over his desk writing something.

【夜郎自大】

the king of Yelang (a small kingdom in southwest China) thought his country was bigger than that of the Han Dynasty (China); ignorant boastfulness (presumption, arrogance); be too proud of oneself; think no small beer of oneself [例]公司老板夜郎自大,最终导致公司破产。The boss' ignorant boastfulness only led to the bankruptcy of his company.

【夜深人静】

All is quiet at dead of night (in the dead of night); at night when all is still; in late night silence; in the still (quiet) of night

【夜以继日】

day and night; round the clock; day in, day out [例]为了确保在截止期之前完成这项工程,工人们夜以继日地工作着。The workers went on working day and night so as to make sure that the project be completed before the deadline.

【一败涂地】

suffer a crushing (big, thorough) defeat; a complete (total) loss; an overwhelming defeat; be ruined (wiped out) completely;

be a dead failure; fall to the ground; beat all hollow; put to rout; bite the dust [例]杰克在这次温布尔敦网球公开赛中一败涂地。Jack suffered an overwhelming defeat at the Wimbledon Tennis Game.

【一般见识】

(lower oneself to) the same level as sb; bother oneself arguing with sb. [例]作为大学生,你不必和他这样不讲道理的人一般见识。As a university student, you needn't bother yourself arguing with such an unreasonable person as him.

【一般无二】

exactly alike; exactly the same; no big difference [例]贝蒂的书包怎么看上去和我的书包一般无二? How come Betty's schoolbag looks exactly like mine?

【一板一眼】

following a prescribed pattern in speech or action; scrupulous and methodical; very careful of the rules; rigid; inflexible [例]阿伦不管做什么事情都一板一眼的。No matter what Alan does, he is always scrupulous and methodical.

【一本万利】

A small investment brings a 10,000-fold profit; make big profits with a small capital; highly profitable; make a scoop [例]股票要是炒得好,还真是有可能做到一本万利呢。It's quite possible for one to make big profits with a small capital through successful buying and selling of stock.

【一本正经】

put on a solemn look; assume a dead serious attitude; take ... seriously; be poker-faced; in all seriousness; look prim and proper [例]金先生板起脸来训斥他手下员工的时候一本正经的。Mr. King put on a solemn look when he scolded his employees.

## 【一鼻孔出气】

hold identical opinions (views); talk exactly the same way; echo one another's opinion; sing the same tune; be in tune with; cut from the same cloth; toe the same line; he cheek by jowl with [例]这父子俩一唱一和,要知道,他们可是一鼻孔出气。The father and son sing the same tune. You know, they are both cut from the same cloth.

## 【一鼻子灰】

meet rejection; be rebuffed (rejected); run into a stone all [例]本原想到朋友家去借点钱,没想到却碰了一鼻子灰。Ben went to his friend's home to borrow some money, but he was rejected.

## 【一笔勾销】

invalidate by crossing off (blotting out); write off at one stroke; cancel once for all (completely); clean (wipe off) the slate; wipe out; pass a wet sponge over [例]我们之间的误会今天就一笔勾销了吧。Let's pass a wet sponge over the misunderstanding between us today.

## 【一臂之力】

a helping hand; lend sb. a hand; come to aid [例]若非你当时助我们一臂之力,真难以想象我们现在的处境会怎样。If you hadn't lent us a hand at that time, we could hardly imagine the situation we might be in now.

## 【一表人才】

a man of striking appearance; a fine-looking man; handsome [例]保罗一表人才,班里的女孩都很喜欢他。Being a fine-looking man, Paul is very popular with the girls in his class.

## 【一病不起】

fall ill and never recover; take to one's bed and never get up again [例]接到她丈夫在战场上牺牲的噩耗,她从此便一病

不起。Since she got the news of her husband's death on the battlefield, she fell ill and has never recovered.

## 【一波三折】

a series of frustrations; one obstacle after another; hit (strike) one snag after another; twists and turns; ups and downs [例]虽然历经了一波三折,朱迪最终还是成功地实施了她的计划。Despite one obstacle after another, Judy eventually carried out her plan.

## 【一波未平,一波又起】

A new wave arises when the previous one has barely subsided; suffer a string of reverses; One trouble follows another; a run of bad luck; Misfortunes never come singly. [例]真是一波未平,一波又起,他母亲上个月刚刚碰到车祸,他父亲昨天又中风了。Misfortunes never come singly. His mother met with a car accident last month and then his father suffered a stroke yesterday.

## 【一步登天】

reach the sky in a single bound - attain the highest level in one step; have a meteoric rise; a sudden rise in life [例]许多流行音乐歌手一步登天,名利双收,可惜他们通常很快就默默无闻了。Many pop singers have a meteoric rise to fame and fortune, but unfortunately, they often fade away equally rapidly.

## 【一步一个脚印】

Every step leaves its print - to work steadily and make solid progress; make progress one step at a time [例]在人生的道路上,每个人都应该踏踏实实,一步一个脚印。In the course of life, everyone should learn to live in a down-to-earth way, work steadily and make solid progress.

## 【一不做,二不休】



Once it is started, go through with it; either do nothing or get everything done; Whatever the consequences, carry a thing through; A thing once begun will not be put off until done; in for a penny, in for a pound; over shoes, over boots; as well be hanged for a sheep as (for) a lamb [例] 一不做,二不休,我看还是我们先采取主动吧。 *In for a penny, in for a pound.* I think we'd better take the initiative.

#### 【一场春梦】

merely a spring dream; a fleeting illusion; only a transient joy; a pipe dream [例]直到这时肯才明白他以前所作的努力都是白费心机,不过做了一场春梦而已。 It was not until then that Ken realized that his previous efforts had all been made in vain. He did nothing but *dream a pipe dream.*

#### 【一唱一和】

One sings and the other joins in; echo each other; in perfect harmony; sing the same tune; be in tune with; sing in duet (chorus) [例]这夫妻俩一唱一和,配合得十分默契。 The couple *sang the same tune* and were in perfect harmony.

#### 【一朝天子一朝臣】

Every emperor has a cabinet composed of his own favorites; A change of sovereign brings a change of ministers; When a new king is crowned, he brings to the court his own favorites and expels those of his predecessor; A new chief brings in new aides.

#### 【一尘不染】

not a speck of dust; spotless; free from dust; clean and tidy; maintain personal integrity; as clean (neat) as a new pin; spick and span [例]艾米的卧室一尘不染。 Amy's bedroom is *spotless.*

#### 【一成不变】

fixed and unchangeable; inflexible; invariable; unalterable; immutable and frozen; be set in one's ways; hard and fast; get (fall, go) into a rut [例]他的生活习惯多年来一成不变。 He has been *set in his ways* for many years.

#### 【一筹莫展】

at a loss what to do; can find no way out; cannot suggest a move or do a thing; have no way out; be at one's wit's end; be at the end of one's tether; find oneself in the mire [例]面对如此高的通货膨胀率,美联储主席一筹莫展。 The Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board was *at his wit's end* on such a high inflation rate.

#### 【一触即发】

ready to be set off at a touch; may be triggered at any moment; on the verge of breaking out; imminent crisis; touch-and-go [例]局势非常紧张,人们担心示威群众与警察之间的冲突会一触即发。 The situation was *touch-and-go*. It was worried that the conflict between the demonstrators and the police *might be triggered at any moment.*

#### 【一传十,十传百】

spread very quickly; get around very quickly; spread from mouth to mouth; soon become common talk [例]一传十,十传百,他抢救溺水儿童的事很快就传到了他父母那儿。 That he saved a drowning kid was *spread so quickly* that his parents soon got to know it.

#### 【一蹴而就】

succeed overnight; reach (accomplish) one's goal in one move; be reached at one stroke; be realized overnight [例]要实现当一个伟大政治家的理想是不可能一蹴而就的。 Your ideal to be a great statesman cannot *be realized overnight.*

#### 【一寸光阴一寸金】

An inch of time is worth an inch of gold; Time is precious; Time is money. [例]在现代社会,人人都很清楚地知道“一寸光阴一寸金”的含义是什么。In modern society, everyone knows clearly what is meant by “Time is money”.

#### 【一刀两断】

cut into two at one stroke of the knife; break off all relations with; be through with; sever ties (connections) with; make a clean break with (from); split up with; have nothing more to do with [例]弗兰克对他朋友比利的所作所为非常不满,决定和他一刀两断。Being dissatisfied with what his friend Billy had done, Frank decided to *make a clean break with him*.

#### 【一定之规】

a fixed pattern (rule, regulation); a set rule; one's own way

#### 【一动不如一静】

It would be better to remain where one is than to make a move; better keep still than move; To take no action is better than to take any; To try to do anything is not as good as to remain quiet.

#### 【一而再,再而三】

repeatedly; again and again; over and over again; once end again; time and again [例]弗吉尼亚一而再,再而三地询问问讯处的小姐航班为什么取消了,可她就是得不到任何回答。Virginia asked the young lady at the information desk *again and again* why the flight had been canceled, but she got no reply at all.

#### 【一帆风顺】

have a favorable wind throughout the voyage; Everything goes well (smoothly); plain (smooth) sailing; without a hitch; sail before the wind; have a good innings [例]每次丈夫出海,莉莉都会祝他一

帆风顺。Every time when her husband goes to sea, Lily wishes that *everything goes smoothly*.

#### 【一反常态】

depart from one's normal behavior; be contrary to the way one usually behaves; suddenly change one's attitude towards; act out of character; not to be one's usual self [例]一向健谈的吉姆今天一反常态,在讨论会上一言未发。Jim, who is always talkative, *acted out of character* today and said nothing during the discussion.

#### 【一夫当关,万夫莫开】

If one man guards the pass, ten thousand are unable to get through; One man can hold out against ten thousand.

#### 【一概而论】

treat different things (matters, problems) as the same; put under the same heading (in the same category); lump together; put on a par with [例]这些问题需要具体分析,不能一概而论。We should make a concrete analysis of these problems. They cannot be *treated as the same*.

#### 【一干二净】

thoroughly; completely; clean out completely; all finished; clear up thoroughly; neat and tidy; spick and span; root and branch; as clean (slick) as a whistle; as clean (neat, bright) as a (new) pin; lock, stock and barrel [例]1. 学生们每个星期五下午都把教室打扫得一干二净。The students always clean the classroom until it is *spick and span* every Friday afternoon. 2. 那个部门经理把责任推得一干二净。The department manager *completely* shirked his own responsibility.

#### 【一个巴掌拍不响】

One hand (palm) alone can't clap; You

can't clap with one hand; It takes two to make a quarrel.

### 【一古脑儿】

altogether; completely; all in one package; root and branch; lock, stock and barrel; neck and crop [例]回到家里,多里斯一古脑儿把获奖学金的事告诉了爸爸妈妈。As soon as Doris got home, he told his parents *all in one package* about his winning the scholarship.

### 【一鼓作气】

Courage is aroused at the (sound of the) first drum; get something done in one vigorous effort; press on to the finish without letup; at one fling; at (in) one go [例]帕斯卡昨天熬了个通宵,一鼓作气把这本书校对完了。Pascal stayed up all night yesterday and *pressed on without letup* until he finished proofreading the book.

### 【一官半职】

an (unimportant) official post; some official appointment [例]为了谋个一官半职,他花费了将近一半存款。He spent almost half of his savings in order to get *an official post*.

### 【一棍子打死】

kill with one single blow; finish off with one blow; knock sb. down at one stroke; shatter at one stroke; deal a fatal blow; completely negate [例]就算他犯了错误,你也不应该把他一棍子打死呀。Even if he made a mistake, you shouldn't have *dealt* him such a *fatal blow*.

### 【一哄而散】

the crowd raised in a tumult and then dispersed; dispersed in a hubbub; stampede; break up [例]老师一宣布下课,学生们就一哄而散。The minute the teacher dismissed the class, the students *dispersed in a hubbub*.

### 【一呼百应】

An appeal meets with immediate response; A call draws response from hundreds of people; a hundred responses to a call; be ready to go into action in their hundreds [例]村民们对村长一呼百应,很快就抓住了那个人室抢劫的歹徒。The village head's call *met with immediate response* and soon the villagers captured the burglar.

### 【一挥而就】

finish a piece of writing (a painting) at one go; just a flourish of the pen and it's done; be done with one stroke of the pen; dash off [例]这位画家一挥而就完成了一幅仕女图。The painter *finished* a painting of a lady *at one go*.

### 【一技之长】

a particular skill; proficiency in a particular line (field); be skilled in some kind of work; professional skill; specialty [例]没有一技之长是很难找到一份好工作的。Without *a particular skill*, it's very difficult for one to get a good job.

### 【一家之言】

statements of a school; one doctrine or school of thought; the academic works of an independent thought which have formed a school of its own; authority in a certain field

### 【一见倾心】

lose one's heart to sb. at first sight; strike up an acquaintance at once; (fall in) love at first sight [例]大卫对玛丽一见倾心,无法忘怀。David *fell in love* with Mary *at first sight* and is unable to dismiss her from his mind.

### 【一见如故】

feel like old friends at the first meeting; become fast friends at the first meeting; be friendly from the start; take an instant lik-

ing to sb.; hit it off right away; hail - fellow - well - met [例]1. 既然咱们一见如故,何不一起去泰国旅行呢? Since *we're like old friends at the first meeting*, why don't we go together to Thailand for a trip? 2. 他这人不管走到哪儿都和别人一见如故。He is *hail - fellow - well - met* with everyone wherever he goes.

#### 【一箭双雕】

shoot two hawks with one arrow; achieve two purposes with a single act (at one stroke); succeed in doing two things by only one action; dual gain; kill two birds with one stone [例]你这个计谋真可谓一箭双雕啊! The plot you employed helped you *achieve two purposes with a single act*.

#### 【一见钟情】

fall in love with sb. the first time one sets one's eyes on sb.; take an instant fancy to; lose one's heart to sb. at first sight; attached to (drawn to) each other at first sight; (fall in) love at first sight [例]劳拉说她不相信会有一见钟情这种事。Laura said that she didn't believe *love at first sight* would happen in the world.

#### 【一举成名】

become famous overnight; spring into fame; rocket to fame; achieve instant fame; make a name for oneself at a single attempt [例]她成为中国第一个上大学的女性,因而一举成名。She *achieved instant fame* by becoming the first Chinese woman to go to university.

#### 【一举两得】

achieve two things at one stroke; serve a double purpose; succeed in doing two things by only one action; dual gain; kill two birds with one stone [例]他搬家搬到了离工厂很近的地方,既节约了时间,又节省了车费,真是一举两得。

He moved to a place quite near the factory, which saved him not only time but also bus fares. Actually, he *achieved two purposes by only one action*.

#### 【一举一动】

one's every action; every movement (move, act); every particular gesture and behavior [例]那个杀人犯的一举一动都在警察的掌握之中。The killer's *every movement* was clearly known by the police.

#### 【一蹶不振】

unable to get up after a fall; collapse after one setback; fail utterly (completely); unable to recover from a setback; once fallen never to rise again; be finished for good [例]那场战役的失败使得这位鼎鼎有名的大将军从此一蹶不振。The failure in that battle made the well-known general *unable to recover* from then on.

#### 【一决雌雄】

fight (wage) a decisive battle; fight to see who is the stronger; compete for championship; fight it out; have a showdown with [例]我们决定接受你的挑战,与你一决雌雄。We decide to accept the challenge *fighting it out* with you.

#### 【一孔之见】

a peephole (narrow, limited, partial, one-sided) view; limited outlook; glimpse of the truth; not see an inch beyond one's nose [例]他对国际事务的知识并不熟悉,然而又自有他的一孔之见。Although he doesn't have a very clear knowledge of international affairs, he always has his own *limited view* on them.

#### 【一览无余】

take in everything at a glance; cover all at one glance; command the whole view of; enjoy an unobstructed view of [例]从东

方明珠上看去,上海的景致一览无余。  
From the Oriental Pearl, one can *enjoy an unobstructed view of the City of Shanghai.*

### 【一劳永逸】

do all that is required to get perpetual peace; do sth. once (and) for all; put things right once and for all; get sth. done once (and) for all; solutions that hold good for all time; do sth. well so that one never has to do it again for good and all  
[例]如果可以一劳永逸,你为什么不去筹一笔钱把这套公寓买下来呢? Why don't you try to get some money and buy the apartment if it is a *solution that holds good for all time?*

### 【一了百了】

Death ends all one's troubles; One finished, all is finished; solve the main problem and everything will follow; All troubles end when the main trouble ends.

### 【一鳞半爪】

fragments; odd bits; just a few known details of a larger whole; odds and ends; in dribs and drabs [例]这场有关电脑知识的讲座我只听懂了一鳞半爪。I only understood *odd bits and fragments* of the talk about computer knowledge.

### 【一溜烟】

run away (dash off, flee, disappear, vanish) like a breath of vapor; swiftly; in (like) a flash [例]那小女孩一溜烟地跑下了楼。The little girl ran downstairs *swiftly.*

### 【一路平安】

have a good (safe) trip; safe all the way; I wish you a pleasant journey; Bon voyage! A pleasant journey to you! [例]离开北京去加拿大时,朋友们都祝他一路平安。When he left Beijing for Canada, his friends all *wished him a pleasant journey.*

### 【一落千丈】

suffer a disastrous (sudden, calamitous, ruinous) decline; a great (terrific, precipitate, disastrous) drop; plunge; slump; a big comedown; take a nosedive [例]上个月全球股市一落千丈。The world stock markets *took a nosedive* last month.

### 【一马当先】

gallop at the head; in the forefront (of); rush forward in front of others; take the lead; in the lead; in the van (of); in the vanguard (of) [例]她在百米跑的比赛中一马当先,给观众们留下了深刻的印象。She *took the lead* in the 100-meter race, which deeply impressed the spectators.

### 【一马平川】

flat country; a wide (vast) expanse of flat land; a flat stretch of land; the boundless plain [例]再翻过两座山就是一马平川了。You can see a *vast expanse of flat land* after crossing over two mountains.

### 【一脉相传】

of the same school; derived from (be traced to) the same origin; be imbued with the same spirit; be a true (faithful) disciple of; come down in one (continuous) line; in the same strain

### 【一毛不拔】

unwilling to pluck out a hair - very stingy; miserly; careful of money; frugal; tight; as mean as a miser; close-fisted; very sparing in spending money; part with not a cent; pinch pennies (every penny); not to lift (stir) a finger to help [例]他可是个一毛不拔的人,肯定不会把手机借给你的。He is a fellow who *pinches every penny.* I'm sure he won't lend you his mobile phone.

### 【一面之辞】

a one-sided statement (story, view); an account given by only one of the parties; biased; prejudiced; one side of the matter (case) [例]他这只是一面之辞,所以你还不能急于下结论。His is only a *one-sided story*, so you cannot jump to conclusions now.

#### 【一面之交】

have met only once; a once-met (nodding, slight) acquaintance; a person whom one knows slightly; be casually acquainted with; be only a chance acquaintance of sb. [例]虽然我和他只是一面之交,但是我觉得他是个热心肠的人。Although I *have met him only once*, I think he is a warm-hearted person.

#### 【一面之缘】

happen to have met sb. once; the pleasure of having met once [例]格林和辛迪曾经有过一面之缘。Green and Cindy *happened to have met each other once*.

#### 【一鸣惊人】

amaze the world with a single brilliant feat; surprise the people with one's first success; become famous overnight; win popularity with the first work; rocket to fame; set the Thames on fire; make one's mark at the first shot; make (pull off) a great coup [例]那个年轻的女演员凭着第一部电影就一鸣惊人了。The young actress *rocketed to fame* with her first film.

#### 【一命呜呼】

die; drop dead; lose one's life; kick the bucket; go west; be snuffed out; breathe one's last [例]他盼着老娘一命呜呼,这样他好继承她的遗产。He looked forward to the *death* of his old mother and then he could inherit her legacy.

#### 【一模一样】

identical; exactly alike (like, the same);

pretty much the same; resemble; striking resemblances (between); all the same; as like as two peas (in a pod); be the image of; be cast in the same mould; not a fraction of difference (between) [例]这对双胞胎长得一模一样。The twins looked *exactly alike*.

#### 【一目了然】

clear (manifest, understand all, tell) at a glance; apparent; easy to understand; obvious; plain; be written all over one's face; carry on its face; see with half an eye; stick (stand) out a mile; leap to the eye [例]这两篇论文之间的区别一目了然。You can *tell* the difference between the two research papers *at a glance*.

#### 【一目十行】

read (take in) ten lines at one glance; read terribly fast; read rapidly; read at a quick pace; a rapid reader [例]如果像你这样一目十行的话,你根本就不可能真正理解这篇文章的含义。It's impossible for you to understand the real meaning of the article if you *read so rapidly*.

#### 【一男半女】

one or two offsprings (children, kids); a few children (kids) [例]她这辈子也没生个一男半女的。She didn't give birth to a *single child* in her life.

#### 【一年半载】

around (about) a year; a year or so; for-six months or a year; six months to a year [例]他们再过个一年半载就要结婚了。They are going to get married in a *year or so*.

#### 【一年之计在于春】

The whole year's work depends on a good start in spring; The work for the year is best begun in spring; Spring is the best time to do the year's work; make the plan

for the year in spring

【一念之差】

a wrong thought in passing; wrong decision (a great mistake) made in a moment of weakness; a momentary slip; do sth. wrong on the spur of the moment [例]三十年前的一念之差毁了她的一生。The *momentary slip* she made thirty years ago ruined her life.

【一诺千金】

a solemn promise; a promise that will be kept; One's word is as good as one's bond; as good as one's word; be true to one's words; live up to a promise; a man of his words [例]一诺千金的人是很受人尊敬的。One who is *as good as his word* is held in high esteem.

【一拍即合】

click; become good friends after brief contact; quickly become partners; fit in readily (easily) with; chime in easily [例]既然我们一拍即合,所见略同,我也就不瞒你了。Since we *fit in readily with* each other and are of the same opinion, I won't hide it from you.

【一盘散沙】

a heap (sheet, tray, plate) of loose sand; in a state of disunity; lacking a spirit of cooperation; deeply disunited; utterly lacking cohesion

【一片汪洋】

a world of waters; a vast (broad) expanse of water [例]当他赶到家时,家里早已是一片汪洋了。The house had long been *a world of waters* before he got home.

【一片至诚】

a true heart; open-hearted; candid; in all sincerity [例]我那天对你所说的一切完全出于一片至诚,你不应该误解我。What I said to you that day was in

*all sincerity*. You shouldn't have misunderstood me.

【一贫如洗】

penniless; poverty-stricken; moneyless; as poor as a church mouse; in poverty; on one's uppers; hard up; as poor as Job; in destitution; not to have a shirt on one's back; in want [例]老人一贫如洗,只好将报纸裹在身上御寒。The *penniless* old man had to insulate himself from the cold with newspapers.

【一颦一笑】

every twinkle and smile; the slightest facial expression

【一气呵成】

(of an essay) flow smoothly; make smooth reading; get sth. done at one go; accomplish sth. at a stretch; without interruption (letup); in a breath; at one fling; at a heat; at one sitting; at one stroke [例]那篇论文他几乎是一气呵成。He finished writing the research paper almost *at one sitting*.

【一钱不值】

not worth a penny (cent); utterly worthless; mere trash; not worth a damn [例]评论家们认为他的这幅画一钱不值。The critics regarded the painting of his as *mere trash*.

【一窍不通】

lack the slightest knowledge of; unintelligent; know nothing about (of); be utterly ignorant of; not to know the first thing about; be all Greek to sb.; not to know the ABC of; out of one's element; a total greenhorn [例]我对这台录像机的操作一窍不通,所以我总是等我弟弟回家以后叫他帮我弄。I *know nothing about* how to operate the VCR, so I always wait until my younger brother comes back to help me with it.

## 【一清二白】

perfectly (very) clean; spotless; unimpeachable [例]你还不相信我吗? 我在这里呆了半年, 从来都是一清二白的。Don't you trust me? During my half-year stay here, I've been *perfectly clean*.

## 【一清二楚】

be perfectly (very, completely) clear about sth.; be crystal clear; explicit; as plain (clear) as daylight; as plain as the nose in (on) your face; beyond the shadow of doubt [例]经过老师的讲解, 我们对这两个词之间的区别一清二楚。After the teacher's explanation, we were *completely clear about* the difference between the two words.

## 【一穷二白】

backward (blank) both economically and culturally; poor and blank; poverty and blankness

## 【一丘之貉】

of a kind; of the same sort; birds of a feather; cut from the same cloth; tarred with the same brush (stick); jackals of the same lair; tigers from the same den [例]那父子俩都贪得无厌, 简直就是一丘之貉。Both the father and the son are insatiably greedy for everything. They are *cut from the same cloth*.

## 【一去不复返】

gone forever; gone, never to return; leave for good; Once gone, never to come back; a thing of the past; past and gone; all over; That's all history now. [例]以前那些甜蜜的日子为什么从此一去不复返呢? Why are those sweet days *gone forever*?

## 【一人得道, 鸡犬升天】

When a man attains the Tao (enlightenment and immortality), even his pets ascend to heaven; If a man becomes immor-

tal, even his hen and dog become immortal, too; When a man gets to the top, all his friends and relations get there with him; When a man is at court, all his followers are in favor.

## 【一人做事一人当】

A man must bear the consequences of his own acts; One should answer for what he does himself; If a man does wrong, he alone must take the blame; hold oneself solely responsible for one's own doing; on one's own hook [例]一人做事一人当。窗户是我打碎的, 当然应该由我来赔。One should *answer for what he does himself*. It was I who broke the window, of course I should pay for it.

## 【一日不见, 如隔三秋】

A day away from a dear one is like three seasons (years); A day of separation seems as long as three years; Absence makes the heart grow fonder; miss sb. very much; It seems ages.

## 【一如既往】

as (like) in the past; (just) as before; as always; as usual; as ever [例]我们将一如既往地支持你的基因研究工作。We will, *as always*, support your scientific research on genetics.

## 【一扫而空】

be swept clean away at one attempt; empty with one sweep; make a clean sweep of; finish off; wipe out; lick up [例]我们应该把腐败的政府官员一扫而空。We ought to *make a clean sweep of* corrupt government officials.

## 【一身是胆】

know no fear; full of courage; be absolutely fearless; full of guts; be every inch a hero; One's whole body is valor; hold; daunting; daring; courageous [例]罗宾汉一身是胆, 勇于和社会上的邪恶势



力作斗争。 *Knowing no fear*, Robinhood fought bravely against the evil forces in society.

【一失足成千古恨】

A single slip may cause lasting sorrow; A false step brings everlasting grief; A moment's mistake will bring about sorrow for ages; The error of a moment becomes the regrets of a lifetime; The mistaken step taken at first will prove a curse for life.

【一时半刻】

temporarily; a short (little) while; (in) a short time [例]她一时半刻也做不完。 She cannot get it done *in a short time*.

【一视同仁】

treat equally without discrimination; give equal treatment to; extend the same treatment to all; be equally kind to; treat all with the same kindness; partial to none; unprejudiced; make no exception; not to make chalk of one and cheese of the other [例]不管是成绩好的学生还是成绩差的学生,都要一视同仁。 Whether high-achieving students or lower-achieving ones, they should be *treated equally without discrimination*.

【一事无成】

achieve (accomplish) nothing; without a single success; be a complete (total) failure; nothing accomplished; get nothing done; unsuccessful; unfruitful; be (get) nowhere; all to no purpose; come to nothing [例]亚当觉得他这一辈子一事无成。 Adam finds himself *a complete failure* in life.

【一手包办】

take everything on oneself; control exclusively; keep everything in one's own hands; stage-manage; dictatorial; arbitrary; run the whole show; take full charge [例]经理不在的时候,所有的事情都

由丽莎一手包办。 *Lisa runs the whole show* when the manager is away.

【一手遮天】

cover up the sky with one hand; hoodwink the public (world); hide the truth from the masses; pull the wool over the eyes of [例]关于秘密出售核武器一事,那个国家的领导人想一手遮天。 The leader of the country tried to *hoodwink the world* about their secret selling of nuclear weapons.

【一丝不苟】

conscientious and meticulous; not a bit negligent; scrupulous about every detail; with every care and attention; with great care; dot one's i's and cross one's t's [例]他做任何事情都一丝不苟。 Whatever he does, he is *scrupulous about every detail*.

【一丝不挂】

not have a stitch on; be stark - naked; have nothing on; with nothing on; naked; nude; in one's birthday suit; as naked as the day (when) one was born; in a state of nature; in one's skin; in the altogether; in the buff; in the raw [例]一丝不挂地站在学生面前对这位模特儿来说还是生平第一次,因此她感到很不自在。 It was the first time that the model stood *stark - naked* in front of the students, so she felt very ill at ease.

【一塌糊涂】

in an awful state; a confused state of affairs; in a complete mess (muddle); in utter disorder; make a mess of; make hay of; a hell of a mess; a pretty (nice, fine) kettle of fish [例]他们打开房门,发现里面一塌糊涂。 When they opened the door, they found the room was *in a complete mess*.

【一潭死水】

a pool (pond) of stagnant water; a lifeless (stagnant) condition; very dull, inactive and stagnated (atmosphere) [例]人们通常把中国的封建社会比作一潭死水。The feudal society in China is usually compared to a pool of stagnant water.

#### 【一团和气】

an easygoing atmosphere; a prevailing mood of harmony; harmony all around; unprincipled peace; genial; affable; amiable; be on good terms with everyone (at the expense of principle); keep on the right side of everyone [例]游客们很快就喜欢上了那个一团和气的导游。The tourists took an instant liking to the affable tour guide.

#### 【一网打尽】

capture all in one net; catch the whole lot in a dragnet; round up the whole gang at one swoop; make a wholesale arrest of; let no one escape; all captured at once; make a clean sweep (of) [例]经过几个月的调查,警方将毒贩一网打尽。After a few months' investigation, the police made a wholesale arrest of the drug dealers.

#### 【一往情深】

be passionately devoted; be deeply attached to; fall deeply (madly) in love with; develop a passionate love for; a deep-seated affection for sb. or sth.; a life-long and unfaltering devotion; be head over heels in love with; be far gone in love with [例]卡萝尔的男朋友对她一往情深。Carol's boyfriend is passionately devoted to her.

#### 【一往无前】

go straight forward; press resolutely forward; forge ahead; press forward with indomitable will; indomitable; carry all (everything) before one [例]这个军队具有一往无前的精神,它能战胜一切敌人。

The army that has an *indomitable* spirit is able to defeat all the enemies.

#### 【一望而知】

see (tell) at a glance; know from a look (glance); readily tell (seen); very obvious (apparent); leap to the eye; It's written all over one's face. [例]一望而知他就是我上星期在中央公园遇见的那个小伙子。It's very obvious that he is the young man I met in the Central Park last week.

#### 【一望无际】

boundless; stretch away endlessly; stretch to (beyond) the horizon; stretch as far as the eye can see; be vast in extent; beyond the reach of a glance; An endless stretch greets one's eyes; a boundless stretch of [例]1. 茫茫大海,一望无际。The sea stretches away endlessly. 2. 地里种着一望无际的碧绿的西瓜。In the field, a boundless stretch of green watermelons meets my eyes.

#### 【一文不名】

broke; penniless; without a penny to one's name; have not a shilling (penny) in the world; be cleaned out; not have a feather to fly with [例]他虽然经常出入于本市各大宾馆、饭店,但实际上却是个一文不名的家伙。Though he is often seen in the big hotels and restaurants of the city, he is actually penniless.

#### 【一窝蜂】

like a swarm of bees; do sth. in a confused manner; swarm [例]听说今天晚上大礼堂的电影很好看,同学们一窝蜂地朝售票处跑去。Knowing that there is going to be a good film on tonight in the auditorium, the students swarmed towards the ticket office.

#### 【一无是处】

nothing good about; devoid of any merit:

Nothing is right; not a single merit; have not a virtue in one; never get anything right; have not a single good point; totally worthless; without a single redeeming feature; good-for-nothing; nothing in sb. [例]我们看人应该从各个角度来看,他这个人其实也并不是一无是处。Our judgement on a person should be made from different angles. In fact, he is not a person *devoid of any merit*.

#### 【一无所成】

without any success (achievement); accomplish nothing; end (up) in smoke; shoe the (a) gosling [例]塞缪尔在实验室没日没夜地干了三个月,可最后还是是一无所成。Samuel worked in the lab day and night for three months *without any success*.

#### 【一无所有】

not own a thing in the world; have nothing at all; not have a thing to one's name; have nothing that one can call his own; broke; penniless; have not a stiver; as bare as the palm of one's hand; be cleaned out [例]那位难民来到这儿时,除了身上的破烂衣服之外便一无所有。When the refugee came here, he *had nothing in the world* except the rags on him.

#### 【一无所知】

know nothing about; have no idea; have not the slightest knowledge of; know not the least about; know not the first thing about; absolutely ignorant of; have not the least inkling of; a total stranger to; a new hand; a greenhorn; unaware of [例]他对彩票中大奖一事还一无所知。He *knew nothing about* his winning the biggest prize in a lottery yet.

#### 【一五一十】

(narrate, relate) systematically end in full

detail; from the very beginning; (tell sb. all about) from first to last; with nothing missing; omitting no detail; count by fives and tens; in detail; go into the ins and outs [例]嫌犯被逮捕以后,向警方一五一十地交代了他所有的罪行。After the suspect had been arrested, he confessed to the police *in detail* all the crimes committed by him.

#### 【一物降一物】

There is always one thing to conquer (overcome) another; Everything has its vanquisher (conqueror, nemesis).

#### 【一息尚存】

as long as one lives; so long as one still has a breath left; show a sign of life; still a flicker (spark) of life in sb; till one's last gasp [例]只要她一息尚存,她就要致力于她的科研工作。As long as she *lives*, she will devote herself to the scientific research.

#### 【一席之地】

a space for sb; a tiny space [例]我只需一席之地睡一觉就行了。I need no more than *a tiny space* where I can have a sleep.

#### 【一笑千金】

an enchanting (attractive, charming) smile

#### 【一笑置之】

dismiss with a laugh (smile); dispose of sth. with a smile; pass the thing off with a laugh; take sth. lightly; laugh off; laugh away; smile at; smile away [例]销售经理对他在会上所提出的建议一笑置之。The sales manager *laughed off* the proposal put forward by him at the meeting.

#### 【一泻千里】

rushing along (of streams); (of a writer's style) forceful and flowing; (of calligra-

ply) bold and flowing; flow down vigorously; plummet; drop quickly

【一心一意】

wholeheartedly; with all one's heart and mind (will); apply (bend) the mind to; pay undivided attention to; devotedly; single-heartedly; singlemindedly; heart and soul; put one's whole heart into; be bent on; set one's mind on (upon) [例]他一心一意帮助那些失学的儿童。He is bent on helping those children who are unable to go to school.

【一言既出,驷马难追】

A word once spoken cannot be overtaken even by a team of four horses; A promise cannot be taken back once it is made; A word spoken is past recalling; You cannot withdraw what you said; What is said cannot be unsaid; What is said is said.

【一言九鼎】

One word is as heavy as nine tripods; What is said (Every word) carries weight; solemn pledge [例]他说话向来一言九鼎,无人不服。What he says carries weight and is never challenged by others.

【一言难尽】

It's difficult to explain in a few words; impossible to be expressed in a few words; It would take too long to tell that in full; cannot be put in a few words; hard to put in a nutshell; That would entail a long explanation; It's not what can be told in one sentence; It's a long story. [例]这些年来母亲所经历的艰辛实在是一言难尽啊! The hardships my mother has undergone these years are not something that can be told in one sentence.

【一言堂】

What one says goes; One alone has the say; practice of "what I say counts"; rule by the voice of one man alone; deciding

everything by one man's say

【一言为定】

count it as settled; A promise is a promise; That's settled then; It's a deal (whack); A bargain is a bargain; shake hands on sth. [例]那就一言为定,我们明天晚上七点钟在电影院门口碰头。That's settled then. Let's meet at the gate of the cinema at 7 pm tomorrow.

【一言一行】

every word and action (deed); whatever one says and does; in all that one said and did [例]身为国家领导人,你的一言一行都会受到人们的关注。As you are the leader of the country, people will pay close attention to whatever you say and do.

【一言以蔽之】

briefly; summarily; briefly speaking; to make (cut) a long story short; sum up in a word; in a nutshell; in one word; in short; to sum it up; in a few words; in sum; in brief; in a capsule [例]一言以蔽之,男人就应该有绅士风度。In one word, a man should be a gentleman.

【一衣带水】

(separated only by) a narrow strip of water; a river like a belt in width; be joined by a strip of water; be separated by a scarcely perceptible creek; be continuous to each other [例]浦西与浦东仅一衣带水之隔,乘地铁从浦西的中山公园大约半个小时就可以到达浦东的中央公园了。Pudong is separated only by a narrow strip of water. It takes one about half an hour to get from Zhongshan Park in Puxi area to the Central Park in Pudong area by subway.

【一意孤行】

insist on doing things in one's own way; persist in wilfully and arbitrarily; against

the advice of others; in disregard of other people's opinion; be dead set (hell-bent) on having one's own way; follow one's bigoted course; cling obstinately to one's course; self-willed; wilfully; have (go, take, follow) one's own way; wheel and deal [例]那个年轻人一意孤行,最终从大学退了学以便自己创业。 *Dead set on having his own way*, the young man finally quitted from the university in order to start his own business.

#### 【一应俱全】

Everything needed is there; all varieties of goods available; complete in every line; lack for nothing; supply (provide) everything [例]这家超市上至彩电冰箱,下至油盐酱醋,一应俱全。 *In this supermarket, there are all varieties of goods available*, ranging from color TV sets and refrigerators to cooking oil, salt, soy sauce and vinegar.

#### 【一语道破】

A remark lays bare what's in one's mind; get to the heart of the matter in a few words; blurt (burst) out the truth; lay bare the truth with one (penetrating) remark; point out the truth; hit the nail on the head; come to the point; strike home; put one's finger on [例]卡伦一语道破了玛莎想当歌星的秘密。 *Karen laid bare the secret* that Martha would like to be a song star *with one remark*.

#### 【一张一弛】

alternate tension with relaxation; alternately tighten and relax the bow string; strike a proper balance between work and rest; work and play by turns [例]大多数尖子学生都知道在学习生活中学会一张一弛是非常重要的。 *Most of the top students know it's very important to learn how to alternate tension with relaxation* in their

study.

#### 【一朝被蛇咬,三年怕井绳】

A man once bitten by a snake will shy at the sight of a coiled rope for the next three years; When a man is bitten by a snake, he starts with fright upon seeing a grass rope for the next three years; Once bitten, twice shy; A burnt child dreads the fire; The scalded cat (dog) fears cold water.

#### 【一着不慎,满盘皆输】

One careless move and the whole game is lost; One wrong (false) move may lose the whole game; A mistaken step spoils the whole game; A wrong move upsets the whole plan; A trip in one point would spoil all; A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

#### 【一朝一夕】

in one morning and evening; overnight; (in) a single day; a short duration of time; in a short time; in a short spell [例]戒烟可不是一朝一夕的事。 *Smoking is not a habit that can be dropped overnight*.

#### 【一针见血】

pierce (get) to the truth with a single pertinent remark; go straight (right) to the heart of the matter; make a pointed remark; pinpoint; sharply; penetratingly; hit the nail on the head; put one's finger on; touch sb. on the raw; to the point; touch sb. to the quick; straight from the shoulder; hit the bird in the eye [例]卢克的话总是一针见血,实在是令我们佩服不已。 *Luke's words always hit the nail right on the head* and we really can't help admiring him.

#### 【一知半解】

have a superficial (scanty, slight, poor, inadequate, shallow) knowledge of; have half-baked knowledge of; a smattering

(hearsay) of knowledge; not know too much about; sciolism; dabble in [例]我对修理洗衣机只是一知半解而已,不过我可以试着修修看。I have only a *superficial knowledge* about how to repair a washing machine, but I can try and see if I can get it fixed.

#### 【一纸空文】

a mere scrap of paper; empty words on a sheet of paper; a bit of waste paper; in a mere sheet of document; a mere formality; rules of little meaning (importance); a law not to be taken seriously [例]这些规章制度根本就得不到执行,不过是一纸空文罢了。These rules and regulations are not implemented at all. They are no more than a *mere scrap of paper*.

#### 【一字不识】

not know a single character; be unable to recognize a single written character; cannot read or write; completely illiterate [例]如今,一字不识的人想要找到工作是极为困难的。Nowadays it's extremely difficult for a person who *cannot read or write* to find a job.

#### 【一字千金】

A single word (One character) is worth a thousand pieces (ounces) of gold.

#### 【衣不蔽体】

have insufficient clothing to cover one's nakedness; have no clothes to one's back; (he) in rags; (be) in tatters; (be) of shreds and patches; have not a shirt (a rag) to one's back [例]谁看见那个衣不蔽体的老乞丐都会起恻隐之心的。Whoever sees the old beggar *in rags* will have a deep sympathy for him.

#### 【衣不解带】

not undress

#### 【衣冠楚楚】

be immaculately (brightly, smartly, de-

cently, fully) dressed; well groomed; well - dressed; dress oneself up in a conspicuous fashion; neat and trim in appearance (dress); dapper; be dressed (up) to the nines [例]昨天晚上路易衣冠楚楚地出去和女朋友约会去了。Louie went out *smartly dressed* to date his girlfriend yesterday evening.

#### 【衣冠禽兽】

a beast in human attire (clothing, form, dress); a brute; a dressed-up beast; a wolf in sheep's clothing

#### 【衣锦还乡】

return to one's hometown in silken robes; return one's home in glory; go home loaded with honors; glorious homecoming after having won high honors and social recognition; return home after making good [例]姑娘盼他早日衣锦还乡,把她迎娶过门。The young girl looked forward to his *returning home in glory* and marrying her as early as possible.

#### 【衣衫褴褛】

be shabby in dress; threadbare; shabbily dressed; One's clothes are hanging in ribbons; tattered; (be) in rags; (he) in tatters; (be) of shreds and patches; have not a shirt (a rag) to one's back; out at (the) elbows [例]他虽然衣衫褴褛,但却从未对生活失去信心。In rags as he is, he has never lost his confidence in life.

#### 【衣食父母】

people whom one relies on for a living [例]农民是我们的衣食父母,应该受到我们的尊重。Being the *people whom we rely on for a living*, farmers should be held in respect.

#### 【依然如故】

remain unchanged (as before, the same); the same as before (as usual); Nothing has changed; all the same as it was; just

as before [例]半年过去了,东南亚的经济状况依然如故。Half a year later, the economic situation in Southeast Asia still *remained unchanged*.

#### 【依样画葫芦】

sketch the gourd according to the pattern; copy mechanically; act after the same fashion; follow other's example; imitate what was done by others; mechanically copy or imitate; follow the beaten track; play the sedulous ape [例]你的设计应该要有独创性,不要依样画葫芦。You should have daring and original ideas in your design instead of *following the beaten track*.

#### 【依依不舍】

cannot bear to part (leave); part with reluctance; reluctant (unwilling) to part from (with); cannot tear oneself away from ...; have a strong (great, invincible) attachment to; be emotionally (deeply) attached to; hate to part with; feelings of regret at parting [例]因为要出国留学,她依依不舍地离开了家人。Because she had to go abroad to study, she *parted with* her family *with reluctance*.

#### 【仪态万千】

regal (glamorous) bearing; distinguished air of elegance and coquetry; incomparably graceful; (of a beauty) appear in all her glory

#### 【怡然自得】

happy and pleased with oneself; be happy and content (satisfied); cheerful and content; happy and gratified with oneself; A feeling of cheerfulness came over sb.; devil - may - care [例]她在林中一边散步、一边听着小鸟的歌唱,怡然自得。While walking in the woods and listening to the singing of birds, she felt *happy and content*.

#### 【贻害无穷】

cause no end of trouble; cause endless trouble to future things; bring endless trouble upon sb. or sth.; entail no end of trouble (untold troubles); an endless source of trouble; spell disaster [例]乱砍乱伐这种破坏自然环境的行为对我们的后代将会贻害无穷。Indiscriminate felling of trees which destroys the natural environment will *cause endless trouble* to our future generations.

#### 【贻误军机】

spoil the opportunity to win a battle; hinder military operations; bungle the chance of winning a battle; delay one's plan of action

#### 【贻笑大方】

be laughed at by experts; incur ridicule of experts; be laughed at by those we know (all respectable people); make a laughingstock of oneself (before experts); expose oneself to ridicule

#### 【移风易俗】

transform social traditions; change existing (prevailing) customs and habits; break with old habits (customs); bring about a transformation of (old) customs and habits; make a break with old practices; transform established traditions and practices; revolutionize old customs and practices and build up new ones [例]我国农村经济的迅猛发展带动了当地移风易俗的活动。The rapid economic development helped *bring about the transformation of local customs and habits*.

#### 【移花接木】

graft; graft a flower stem onto a tree; graft one twig on another; graft and transplant; stealthily (secretly) substitute one thing for another; palm off the spurious for the genuine; place a substitute by subterfuge;

resort to dishonest practices of putting in substitutes; by sleight of hand

### 【移山倒海】

remove mountains and drain seas; conquer (transform) nature; overpower natural forces [例]我们要以移山倒海的精神争取在年底前建好这座大坝。We should try to finish building the dam in the dauntless spirit of *conquering nature* by the end of the year.

### 【遗臭万年】

leave a stink for ten thousand years; leave a bad name for thousands of years to come; leave (behind) a foul reputation for a myriad years; defamed throughout history; leave a bad name forever; be cursed (condemned) by posterity; an everlasting shame; go down in history as a byword of infamy [例]我觉得这世上大概还没有多少人愿意遗臭万年。I don't think there are many people in the world who are willing to *be cursed by posterity*.

### 【颐指气使】

order people about by (with) gesture (facial expressions); order people (about) with only a tilt of the chin and without speaking - arrogant airs; be insufferably (unbearably) arrogant (bossy); be bossy to others [例]霍尔很讨厌他女朋友伊莎贝拉对他颐指气使。Hall hates his girlfriend Isabella's *being unbearably bossy* to him.

### 【疑难杂症】

cases (of illness) that are both hard to diagnose and to cure; difficult and complicated diseases (problems) [例]我爷爷是个老中医,治好了许多疑难杂症。My grandfather is an old doctor of traditional Chinese medicine. He has succeeded in curing many *difficult and complicated diseases*.

### 【疑人勿使,使人勿疑】

If you suspect (doubt) a person, do not use (employ) him; If you use (employ) a person, do not suspect (doubt) him - trust people who work for you

### 【疑神疑鬼】

be (very, terribly) suspicious; skeptical; distrustful; oversensitive; be filled with suspicions; imagine all sorts of things; harbor (entertain) suspicions; have doubts regarding all manner of things; be afraid (frightened) of one's (own) shadow [例]你的身体好得很,别老疑神疑鬼的。Your health is pretty good. Don't be so *oversensitive*.

### 【以德报怨】

return good for evil; repay injury with kindness; requite ingratitude (injury) with kindness; requite evil with good; turn the other cheek [例]佛教教导人们要以德报怨。Buddhism teaches people to *return good for evil*.

### 【以德服人】

win people by virtue; overcome people with virtue; compel submission by kindness (generosity) [例]这位皇帝相信以德服人的道理。The emperor believed in *winning people by virtue*.

### 【以毒攻毒】

fight (combat) poison with poison; counteract one toxin with another; use poison as an antidote to (for) poison; meet (fight) fire with fire; set a thief to catch a thief; Like cures like; give tit for tat; take the hair of the dog (that bit one) [例]据说蛇毒可以用来治疗某些疾病,这就叫做“以毒攻毒”。It's said that snake poison can be used to treat some diseases. That is what we call "*to counteract one toxin with another*".

### 【以讹传讹】



incorrectly relay an erroneous message (so that it becomes increasingly distorted); A false report, once released, will remain so in its circulation; compound errors; pass on rumors, incorrect readings, ect.; circulate erroneous reports; snowball rumors; spread (propagate) an error (falsehood, false news; information); be wrongly informed [例]这篇报道发出去之前你最好再核实一下,免得以讹传讹。You'd better make sure that the report tallies with the facts before publishing it. Otherwise, people will *be wrongly informed*.

#### 【以攻为守】

use attack (offence) as a means of defence; use offensive tactics as a means of (for) defence; take offence for defence; attack in order to defend; make preemptive attack

#### 【以观后效】

see how one behaves in the future; (lighten a punishment and) see how the offender behaves; deal with sb. leniently and see how he behaves in the future (if he mends his way in the future) [例]这次我就放了你。我给你三个月的时间改正错误,以观后效。I will let you off this time. And I will also allow you three months to correct your mistakes and see *how you behave*.

#### 【以儆效尤】

punish sb. as a warning to others; (in order) to warn others against following a bad example; so as to deter anyone from committing the same mistake (crime, sin); make an example of sb. [例]那几个毒贩被判处死刑,以儆效尤。The drug dealers were sentenced to death *as a warning to others*.

#### 【以理服人】

convince people by reasoning (sound argu-

ment); persuade people through reason (reasoning); use reason to convince others; reason sb. into (out of); argue sb. into (out of) [例]对于错误的意见,我们应该以理服人。We should *convince* those people who hold wrong opinions *by reasoning* with them.

#### 【以卵击石】

throw an egg against a stone - court defeat by fighting against overwhelming odds; use eggs to fight against stone - bound to be defeated; like an egg knocking itself against a rock; court self - destruction (certain defeat); fight a hopeless battle; grossly overestimate one's own strength; try to do what is beyond one's ability; fight against heavy odds; kick against the pricks [例]他五年前曾经是拳击比赛的世界冠军。你和他比赛简直就是以卵击石。He won the world championship in prizefighting five years ago, so you're *courting certain defeat* by boxing with him.

#### 【以貌取人】

judge people solely by their appearances (looks); judge people by outward appearance (looks); choose (select) sb. by his appearance; evaluate a person on the basis of appearance [例]以貌取人是肤浅的表现。It shows how shallow you are if you *judge a person solely by his appearance*.

#### 【以其人之道,还治其人之身】

deal with a man as he deals with you; do unto him as he does unto others; repay in kind; give as good as one gets; pay sb. back in his own coin; give sb. as dose (taste) of his own medicine

#### 【以身报国】

lay down one's life for one's country; die a martyr in the service of one's country [例]

抗日战争期间,无数的爱国志士以身报国。During the anti-Japanese war, numerous patriotists *laid down their lives for the country*.

【以身试法】

test the law in one's own person; challenge the law personally; defy the law [例]这位政府高官居然敢以身试法,接受巨额贿赂。The high-ranking government official even dared to *defy the law* by accepting big bribes.

【以身殉职】

die on duty; die (a martyr) at one's post (in the performance of one's duties, when performing one's duty); lose one's life while working; die in harness [例]那位年轻的银行女职员在与劫匪的搏斗中以身殉职。The young woman clerk of the bank *died at her post* while fighting the bank robber.

【以身作则】

make oneself an example; make oneself serve as an example to others; play an exemplary role; live what one teaches; set an example (with one's own conduct); practice what one preaches; take the lead [例]作为班长,你应该以身作则。As the monitor of the class, you should *set a good example* to the other students *with your own conduct*.

【以文会友】

make friends by one's writing (through literary works, through the exchange of writings); meet friends on literature; associate by means of literature; form a literary circle

【以小人之心,度君子之腹】

A mean person reads a gentleman's mind prejudiced by what's in his own mind; measure the mind of an upright man by the yardstick of a knave; gauge (guess) the

heart of a gentleman with one's own mean measure; try to estimate what's in the heart of the great with the heart of the mean; measure the stature of great men by the yardstick of small men; read evil intent into; misread one's good intentions; misjudge one's honorable motives

【以眼还眼,以牙还牙】

give blow for blow; like for like; give as good as one gets; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; give tit for tat; measure for measure; pay sb. back in his own coin; pay off (settle, wipe out, wipe off) a (an old) score(s)

【以一当十】

Every man is worth ten; One is good for ten; pit one against ten; fight courageously; work efficiently; be a host in oneself [例]时间很紧。现在惟一的办法就是我们大家以一当十,按时完成这项计划。Time is pressing. Now the only solution is that we *work as efficiently* as possible to finish the project.

【以逸待劳】

wait at one's ease for the fatigued (exhausted) enemy or opponent; hold one's position waiting for enemy attack after long march; be rested and ready to meet (face) the attack of the fatigued (tired-out) enemy; wait for the enemy to exhaust himself; ho fresh and fit; lie in wait for [例]敌军连日作战,早已疲惫不堪,而我们的军队则可以以逸待劳。After continuous fighting for sevand days, the enemy troops had long been fatigued while our troops could *hold our position awaiting their attack*.

【以怨报德】

return evil for good; requite kindness with ingratitude; repay good with evil; requite love with hate; hite the hand that feeds

one [例]你是你母亲一手养大的,可现在你却要把她赶出门去,这不是以怨报德吗? It was your mother who brought you up, but now you want to drive her away. Aren't you trying to *bite the hand that feeds you*?

#### 【以子之矛,攻子之盾】

set your own spear against your own shield; (What will happen) if you try to pierce your wonderful shield with your marvelous spear? refute sb. with his own argument; turn sb.'s battery against himself; pay sb. back in his own coin

#### 【倚财仗势】

rely on one's wealth and power; presume on one's power and rely on one's wealth [例]那位富家子弟倚财仗势,打死了人,理应受到法律的严惩。The son of the rich family *relied on his wealth and power* and killed a person. Therefore, he deserved to be severely punished by the law.

#### 【倚老卖老】

flaunt one's seniority; pride oneself on one's seniority; take advantage of one's seniority (old age); capitalize on being advanced in age; get self-conceited because of seniority; presume on old age (to despise others); exploit one's seniority (old age); play (come) the old soldier [例]这位老教授很喜欢在年轻教师面前倚老卖老。The old professor enjoys *playing the old soldier* in front of the young teachers.

#### 【旖旎风光】

lovely scenes; beautiful (exquisite) scenery; a romantic (charming) sight [例]海南岛的旖旎风光深深地吸引了她。She was deeply attracted by the *exquisite scenery* on Hainan Island.

#### 【义不容辞】

One's sense of honor makes it impossible to refuse; an obligation that one cannot evade (escape, decline); a responsibility that one cannot shirk (relinquish); be duty-bound; an inescapable duty; act from (out of) a strong sense of duty; feel obliged to...; be incumbent on sb. to...; a compelling obligation [例]反对腐败是我们义不容辞的责任。It is *incumbent on us to fight against corruption*.

#### 【义愤填膺】

Anger for justice filled one's breast; Wrath surged in one's heart; be filled with righteous indignation (rage); boil (burning) with indignation; indignantly [例]当她看见那位老大娘被儿媳妇虐待时,她义愤填膺。She was *filled with righteous indignation* when she saw the old woman being maltreated by her daughter - in-law.

#### 【义无反顾】

find it one's duty (obligation) to go forward and not to turn back; Honor permits no turning back; proceed without hesitation; be duty-bound not to turn back; never to look back for the just; pursue justice with no turning back [例]既然你已经做了最后决定,你就应该义无反顾地去实现你的目标。Since you've made the final decision, it's *your duty to go forward without hesitation* in order to achieve your aim.

#### 【义正辞严】

speak with the force of justice; speak with dignity because justice is on one's side; in no uncertain terms; in stern and just words; condemn justly and severely; speak sternly out of a sense of justice; rightly claim [例]威廉义正辞严地告诉那位百万富翁,真正的爱情是多少钱也买不来的。In *no uncertain terms*,

William pointed out to the millionaire that real love could never be bought.

### 【议论纷纷】

There were many discussions (and much conflict of opinion); be widely discussed by; give rise to much discussion; widespread comments; clamours of comments; say to one another; gossip about; spread rumors [例]在真相没有发现之前,请大家不要议论纷纷。Please don't *gossip about* it before the truth is found out.

### 【亦步亦趋】

follow in sb.'s footsteps; follow others at every step; follow step by step; slavishly imitate; blindly follow suit; dance to sb.'s tune; model oneself on sb.

### 【异地相逢】

meet in an alien land [例]父子俩异地相逢,不禁激动地掉下泪来。The father and son were so excited when they *met each other in an alien land* that they couldn't help breaking into tears.

### 【异端邪说】

heretical opinions (beliefs); heresy; unorthodox opinions; heterodox doctrines (opinions); teachings that lead sb. astray; an opinion opposed to official (established) views (doctrines) [例]哥白尼的“日心说”被教会视为异端邪说。Copernicus' theory that the earth revolves around the sun was regarded as a *heresy* by the Church.

### 【异乎寻常】

unusual; abnormal; uncommon; extraordinary; strange; weird; offbeat; out of the ordinary [例]这几天,楼上那家人家异乎寻常地安静。The family upstairs have been *unusually* quiet for the past few days.

### 【异军突起】

Another extraordinary army emerges; a new force suddenly coming to the fore; a sudden emergence of a new force; new factor changing situation; appear all of a sudden; a dark horse [例]二十世纪九十年代末,谈话类节目在中国的电视屏幕上有如异军突起。Talk shows are just like *a new force that emerges* on the TV screen *all of a sudden* in the late 1990s.

### 【异口同声】

the same voice (one voice) from different mouths; a myriad of voices with one sound; cry out in one voice; All agree; join in the same chorus; unanimously; They unite their voices; without a dissentient voice; (speak) with one voice; in chorus; with one accord; in unison; by common consent; as one man; to a man [例]妈妈问我们是否要甜点时,我们异口同声地答道:“当然要”。When mother asked us if we would like some desserts, we answered “Yes, of course” *to a man*.

### 【异曲同工】

different tunes rendered with equally good skill; different approaches, same result; different in approach but equally satisfactory in result; achieve the same goal with different means; the same result achieved by different methods; Different approaches contribute to the same end; the same meaning expressed in different words; equally well; show equal excellence; share the same remarkable features; as good as; compare with [例]这首描写爱情的现代诗歌和那首古诗有异曲同工之妙。The modern poem about love is *as good as* the ancient one.

### 【异香扑鼻】

One's nostrils are assailed by a strange,

strong perfume (fragrance).

【异想天开】

let imagination run wild (riot); have strange, fantastic ideas; indulge in the wildest fantasy; wishful thinking; come out with most fantastic ideas; fanciful ideas; stretch of the imagination; freakish; whimsical; far-fetched; (Such) ideas are fanciful and fallacious; carried away by imagination; wild hopes; give rein to fancy; imagine sth. impossible; lend wings to one's imagination; expect wonders; ask for the moon; have a maggot in one's head (brain); a flight of fancy (imagination); a figment of imagination; have a bee in one's head (bennet); have bats in the (one's) belfry [例]别异想天开了! 五分钟之内你是绝对赶不到火车站的。Don't *indulge in fantasies*. It's absolutely impossible for you to get to the railway station in five minutes.

【抑扬顿挫】

high and low (as in musical notes); (with a) cadence; cadenced; modulation in tone; rhythmical; speak in measured tones [例]那位候选人的演讲抑扬顿挫,对选民很有感染力。The candidate's speech was delivered *with a cadence* and had a real appeal for the voters.

【易如反掌】

as easy as to turn one's hand; very easy to do; require no effort; an extremely easy task; simple; as easy as falling (rolling) off a log; as easy as ABC; as easy as pie; as easy as winking; There is nothing to ...; (standing) on one's head; (as) easy as my eye; like taking a candy from a baby; with a wet hand; mere child's play; with one hand tied behind one's back [例]修理这台电脑对他来说简直是易如反掌 For him, getting the computer fixed

is just *as easy as pie*.

【恹恹不乐】

feel sad and gloomy; feel depressed (and unhappy); feel downcast; be dejected and dispirited; with a very downhearted spirit

【意气风发】

full of high spirits; high-spirited; in high and vigorous spirits; high in spirits; full of pep; fired with boundless enthusiasm; dashing (and energetic); brimming over with vigor; in high feather; be on one's mettle

【意气相投】

One's temper and nature are in accordance with sb.; have the same outlook

【意气用事】

act without due consideration; be swayed by personal feelings; be influenced by sentiment (emotions) in handling things; abandon oneself to emotions; impulsively; give way to one's feelings; act on impulse; act on the spur of the moment [例]你现在可千万别意气用事。我建议你一个月以后再决定是否和女朋友分手。Don't *act on impulse* right now. I suggest that you wait for a month before you decide whether to break away with your girlfriend or not.

【意味深长】

meaningful; significant; full of meaning; of profound sense; of great (deep, profound) significance; imply much [例]他的话意味深长,耐人寻味。What he said was *full of meaning* and afforded much food for thought.

【意想不到】

unexpected; unexpectedly; beyond expectation (beyond all expectations); against all expectation(s); contrary to expectation (contrary to all expectations) [例]这部影片在国内外获得了意想不到的巨大

成功。 *Against all expectations*, the film has created a smash hit both at home and abroad.

**【意中人】**

a person of one's heart; a person one is in love with; sweetheart; lover [例]她做梦都想和她的意中人早日团圆。 Even in her dreams she wished that she could reunite with her lover earlier.

**【毅然决然】**

firmly; resolutely; determinedly; without a moment's hesitation; with a firm determination; with strong (great) determination; with great resolve; with resolution; put one's foot down [例]他毅然决然地离开了家乡,独自来到上海谋生。 He left his hometown *without a moment's hesitation* and came to Shanghai to make a living.

**【因材施教】**

teach according to student ability; teach students in accordance with their aptitude; suit the teaching to the ability of the students; modify one's way of teaching to suit the special requirements of each class or case; teach a person according to what he is good for; teach with the peculiar needs of a student in mind; gear one's teaching to the particular needs of each student [例]我们的班级应该变小一些,这样才便于老师因材施教。 The class size should be reduced so that it will be more convenient for the teachers to *teach their students in accordance with their aptitude*.

**【因地制宜】**

take (adopt) effective measures according to local conditions; work out measures to suit local conditions; take such measures as are suitable to local conditions; suit measures to local conditions; make full use of local conditions; act according to circumstances; in a manner appropriate to

local conditions; do the right thing in (at) the right place; do what is suitable (appropriate) according to the circumstances; do what is suitable to the occasion; bear in mind local needs and possibilities; adapted to local conditions; in the light of local situation [例]我们可以因地制宜,在这儿建一个竹制品加工厂。 We can set up a bamboo ware factory by *making full use of the bamboos grown here*.

**【因果报应】**

karma; punitive justice; retribution for sin; retributive justice; As a man sows, so let him reap.

**【因祸得福】**

reap benefit from misfortune; get good out of misfortune; profit from a misfortune; profit by adversity; a fault on the right side; Luck grows out of adversity; Misfortune comes to him as a blessing in disguise; Good comes out of evil; An affliction works out a blessing. [例]虽然这次你亏了不少钱,可说不定你倒反而会因祸得福呢? Although you've lost a lot of money this time, you might *get good out of the misfortune*. Who knows?

**【因陋就简】**

make do with the poor equipment at hand; make do with what (ever) is available; manage with what(ever) is ready on hand; do things simply and thriftily; make use of the available conditions; economize because of lack of funds [例]我们没有钱买新的实验设备,所以只好因陋就简了。 Since we cannot afford to buy new laboratory equipment, we have to *make do with the poor equipment at hand*.

**【因人而异】**

It differs from man to man; It varies from person to person; vary with each individual [例]这种教学方法的效果因人而

异。The result of this kind of teaching method *varies from person to person*.

### 【因势利导】

give proper guidance as circumstances require (the situation requires); guide (channel) action according to circumstances; guide ... in the light of its general trend; guide it along its (natural) course of development; make the best use of the situation to guide sth.; turn a thing to advantage

### 【因小失大】

suffer a big loss for a little gain; lose the greater for the less; lose a great deal through trying to save a little; try to save a little only to lose a lot; lose the main goal because of small gains; let a trifle spoil the whole game; penny wise and pound foolish; a mess of pottage; spoil (lose) the ship for a ha'porth (halfpennyworth) of tar [例]罗杰因为路上和出租车司机吵架而误了去纽约的班机,真是因小失大。Roger missed the plane to New York for he had a quarrel with the taxi driver on the way. What a *mess of pottage*.

### 【因循守旧】

stick to old ways; tradition-bound; cling to the old system; hidebound; be fettered to old conventions; get stuck in a groove; conservative-minded; follow the old routine; inflexible; follow the beaten track (path); in the rut [例]要想获得成功,你就不能因循守旧。If you want to achieve success, you cannot *follow the beaten track*.

### 【因噎废食】

give up eating for fear of choking; give up at slightest obstacle; refrain from doing sth. necessary for fear of a possible risk; throw away the apple because of the core;

overcautious after an unpleasant experience; The scalded dog fears cold water. [例]如果你只是因为曾经被鱼刺卡过一次喉咙就决定从此再也不吃鱼了,那你就是因噎废食。If you decide to stop eating any fish just because a fishbone has once got stuck in your throat, you are *throwing away the apple because of the core*.

### 【阴错阳差】

(a mistake or error) due to a strange combination of circumstances; due to all sorts of accidental mishaps; comedy of errors [例]贝利专程从芝加哥飞到伦敦去看望他的女朋友卡米拉,想给她一个惊喜。没曾想卡米拉却跑到芝加哥来了,这可真是阴错阳差。In order to give his girlfriend Camila a pleasant surprise, Bailey flew from Chicago to London specially to visit her. However, he missed her because she went to Chicago. What a *strange combination of circumstances*.

### 【阴魂不散】

haunting spectre; The ghost of ... inexorably hangs on; The soul (spirit) refuses to leave; The ghost does not go away; The shadow of ... still lingers on; jinx; j Jonah

### 【阴谋诡计】

schemes and intrigues; plots; intrigue and conspire; conspiracies; underhand methods (tricks, tactics); dirty tricks; ruses [例]他的阴谋诡计是不可能得逞的。There is no possibility that his *dirty tricks* will work.

### 【阴阳怪气】

eccentric; queer; mystifying; enigmatic; cynic; (of words or voices) dripping acid; with sarcasm [例]那个人阴阳怪气的,老是站在我们教室门口。That person is *eccentric*. He always stands at the door of our classroom.

## 【音容宛在】

Voice and facial expression of the deceased are still vividly remembered; One could recall sb.'s voice and look as if sb. were still alive; One can see sb.'s smile and hear his voice today as clearly as if he were standing before us; as if the person were still alive (in flesh)

## 【音容笑貌】

one's lovely voice and happy countenance; one's voice and expression; evocation (of a deceased) [例]虽然她的丈夫已去世多年,可他的音容笑貌却常常浮现在她的眼前。Though her husband died many years ago, his *voice and expression* often rise before her.

## 【银样蜡枪头】

a pewter spearhead that shines like silver - an impressive looking but useless person; a lead spearhead that looks silver; fine in appearance but of no use in reality; be pleasant to the eye but of no use

## 【寅吃卯粮】

eat next year's food; spend on deficit; draw one's pay in advance; eat the food stored up for the next year; living hand to mouth; anticipate one's income; eat one's corn in the blade [例]像这样寅吃卯粮的日子你觉得还能撑多久呢? How long do you think it can last if you go on *spending on deficit*?

## 【引吭高歌】

sing with outstretched neck; belt out a song; burst into song; sing heartily; sing out aloud; roar out a song; sing at the top of one's voice; sing joyfully in a loud voice [例]她们引吭高歌的时候,我们正在紧张地准备下一个节目。While they were *singing joyfully in a loud voice*, we were busy preparing for the next performance.

## 【引火烧身】

draw fire against (on) oneself; make self - criticism to encourage criticism from others; induce criticism on oneself; a self - destructive course of action; court (invite) trouble

## 【引经据典】

quote (cite, give quotations) from ancient works (classics); copiously quote authoritative works; make classical allusions; quote from the best authors; give chapter and verse; speak by the book [例]我们的语文老师上课时很爱引经据典,同学们都很感兴趣。Our Chinese teacher loves *giving quotations from ancient works* in his lectures. The students are very interested in that.

## 【引咎自责】

blame oneself; take the blame to (on, upon) oneself; shoulder blame on oneself; bear the blame and reproach oneself

## 【引狼入室】

invite (bring, let) a wolf into the house; open the door to a dangerous foe; set the wolf to keep the sheep; set a fox to keep one's geese; put one's own safety at stake; bring disaster upon oneself; court danger; put one's head in a lion's mouth; play with fire [例]允许他们的部队进驻我们国家简直就是引狼入室。By letting their troops enter and be stationed in our country, we are *putting our own safety at stake*.

## 【引人入胜】

lead one into the interesting part of sth; arouse (provoke, kindle) one's interest; fascinating; absorbing; alluring; attractive; enchanting; bewitching; interesting; thrilling; tempting; greatly appeal to sb; gripping; open up a new view (vista) [例]青岛那引人入胜的海滨每年夏天



都会吸引数以百万计的游客。Qingdao's *fascinating* beaches attract millions of tourists there every summer.

#### 【引人注目】

attract the gaze of people; attract (draw) one's attention; conspicuous; arrest one's eye (attention); eye-catching; striking; become the center of attention; noticeable; catch one's eye; cut a conspicuous figure; in the public eye; jump (leap) to the eyes; in the limelight; come to the front [例]那位年轻的女歌星常常把头发染成各种各样的颜色以期达到引人注目的效果。The young singer often dyes her hair in different colors in the hope that it can *attract people's attention*.

#### 【引以为戒】

learn (draw) a lesson (from a previous error); serve as a grave warning; take warning (from sth.) [例]这次失败你要引以为戒,以后千万别再犯类似的错误了。Do *take warning from* your failure this time and never ever make such a mistake again later.

#### 【饮食起居】

one's daily life [例]儿女们雇了一个保姆照顾父亲的饮食起居。The sons and daughters hired a maid to look after their father's *daily life*.

#### 【饮水思源】

When one drinks water, one must not forget where it comes from; When you drink water, think of its source; never forget one's origins; gratitude for the source of benefit; remember past kindness; never forget where one's happiness comes from; he unforgetful of those who fought to make the present possible for us [例]饮水思源,当初要不是他给你一万元本金的话,你今天也不可能成为一个成功的商人。You should *never forget where your*

*happiness comes from*. If he hadn't given you the capital of 10,000 yuan at that time, you wouldn't be such a successful businessman now.

#### 【隐姓埋名】

conceal one's identity (real name, true name); keep one's identity hidden; under an assumed name; live incognito; masked; live like a hermit; in disguise; live in the shadow [例]他们决定隐姓埋名,在那个村庄里度过余生。They decided to *live incognito* in the small village for the rest of their life.

#### 【隐约其辞】

use ambiguous language; speak in equivocal terms; say sth. vaguely (not clearly, ambiguously); evasive; implicit meaning; vague; hesitate in speaking; speak with reserves as though one has sth. to hide; beat about the bush [例]那个犯罪嫌疑人是在回答警察提问的时候隐约其辞。The suspect was *evasive* in answering the policemen's questions.

#### 【应有尽有】

have everything that one should have; There is everything that should be there; have all that is necessary; have in stock everything that one wants; have everything one expects to find; supply all one wants; provide with everything one needs; well-stocked; well-provided; have everything under the sun [例]这家杂货店的生活日用品应有尽有。The grocery store *supplies one with all* kinds of daily necessities *he needs*.

#### 【英雄气短】

a good man caught in difficult circumstances; a hero being discouraged; the spirit of a hero proves feeble (before hardships or in conflict with love)

#### 【英雄所见略同】

All heroes think alike; Heroes share (have) the same views; Heroes are likely to be of one (a) mind; Great minds think alike.

【英雄无用武之地】

a hero with no place to show his prowess; A competent man has no opportunity to show his talents; a hero with no scope for displaying his heroism; no scope to exercise one's ability; no scope for one's energies (talents); Able as they were, they had no chance to carry out their ideals. [例]她虽然学识渊博, 却被迫每天在厨房里做家务, 真是英雄无用武之地啊! Erudite as she was, she was obliged to do a lot of housework in the kitchen every day. There was simply *no scope for her to show her talents*.

【英姿飒爽】

bright and brave; valiant and heroic in bearing; be mighty in spirit and heroic in bearing [例]英姿飒爽的女兵们站在操场上纹丝不动。The *bright and brave* women soldiers are standing on the playground motionless.

【莺歌燕舞】

orioles sing and swallows dart - the joy of spring; a scene of prosperity; ambience of prosperity; a prosperous scene [例]春天到了, 树林里到处莺歌燕舞, 美不胜收。Spring comes and one can hear *orioles sing and see swallows dart* everywhere in the woods. There is too much beauty to absorb.

【鹦鹉学舌】

repeat the words of others like a parrot; like parrots imitating human speech; parrot; echo sb.'s words [例]他除了鹦鹉学舌以外, 根本就没有自己的观点。Apart from *parrotting* other people's statements, he had no original ideas at all.

【迎刃而解】

split off as it meets the edge of the knife without effort; (of a bamboo) split all the way down once it's been chopped open; be readily (easily) solved (of problems); solve itself; solve problems (overcome difficulties) with the greatest ease; fall into place [例]新的总经理一上任, 很多难题便迎刃而解。As soon as the new general manager took office, many difficult problems *were easily solved*.

【迎头赶上】

try (work) hard to catch up; proceed with determination; come up from behind [例]她因为生病两个月没去上学, 所以现在她惟一的选择就是迎头赶上其他同学。She *mussed* school for two months due to her illness and now she could do nothing but *try hard to catch up* with the other classmates.

【迎头痛击】

knock sb. on the head; strike a heavy blow (a hard knock) on the head; give a head-on blow; deal (strike) a strong (telling, severe, powerful) blow at (to) sb.; a direct (telling) hit; give sb. a good hiding; give a great wallop; repulse frontal assault [例]我们给了无耻的侵略者一个迎头痛击。We *gave* the shameless invaders *a head-on blow*.

【迎新送旧】

welcome the new and send off the old

【营私舞弊】

engage in malpractices for selfish ends; engage in unlawful practice for one's own benefit; make use of one's position as an official to serve private ends; practice graft; be corrupt in politics; embezzle (ment); ho involved in corruption (illegal transactions); line one's pockets [例]他挪用公款, 营私舞弊, 是我把他撤职查

办的。He appropriated public funds for his personal use. It was I who removed him from his office and prosecuted him on a charge of *embezzlement*.

### 【蝇头微利】

a profit as small as the head of a fly; a very slight profit; small (petty, trifling) gains (profits); get little or nothing for profit; a mere trifle in the way of profit [例]你真不应该为了些蝇头微利而毁了自己的大好前程。You shouldn't have ruined your bright future just for some *small gains*.

### 【影影绰绰】

shadowy; indistinct; vague; dimly; vaguely; indistinctly; loom [例]大街的拐角处影影绰绰地好像有几个人。A few people could be *vaguely* seen over there at the street corner.

### 【应对如流】

One's replies flow like a stream; dissertation delivered as easily as the flowing of water; give fluent replies; be quick in one's reply; reply readily and fluently; answer the questions without any hitch; have a ready answer to every question [例]面试之前她做了充分的准备,因此对于主考官提出的问题应对如流。She was well prepared before she went for the interview. Therefore, she could *give fluent replies to* every of the interviewer's questions.

### 【应付自如】

handle (the situation) with ease; face a situation with ease; equal to the occasion; cope with successfully; have great tact in dealing with people; take in one's stride [例]他是个经验老到的医生,不管碰到多么紧急的情况,他都能应付自如。As an experienced doctor, he could *handle it with ease* no matter what emergent

case he meets.

### 【应接不暇】

have more (visitors, business) than one can attend to (handle); can hardly cope with; too busy to attend to all; pay host to a constant stream of callers; too much for; up to one's ears in work [例]中午时分,来店里买冰淇淋的人很多,那个营业员小姐简直应接不暇。At about noon, so many people came to buy ice-creams that the salesgirl *could hardly attend to all* the customers.

### 【应声虫】

yes-man; echo; parrot; mouthpiece [例]我可不想当老板的应声虫。I don't want to be a *yes-man* of my boss.

### 【应运而生】

emerge (crop up, spring up, appear) as the times require; rise in response to the proper time and conditions; be born at the right moment; arise at the historic moment [例]在市场经济的大潮中,许多股票经纪人在我国应运而生。In the great tide of market economy, many stockbrokers *appear* in our country *as the times require*.

### 【庸人自扰】

Ignorant persons always disturb themselves; worry about troubles of one's own imagining; all unnecessary fuss made by the simple-minded; bark at the moon; make much ado about nothing; fight (tilt at) windmills [例]事情早就过去了,你又何必庸人自扰呢? It's already in the past, why *make much ado about nothing*?

### 【庸庸碌碌】

(very) mediocre; ordinary; common; undistinguished [例]她觉得庸庸碌碌地过一辈子没什么不好的。She doesn't find anything wrong with living an *ordinary* life.

## 【雍容文雅】

have an easy manner; natural; graceful and poised (refined); dignified

## 【永垂不朽】

be immortal; One's fame will never die (last forever); live forever in the hearts of; One's memory will always live; be forever remembered; win immortality; go down to posterity; eternal glory; undying; have a niche in the temple of fame [例]在抗洪斗争中英勇牺牲的烈士们将在人民心中永垂不朽。The martyrs who died in fighting the flood will *live forever in the hearts of the people*.

## 【永无止境】

endless; world without end; of no bounds; know no bounds [例]人类追求进步的历程永无止境。Human beings' pursuit of progress *knows no bounds*.

## 【勇猛果敢】

brave and fierce; bold and decisive; courageous and resolute [例]孩子们对那些勇猛果敢的汉子们佩服不已。The kids have a great admiration for those *courageous and resolute* men.

## 【勇往直前】

advance bravely; march (go) forward courageously (fearlessly, without hesitation); stride bravely forward; charge (forge) ahead; press forward (on); take one's courage in both hands [例]解放军冒着枪林弹雨勇往直前,最终取得了胜利。The Liberation Army men *charged ahead* in the midst of flying bullets and won the victory in the end.

## 【用兵如神】

direct military operations with miraculous skill; be a superb military commander; be a past master in the art of war; work miracles in maneuvering troops [例]诸葛亮用兵如神,堪称中国历史上最伟大的

军事家之一。Zhu Celiang, who always *worked miracles in maneuvering troops*, is regarded as one of the greatest military strategists in the Chinese history.

## 【用尽心机】

exhaust one's abilities; rack one's mind in scheming [例]他用尽心机也未能得到校长一职。Although he *racked his mind in scheming*, he failed to get the position of the schoolmaster.

## 【优柔寡断】

indecisive; weak-minded; irresolute and hesitating; unable to make up one's mind; infirm of purpose; incapable of making strong decision; lack decision; shilly-shally; wavering; vacillating; yea and nay [例]由于董事长的优柔寡断,我们丧失了一次极好的海外投资机会。Due to the president's *irresolution and hesitation*, we lost an excellent opportunity of making overseas investment.

## 【忧国忧民】

be concerned about the nation and the people; care for the fate of one's country

## 【忧心忡忡】

have a heart loaded with worry; care-laden; heavy-hearted; in a disturbed (unpleasant) state of mind; feel gloomy; anxiety-ridden; be sick at heart; ha weighed down with worry; burdened with disquietude [例]对于自己能否通过考试,他一直忧心忡忡。He has been *weighed down with worry* about whether he is able to pass the exam.

## 【忧心如焚】

burning with anxiety; extremely worried; full of anxiety; be killed by grief; afflicted (torn) with anxiety; extremely upset with worry; sorrow-stricken; be worried to death; eat one's heart out [例]儿子已经失踪两天了,父母忧心如焚。The son

was missing for two days and the parents were *extremely worried* about him.

【悠然自得】

carefree and content; take things easy; at leisure [例]他正在小河边钓鱼,一副悠然自得的样子。Fishing at the riverside, he looks *carefree and content*.

【由此及彼】

from this to that; from one (point) to another

【由浅入深】

from the shallower to the deeper; from the easy to the difficult (complicated); from the elementary to the profound [例]老师一步步由浅入深地讲解这个问题。While explaining the problem, the teacher went step by step *from the easy to the difficult*.

【由衷之言】

words (which come) from the bottom of one's heart; sincere (true) words [例]说实话,刚才这番话是你的由衷之言吗? Tell me the truth, is what you've just said *from the bottom of your heart*?

【犹豫不决】

shilly - shally; remain undecided; unable to make up one's mind; hesitate (about); irresolute; vacillate; waver; wobble (on); halt between two opinions; yea and nay; of two minds; hang fire; back and fill [例]到底是继续深造,还是找份工作,她始终犹豫不决。She *remained undecided* about whether to go on to study or find a job.

【油腔滑调】

glib - tongued; oily (well - oiled) tongue; smooth - tongued; speak glibly; unctuous; mealy - mouthed; slick; slippery; have a smooth tongue; with one's tongue in one's cheek; full of guile [例]生意人说起话来有时候油腔滑调的。

Businessmen sometimes *speak glibly* to you.

【油然而生】

arise spontaneously (of feelings); well up in one's heart; (of feelings) rise of itself; be produced of itself [例]望着巍峨蜿蜒的长城,一股民族自豪感油然而生。Looking at the towering and winding Great Wall, a sense of national pride is *well up in my heart*.

【油头粉面】

powder the face and anoint the head; sleek - haired and creamy - faced - coquettish or dandified in appearance; dressy or foppish; a heavily made - up woman or dandified man [例]站在我旁边的那个男人油头粉面的,真让人恶心。The man standing beside me was *sleek - haired and creamy - faced*. How disgusting!

【游刃有余】

have plenty of room for play of butcher's knife; handle a butcher's cleaver skillfully; be more than equal to a task; do a job with skill and ease [例]她曾经在纽约证券交易所工作过几年,因此买卖起股票来自然是游刃有余。She had once worked at New York Stock Exchange for a couple of years, so she was *more than equal to the task* of buying and selling stocks.

【游山玩水】

do sightseeing among hills and up and down rivers; tour mountains and rivers to enjoy the beauty of nature; go on a scenic tour; make a sightseeing tour; go on trips to scenic spots; relax by enjoying the landscape [例]我梦想着有一天可以和他一起去游山玩水。I dreamed that one day I could *go on a scenic tour* together with him.

【游手好闲】

loaf about; idle about; idle (loiter, trifle, fiddle, fritter, dawdle) away one's time; be a lazy good - for - nothing; live in idleness; loaf and wander about doing nothing; not do a stitch of work; lounge about; sit on one's hands; keep one's hands in pockets [例]他大学毕业已经一年了,不但不去找工作,反而天天在家游手好闲的。He graduated from university a year ago. However, instead of looking for a job, he just *idled away his time* at home.

#### 【游戏人间】

treat life as merely playing games; (Gods) descending to earth and worldly pleasures; play through life; be cynical

#### 【有板有眼】

rhythmical; systematic; measured; orderly; methodical [例]她不管做什么事情都有板有眼的。Whatever she does, she does it in a *systematic* way.

#### 【有备无患】

Where there is precaution, there is no danger; Preparedness averts peril; be prepared and you won't be sorry; Preparedness (Prevision) prevents calamity; be prepared, just in case; be prepared against want; ready for all things; to be on the safe side [例]他买了一个灭火器放在厨房里,为的是有备无患。He bought a fire extinguisher and put it in the kitchen so as to *be prepared in case* there might be a fire.

#### 【有胆有识】

courageous and knowledgeable [例]年轻的刑警队队长有胆有识,近几个月来连续破获了几起大案。The young squad leader who was both *courageous and knowledgeable* has cracked down several major criminal cases in the recent months.

#### 【有的放矢】

shoot the arrow at the target; have a definite goal; have a definite object in view; with a well-defined objective in mind; do sth. with a purpose [例]记住,你和下属谈话的时候要有的放矢。Remember, you must *have a definite objective in mind* while talking to those people working under you.

#### 【有福同享,有难同当】

share happiness and suffering with sb.; share joys and sorrows; Happiness and joy we shall share in common and loyally help each other in suffering; share bliss and misfortune together; share weal and woe; stick together through thick and thin

#### 【有过之无不及】

It is above the standard rather than below it; go even farther than; outdo; go even beyond [例]说到坑蒙拐骗,他与他的父亲相比有过之无不及。He *outdid* his father in cheating and swindling people.

#### 【有机可乘】

There is an opportunity to take advantage of; There are loopholes to exploit (use); there is a crack to wedge oneself into; have a chance of; give an opportunity; give one a chance; avail oneself of an opportunity (occasion) [例]小偷看见房门没关,以为有机可乘,便大摇大摆地走了进去。Seeing that the door was open and thinking it was *a loophole that can be used*, the thief swaggered into the room.

#### 【有口皆碑】

Everyone has a word of praise for ...; win universal praise; enjoy great popularity (popular impression, opinion, assessment) among the people; be generally recognized; be universally acclaimed; be praised by people [例]包拯的公正清廉千百年来一直有口皆碑。Bao Zheng's justice and uprightness has *won universal*

*praise for hundreds of years.*

### 【有口难辩】

find it hard to vindicate (defend) oneself; be difficult to explain [例]面对好朋友对自己的恶意诽谤,他真是有口难辩。Confronted with his good friend's vicious slander against him, he *found it difficult to vindicate himself.*

### 【有口难言】

find it hard (embarrassing) to bring up a matter; become tongue-tied; unable to speak in self-defense (self-justification) under certain circumstances; cannot bring oneself to mention sth.; One's tongue (voice) fails one; lose one's tongue (voice); dare not to say (speak out); unable to find one's tongue (voice) [例]妈妈问他为什么没有去参加期末考试时,他有口难言。When his mother asked him why he hadn't taken part in the final examinations, he *became tongue-tied.*

### 【有口无心】

be sharp-tongued but not malicious; not mean what one says; say sharp things but cherish no malice; promise with no intention of doing; speak carelessly; speak good words but be unsympathetic; One's tongue runs before one's wit; a slip of the tongue; drop a brick (clanger) [例]她说这话也是有口无心,请你千万别往心里去。She *doesn't mean what she has just said.* Please do not take offence at it.

### 【有劳有逸】

alternate work with rest [例]学习久了也要适当放松一下。有劳有逸学习效果才会更理想。When you've studied for a long time, you should learn to relax yourself a little bit. Only by *alternating work with rest* can you achieve ideal results in your study.

### 【有利可图】

have good prospects of gain; possible to derive some benefit (from); stand to profit (gain); profitable; There is money in it (that, this). [例]我们要是能把这种野菜运到香港去,也许会有利可图。If we can transport this kind of wild herbs to Hong Kong, it might be *profitable.*

### 【有名无实】

appearance without reality; merely nominal; titular; enjoy an unwarranted reputation; figurehead; in name (but not in reality; deed); much cry and little wool; more cry than wool [例]他在公司里其实只是个有名无实的董事长。He is the President of the company *in name only.*

### 【有目共睹】

All those who have eyes can see; be obvious (clear) to all; be there for all to see; crystal clear; plain for everybody to see (judge) for himself; One would be blind not to see ...; be a universally recognized fact; It is for all the world to see. [例]我国政府在保护环境方面所做出的努力是全世界人民有目共睹的。The efforts made by our government in environment protection *are there for all the world to see.*

### 【有凭有据】

There is abundant evidence; having proof and evidence; fully substantiated; well-founded; well-documented; well-grounded [例]听他说得有凭有据的,我们不相信也不行。His words seemed to be *well-grounded.* We had no other choice but to believe him.

### 【有气无力】

have breath but no energy in one; Breath is present but vigor is absent; faint and weak; feeble; listless and lethargic; lan-

guid; lifeless; spiritless; lackluster [例] 她有气无力地在河边走着。She walked along the river, *listless and lethargic*.

#### 【有钱能使鬼推磨】

If you have money, you can make the devil push (turn) the millstone for you; Money can work miracles; Money makes the mare go; Money talks.

#### 【有求必应】

Whatever asked is promised; All requests (Whatever is requested) will be granted; never refuse a request; ever obliging; ask and you will receive; deny sb. nothing; satisfy all demands; respond (accede) to every plea [例] 做父母的不能对孩子有求必应。Parents should not *grant whatever is requested* by their children.

#### 【有伤风化】

be destructive (harmful) to the (public) morals; an offence against decency [例] 过去人们认为女孩子上学是有伤风化的事。In the past, it was regarded as *harmful to the public morals* if a girl went to school.

#### 【有声有色】

full of sound and color; vivid and dramatic; colorful; a vivid description; alive; very impressive [例] 她有声有色地向我们讲述了她在非洲冒险的经历。She gave us a *vivid description* of her adventures in Africa.

#### 【有生之年】

(for) the rest of one's life; in one's remaining years; as long as one is alive ... [例] 他希望在有生之年能够游遍祖国的名山大川。He hopes that he could travel across all the famous mountains and rivers in the country *in his remaining years*.

#### 【有识之士】

a person with breadth of vision; a man of insight (great discernment); a far-sighted personage; a scholar

#### 【有始无终】

have a beginning but no end; start sth. but fail to carry it through; begin well but end badly; do things by halves; give up halfway [例] 他做什么事情都是有始无终。Whatever he does, he always *fails to carry it through* to the end.

#### 【有始有终】

have a beginning and an end; Where there is a beginning, there should be an end; carry sth. through to end; finish what has been started; carry sth. to completion (the finish); prosecute to the end; follow through

#### 【有恃无恐】

have nothing to fear with someone of influence to fall back on; There is no fear when one has something to fall back upon; With someone at his back, he does not fear anything; secure in knowledge of strong backing; have sth. secure to rely on; feel reassured and emboldened; emboldened by one's support; count on one's cards [例] 别以为你有个当市长的爸爸就可以有恃无恐! Don't ever harbor the thought that you *have nothing to fear with your father* who is the mayor *to fall back on*!

#### 【有条不紊】

in an orderly way; systematic; everything in good order and well arranged; methodical; without any confusion; with regularity and thoroughness; in perfect order; in apple - pie order; shipshape and Bristol fashion [例] 房间里的东西虽然多,但却摆放得有条不紊。Despite the fact that there are many things in the room, *they are put in perfect order*.

#### 【有条有理】



systematic; orderly; well organized and clearly arranged (stated); properly and logically arranged; very clear and precise [例]你的这篇文章层次分明,有条有理。Your article is *well organized and clearly arranged*.

## 【有心无力】

having a heart but no (lacking) strength (power); strong in will but weak in power [例]我很想帮你解决这个难题,只可惜我是有心无力。I *have the heart* to help you solve the knotty problem, *but unfortunately*, I *have no power* to do so.

## 【有血有肉】

(of descriptions in literary works, etc.) true to life; vivid and substantial; full of vivid details; vivid; lifelike; flesh and blood [例]作者在这部小说中成功地塑造了一个国家领袖的形象,写得有血有肉,生动具体。In this novel, the writer succeeds in the portrayal of the country leader which is *true to life*.

## 【有眼不识泰山】

have eyes but fail to see Mt. Tai; fail to recognize someone's eminence; fail to recognize a great person; entertain an angel unawares [例]原来你就是那个全世界闻名的小提琴演奏家,我真是有眼不识泰山! So you are the world famous violinist. I'm sorry for *failing to recognize your eminence*.

## 【有眼无珠】

have eyes but not the eyeballs; have eyes without pupils; have eyes but fail to see; be blind to; fail to recognize a thing for what it is; unable to discriminate; lack of discernment; ignorant; see sth. without knowing it; eyes and no eyes; blind as a bat (mole) [例]她有眼无珠,不知道那是一幅价值连城的油画。She *has eyes but fails to see* that it is an invaluable oil

painting.

## 【有勇无谋】

courageous but not resourceful; foolhardy; more brave than wise; have valor but lack strategy; bold but unskillful (not crafty); Though brave, one lacks wisdom and tact. [例]张飞不过是个有勇无谋的战将而已。Zhang Fei is nothing but a general who is *more brave than wise*.

## 【有则改之,无则加勉】

correct mistakes if you have made (committed) any and avoid (guard against) them if you have not; correct the mistakes, if any, and keep the good record if none has been committed

## 【有增无减】

There is increase but no decrease; grow more and more; ever-growing; ever-expanding; ever-increasing; keep growing [例]她对参加自行车运动的热情有增无减。Her passion for bicycling *grows stronger and stronger*.

## 【有朝一日】

some day in the future; if one day; if there will be one day when; one day; some day; sooner or later [例]有朝一日,我也会成为一位受人尊敬的好老师。One day I will also make a good teacher held in respect.

## 【有志不在年高】

Success goes to the determined regardless of age; Given a wish to do sth. great, it does not matter if one is advanced in age; Being advanced in years should not be a bar to ambition.

## 【有志者事竟成】

If we have the determination to do sth., a way of doing it will be found; Success goes to the determined; A man who has a settled purpose (firm resolve) will surely succeed; He who wills success is half way to

it; Where there is a will, there is a way; It's dogged as (that) does it.

【有志之士】

a person with lofty ideals; a person of noble aspirations

【迂回曲折】

twist and turn; circuitous; in a roundabout way; zigzag; outflank; with many (full of) twists and turns; with ups and downs [例]这部电视剧情节迂回曲折,把观众完全吸引住了。The *twists and turns* of the TV play absorbed the audience completely.

【予取予求】

make endless (unlimited) demands for; demand everything; take from me whatever you want (please)

【余音袅袅】

The dying sounds are carried far; The melody lingered on; The music lingered in the air (long after the performance) [例]山歌余音袅袅,我不禁想起了我的童年。The melody of the folk song *lingered in the air*, which reminded me of my childhood.

【余音绕梁】

The lingering sounds of the music winds around the beams; The thrilling voice keeps reverberating in the air even after the vocalist has stopped singing; The music lingers in the air long after the performance; A singer's voice is extremely beautiful and leaves one a deep impression.

【鱼贯而出】

file out (of); go out in single file [例]电影散场时,观众鱼贯而出。When the film was over, the audience *filed out of* the cinema.

【鱼贯而入】

file in; enter in single file; come in succession [例]小学生们很守纪律,在博

物馆门口排着队鱼贯而入。The pupils who were very disciplined *entered* the museum *in single file*.

【鱼龙混杂】

dragons and fishes jumbled together; a mixed lot; good and bad people (mixed together); a mixture of persons of different sorts; people of all kinds; The bad became mixed with the good; thread and thrum [例]在这种鱼龙混杂的地方,谁也不知道会发生什么事。In such a place where there are *people of all kinds*, no one really knows what might happen.

【鱼米之乡】

a land (home) of fish and rice; a region abundant in fish and rice; a land of plenty; a land of milk and honey; a fertile region; a land of abundance

【鱼目混珠】

pass off fish eyes as (for) pearls; pass off the sham as the genuine; mix the genuine with the fictitious; counterfeit; palm sth. off (onto; upon sb.) [例]他很擅长于鉴别古代书画,你最好不要企图在他面前鱼目混珠。He is an expert at making an appraisal of ancient paintings. You'd better not try to *pass off the sham as the genuine* in front of him.

【愚不可及】

couldn't be more foolish; Nobody could possibly be more foolish; stupid in the extreme; be hopelessly stupid; the height of folly; impossibly dim-witted [例]明明是你中了别人的圈套,却还在这儿乐不可支,真是愚不可及。It was you who fell into a trap, but you were all smiles. *Nobody could possibly be more foolish* than you.

【愚公移山】

(like) the Foolish Old Man who removed the mountains; with dogged determination;

with the spirit of perseverance; the determination to win victory and the courage to surmount every difficulty; stick it out [例]我们要发挥愚公移山的精神完成这个科研项目。We should try our best to finish the scientific research project just like the Foolish Old Man who removed the mountains.

#### 【愚昧无知】

stupid and ignorant; benighted; idiotic; unintelligent; unlettered; a simpleton; unenlightened [例]父母的愚昧无知夺去了小女孩幼小的生命。Her parents' ignorance cost the life of the little girl.

#### 【与人方便,与己方便】

Things would be easy for you if you make things easy for others; By aiming for the good of others, you will get your own; He who helps others helps himself; A good turn to someone else is a good turn to yourself.

#### 【与人为善】

help others together with sb.; friendly; do good for ...; do ... for the good of others; help others kind-heartedly; mean well; have good intentions towards ...; well-intentioned; show kindness to [例]我知道你们也是与人为善,并不是想故意为难我们。I know you are all well-intentioned people. It's not that you want to make things difficult for us deliberately.

#### 【与日俱增】

increase day by day; grow with each passing day; grow with time; multiply daily; ever-growing; ever-increasing; ever-expanding; be steadily (daily) on the increase [例]随着年龄的增长,他对死亡的恐惧与日俱增。As he is getting on in age, his fears about death grow with each passing day.

#### 【与世长辞】

die; depart from the world forever; be gone forever; get one's quietus; pass away; breathe one's last; go west; sing (one's) nunc dimittis [例]那位老教授因心脏病突发于上个星期与世长辞了。The old professor passed away last week due to a heart attack.

#### 【与世无争】

not in competition with the world; hold oneself aloof from the world; stand aloof from worldly success; on good terms with the world; in harmony with the world; reconcile oneself to one's situation; at peace with all men [例]在当今社会,有些人认为与世无争是非常消极的人生态度。In modern society, some people think it is a negative outlook on life that one should stand aloof from worldly success.

#### 【与众不同】

unlike the ordinary; different from the others; unusual; not the ordinary kind; out of the common run; distinctive; exceptional; out of the ordinary [例]那位女作家的写作风格与众不同。The woman writer's writing style is quite different from the others'.

#### 【羽毛丰满】

become full-fledged; The feather is in its length; experienced; mature; have got over one's salad days [例]等你羽毛丰满的时候再搬出去住不是更好吗? Wouldn't it be a better idea if you wait until you are mature enough before you move out and live on your own?

#### 【羽毛未丰】

The feather is not yet fully grown; unfledged; young and inexperienced (immature); naive and inexperienced; green [例]我觉得你羽毛未丰,现在还不能要孩子。I think you are too young and immature to have a baby now.

## 【雨过天晴】

The sky clears (up) after the rain; The sky looks blue after a shower; The sun shines again after the rain; After gloom comes brightness; Difficult periods give way to bright future; The worst is over; return to normal after a crisis; After a storm comes a calm.

## 【雨后春笋】

spring up like bamboo shoots after a spring rain; spring up like mushrooms; mushroom; grow quickly [例]今年年初,新的餐馆如雨后春笋般出现在市中心一带。New restaurants *sprang up like mushrooms* in the downtown area early this year.

## 【语无伦次】

want of order in one's speech; speak incoherently (illogically); ramble in one's statement; talk in a confused manner; One's speech was incoherent and confused; utter words that do not hang together [例]他肯定很紧张,因为他回答问题的时候语无伦次。He must be very nervous because his answer to the question was *incoherent and confused*.

## 【语焉不详】

not speak in detail; not elaborate on; not go into detail; It is mentioned but (vaguely) not in detail; too sketchy [例]她在信中对工作一事的叙述语焉不详。She *didn't go into details* about her job in her letter.

## 【语重心长】

be sincere and earnest; grave and earnest in one's speeches; talk in earnest; sincere words and earnest wishes; full of meaning; meaningfully; significantly; in all earnestness; in all sincerity [例]临行前母亲语重心长的话语还在我耳边萦绕。Mother's *sincere words and earnest wishes*

before I left are still ringing in my ears.

## 【玉石俱焚】

jade and stone burned together; destroy indiscriminately; good men destroyed with the bad; indiscriminate destruction of good and bad alike; A fire knows no moral.

## 【郁郁不乐】

feel depressed; melancholy; feel low; cheerless; joyless; mope about (around); feel sad and gloomy; down with the blues; hit by the blues; dejected; cast down; in low (heavy) spirits; out of spirits; out of humor [例]像你这样郁郁不乐根本就解决不了任何问题。It won't solve anything to *feel so depressed*.

## 【郁郁葱葱】

green and luxuriant; lush and green; luxuriantly green; (be) a wild profusion of vegetation; It grows greener and fresher. [例]看着那片郁郁葱葱的森林,她的心情平静了下来。Looking at the *lush and green* forest, she gradually calmed down.

## 【御驾亲征】

The emperor personally led his soldiers in a military operation; expedition directly (personally) commanded by his majesty

## 【欲罢不能】

try to stop but cannot; unable to stop even though one wants to; cannot refrain from carrying out; cannot help carrying on [例]他很想戒烟,只是他烟瘾太大,因而欲罢不能。He really *wanted to give up smoking*. But the problem was that he was such a heavy smoker that he *was unable to* do without it.

## 【欲盖弥彰】

The more one tries to hide, the more one is exposed; try to conceal one's fault only to make it all the more conspicuous; The harder one tries to conceal a thing, the

more it attracts attention; One exposes oneself unwittingly while trying to cover up his tricks; He who excuses himself accuses himself.

【欲壑难填】

Greed is like a valley that can never be filled; Greed is hard to satisfy; The covetous are never satisfied; boundless ambition; Avarice knows no bounds [例]那位政府高官之所以被判无期徒刑主要是因为他是那种欲壑难填的人。The main reason why the high-ranking government official was sentenced to life imprisonment was that he was the kind of person whose *avarice knew no bounds*.

【欲加之罪,何患无辞】

If you are out to condemn sb., you can always trump up a charge; If you wish to criminate sb., you will meet no difficulty in finding a pretext; He who has a mind to beat his dog will easily find his stick; If you want a pretence to whip a dog, say he ate the frying pan; give a dog a bad (evil) name and hang him

【欲擒故纵】

leave sb. at large the better to apprehend him; let the enemy off in order to catch him; allow sb. more latitude first to keep a tighter rein on him afterwards; loosen reins the better to tighten them [例]警方放了这两个杀手,其实是欲擒故纵,想通过跟踪他们抓到真正的幕后操纵者。The police *let the two killers off in order to follow their tracks so as to catch the real manipulator behind the scenes*.

【欲穷千里目,更上一层楼】

ascend another story to see a thousand miles

【欲速则不达】

Haste brings no success; Great haste is not always good speed; If one hurries the

work, it may be spoiled; The faster one tried to finish, the longer it seemed to take him; The more you hurry, the less real progress you will make; Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow; (The) more haste, (the) less speed; Haste makes waste.

【遇人不淑】

be married to a bad husband; ill-matched in marriage [例]她说男人都是靠不住的。如果离开丈夫后仍旧是遇人不淑,那就更糟。She said that no man was reliable and it would be even worse if she left her husband only to be *married to another bad one*.

【誉满天下】

One's fame spreads throughout the world; famed the world over; world-famous; of world renown; enjoy tremendous popularity in the world; gain a world reputation [例]当时她以一本最畅销小说而誉满天下。At that time she *enjoyed tremendous popularity in the world* for her best seller.

【鹬蚌相持,渔人得利】

A fisherman profits by a fight between a snipe and a clam; When a snipe and a clam grapple, the fisherman profits; If a snipe and a clam are locked in fight, it is only to the advantage of the fisherman; While an oyster and a kingfisher are engaged in a bitter tussle, a fisherman comes (along) and catches them both; It is the third party that benefits from the tussle; If two parties fight, a third party will benefit.

【冤家路窄】

The road of enemies is narrow - they are sure to meet; Enemies will meet in a narrow alley; Enemies often cross paths; Opponents are bound to meet on a narrow road; Foes are fated to meet; One can't avoid one's enemy (much as one wants

to); inevitable confrontation; a small world [例]真是冤家路窄,这个案子怎么就偏偏由他来负责呢? *What a small world!* How come it is he who is dealing with the case?

#### 【冤有头,债有主】

Every injustice has its perpetrator and every debt its debtor; No debts without creditors, no hatred without cause; If a crime is committed, there is one who has committed it, and if there is a debt, there is a debtor; Every wrong has its cause, every debt has its debtor; A wrong has a source, a loan has a lender.

#### 【冤冤相报】

injury for injury; Reprisal breeds reprisal; Their mutual injuries were avenged on each other; revenge in the same manner; An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. [例]冤冤相报何时了,我劝你还是收手吧。 *Injury for injury*, and there would be no end of reprisals. I suggest that you stop what you are doing right now.

#### 【原封不动】

The original article is still packed; untouched; intact; keep (leave) sth. whole (unbroken, unimpaired, unopened, in its totality); remain (maintain) unchanged (in its original state); with no change; leave things as they are; in the integrity [例]出租车司机把装有巨款的公文包原封不动地还给了失主。 The taxi driver returned the owner his briefcase *untouched* where there was a large sum of money.

#### 【原形毕露】

show (reveal) one's original form; be seen (revealed) for what it is; reveal one's real nature; completely unmasked (exposed); betray oneself; the appearance of one's true nature; appear in one's true charac-

ter; show one's (true) colors; show sb. in his true colors; show the cloven foot (hoof); show one's cards on the table [例]通过警方半年来的调查,那个骗子最终原形毕露。 The police's investigation in the recent half year *showed the cheat in his true colors* in the end.

#### 【源源不绝】

in a steady (endless) stream; continuously; an endless (uninterrupted) flow of; inexhaustible; flow like water; go on without end; uninterrupted supply; come (forth) endlessly [例]全国各地的捐款源源不绝地寄往了地震灾区的人们。 Donations from all over the country have been *continuously* sent to the people in the afflicted earthquake area.

#### 【源远流长】

The source is distant and the stream long; The source is far away and the flow runs long; of long standing and well established; a distant (ancient) origin and a long development; span a long history; date from (go back to) ancient times; traced far back; (The river of friendship) runs a long course from a remote source; have a long history [例]中国文化的历史源远流长。 The Chinese culture *spans a long history*.

#### 【缘木求鱼】

climb up a tree in search of (to catch, seek for, look for) fish; futile; useless; like attempting the impossible; try to do the impossible; do things by the wrong method; resort to a fruitless approach; a waste of effort; milk the bull (ram); like getting blood from a stone; bark up the wrong tree; fish in the air; plough the fish; out of the question; wring (get) water from a flint [例]你要他去承担这项任务无异于缘木求鱼。 If you want him

to undertake the task, it's no different from *wringing water from a flint*.

### 【远见卓识】

farsighted; foresight and sagacity; able to see the future; forethought [例] 作为一名具有远见卓识的经济学家,他早在十年前的一篇文章中就指出了我国经济改革过程中可能会出现的问题。As an economist of *foresight*, he had long pointed out in one of his articles ten years ago the difficulties that we might come across in the course of our economic reform.

### 【远交近攻】

be friends with (befriend) distant states while attacking those nearby; associate with the distant countries and attack the near ones; (the policy of) attacking nearby neighbors and maintaining (keeping) friendly relations with more distant nations

### 【远亲不如近邻】

A distant (afar off) relative is not as good (helpful) as a near neighbor; A near neighbor is better than a distant cousin (a brother far off); The neighbors to whom we bid good day are better than kinsfolk far away; A close neighbor means more than a distant relative.

### 【远水不解近渴】

Distant water cannot quench (slake) present thirst; A far-off well is no help to a thirsty man; The aid is too slow in coming to be of any help; Slowness cannot meet hasty demand. [例] 他的病情非常严重,可是那个医生远在美国,真是远水不解近渴。He was in a critical condition, but the doctor was still far away in America. So his coming *cannot meet such a hasty demand* at all.

### 【远水不救近火】

Distant water cannot quench (put out,

douse) a nearby fire (a fire close at hand); Water far away is not of much use in putting out a fire; Distant waters are powerless against near fires; A fire can hardly be put out if water is fetched from afar; A slow remedy cannot meet an urgency. [例] 如今远水不救近火,就算我们再多凑些钱,也挽救不了他的生意。Distant water cannot quench a nearby fire. Even if we try our best to get some more money, it won't save his business.

### 【远在天边,近在眼前】

far away on the horizon and yet near before one's eyes; close at hand though seemingly far away; If he is near then he is before your face; So far and yet so near; right before one's eyes [例] 你要找的那个女孩远在天边,近在眼前,就是我。The girl whom you've been trying to find is *right here before your eyes*. It's me.

### 【远走高飞】

run far away and fly high up; fly far and high; be off to distant parts; go away from home; run away; go far away; slip away to a distant place; take wing and fly away [例] 她抛弃了丈夫和孩子,跟着她的情人远走高飞了。She deserted her husband and child and *ran away* with her lover.

### 【怨气冲天】

One's wrath rose to the sky; One's resentment mounts to heaven; towering resentment; soaring grievance (complaint) [例] 他们对老板的吝啬虽然怨气冲天,但在他们面前却是敢怒而不敢言。Though they felt *towering resentment* at their boss' stinginess, they dared not show it in front of him.

### 【怨声载道】

The murmurs filled the streets; Complaints (Grumbles; Voices of discontent,

Grievances) are heard everywhere; Cries of discontent rise all around; full of complaints (grumbles); loud in complaint [例]解放前,国民党政府的统治弄得民不聊生,怨声载道。Before liberation, the people had no means of livelihood under the rule of the Kuomintang government and *voices of discontent could be heard everywhere*.

#### 【怨天尤人】

complain of both Heaven and men; grumble against (repine at) Heaven and lay the blame upon other people; blame fate (Heaven) and other people; blame everyone (and everything) but oneself; complain of one's lot; curse and swear; given to complaining; full of complaints (grumbles) [例]凡事稍有不顺,他就怨天尤人。He is *given to complaining* when things don't go well with him.

#### 【怨天怨地】

blame Heaven and Earth; murmur against Heaven and Earth; curse fate

#### 【约定俗成】

established by usage; accepted through common usage (practice); established by the people through long social practice; accepted due to customs; An agreement has become a practice. [例]很多风俗习惯其实是约定俗成的。Many social customs and habits were *established by the people through long social practice*.

#### 【约法三章】

draw up three chapters of law; agree on a three-point law (decree); (make) simple rules to be observed by all; agree on the rule(s) [例]我们曾经约法三章,在毕业之前不再见面,难道你忘了吗? We've *agreed on the rule* that we should not see each other until we graduate. Did you forget it?

#### 【月白风清】

The moon is bright and the wind cool; bright moon and gentle breeze; The moon is pale and the breeze is refreshing; The moon is white and the winds mild; a beautiful and quiet night

#### 【月光如水】

The moonlight is as clear as water; The moonlight shines like water; watery moon; The moon casts its silver sheen upon the ground; a flood of translucent moonlight

#### 【月黑风高】

a windy moonless night [例]那是一个月黑风高的晚上,我一个人在崎岖的山路上走着。It was *a windy moonless night* and I was walking alone on a winding mountain path.

#### 【月落乌啼】

The crows caw when the moon goes down.

#### 【月明星稀】

The moon is bright and stars are few; with a clear moon and few stars

#### 【月下老人】

the old man found in moonlight in charge of making matches by tying a red thread on boys and girls; the old man under the moon - the god who unites man and woman in marriage; matchmaker; go-between [例]你就做个月下老人,替我俩牵线搭桥吧。Please act as *a go-between* for us two, will you?

#### 【跃跃欲试】

itch to have a try (go); itch (die) for a try (go) at sth.; be itching to do sth.; be anxious to try one's chance; be eager to have a try; gird up one's loins for a try [例]看到好多游客都决定徒步登到黄山山顶,我也有点跃跃欲试了。Seeing that so many tourists decided to climb up to the top of the Yellow Mountain on foot, I was *eager to have a try*, too.



## 【越俎代庖】

take another's job into one's own hands; exceed (overstep) one's functions (authority, duties) and meddle in others' affairs; overstep one's authority; do what is not in one's department (within one's province); not in one's own line of duty; do things outside one's area of responsibility; poke one's nose into others' business [例]他们的案子现在是由我来负责的,请你不要越俎代庖。Their case is now under my jurisdiction. Please don't *overstep my authority and meddle in my affairs*.

## 【晕头转向】

confused and disoriented; feel dizzy and giddy; muddle-headed; not know whether one is standing on one's head or one's heels; lose one's head [例]迪斯科舞厅里耀眼的灯光把我刺得晕头转向的。The dazzling lights in the discotheque really made me *feel dizzy and giddy*.

## 【云消雾散】

The clouds melt and the mists disperse; The sky has cleared (up); vanish into thin

air [例]经过校长的一番解释,他对于担任这一职位的顾虑都云消雾散了。The president's explanation made his worries about taking the position *vanish into thin air*.

## 【芸芸众生】

all living things (creatures); numerous living beings; all mortal beings [例]我等芸芸众生,又能奈他如何? What can we *mortal beings* do with him?

## 【运筹帷幄】

devise strategies (prepare schemes, plan a strategy) in a tent; contrive strategic plans in the headquarters; devise campaign strategy; map out a strategy; have the situation well in hand

## 【运用自如】

handle masterfully (skillfully); grasp and skillfully apply; have a perfect command of; make oneself master of; use sth. (for doing sth.) with ease [例]能对几种语言运用自如的人肯定是个天才。He who *has a perfect command of several languages* must be a genius.

## Z

## 【唾嘴弄舌】

smack (purse) one's lips; make clicks (of praise, admiration) [例]吃饭的时候别唾嘴弄舌的,真没礼貌! Don't *smack your lips* while eating. It's considered bad table manners.

## 【杂乱无章】

disorderly and unsystematic; cluttered and confusing; disorganised; poorly organised; higgledy - piggledy; rough - and - tumble; jumbled; rambling and incoherent; be (get) out of order; in a mess; in confusion; in a jumble; in wild (utter) disorder; in a muddle; at sixes and sevens [例]儿子的房间总是杂乱无章,她每天都得花一个小时来整理。Her son's room is always *in a mess* and she has to spend one hour each day in getting it in order.

## 【杂七杂八】

mixed; miscellaneous; motley; assorted; medley; odds and ends [例]你能不能把这些摊在地板上杂七杂八的玩具收拾好? Could you please put away the *motley* collection of toys lying on the floor?

## 【再接再厉】

make persistent (determined, continued, unremitting, unrelaxed, unrelenting, sustained and redoubled) efforts; keep up (intensify, redouble) one's efforts; continue to exert oneself; advance from strength to strength; struggling hard with; work ceaselessly and unremittingly (unrelentingly); keep it up; carry on; follow up [例]老师希望他再接再厉,发明出更多的东西来。The teacher hoped that he would *keep up his efforts* and try to make more inventions.

## 【再生父母】

one's second parents (said with gratitude of a person who has saved one's life); one's great benefactor; one's saviour [例]他说那些曾经帮助过他的好心人就是他的再生父母。He said that those warm - hearted people who had offered him help were *his second parents*.

## 【再造之恩】

give sb. a new lease on life [例]再造之恩,无以为报。I could do nothing to repay your kindness of *giving me a new lease on life*.

## 【在劫难逃】

If you are doomed, there is no escape; impossible to escape one's doom; There is no escaping (from) fate; It is fate that cannot be avoided; What is destined cannot be avoided. [例]既然是在劫难逃,那我们就听天由命吧。Since *there's no escaping from fate*, let's meet our fate with resignation.

## 【在所不辞】

will never decline; will not refuse under any circumstances; will not hesitate to [例]为了能给村里的孩子们造一幢新的教学大楼,即使遇到再多的困难他也在所不辞。In order to build a new teaching building, he *will not hesitate* no matter how many difficulties he is going to come across.

## 【在所不惜】

will never grudge; will not hesitate to (sacrifice); will never balk at; will give sth. as a sacrifice; regardless of the cost (sacrifice) [例]为了祖国的利益,他就算是牺牲自己的生命也在所不惜。He *will*

even give his life as a sacrifice for the interest of his motherland.

【在所难免】

hard to avoid; inevitable; unavoidable; can hardly be avoided; inescapable; impossible to be avoided; unpreventable [例]他还只是个孩子,偶尔忘记做家庭作业也是在所难免的 He is still a kid, so it's almost impossible to be avoided that he occasionally forgets to do his homework.

【在天之灵】

souls in paradise (heaven); the spirit of the deceased; ghost (of the deceased) [例]本人谨作此诗以告慰烈士的在天之灵。I wrote the poem just to give consolation to the martyr's soul in paradise.

【载歌载舞】

sing and dance; now singing, now dancing; singing and dancing joyously; festively singing and dancing [例]昨天晚上,同学们在操场上载歌载舞,迎接新年的到来。The students were singing and dancing joyously on the playground last night to welcome the coming of the New Year.

【赞不绝口】

praise endlessly (extravagantly, profusely, unceasingly); be full of praise; be effusive (profuse) in praise (of); be prodigal of praise; rain (lavish) praises on sb.; be unstinting in one's praise; rave about (over); laud (praise) sb. to the skies; be above (beyond all) praise [例]老板对他的秘书赞不绝口,因为她的工作效率极高。The boss was full of praise for his secretary who was very efficient in her work.

【糟糠之妻】

a wife who has shared her husband's hard lot; a woman married to a man before he became prosperous

【糟糠之妻不下堂】

A wife who has shared her husband's hard lot must not be cast aside (abandoned).

【早出晚归】

go out in the morning and return in the evening; go out early and come back at dusk; go to work early and come home late [例]他每天早出晚归,拼命工作以养活一家人 He works very hard by going out early and comes home late every day so as to support his family.

【早知今日,何必当初】

Had I known it, I wouldn't have done it; If it has to be like this now, it's a pity it was ever like it in the beginning; if only I knew ...

【造谣生事】

spread rumours to cause trouble; create trouble by false stories (reports); stir up trouble by rumour mongering; start a rumour to create trouble; cause trouble by spreading scandal (rumours) [例]别告诉她你去面试的事,免得她又造谣生事。Don't tell her anything about your interview. Otherwise, she might cause trouble again by spreading rumours.

【造谣中伤】

spread rumours that injure one's reputation; make up stories to defame others; damage one's reputation by spreading rumours; hurt sb. by calumnious fabrication; fabricate rumours to slander people; utter slander against sb.; slander sb. without the slightest excuse [例]这么说你的意思是我在造谣中伤她啰! So you mean I'm trying to damage her reputation by spreading rumours about her, don't you?

【责无旁贷】

duty-bound; be one's unshirkable (inescapable) responsibility; a responsibility

one cannot relinquish; cannot shift the responsibility on (to) others; bounden duty; have no excuse for avoiding one's duties; There is no shirking (of) responsibility. [例]维护消费者的合法权益, 消费者协会责无旁贷。It is *an unshirkable responsibility* of the Consumers' Association to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the consumer.

#### 【择善而行】

choose what is good and follow it; choose and embrace what is good; find the good way and follow it; find out who is the best and serve [例]如果人人都能做到择善而行, 那我们的世界将会更加美好。If everybody can *choose what is good and follow it*, our world will be a better one.

#### 【贼喊捉贼】

(play the trick of) a thief crying "Stop thief!"; a thief crying for the thief; accuse sb. of the theft and try to sneak away oneself; the devil rebuking a sin; A robber acts like a cop; cover oneself up by shouting with the crowd

#### 【贼眉鼠眼】

shifty - eyed; crafty - looking; guilty - looking; have a sneaky look; look like a thief; thievish - looking; roguish look [例]他那贼眉鼠眼的样儿真不讨人喜欢。Being a *thievish - looking* guy, he is disliked by people.

#### 【债台高筑】

be debt - ridden; run heavily into debt; deep (heavily) in debt; be immersed in debt; incur heavy debts; Debts are rolling up; Debts have piled up high; One's debts are like a millstone round one's neck; up to one's neck (eyes) in debt; over head and ears in debt; be up to one's ears (eyes) in debt [例]大家都知道他现在债台高筑, 谁也不肯借钱给他了。No

one is willing to lend him any money since everybody knows that he is now *up to his ears in debt*.

#### 【沾亲带故】

have ties of kinship (friendship); be related somehow or other; with blood or marital relationship [例]我和你又不沾亲带故, 你干嘛问我借钱? I'm not *related with you* at all. Why ask me to lend you money?

#### 【沾沾自喜】

be very pleased with oneself; self - complacent; self - contented; feel complacent; rest satisfied with; smug; pat oneself on the back; play the peacock; hug oneself on (over, for) [例]听说这次考试得了满分, 她不禁有些沾沾自喜。Having heard that she had got full marks for the examination, she couldn't help being very *pleased with herself*.

#### 【瞻前顾后】

take into account both past experience and the situation that may possibly arise in the future; look ahead into the future and back into the past; look before and behind (after); look fore and aft (forward and backward); be overcautious and indecisive; think over carefully before doing sth; weigh one's steps by thinking of consequences; walk (tread) on eggs [例]做事情如果老是瞻前顾后的话, 那你将一事无成。If you are always *overcautious and indecisive* while doing something, you will accomplish nothing.

#### 【斩草除根】

remove weeds and their roots; cut the weeds and dig up the roots; cut off the grass and take out its roots; pull up by the roots; eliminate the cause of; stamp out (eradicate) the source of trouble; uproot evil; wipe sb. off the face of the earth;

destroy root and branch; strike at the roots of [例]对于社会上的邪恶行径,我们必须斩草除根。We must *destroy* the social evil practices *root and branch*.

#### 【斩钉截铁】

chop off a nail and cut through iron; resolute and decisive; firm and decisive; make it definitely clear; with determination; decisively; firmly; with resolution; without missing one's words; with decision and dispatch; categorically; explicitly; put one's foot down [例]她斩钉截铁地拒绝了那位不法商人对她的贿赂。She rejected *with determination* the bribe offered by that lawless businessman.

#### 【斩尽杀绝】

kill all; exterminate; be completely annihilated; kill every one of them; leave no leeway; spare none; wipe out; make no allowance [例]我们不管做什么事,都不要斩尽杀绝,要留有余地。Whatever we do, we should *leave some leeway* and not go to extremes.

#### 【崭露头角】

burst into the limelight; make oneself conspicuous; stand out conspicuously; cut (make) a fine (good, brilliant, dashing, striking, conspicuous, splendid) figure; rise in the world; come up in the world [例]宝鸡,陕西省的一个不甚重要的小县,战争使它崭露头角。Baoji, a not very important small county of Shanxi Province, *stood out conspicuously* during the war.

#### 【辗转反侧】

toss about (in bed); have a sleepless night; toss to and fro (in bed); move from side to side; unable to sleep; turning backward and forward; toss and turn (restlessly) [例]她不知道明天该不该去见他,因此在床上辗转反侧,久久不

能入睡。Not knowing whether she should go and meet him tomorrow, she *tossed and turned restlessly* in bed, unable to fall asleep for a long time.

#### 【战无不胜】

invincible; win in every battle; all-conquering; ever-victorious; never lose a battle; ever-triumphant [例]世界上没有任何一支战无不胜的队伍。There is not a single army in the world that can *win in every battle*.

#### 【战战兢兢】

tremble with fear (fright, terror); with fear and trepidation; shake with terror; with (extreme) caution; fearfully; nervously; gingerly; watch one's steps; in a twitter; in a blue funk; have one's heart in one's mouth (boots); on thin ice [例]看见歹徒拿着枪冲进教室,学生们都吓得战战兢兢。Seeing the outlaw rush into the classroom with a gun in hand, the pupils *trembled with fear*.

#### 【张灯结彩】

hang up lanterns and silk festoons (coloured bunting); be decorated with lanterns (lights) and coloured streamers (hangings); hang up lanterns and put up decorations; ba gay with lanterns and decorations [例]国庆节就要到了,街上到处张灯结彩。The National Day was soon coming and the streets *were decorated with lights and coloured streamers*.

#### 【张冠李戴】

put Zhang's hat on Li's head - the wrong person; confuse one thing with another; wrong attribution; mistaken identification; fasten one person's story upon another person; a misplacement; mistake (substitute, misplace) one for another [例]他竟把李世民说成是宋朝的皇帝,真是张冠李戴。He would even say that Li Shimin

was an emperor in Song Dynasty. What a *wrong attribution*!

### 【张口结舌】

be agape and tongue - tied; gape with astonishment (wonder); be at loss for words; be left speechless; be stumped by; strike dumb; be unable to find anything to say; stare with the mouth open; gaping and speechless; couldn't find one's tongue; lose one's tongue; One's tongue refused to move. [例]面对警方所提出的证据,那个犯罪嫌疑人张口结舌,什么话也说不出来。Brought before the evidence given by the police, the suspect was *unable to find anything to say* in his defence.

### 【张三李四】

any Tom, Dick or Harry; Brown, Jones and Robinson; a Mr. X or Y; anybody; no matter who; this one and that one; Mr. so - and - so; either one or the other; any man in the street [例]不管他张三李四,你就跟他说,我很忙,谁也不见。No *matter who* he is, just tell him that I am too busy to meet anybody.

### 【张牙舞爪】

show (bare, display) one's fangs and put out (brandish, open) one's claws; make threatening gestures; take up a threatening attitude; engage (indulge) in sabre - rattling; be ferocious - looking; put on a fierce look; rampant [例]别对着我张牙舞爪的,又不是我让你失业的。Don't *put on such a fierce look* in front of me. It's not I who made you lose your job.

### 【掌上明珠】

a pearl in the palm; a (dearly) beloved daughter; a darling; be treasured like pearls; jewel; the apple of one's (the) eye [例]他们四十岁才生了这个女儿,女儿就是他们的掌上明珠。The daughter

whom they didn't give birth to until the age of 40 is *the apple of their eye*.

### 【仗势欺人】

use one's power to frighten or hurt others; take advantage of one's or sb. else's power to bully people; rely on (relatives', friends') power (influence) and bully people; abuse one's power and bully the people; insult people because one has influence; throw one's weight about (around); pull (one's) rank (on sb.); push around [例]那个警察仗势欺人,强迫这个杂货店的主人把店廉价卖给他。The policeman *threw his weight about* and forced the owner to sell him the grocery store at a low price.

### 【仗义疏才】

be generous in aiding the needy; give money to a righteous cause; donate money for worthy causes; be just and upright and distribute wealth for a good cause; generous of heart and lightly esteeming silver and gold; love generous deeds and look lightly upon money

### 【仗义执言】

speak for someone out of a sense of justice; speak boldly in defense of justice; speak out to uphold justice; speak straightforwardly for justice; stand up for the weak; stick up for justice [例]当她看到那个可怜的老人被儿子赶出门外时,她挺身而出,仗义执言。When she saw that the poor old man was driven out by his son, she stepped forward bravely and *spoke for him out of a sense of justice*.

### 【招兵买马】

recruit (enlist) soldiers and buy horses; raise (enlarge) an army; prepare for war; expand a fighting force; muster up a force; gather together a following of mercenaries [例]他们政府正在到处招兵

买马,看来要打仗了。Their government is trying to *enlarge their army* and it seems there is going to be a war.

### 【招财进宝】

bring in wealth and treasure - felicitous wish of making money (formula used to wish oneself or sb. else good fortune in business); amass fortunes

### 【招架不住】

be unable to resist (withstand, ward off, fend off, stand off, stand up to, parry, defend, hold out); cannot ward off blows; find it difficult to cope with; unable to sustain the blows [例]他们的兵力太强大了,我们恐怕要招架不住了。Their military strength is so formidable that I'm afraid we are *unable to fend off* their attack.

### 【招摇撞骗】

try every trick to mislead the public; swindle and bluff; swagger and swindle; swindle by posing as a VIP; practice deception by misleading the public; bluff and deceive; practice fraud upon people by making false claims; swindle by false pretences; impose upon people; sail under false colours [例]他经常冒充自己是电影导演,到处招摇撞骗,骗取钱财。He often *swindles* money by *posing himself as* a film director.

### 【朝不保夕】

cannot say in the morning what would happen in the evening; not know at dawn what may happen by dusk; be in a critical (precarious) state; at the point of death; may collapse any day; hang by a thread; live from hand to mouth [例]你自己都过着朝不保夕的生活,还有什么能力来照顾我呢? You yourself are *living from hand to mouth*, so how can you be able to take care of me?

### 【朝气蓬勃】

full of vigour and vitality; full of youthful spirit; full of vim and vigour; teem with life and vitality; brim over with vigour and vitality; bubble over with life; dynamic and vigorous; full of life; imbued with vitality; full of pep; full of beans [例]大学校园里到处都是朝气蓬勃的年轻人。One can see young people *full of vigour and vitality* everywhere on a university campus.

### 【朝秦暮楚】

serve (lean to) the State of Qin in the morning and (to) the State of Chu in the evening; fickle; capricious; switch one's allegiance from side to side; changeable; inconstant; be a turncoat and change masters (sides) every day; quick to switch sides; change one's loyalty constantly (frequently); chop and change; play fast and loose; blow hot and cold [例]像他这样一个朝秦暮楚的人根本就不值得你去爱。Being a man who always *plays fast and loose* with girls' affection, he is not worth your love at all.

### 【朝三暮四】

say three in the morning and four in the evening; change one's mind frequently; keep changing one's mind; fickle; changeable; capricious; shift and veer; blow hot and cold; chop and change; play fast and loose

### 【朝思暮想】

yearn day and night; think about sb. from morning to night; dream of ... day and night; be on one's mind day and night [例]她朝思暮想的丈夫昨天终于从国外回来了。Her husband whom she *thought about day and night* was finally back from abroad yesterday.

### 【朝闻道,夕死可矣】

One is even willing to die in the evening if he could hear the truth in the morning; Truth is so valuable that one is willing to die soon after learning it; yearn for truth; be deeply in love with and thirsty for the truth; thirst after knowledge

**【朝朝暮暮】**

every morning and evening; for days and days; day and night

**【照本宣科】**

repeat (echo) what the book says; parrot a text; read item by item from the text; read according to the book [例]一般说来,学生都不大喜欢老师照本宣科。Generally speaking, students don't very much like their teachers to *repeat what the books say only*.

**【真才实学】**

true skill and genuine knowledge; genuine talent; real ability and learning; solid learning; competent and well-trained (personnel) [例]只要你有真才实学,就一定能找到一份理想的工作。So long as you are a *competent and well-trained* person, you are sure to find an ideal job.

**【真金不怕火来烧】**

Genuine gold can stand the test of fire; Pure gold is not afraid of being heated; True gold fears no fire; A person of integrity can stand severe tests; An honest person does not fear the light; Truth fears not the flames of slander and injustice; True blue will never stain.

**【真凭实据】**

solid (concrete, ironclad, genuine, hard, indisputable) evidence; with factual evidence; founded on fact; conclusive proof; well-founded [例]你有真凭实据证明是他偷了你的钱吗? Have you got any *solid evidence* that it was he who had stolen

your money?

**【真情实意】**

true feelings and real intention out of genuine friendship

**【真伪真辨】**

cannot tell (distinguish) the genuine from the false; cannot separate the true from the false; fail to distinct the genuine from the false; cannot distinguish whether it's genuine or fake; see no difference [例]这颗假钻石制作得太逼真了,连那位经验老到的珠宝鉴别师对它也是真伪莫辨。The fake diamond was such a good imitation that even the experienced jewelry appraiser *could not distinguish whether it was genuine or fake*.

**【真相大白】**

The truth comes out; The truth has been brought into daylight; The truth has been revealed; Everything is clear now; The cat is out of the bag; The murder is out.

**【真心诚意】**

sincerely; wholeheartedly; truly; with all one's heart; in earnest; have the (one's) heart in the right place; from the bottom of one's heart [例]我是真心诚意来向你道歉的。I'm here to express my *sincere* apology to you.

**【真知灼见】**

real knowledge and deep insight; correct and penetrating views; penetrating (incisive) judgment; profound insight; penetrating insight; insight won from close knowledge of the subject [例]我们可以从他刚才所说的话里领略到他对“理想”一词的真知灼见。From what he has just said, we can sense his *penetrating insights* into the meaning of the word “ideal”.

**【振臂一呼】**

raise one's arm in a call for action; raise



one's arm and cry for action; raise one's hand and issue a call for action; sound the trumpet call of action

**【振振有词】**

say with conviction; speak in a positive tone; What one says is plausible; speak plausibly and volubly (to justify oneself); say presumptuously [例]老师批评他的时候,他振振有词地为自己上课迟到而辩解。When the teacher criticised him, he *spoke plausibly and volubly* in defence of his being late for the class.

**【震耳欲聋】**

deafening; ear - splitting; enough to wake the dead; distressingly (intolerably, unbearably) loud; make the ears tingle; thunderous to the ears; The noise rose to a deafening pitch. [例]我实在不能忍受隔壁邻居家那震耳欲聋的音乐声。I really cannot stand the *distressingly loud* music coming from the next door.

**【震撼人心】**

shocking; soul - stirring; thrilling; be greatly shocked; heart - stirring; impressive; touching; heart shaking; shock the hearts of the people; excite people's mind [例]这部震撼人心的影片感动了电影院几乎所有的观众。The *heart - stirring* film moved nearly all the audience in the cinema.

**【震天动地】**

shake heaven and earth; shake the universe; world - shaking; earthshaking; shock the whole world; take the world by surprise; shocking; overwhelming [例]工人们的喊声震天动地。The workers' thunderous roar *shook the universe*.

**【争分夺秒】**

seize every minute and second (to ...); race against time; make every minute and second count; make full use of every

minute [例]科学家们正在争分夺秒地努力解开人类基因这一谜团。Scientists are *making full use of every minute* to try to unravel the mystery of the human genes.

**【争风吃醋】**

be jealous (of a rival in love); fight for a man's (woman's) favours; a storm of jealousy [例]古时候,男人可以娶不止一个女人作为妻。自然这些女人常常会争风吃醋。In the ancient time, a man can marry more than one woman. Naturally, these women would often *fight for their husband's favours*.

**【争名夺利】**

strive (fight, struggle, crave, scramble) for fame and wealth (gain, fortune); spend one's energies in pursuit of fame and fortune [例]像你们这样争名夺利又有什么意思呢? What's the point of your *striving for fame and fortune*?

**【争强好胜】**

seek to prevail over others; compete for supremacy; desire to excel over others; extremely competitive by nature; be emulative [例]她这人生来就争强好胜,你就随她去吧。She is *extremely competitive by nature*. Just let her do as she likes.

**【争权夺利】**

fight (strive, scramble, struggle) for power and money (wealth, gain, profit); grab more power and profit for oneself [例]为了争权夺利,他不惜抛妻弃子。He did not scruple to desert both his wife and child in order to *grab more power and profit for himself*.

**【争先恐后】**

rush to get sth. first lest one should fall behind; strive to be the first and fear to lag behind; vie to be the first; elbow one's way through and push others aside; rush to

the fore; in a mad rush to be the first; vie with each other (in doing sth.); fall over each other (one another); The devil take the hindmost. [例]铃声一响,同学们就争先恐后地跑出教室朝食堂奔去。As soon as the bell rang, the students all rushed out of the classroom and *strove to be the first* to get to the dining hall.

#### 【蒸蒸日上】

grow (thrive, prosper) with every passing day; become more prosperous every day; greater and greater prosperity; ever more flourishing; booming; vigorous and fast developing; rapid progress (development); growing steadily; on the upgrade; in the ascendant; on the upswing [例]事业的蒸蒸日上并不能消除他内心深处的孤独感。Even his *ever more flourishing* business couldn't help dispel the loneliness he felt deep in his heart.

#### 【整装待发】

be fully equipped for (a journey); all packed up and ready to set out; in full battle array awaiting orders (to set out); get everything ready and wait for orders to start; ready and waiting (for orders of departure) [例]战士们整装待发,随时准备奔赴抗洪第一线。The soldiers were *all packed up and ready to set out* at any time to the forefront of flood fighting.

#### 【正本清源】

deal with the root and cleanse the source; reform from the bottom (heart); thoroughly overhaul; effect radical reform; clarify matters and get to the bottom of things; clear up the source of moral character; get at the root of; strike at the root of the evil; seek a fundamental solution

#### 【正大光明】

open and aboveboard; upright and open-minded; frank and righteous; straightfor-

ward; conscientious; just and honourable; candid; fair and square

#### 【正襟危坐】

straighten one's clothes and sit properly; sit square; sit (rigidly) upright and look straight ahead; be completely serious; be all seriousness [例]那个三岁的小女孩在钢琴面前正襟危坐,就像个钢琴大师一样,真可爱! The three-year-old little girl *sat square* at the piano just like an expert pianist. What a lovely girl!

#### 【正人君子】

gentleman; a man of honour; an upright person; a man of moral integrity; a refined man [例]既然你说你自己是正人君子,那么你就不应该向我们隐瞒这件事。If you call yourself a *gentleman*, you shouldn't have hidden it from us.

#### 【正言厉色】

with a severe countenance and a harsh voice; severe in speech and countenance; look serious; stern; put on a stern expression (countenance) and say harshly; assume a severe look; turn a serious face to [例]面对员工加薪的无理要求,她正言厉色地说,“我的答复就是:这不可能。”When the employee made an unreasonable demand on a higher pay, she *put on a stern countenance and said harshly*, “My answer is absolutely no!”

#### 【正直无私】

upright; honest; perfectly fair and just; without partiality; impartial [例]他是一个正直无私的法官,深受老百姓的尊敬。Being an *upright and impartial* judge, he is held in high esteem by the ordinary people.

#### 【正中下怀】

be just what one hopes for; the very thing one wants; fit in exactly with one's wishes; That is exactly my idea (what I wish);

come up just to one's expectation; This was how my heart would have it; after one's heart; after one's fancy [例]得知他将代我出席会议,真是正中下怀,我顿时如释重负。When I was told that he would take my place to attend the meeting, I felt greatly relieved as *that was exactly what I wished*.

#### 【郑重其事】

seriously; take sth. seriously; assume a serious attitude towards; act with due care and respect; pay serious attention to; in a serious manner; in earnest; attach great (much) importance to; in all seriousness [例]我的好朋友郑重其事地警告我,要我小心那个客户。My good friend warned me *seriously* against that customer of mine.

#### 【之乎者也】

pedantic terms; literary jargon; archaic words; archaism; classical expressions [例]我是个生意人,听不懂你这些“之乎者也”的话。I'm a businessman and I don't understand those *pedantic terms* you've mouthed.

#### 【支离破碎】

tear to pieces (shreds, tatters); broken up; tear (rip, fall) apart; be reduced to fragments; fall to pieces; fragmented; shattered; incoherent; irrelevant and broken; tear up; in pieces; in shreds [例]狂风暴雨把船帆打得支离破碎。The rainstorm *tore* the sails *to shreds*.

#### 【支支吾吾】

equivocate; make an ambiguous statement; quibble; falter; speak evasively; hesitate in speaking; prevaricate; speak with hesitation; stumble; hem and haw [例]妈妈问是谁吃了冰淇淋的时候,她支支吾吾地说不出话来。When her mother asked her who had eaten the ice -

cream, she *hemmed and hawed*, not knowing what to say.

#### 【只字不提】

say not a (single) word; not to breathe a word about (of); say nothing (about); keep silent about; make no mention of; Not a word was said (mentioned) about ...; keep mum on the subject; Not a word slipped from one's mouth about ...; There is no mention at all of ... [例]医生只是叫他好好休息,对于他的病情却只字不提。The doctor only asked him to have a good rest, but he *said nothing about* his illness.

#### 【枝繁叶茂】

with luxuriant foliage (and spreading branches); be a mass of branches and leaves; luxuriant in branches and leaves

#### 【知彼知己】

know yourself as well as the enemy; know one's self and know the enemy; know one's own strength (situation) and the enemy's; know both ourselves and our adversaries; know both sides [例]知彼知己,百战不殆。Only when you *know the enemy and know yourself* can you fight a hundred battles with no danger of defeat.

#### 【知必言,言必尽】

Say all you know and say it without reserve; speak unreservedly; If I know of it, I'll speak; if I speak at all, I'll tell all I know; conceal nothing from; tell the truth and the whole truth; pour out one's heart; open one's heart to sb. [例]她是一个直肠子,向来就是知必言,言必尽。Open and straightforward, she always *tells the truth and the whole truth*.

#### 【知法犯法】

know the law but break it; knowingly (deliberately) break (flout, violate) the law; violate the law with full knowledge of it;

wilful transgression [例]你身为律师竟然知法犯法,简直是太过分了! As a lawyer yourself, you would even *violate the law deliberately*. You are going too far!

**【知过必改】**

You must correct your own fault when you know it; know one's faults and correct them; If you know your faults, you must reform yourself; always correct an error when one becomes aware of it; Once he sees himself in the wrong, he will mend his ways. [例]如果你能知过必改,那你就一定会成功。You are sure to achieve success if you *always correct your error when you become aware of it*.

**【知命之年】**

fifty years old

**【知难而进】**

advance despite difficulties; press forward (go ahead) in the face of difficulties; keep advancing in defiance of (in spite of) difficulties; Recognising the difficulties before him, he went ahead just the same; Well aware that there are difficulties ahead, he goes on undeterred; take (seize) the bull by the horns [例]惟有知难而进,你才有可能获得这次宝贵的机会。Only when you *keep advancing in spite of all the difficulties* can you possibly get the precious opportunity.

**【知难而退】**

withdraw (quit) after knowing (learning) the difficulties involved; retreat (shrink back) from difficulties; beat a retreat in the face of difficulties; give up because of the difficulties involved; retreat before the impossible; bow to difficulties; Aware of the overwhelming odds against him, he retired from the scene. [例]媳对自己缺乏信心,因而在工作中常常知难而退。Being not confident in herself, she often

*shrinks back from difficulties* in her work.

**【知其一不知其二】**

know one aspect but not another of a problem; be aware of only one aspect of sth. (and be ignorant of the other); have only a one-sided view; have a partial understanding of sth.

**【知人善任】**

know one's subordinates well enough to assign them jobs commensurate with their abilities; know one's subordinates and make good use of them; use a man according to his ability; discover able people and put them at suitable posts; He can easily recognise people for their worth and is thus in a position to put them where they can do the best work. [例]一位合格的领导应该具有知人善任的能力。A qualified leader should be able to *use a man according to his ability*.

**【知人知面不知心】**

We may know a man's face (exterior) but not his heart; One may know sb. for a long time without understanding his true nature; It is impossible (difficult) to judge a man's heart from his face. [例]知人知面不知心,你怎么能肯定项链不是她偷的呢? *It's impossible to judge a person's heart from his face*. How can you be sure that it was not she who stole the necklace?

**【知书达礼】**

study classics and know rules of propriety; be well-educated and a model of propriety; be well-educated and propriety-minded; be well-brought up and educated [例]三个媳妇当中,婆婆觉得小媳妇最为知书达礼。Among all her three daughters-in-law, she thinks that the youngest one is the *best-educated and most propriety-minded*.

**【知遇之恩】**

gratitude for receiving help and encouragement by a superior; gratitude for a superior who is appreciative of one's ability and has rendered help and encouragement; the debt one owes to sb. for the appreciation and recognition of his talents (for being well understood and treated) [例]您对我有知遇之恩,我真不知道应该怎样来报答您。I owe you *the debt for your appreciation and recognition of my talents*. I really don't know what I can do to repay your kindness.

**【知之为知之,不知为不知】**

admit what one really understands and admit what one doesn't know

**【知子莫若父】**

No one knows a man better than his own father.

**【知足常乐】**

Happiness lies in (consists in) contentment; A man who is contented will be happy; Happy is he who is contented; A contented mind is the greatest blessing a man can enjoy in this world; He who is contented is always happy; Content (Contentment) is happiness.

**【执法如山】**

be firm as a rock in administering justice; enforce (maintain, uphold) the law strictly (firmly); administer justice strictly; dispense the law without bias; vigorous enforcement of the law [例]包拯执法如山,连皇后也拿他毫无办法。Bao Zheng administered justice so strictly that even the queen could do nothing to change his mind.

**【执迷不悟】**

stick to what's wrong without waking up; adhere to one's foolish way without awakening; persist in error (one's wrong course); refuse to realise one's error

(come to one's senses); refuse obstinately to listen to reason; be perverse; set oneself against being brought around; hold on one's (present) misguided course; stick with wrong ideas [例]你太忠厚了,你到现在还这样相信她,你真是执迷不悟。You are so kind-hearted that you would believe her even now. How *perverse* you are!

**【直捣黄龙】**

press forward to the enemy's capital; storm (smash) the enemy's lair; drive straight on to the enemy's den; follow in hot pursuit right up the enemy's headquarters

**【直截了当】**

straightforward; simple and direct; blunt; say without mincing words; directly and candidly; outspoken; flat and plain; pointblank; in no uncertain terms; in a forthright manner; come straight to the point [例]你能不能直截了当地告诉我你究竟去不去野餐? Can you tell me *directly* whether you are going to the picnic?

**【直抒己见】**

state one's view frankly; express (pour out) frankly (freely) one's own opinions (ideas, views); air one's sentiments without restraint; be plainspoken; talk directly and simply [例]如果在这件事情上你直抒己见的話,你可能会得罪你的上司。You may offend your superior by *expressing your opinions* on this matter *freely*.

**【直言不讳】**

speak without reservation (fear); be outspoken; make no secret of ...; talk straight; speak one's mind; speak bluntly; mince no words; come straight to the point; call a spade a spade [例]如果你是我真正的朋友,你就应该对我直言

不讳。If you are a real friend of mine, you should *talk straight* with me.

【只此一家,别无分店】

the one and only store, no branch office; have a monopoly; the only authentic one [例]肯德基炸鸡店在我们市只此一家,别无分店。It is *the one and only* KFC in our city and there is no other branch office.

【只见树木,不见森林】

see the trees but not the forest; cannot see (fail to see) the wood for the trees; note only the details, but not the overall picture; see the minute details but miss the major issue [例]你是当事人之一,因此看问题就带有偏见。这就叫做只见树木,不见森林。Being one of the people involved, you tend to have a biased view about it. You could *only note the details, but not the overall picture.*

【只许州官放火,不许百姓点灯】

The magistrates were allowed (free) to burn down houses, while the common people were forbidden even to light lamps; giving officials complete license to commit arson while forbidding ordinary people even to light their lamps; The powerful can do what they want, the weak are not allowed to do anything; One man may steal a horse while another may not look over a hedge.

【只争朝夕】

seize the day, seize the hour; seize every minute (second); make good (the best) use of one's time; race against time [例]我们要以只争朝夕的精神在月底之前建成这座摩天大楼。We must *seize every minute* to finish building the skyscraper by the end of the month.

【只重衣衫不重人】

only value the clothes one wears, but not

the man himself; attach more importance to wealth than virtue; have eyes only for a person's riches but not his character; more sail than ballast [例]那个门卫只重衣衫不重人,势利得很。The doorkeeper *attaches more importance to the clothes one wears than the person himself.* He is a real snob.

【纸短情长】

The paper is too short to describe one's feelings.

【纸上谈兵】

talk about stratagems (military plans) on paper; be an armchair strategist (quarterback); fight only on paper; empty talk; engage in idle theorising; talk animatedly about what exists only in theory [例]你说了这么多又有什么用?能付诸实践吗?我看不过是纸上谈兵罢了。What's the point of your saying so much? Can you put it into practice? In my opinion, it's no better than *empty talk.*

【纸醉金迷】

(a life) of luxury and dissipation; given to sensual pleasures; (a life) of debauchery; living an extravagant life; lead a voluptuous life; indulge in a wanton life [例]大都市那纸醉金迷的生活深深地吸引了他,他把家乡的亲人通通抛到了脑后。The *luxury and dissipation* of the metropolis attracted him so deeply that he totally forgot his family members in the hometown.

【指腹为婚】

propose a future marriage between two unborn babies by pointing to the belly of their pregnant mothers; prenatal betrothal; The two (the boy and the girl) had been engaged to each other before they were born; betrothed when still in the womb by parents of both parties [例]我虽与你指腹

为婚,但我爱的并不是你。Although we had been *engaged to each other before we were born*, you are not the one I love.

### 【指挥若定】

be perfectly calm and collected in commanding the army; direct (work) with perfect ease (composure); provide highly competent leadership; He had everything under perfect control in commanding millions of troops and compelled the enemy to move according to his will. [例]即便是在那样危急的关头,他依然面不改色,指挥若定。Even at such a critical moment, he didn't change colour and *directed all the work with perfect composure*.

### 【指鹿为马】

point to a deer, calling it a horse; call a stag a horse; deliberately mispresent; wilful misrepresentation; distorted facts; talk black into white; confuse right and wrong; call white black; misname the thing by saying that ...; pass sth. under false pretence

### 【指名道姓】

identify by name the person; mention one's full name; with direct mention of one's name; name names [例]人家又没有指名道姓,你生的哪门子气啊? They didn't *mention your name* at all. Why are you so angry?

### 【指日可待】

point the day and await for it; in the not too distant future; in the foreseeable (near) future; imminent; The day is not far off; be able to count for the days; can be expected soon; can be realised soon; be just round the corner; before long [例]电费下降指日可待。A reduction in the power rate *can be expected soon*.

### 【指桑骂槐】

point at the mulberry while swearing at the

locust; point at one and abuse another; make oblique accusations; scold a person indirectly; a veiled abuse; scold (abuse) a person by ostensibly pointing to someone else; strike at one by reviling others; say sth. against one insinuatingly; speak (talk) at sb. [例]你以为我不知道她其实是冲着我在指桑骂槐吗? Do you think that I have no idea she is *making an oblique accusation* against me?

### 【指手划脚】

wave the hands and throw the feet about; pointing and gesticulating; make gestures; make indiscreet remarks (criticisms); carp and cavil about; point right and left; criticise this and condemn that; find fault with [例]1. 说话的时候别指手划脚的,太没礼貌了。Don't *wave the hands and throw the feet about* while talking. It's very rude. 2. 你有什么权利对我的工作指手划脚的? What right do you have to *carp* about my work?

### 【指天誓日】

swear by the heaven and sun as witness; swear by God; call heaven to witness; take an oath under heaven [例]他对妻子指天誓日,说他昨天晚上绝对没有去赌场。He *swore by God* to his wife that he didn't go to the gambling house last night.

### 【咫尺天涯】

It looks as if it were as far as the horizon, although it is but one foot's distance away; so near and yet as far away as in a remote corner of the world; a short distance away, and yet poles apart; physically very near but separated as if by long distances; physically close but socially distant; so near and yet unreachable; see little of each other though living nearby; within sight but out of reach

## 【趾高气扬】

step high and look proud; give oneself airs; strut about; swagger about; arrogant; put on an elated look; be swollen with arrogance; be bloated with pride; high and mighty; assuming a haughty air; pompous; put on airs; hold (carry) one's head high; be above oneself; proud as a peacock; draw oneself up; be on one's high horse [例]他仗着自己有几个钱,在谁面前都是趾高气扬的。He *puts on airs* to everybody just because he is quite rich.

## 【至高无上】

supreme; paramount; most lofty; crowning; sublime; the highest; unrivalled; the greatest [例]正如英国诗人布朗宁所说,爱情是至高无上的。Love, just as what the British poet Browning said, is *supreme*.

## 【至理名言】

the true saying; a golden saying; a maxim pregnant with wisdom that speaks well for human reason; a true remark; famous (celebrated) dictum; a famous saying whose essence is truth itself; proverb; precepts; adage; well-known truth [例]“爱情是盲目的”这句话可真是至理名言。“Love is blind” is a *famous dictum*.

## 【至亲骨肉】

close relative; close kin [例]你们姐妹俩是至亲骨肉,何必闹得这么僵呢? Being sisters, you are *close relatives* to each other. Why ruin your close relation like this?

## 【至亲好友】

close relatives and good friends; kith and kin; close relations and friends [例]她怎么也没想到背叛她的竟然是她的那些至亲好友。She had never expected that it was her *close relatives and good friends*

who betrayed her.

## 【至善至美】

the best and the most beautiful; It's perfection itself; perfect [例]我们的世界还没有到至善至美的境界。Our world is not *perfect* yet.

## 【至死不屈】

not yield even unto death; did not yield until death; stick to one's principle to the end of one's life; fight (up) to the last ditch; die game

## 【志大才疏】

have great ambition but little talent; have high (lofty) aspirations but little ability; have grandiose aims but puny abilities; high in aim but low - rate in execution; ambitious but incompetent

## 【志同道合】

cherish the same ideals and follow the same path; share the same views; share the same tastes and interests; have a common goal; of one (like) mind; two minds with but a single thought; have similar ideals and beliefs; like-minded; congenial; in the same camp; hit it off; speak (talk) the same language [例]那对志同道合的伴侣真令人羡慕。We couldn't help admiring the couple who *cherish the same ideals and follow the same path*.

## 【志在四方】

be ready to realise one's aspiration anywhere all over the country (world); eager to serve anywhere; go far away from one's home and aspire to a great career [例]好男儿志在四方。A real man *is ready to realise his aspiration anywhere all over the world*.

## 【质疑问难】

raise doubts and difficult questions for discussion; present doubts and difficulties for discussion; ask doubtful questions and in-



quire into difficult problems; seek solutions to thorny problems [例]演讲结束以后,你们可以当场向我质疑问难。When my speech is over, you can raise to me your *doubts and difficult questions for discussion then and there*.

### 【炙手可热】

If you stretch out your hand, you feel the heat; scorching hot; (of intense political power) burning to the touch; the supreme arrogance of a person with great power; One's power is at its height.; the high and mighty being unapproachable; extremely popular and powerful [例]今年,这种款式的大衣在市场上可谓炙手可热。The overcoat of this style is *extremely popular* on the market this year.

### 【治病救人】

cure the sickness to save the patient; help sb. mend his ways to save him; put (set) a person right (to rights) [例]我们应该抱着治病救人的态度来帮助他改正缺点、错误。We should adopt the approach of "*curing the sickness to save the patient*" to help him overcome his shortcomings and correct his mistakes.

### 【治国安民】

run the country well and give the people peace and security; rule the country and bring the people stability; run the country well and ensure peace and security for the people [例]你有什么治国安民的良策吗? Do you have any good idea on how to *run the country well and give the people peace and security*?

### 【掷地有声】

make a ringing sound when thrown to the ground - (of writings, speeches) sonorous and forceful language; extremely elegant and valuable; forceful and lofty (of speech)

### 【智勇双全】

both intelligent and courageous; combine wisdom with courage; brave and resourceful; wise and bold; possession of sagacity and valour; have both skill and dash; prudent and courageous; *competent both in wisdom and bravery* [例]像他这样智勇双全的英雄理应当选本市警察局的局长。A hero like him who is *both intelligent and courageous* should be elected head of the police station in the city.

### 【智者千虑,必有一失】

A wise man who thinks over a matter a thousand times is not infallible; The wisest man, in a thousand schemes, must make at least one mistake; Even the wise are not always free from error; Even a wise man sometimes makes a mistake; The greatest are sometimes caught napping; Good marksman may miss; None of us is infallible; Even Homer sometimes nods.

### 【置若罔闻】

act as if one had not heard; treat with indifference; pay (keep, give) no heed to; ignore completely; pay no attention to; heedless of; turn a deaf ear to; stop one's ears; shut one's ears to; close one's mind to [例]这家百货商店的经理对顾客的投诉置若罔闻。The manager of the department store *turned a deaf ear to* the customers' complaints.

### 【置身事外】

stay (keep, remain) aloof from the affair; keep out of the affair (business, way); refuse to get involved in the matter; detach oneself from; refuse to be drawn into the matter [例]事到如今,你想置身事外也不可能了。Under the circumstances, it's impossible for you to *stay aloof from the affair*.

### 【置之不理】

pay no attention to; ignore; pay no regard to; turn a cold shoulder to; turn a blind eye to; shut (close) one's eyes (ears) to; turn a deaf ear to; put sth. on the shelf; brush (thrust) aside; pass over; leave alone; sit by; take no notice of; close one's mind to [例]老师对学生的意见不能置之不理。A teacher shouldn't ignore his students' viewpoints.

#### 【置之度外】

leave sth. out of consideration (one's calculations); ignore; disregard entirely; without thinking of; without regard to; give no thought to; not take into account (consideration); regardless of [例]他冲向敌人的时候早已把生死置之度外。He gave no thought to his safety when he charged at the enemy.

#### 【置之脑后】

put it at the back of the brain; dismiss from one's mind; ignore and forget; think no more of; disregard it; banish from one's mind; put out of one's mind (head) [例]她被眼前的胜利冲昏了头脑,把我们对她的忠告全都置之脑后。She was carried away by her success at the moment and completely ignored and forgot our sincere advice to her.

#### 【置之死地而后快】

be content only with one's destruction; will not be satisfied until one has been destroyed; would be satisfied with nothing short of one's destruction; in an attempt to finish it off for good [例]对于他事业上的绊脚石,他都想置之死地而后快。He would be content with nothing but the destruction of those who are obstacles to his career.

#### 【置之死地而后生】

deploy troops in such a way as to leave no room for maneuver or route for escape (re-

treating) so that the soldiers will fight for their dear lives out of desperation and eventually win the battle; One would fight to live when confronted with danger or death

#### 【中流砥柱】

a pillar (a firm rock) in midstream; mainstay; one who stands rock firm; core; the chief cornerstone; a tower of strength; a backbone [例]将来你们就会成为我们国家的中流砥柱。You are going to be the mainstays of our country in the future.

#### 【中西合璧】

Chinese and Western (styles) combined; a combination of Chinese and Western content (elements); succeed in integrating Chinese and Western techniques; the fine points of Western art interwoven with traditional Chinese style [例]我很喜欢这套中西合璧的家具。I like the set of furniture very much because it is a successful combination of both Chinese and Western styles.

#### 【中庸之道】

the happy (golden) mean; a mean course; a middle-of-the-road policy; incline to neither side; middle course; the doctrine of the Mean; a happy medium [例]在这个问题上,那个政党采取了走中庸之道的策略。The political party adopted a middle-of-the-road policy on this issue.

#### 【忠君爱国】

patriotic and loyal to the throne; loyal to the sovereign and faithful to the country [例]古时候,老百姓把忠君爱国看得很重要。In the ancient times, the ordinary people attached great importance to the loyalty to the throne and the faith to the country.

#### 【忠心耿耿】

unswerving (unshaking, undying) loyalty (devotion); faithful; be loyal to; be loyal and devoted to; wholeheartedly dedicated to; faithfully and conscientiously; true to the core; as true as steel (flint, touch) [例]既然你自称是“人民的公仆”，你就应该忠心耿耿地为人民服务。Since you call yourself “a public servant”, you should be *wholeheartedly dedicated to the service of the people*.

#### 【忠言逆耳】

Sincere advice (Faithful words, Admonitions, etc) offends (jars on, grates upon) the ear; Straight (Honest, Good) advice is difficult to take (unpleasant to the ear); The truth hurts; unpalatable but honest statements; Frankness of one's opinion does not appeal to one's vanity; Sincere reproofs are disagreeable. [例]我早就提醒过他要当心他的秘书，只可惜忠言逆耳，他根本就听不进去。I had long warned him against his secretary. Unfortunately, my *sincere advice grated upon his ears* and he simply refused to take it.

#### 【终身大事】

an important event in one's life (usu. marriage); the main affair of one's life; an event of lifelong significance; the important affair of a final settlement in one's life - marriage [例]你已经不年轻了，该考虑考虑你的终身大事了。It's time for you to think about your future *marriage* as you're no longer young.

#### 【众寡悬殊】

The disparity of numerical strength is too great; There is too big a numerical difference between the two; a great disparity (wide gap) in strength; not equally matched; an overwhelming majority against a miserable minority; One side is numerically inferior (superior) to another;

The weight of numbers is entirely on one side.

#### 【众口难调】

difficult to suit (cater to) everyone's taste; It is difficult to please everyone; Tastes differ; difficult to keep everyone satisfied; It is difficult to win unanimous support (obtain unanimity). [例]众口难调，要想让全班同学都同意去森林公园野餐实在是太困难了。Tastes *differ*. It's really difficult to make all the students in the class agree to go to the Forest Park for a picnic.

#### 【众口一词】

speak out in one voice; The crowd make a common cry; One and all utter the same words; All tell the same story; unanimously; say of one accord; with one voice [例]他们众口一词，我说什么也无济于事。They all *spoke out in one voice*. What I said was to no effect at all.

#### 【众目睽睽】

under the watchful eyes of the people; under the very eyes of everyone; All eyes are directed towards something; The eyes of the masses are fixed on sb. or sth.; before all; a crowd of people staring; All eyes centred on sth; with eyes watching; in the (glare of) public eye; in the face of the world [例]他竟敢在众目睽睽之下殴打自己的父亲。He would even dare to beat his father *under the very eyes of everyone*.

#### 【众叛亲离】

forsaken by the masses and deserted by one's own followers; The masses are in rebellion and one's friends are deserting; His followers rise in revolt and his closest friends forsake him; His own people rebel against him and his relatives turn their backs to him; rebellion in its ranks, de-

sertion by its associates; be utterly isolated; ostracised; forsaken by all; left (out) in the cold [例]总统的丑闻被曝光以后,他陷入了众叛亲离的境地。After the President's scandal had been laid bare, he *was utterly isolated*.

### 【众人拾柴火焰高】

When everybody adds fuel, the flames rise high; The fire burns high when everybody adds wood to it; Where many help to gather firewood, the flames shoot high; Great things may be done by mass effort.

### 【众矢之的】

the target of public criticism (attack, scorn, ridicule, accusation); an object of public attack; (become) a target for all; censure; butt; under attack on all sides [例]那个泄露了公司重大机密的办公室职员成了众矢之的。The office worker who let out the company's confidential information became *the target of public criticism*.

### 【众所周知】

be universally (widely, generally) known; Everybody knows ...; It is common knowledge that ...; Every barber knows that ...; as is known to all; as everyone knows; as is well known [例]众所周知,中华民族是一个勤劳、勇敢、善良的民族。As *everyone knows*, the Chinese is a hard-working, courageous and kind people.

### 【众望所归】

The people's hope (confidence) is centred on one person; enjoy popular confidence (trust); accord with the wishes of everyone; command public respect and support; be in favour with the general public; stand high in popular favour [例]他能当上市长也是众望所归。That he was elected mayor *accorded with the wishes of everyone*.

### 【众星捧月】

A myriad of stars surround the moon; All the stars bend towards the moon; Many people cluster around the one whom they respect; regard ... as the core [例]这么多的足球迷如众星捧月般把他团团围住,他感觉好极了。With so many football fans clustering around him like *a myriad of stars surrounding the moon*, he really felt good.

### 【众志成城】

Devotion to a common cause makes a city; Unanimity of purpose is like a fenced city; Our wills unite like a fortress; A united people is like a city defence; A common will is as strong as the (city) bulwarks; In union there is strength; Unity is strength; Community of spirit and purpose will accomplish wonders; Unity of will is an impregnable stronghold.

### 【种瓜得瓜,种豆得豆】

plant melons and get melons, sow beans and get beans; As a man sows, so he shall reap; You must reap what you have sown; As you sow, so will you reap.

### 【重赏之下,必有勇夫】

If the reward offered is attractive enough, there will always be one who is brave enough to take the risk; A big reward will make the brave come forward; Generous rewards rouse one to heroism; One may be bought if the price is high enough.

### 【重于泰山】

be weightier than Mount Tai; To lay down one's life for a noble cause is worthwhile; be of great significance [例]她是为了保护人民的财产而牺牲的。她的死重于泰山。She laid down her life in order to protect the property of the people, so her death was *of great significance*.

### 【周而复始】

go round and begin again; make a circle and start again from the beginning; move around ... again and again; move in cycles; go round and round [例]月亮绕着地球转,周而复始,永不停息。The moon *moves around* the earth *again and again* without any pause.

【粥少僧多】

There are too many monks and too little gruel; The gruel is meagre and the monks are many; little porridge and many monks; The congee is not enough for so many monks; not enough to go around; cannot meet the needs of ...; far from enough [例]出国的名额只有一个,粥少僧多,你说我到底给谁呢? Only one person can get the opportunity to go abroad, which is *far from enough*. Who do you think I should give the opportunity?

【昼伏夜游】

hide by day and come out (emerge) by night; conceal oneself by day and march by night; lie low in the daytime and act at night

【昼夜兼行】

travel day and night with all possible speed; press on day and night [例]一家人昼夜兼行,终于在冬天来临之前到达了目的地。The whole family *travelled day and night* and finally reached the destination before winter came.

【朱唇皓齿】

red lips and white teeth; rosy lips and ivory white teeth; pretty; handsome [例]那年轻女子杏眼桃腮,朱唇皓齿,好不漂亮。The young lady has large eyes, rosy cheeks, *red lips and white teeth*. What a pretty woman!

【珠光宝气】

resplendent with jewels; with jewels abounding, glittering; One's clothes were covered

all over with jewels and valuable buttons; heavily (richly) bejewelled; be adorned with brilliant jewels and pearls; bedecked with jewels; splendid jewellery [例]看见那个浑身珠光宝气的女人了吗?她就是我们董事长的太太。Did you see that woman *adorned with brilliant jewels and pearls* all over her? She is the wife of our President.

【珠联璧合】

peals matched with jade pieces; put pearls and jade together; a string of perfectly matched pearls or pieces of jade to form an artistic whole; strings of peals and girdles of jade; a complement of talents and abilities to form an advisory board; a perfect pair; well-matched; a happy (excellent) combination; excellent composition [例]这对夫妻都是杂技演员,如今他们能够同台演出,真是珠联璧合。Both the wife and the husband are acrobats. Now they are able to perform on the same stage, which is really *an excellent combination*.

【诸如此类】

things like that; and such; and everything of the sort; and all that; and what not; and so on (and so forth); et cetera [例]诸如此类的事情再也不能发生了。Any accident *like that* should never happen again.

【诸子百家】

the different philosophers and authors, esp. in time of the Warring Kingdoms; various schools of thoughts (and their exponents during the period from pre-Qin times to the early years of the Han Dynasty; all classes of authors; the ancient philosophers

【铢两悉称】

exactly equal in weight or quality; have

the same weight; match in every small detail

**【蛛丝马迹】**

spider's web and horse's footprints; thread of a spider and trail of a horse; clues; traces; tracks; vestiges; signs [例]在侦破案件的过程中,那位侦探从不放过任何蛛丝马迹。While making investigations into a case, the detective never misses any clues.

**【逐鹿中原】**

chase the deer on the Central Plains - try to seize the control of the empire; fight for territory in ancient central China; fight for domination in the country; fight (among the rivals) for the throne

**【助人为乐】**

take (find) pleasure (delight) in helping others; be glad to help others; find it a pleasure to help others; be beppy that one can be of help; consider it a joy (pleasure) to help others; Happiness lies in rendering help to others. [例]应当大力提倡助人为乐的精神。The spirit that "Happiness lies in rendering help to others" should well be encouraged.

**【助纣为虐】**

help King Zhou (the last emperor of the Shang Dynasty known for his tyranny) do evil (commit atrocities); help a tyrant to victimise his subjects; be accomplice in evil; give support to a tyrant; help a tyrant to do evil; aid and abet an evildoer; help the wicked perpetuate wicked deeds; encourage oppression; add bad to worse; hold a candle to the devil

**【著书立说】**

write books and set up a theory; write a book to expound a theory or doctrine; write about profound ideas; become an author

**【著作等身】**

One's works are piled up to one's own height; an author with many books to his credit; be a prolific writer [例]他虽然是个著作等身的资深教授,却从不在年轻的同事面前摆架子。A senior professor with many books to his credit as he is, he never puts on airs before his young colleagues.

**【铸成大错】**

make a gross (grave) error; make a sad (fatal, big, great) mistake; commit a terrible blunder (fault, howler); put one's foot in it [例]如果当初没有及时送他上医院的话,恐怕会铸成大错。If he hadn't been sent to the hospital in time, a great mistake would have been made.

**【抓耳挠腮】**

scratch one's ears and cheeks in embarrassment; tweak one's ears and scratch one's cheeks (as a sign of anxiety or delight); scratch one's head [例]她怎么也开不了那听罐头,把她三岁的儿子急得抓耳挠腮的。She couldn't open the tin no matter how hard she tried and her three-year-old son was so worried that he tweaked his ears and scratched his cheeks.

**【专横跋扈】**

act arbitrarily; imperious and despotic; tyrannical; carry matters with a high hand; ride roughshod over [例]那个专横跋扈的国王从不为他人考虑。The imperious and despotic king never thought of other people.

**【专心致志】**

be bent on ...; be engrossed in ...; single hearted; be absorbed in ...; do sth. with a will; be given up to; with undivided attention; devote oneself to ...; heart and soul [例]吉米正在专心致志地练小提

琴,你现在最好别去打扰他。Jimmy is engrossed in playing the violin. You'd better not disturb him now.

### 【转悲为喜】

change one's sorrow into joy; One's sorrow began to turn to joy. [例]听到他被北京大学录取的消息以后,他的父母立即转悲为喜。The news that he was admitted to Beijing University immediately changed his parents' sorrow into joy.

### 【转瞬之间】

in a wink; in a flash; in a second; in a twinkling; in a moment; like winking [例]刚才还是阳光灿烂,转瞬之间却变成了狂风暴雨。It was sunny just now, but then violent wind and storm came like winking.

### 【转弯抹角】

in a roundabout way; full of twists and turns; in a devious way; indirectly; not come straight to the point; turn the corner; beat about the bush [例]你有什么话就直说吧,别转弯抹角了。Please come straight to the point instead of beating about the bush.

### 【转危为安】

turn danger into safety; take a turn for the better and be out of danger; save from danger; free from danger; past danger; carry over the crisis; pull through; out of harm's way; out of danger [例]经过医生的抢救,病人终于转危为安了。After the doctors had given emergency treatment to the patient, he pulled through in the end.

### 【装疯卖傻】

feign madness and act like an idiot; play crazy; act the fool (idiot); pretend ignorance; pretend to be mad (insane); play the fool [例]你以为在我面前装疯卖傻我就会原谅你吗? Do you think that I

will forgive you if you pretend ignorance in front of me?

### 【装聋作哑】

pretend to be deaf and dumb; pretend ignorance; pretend not to know; pretend to be ignorant of; play deaf and dumb [例]警方问他是谁花钱雇他杀被害人的时候,那个杀手装聋作哑,不予回答。When the police asked him who had hired him to kill the victim, the killer played deaf and dumb and said nothing.

### 【装模作样】

affected in one's manners; histrionics; assume a feigned manner; put on an act; make a pretence of; pretend; make (put on, assume, give) an appearance of; smell of the footlights; attitudinise; behave in an affected way; assume airs; strike an attitude; strike a pose [例]他一点儿也不喜欢这些菜,但是出于礼貌他也只好装模作样地吃几口。Although he didn't like these dishes, he had to make a pretence of eating a bit in order to be polite.

### 【装腔作势】

make grand gestures; be affected or pretentious; histrionics; attitudinise; assume airs of importance; make a pretence of; behave affectedly; perk up; strike an attitude; strike a pose; do the grand; give oneself airs; put on airs (lugs) [例]她绝不是个装腔作势的人。She is never a pretentious person.

### 【装神弄鬼】

disguise oneself as a ghost or deity (to deceive people); pretend to go into a trance and sing incantations; be deliberately mystifying; cast (throw) a mist before one's eyes [例]他最喜欢装神弄鬼地吓唬人了。He loves to disguise himself as a ghost so as to frighten others.

## 【壮志凌云】

an ambition great enough to reach the clouds; cherish high aspirations; a soaring (great, vaulting, lofty) ambition; with soaring determination (aspirations); be fearless and high-hearted; full of ambition; aim high

## 【壮志未酬】

have one's wish (ambition) frustrated; with one's lofty (noble) aspirations unrealised (unfulfilled); die before the fulfilment of one's ambition [例]只可惜他壮志未酬身先死。What a pity it is that he died before the fulfilment of his noble ambition!

## 【追悔不及】

too late to regret (repent); tardy repentance [例]她对自己在期末考试中作弊一事追悔不及。It was too late for her to regret cheating on the final examination.

## 【惴惴不安】

disturbed in mind; be anxious and fearful; feel uneasy; in a state of anxiety; live in terror and uncertainty; in a perturbed state of mind; be greatly upset; ill at ease; be on tenterhooks; on pins and needles; be on all nerves; on edge [例]他今天上学迟到了,因此敲教室门的时候心里惴惴不安。Being late for school, he was anxious and fearful when he knocked at the door of the classroom.

## 【卓尔不群】

rise above the common herd; preeminent; tower above others; be among the select best; outstanding; be distinguished from one's kind; eminent above all others; cap all; stand alone; stand out [例]在同龄人当中,他的绘画技巧可谓卓而不群。Among the people in the same age group, he towered above all the others in painting

skills.

## 【卓有成效】

very fruitful; highly effective [例]我们的努力还是卓有成效的。The efforts we have made are highly effective.

## 【捉奸捉双】

To accuse people of adultery, you must catch the adulterers on the scene; No action against an adulterer may be taken when either of the couple is missing; catch adultery in the act

## 【捉襟见肘】

draw tight the lapel of one's jacket only to have the elbows exposed; pull down one's jacket to conceal the raggedness, only to expose one's elbows; very poor; unable to make both ends meet; be in financial difficulty; be overwhelmed with problems; in straits; be in straitened circumstances; pinched for money; have too many difficulties (problems) to cope with (tackle); poverty-stricken; cannot keep one's body and soul together; be hard up [例]他的妻子已经过够了这种捉襟见肘的日子。His wife has had enough of such a poor life that they couldn't even keep their body and soul together.

## 【捉摸不定】

(They) guessed what was happening but did not know what was really taking place; unfathomable; unpredictable; difficult to conjecture (ascertain); elusive [例]她到底会不会来这儿和你见面谁也捉摸不定。Whether she will come here to meet you or not is unpredictable.

## 【孜孜不倦】

tireless (ly); diligent (ly); industrious (ly); indefatigably; assiduously; assiduous and never tired; painstakingly; diligently working without feeling tired; with astonishing diligence; persist in one's study



with untiring vigour; with indefatigable zeal; take (great) pains [例]老师还在灯下孜孜不倦地批改着学生的作业。The teacher is still correcting the students' exercise books *assiduously* by lamplight.

#### 【越起不前】

hesitate to act or choose one's course; hesitate whether to go forward or not; hesitate to advance; hang back [例]他因为害怕失败而越起不前。He *hesitated to advance* for fear of failure.

#### 【锱铢必较】

fight over the smallest trifles; dispute over (argue about) every detail; haggle (quibble) over every penny; calculating and unwilling to make the smallest sacrifice; square accounts in every detail; skin a flint [例]有时候消费者与商家锱铢必较也是很有必要的。It is sometimes quite necessary for a customer to *haggle over every penny* with the businessman.

#### 【龇牙裂嘴】

look fierce (ferocious); grimace in (with) pain; contort one's face in agony; make a wry face; show one's teeth [例]她的手被小刀给割破了,疼得龇牙咧嘴的。Her finger was cut with a knife, so she *grimaced with pain*.

#### 【子虚乌有】

It's sheer fiction; fictitious; groundless; pure imagination; baseless; unreal; non-existent; no such man and nothing like that [例]她说的都是些子虚乌有的事,你千万别相信她。What she has said is *sheer fiction*. Please do not believe that.

#### 【子子孙孙】

offspring; descendants; heirs; children and children's children; generation after generation of descendants

#### 【自暴自弃】

be backward and have no urge to make progress; abandon oneself to despair; ruin oneself; give oneself up as hopeless; give up hope and be deliberately bad; lose self-confidence; live in self-abandon; throw oneself away [例]他这一生遭受了很多挫折,但是他从来都没有自暴自弃过。He suffered many setbacks in his life, but he never *abandoned himself to despair*.

#### 【自惭形秽】

be ashamed of one's ungainly appearance (unseemliness, unworthiness, one's poverty-stricken state, one's lack of creative talent); have a sense of inferiority or inadequacy; feel ashamed of oneself; humble oneself; feel (oneself) inferior to; feel small; feel cheap [例]和这样一个又漂亮又能干的女孩子在一起共事,她不由得自惭形秽。Working together with such a beautiful and capable girl, she couldn't help *feeling inferior* to her.

#### 【自吹自擂】

praise one's own wares; brag about (of); brag and boast; self-praise; Every bird loves to hear himself sing; Every cook praises his own broth; trumpet; swagger about one's (own) exploits; blow one's own trumpet (horn); sing one's own praise; All his geese are swans; talk big (tall) [例]我讨厌和那些就爱自吹自擂的人打交道。I hate dealing with those people who love to *blow their own trumpets*.

#### 【自得其乐】

be content with one's lot; take delight in doing sth. as a pleasurable occupation; derive pleasure from sth.; get a kick out of it; find joy in one's own way; enjoy oneself [例]下班回家以后,他看看杂志、听听音乐,倒也自得其乐。When he gets back from work, he usually *enjoys*

*himself* by reading magazines or listening to the music.

### 【自高自大】

have a *high* (good, favourable, overweening) opinion of oneself; arrogant; puffed up with conceit; full of conceit; have a conceit of one's own importance; be disgustingly self-satisfied; self-important; conceited; swollen headed; high-blown; above oneself; as proud (vain) as a peacock; get on (ride, mount) the high horse; be (get, grow) too big for one's boots (breeches, trousers, pants); think highly of oneself; with one's head in the air [例]你只是取得了一点进步而已, 怎么就自高自大起来了呢? You've only made a little progress. Why do you *think so highly of yourself*?

### 【自告奋勇】

offer oneself; volunteer (to do sth. difficult); offer to undertake (a difficult or dangerous task); willingly take the responsibility upon himself; volunteer for some special duty; offer one's free services; come forward [例]虽然他可以不去, 但他已经自告奋勇地报名参加了。He *volunteered to* join the army although it was all right if he didn't do it.

### 【自顾不暇】

be busy enough with one's own affairs; unable even to take care of (fend for) oneself; can hardly look after oneself; have not even any leisure for oneself; have enough to do to look after oneself [例]她的家务事够多的了, 已是自顾不暇, 哪还有闲工夫来管这些鸡毛蒜皮的小事? She is *busy enough with her own housework*. How is it possible for her to find time to take care of these trifles?

### 【自给自足】

provide for oneself; self-sufficient; able

to support oneself (and supply one's own needs); meet one's needs by one's own efforts; self-contained and self-sufficient; autarky; live on one's hump [例]我们真诚地希望那个国家的人民能尽早过上自给自足的生活。We sincerely hope the people in that country will be able to *provide for* themselves as soon as possible.

### 【自力更生】

rely (depend, count) on one's own efforts; self-reliance; regenerate (reconstruct) through one's own efforts; make one's way in life by one's own efforts; self-dependence; under one's own power; independently; through one's own efforts; stand on one's own feet; by one's own bootstraps [例]你已经十八岁了, 应该自力更生, 自己养活自己了。Since you're eighteen now, it's time for you to *stand on your own feet* and support yourself.

### 【自立门户】

have separate kitchens; separate from one's family; maintain an independent house; live apart from one's family; establish one's own school of thought; be independent; set up one's own organisation; keep house; break away from (a larger organisation, group, association, etc.) [例]他们的工作室已经自立门户了。Their working studio is now *independent*.

### 【自鸣得意】

puffed up with pride; self-satisfied; preen oneself (on); be very pleased with oneself; complacent; smug; chuckle with pride; cock-a-hoop; sing one's own praises; as proud (vain) as a peacock; blow one's own trumpet (horn); get too big for one's shoes (breeches, boots); plume oneself (on) [例]不要因为获得了一次奖学金就自鸣得意。Please

don't be *as vain as a peacock* just because you've been awarded a scholarship.

### 【自命不凡】

fancy oneself an extraordinary man; pride oneself on being out of the ordinary; consider oneself no ordinary being (above the crowd, an exceptional person); think exceptionally well of oneself; assume great airs; think no small beer of oneself; have an unduly high (overweening) opinion of oneself; think no end of oneself; feel one's oats [例]自命不凡的人常常会高估自己的能力。A person who *considers himself no ordinary being* usually overestimates his strength.

### 【自欺欺人】

deceive (cheat) oneself as well as others; self-deception; try to deceive others only to end in deceiving oneself; self-delusion; sheer hypocrisy [例]学生考试作弊其实是自欺欺人。A student is *deceiving himself as well as others* by cheating on the exam.

### 【自强不息】

exert oneself constantly; constantly strive to become stronger (improve); make unremitting (unceasing) efforts to improve oneself; unceasingly to make earnest efforts to stand on one's own feet [例]她虽然身体有残疾,却仍自强不息,最终成为有名的作家。Although she was physically handicapped, she *unceasingly made earnest efforts to stand on her own feet* and finally became a famous writer.

### 【自取灭亡】

invite (bring about, court) one's own destruction (extinction, ruin, disaster); head for disaster (ruin); bring oneself to ruin; draw ruin upon oneself; seek one's own downfall; run towards disaster; take the road to one's doom; ride for a fall; cut

one's own throat; stew (fry) in one's own grease; put one's head in (into) a noose [例]吸毒无异于自取灭亡。Taking drug is no different from *cutting one's own throat*.

### 【自取其咎】

have only oneself to blame; bring blame on oneself; The blame is yours; (receive punishment) through one's own fault; bring misery upon oneself; ask for trouble; ask for it [例]没错,你是丢了工作,可那完全是你自取其咎。Yes, it's true that you've lost your job, but it was you who *asked for it*.

### 【自然而然】

naturally; automatically; spontaneously; by the light of nature; of oneself; of one's own accord [例]跟这只猫相处久了,你自然而然就会喜欢它的。When you are together with the cat for some time, you will ha fond of it *naturally*.

### 【自生自灭】

emerge of itself and perish of itself; grow and die without outside interference; abandon one to one's own fate; leave one to oneself; run one's course [例]如果我们让其自生自灭的话,大熊猫很快就会灭绝的。If we let it *run its own course*, the giant panda will soon be extinct.

### 【自食其果】

eat the bitter fruit of one's own making; face the consequences of one's action; be made to pay one's rabid evildoings; suffer the consequences of one's own misguided action; reap the harvest of one's misdeeds; suffer as a result of one's action; rebound (rebound) upon oneself; reap what (as) one has sown; stew in one's own juice (grease); As you make your bed, so you must lie on it; As you brew, so you will

bake (so must you drink); be served right; take the consequences [例]玩火者是会自食其果的。Those who play with fire have to *take the consequences of* their own action.

### 【自食其力】

support oneself; earn one's own living; self-supporting; earn one's salt; live on (by) one's own toil (labour); on one's own; earn one's own bread; stand on one's own feet; live on one's hump [例]上大学以后,他决定自食其力,不再向父母伸手要钱。After he entered the university, he decided to be *on his own* instead of asking his parents for money.

### 【自食其言】

break one's promise; fail to keep one's promise; retract one's promise; fail to live up to one's promise; go back on one's words

### 【自说自话】

act on one's own; decide for oneself; go it alone; talk (say) to oneself [例]大多数老板都不喜欢自说自话的下属。Most bosses don't like their subordinates to *act on their own*.

### 【自私自利】

selfish(ly); egoistic; self-centred; self-seeking; egotistic; egocentricity; in one's own interest [例]像她这样自私自利的人跑到哪儿都不会受欢迎的。A *self-centred* person like her won't be popular wherever she goes.

### 【自讨苦吃】

invite trouble; do sth. which will only cause trouble to oneself; bring trouble upon oneself; walk oneself into trouble; stew (fry) in one's own grease; ask for trouble; ask for it; As you make your bed, so you must lie on it; As you brew, so you will bake (so must you drink); burn one's fin-

gers; make (prepare) a rod for one's own back [例]智叟对愚公说:“你去搬这么一座大山,不是自讨苦吃吗?”The Wise Man asked the Foolish Old Man, “Aren't you *asking for trouble* by trying to remove such a big mountain?”

### 【自讨没趣】

bring contempt upon oneself; ask for a snub or rebuff; invite public contempt; make oneself unwelcome; invite ridicule (rebuff, dislike)

### 【自投罗网】

fall into a snare; fall into a trap through one's own fault; be caught in a net (through one's own fault); walk into a trap; deliver oneself into sb.'s hands; hurl (throw) oneself willingly into the net; stumble (tumble) into a trap; bite the hook [例]我们可以想办法让那个罪犯自投罗网。We can try to think of a way to make the criminal *walk into the trap* by himself.

### 【自我陶醉】

intoxicated with oneself; indulge in the joy over one's success; imagine oneself to be better than one really is; narcissism; indulge in self-delusion (as an escape from reality); self-glorification; self-complacency; self-intoxication [例]看着自己刚出版的那本书,她不禁自我陶醉起来。Looking at her own newly published book, she became *intoxicated with herself*.

### 【自相残杀】

kill (slaughter) each other ruthlessly; cause death to one another; mutual annihilation; destroy each other; fight against each other; internecine; fratricide; cut one another's throats [例]他们陷入了一场自相残杀的战斗。They got themselves involved in an *internecine* warfare.

## 【自相矛盾】

contradict oneself; self - contradictory; stultify oneself; antilogy; argue against oneself; be incongruous (inconsistent) with; beat oneself with one's own staff; be in conflict with oneself; antinomy [例]你的话自相矛盾,叫我如何相信你呢? You *contradict yourself* in what you've said, so how can I believe you?

## 【自言自语】

talk (say, murmur, speak, mutter) to oneself; keep on chattering though no one is listening; speak inwardly; make unilateral declaration; soliloquise; think (out) aloud [例]许多老人由于孤独都爱自言自语。Many senior citizens love to *murmur to themselves* due to loneliness.

## 【自以为是】

consider (think) oneself right; regard oneself as infallible; be cocksure; be self-opinionated; be humptious; be too sure of oneself; be self-righteous; have a firm belief in one's own opinions [例]你太自以为是了,不栽跟头才怪呢! You're *too sure of yourself*. No wonder you suffered such a setback.

## 【自由自在】

free and easy (unrestrained); leisurely and carefree; able to do anything of one's own free will; perfectly free without restraint; happy-go-lucky; take one's ease; as free as the wind; ha one's own man; at liberty [例]鱼儿在水中自由自在地游来游去。The fish are swimming in the water in a *free and unrestrained* way.

## 【自圆其说】

justify oneself; give a satisfactory explanation of what one has said or done; fill up gaps in one's theory; make plausible (tenable) defence; make one's argument con-

sistent and not self-contradictory; patch up the breach oneself; self-justification; make out a good case (for oneself); explain away [例]你持什么观点都可以,关键在于你要自圆其说。Whatever opinion you hold will be OK. The most important thing is that you have to *make your argument consistent and not self-contradictory*.

## 【自怨自艾】

full of remorse (self-reproach); be contrite and reform oneself; bemoan one's fate; repent and redress one's errors; regret one's past mistakes and try to do better in the future; blame and censure oneself; trail at fate

## 【自知之明】

know one's limitations; know oneself (well enough); have a clear estimation of oneself; self-knowledge; know one's strengths and weaknesses; know one's place [例]我有自知之明,干不了的事情我是不会揽上身的。I *know myself quite well* and I won't take upon myself what I'm unable to do.

## 【自作聪明】

fancy (think, consider) oneself clever (smart); act on the strength of one's own imagined cleverness; pretend to be wise; fancy one has a monopoly of wisdom; out-smart oneself

## 【自作自受】

suffer the consequences of one's own action; reap the fruits of one's actions; receive the penalty for one's own sins; pay for one's mistake; bring it on oneself; reap the harvest of one's misdeeds; suffer on (for) one's own account (act); stew (fry) in one's own grease; stew in one's own juice; As you make your bed, so you must lie on it; As you brew, so you will bake

(so must you drink); have only oneself to thank; serve sb. right; be hoist with (by, on) one's own petard; reap as (what) one has sown; pay the fiddler [例]他这次投资失败完全是自作自受。He *has only himself to thank* for the failure of investment this time.

#### 【字里行间】

among the words and between the lines; the overtone of a writing; implicit; hinted; unspoken; suggested; between the lines; by implication [例]从他来信中的字里行间,我可以感觉到他非常想家。I could read *between the lines* of his letter that he was homesick.

#### 【字斟句酌】

choose one's words with great care; write in ornate style; go over the wording carefully; refine on (upon) the wording; carefully worded; weigh one's words (every word) [例]这份报告对你的事业非常重要,你的确需要字斟句酌。Since the report is very important to your career, you do need to *choose your words with great care*.

#### 【恣意妄为】

do as one pleases (likes, wishes, chooses); behave unscrupulously; perpetrate whatever evils one pleases; act wilfully; act without regard for any authority; be one's own way [例]我们岂能容忍敌人在我们的土地上恣意妄为? How could we allow the enemy to *perpetrate whatever evils they please* on our own land?

#### 【总而言之】

in sum; in a word; to sum up; in summary; all in all; to make a long story short; in short; in brief; in a few words; in a nutshell; on the whole; generally speaking [例]总而言之,我们一定要有信心战胜对手。In sum, we must have confi-

dence in ourselves to beat our opponents.

#### 【纵横驰骋】

sweep through the length and breadth of the territory (plain); (of an army) move about (advance) freely and quickly; charge here and there; maneuver freely; gallop off at top speed

#### 【纵横交错】

arranged in a crisscross pattern; crisscross; intertwining; interlacing - a very complicated situation

#### 【走了和尚走不了庙】

A monk may run away, but the temple remains; The monk can run away, but not the monastery.

#### 【走漏风声】

leak (out) information; breathe a word of...; The secret oozed out; let (leak) out a secret [例]一定是你走漏了风声,否则他怎么可能知道我要去北京呢? It must be you who have *leaked out information*. Otherwise, how could he know that I'm going to Beijing?

#### 【走马看花】

watch flowers from the back of a galloping horse; view the flowers from horseback; look at the flowers while passing (riding) on horseback; take a brief look at; get a brief fleeting look at; glance over things hurriedly; know only from cursory observation; snatch a transient glance of; cast only a passing glance at; a momentary view; pass by things too quickly to get a good sense of them; gain a superficial understanding through cursory observation; get (catch) a glimpse of [例]你与其走马看花似地读十部文学名著,还不如仔仔细细地研究其中一部。Instead of *glancing over* ten literary masterpieces hurriedly, you'd better make a careful study of one of them.

## 【走马上任】

assume a post; go to one's post; take office [例]我们学院的新院长下个星期走马上任。The new dean of our college is to *take office* next week.

## 【走南闯北】

wander from North to South; journey north and south; travel extensively (widely); travel the length and breadth of the country; roam all over the country; wander up and down the country [例]走南闯北很多年,你这种人我见得多了。I've *roamed all over the country* for many years and seen too many of your kind.

## 【走投无路】

reach the end of a road; poor and utterly helpless (with no one to turn to); in desperation; at (in) an impasse; can find no way out; find oneself cornered; come to a dead end; have no way out; have no one to turn to; be driven (forced, put) into a (tight) corner; at the end of one's tether (rope); be driven (pushed) to the wall; behind the eightball; (be driven) from pillar to post; in a blind alley; at bay [例]你要是实在走投无路的话,就在我的饭店里干吧。If you are really *poor and helpless with no one to turn to*, you can work in my restaurant.

## 【足不出户】

remain within doors; stay at home; stay (keep) indoors; be confined to the house; never to leave one's home; never to go out; without going out [例]随着电脑科技的发展,在不久的将来我们足不出户就可以买到任何我们想要购买的东西。With the development of computer science, we'll be able to buy whatever we want *without going out* in the near future.

## 【足智多谋】

full of resources; be able and crafty (re-

sourceful); wise and full of stratagems; full of ideas; be very full of guile; masterly in planning and execution; capable of devising ways and means; knowledgeable and brainy; good (quick) at finding resources; shrewd and experienced [例]诸葛亮足智多谋,用空城计退了司马懿的兵。Zhu Geliang was such a man of *resource* that he succeeded in repulsing Sima Yi's troops by using the empty-city stratagem.

## 【罪大恶极】

criminal and wicked in the extreme; commit the most heinous crimes; be guilty of the most heinous (terrible, serious, monstrous, atrocious) crimes; a crime of the blackest dye; flagitious; a mortal sin; be guilty of a capital crime; most vicious [例]那个银行抢劫犯罪大恶极,最终被判处死刑。The *most vicious* bank robber was finally sentenced to death.

## 【罪恶深重】

be steeped in crime; sinful [例]他自知罪恶深重,难逃一死,于是便投河自尽了。Knowing very clearly that he was *steeped in crime* and couldn't escape from the punishment of death, he drowned himself in the river.

## 【罪恶滔天】

The list of crimes reaches the heavens; be guilty of the most heinous (monstrous, terrible, atrocious, terrible, serious) crimes; with crimes mounting up to the sky

## 【罪该万死】

be guilty of a crime for which one deserves to die ten thousand deaths; His crimes are so heinous that he deserves ten thousand deaths; a hideous crime deserving the harshest punishment; he guilty of a crime for which even death cannot atone; be

very guilty and deserve death; Death is not sufficient for such a crime. [例]你怎么忍心这样虐待你的母亲? 你真是罪该万死。How could you have the heart to torture your mother like this? It is really a *hideous crime deserving the harshest punishment*.

## 【罪加一等】

doubly guilty

## 【罪魁祸首】

ringleader; arch-criminal; chief criminal (culprit, offender); a leading gangster; a criminal chieftain; a boss; a head [例]我们要想清除这个黑帮,最重要的就是要先抓住罪魁祸首。If we want to get rid of the underworld organisation, the most important thing for us to do is to arrest its *ringleader*.

## 【罪上加罪】

commit crime upon crime; doubly guilty; crime added to crime; give more severe punishment for repeated offences

## 【罪有应得】

deserve one's punishment; a well-earned punishment; get one's just deserts; a well-deserved punishment; He has got what he deserves; be a proper punishment for one's bad behaviour; culpable of punishment; It serves sb. right [例]他因为贪污公款而被判处无期徒刑,实在是他罪有应得。It *served him right* that he was sentenced life imprisonment for embezzlement of public funds.

## 【醉生梦死】

live as if in a drunken stupor or in a dream; live as if intoxicated or dreaming; lead a befuddled life as if drunk or in a dream; lead a besotted life; eat, drink and make merry and let tomorrow look after itself; live a life of dreams; lose oneself in a life of pleasure; lead a happy-go

- lucky life; sleep away one's life; go on the binge; go on a spree [例]你难道对你这种醉生梦死的生活就不感到厌倦吗? Don't you feel tired of *leading such a befuddled life as if drunk or in a dream*?

## 【醉翁之意不在酒】

The drinker's heart is not in the cup; The intention of the drunkard lies not on the wine, but on other purposes; An old drunkard pretends interest in wine; Though drunken, one's real interest is not in wine; Though one professes to be a drinker, he is really not interested in wine; have ulterior motives; Many kiss the baby for the nurse's sake.

## 【左顾右盼】

look (glance, peep) right and left; cast glances about; take a look around; let one's eyes wander about; look around (about) [例]你左顾右盼地找谁呢? Why are you *looking around*? Who are you looking for?

## 【左邻右舍】

one's neighbours; next door neighbours; neighbouring families [例]已经是午夜了,请把电视音量调小,以免影响左邻右舍休息。It's midnight now. Please turn down the TV so as not to disturb *your neighbours*.

## 【左思右想】

think of this way and that; consider (think over) from different angles; keep thinking; deep in thought; ponder; turn sth. over in one's mind; muse on sth. [例]她左思右想,还是拿不定主意要不要给女儿买电子琴。She *thought it over from different angles*, but she couldn't decide whether to buy her daughter an electric organ or not yet.

## 【左右逢源】

beve fountain right and left; be able to



achieve success one way or another; win (gain) advantage from both sides; have everything going one's way; have one's bread buttered on both sides; get things done easily; plain sailing [例]他是一个成功的商人,方方面的关系很多,办起事来左右逢源。Being a successful businessman, he has many connections and can *get things done very easily*.

### 【左右开弓】

draw the bow both on the left and right; shoot first with one hand, then with the other; box sb. on both ears; hit with both hands; use first one hand and then the other in quick succession; raise one's hand and deal sb. blows right and left; kick with both feet [例]他这次大考不及格,气得父亲左右开弓打了他几个耳光。He failed in the final examination, which made his father so angry that he *boxed him on both ears*.

### 【左右为难】

(caught) in a dilemma; in an awkward predicament; in a bind; torn between; in a fix; stand at a nonplus; in a quandary about; at a loss what to do; (on) the horns of a dilemma; be (hard) put to it; ha hard put; between two fires; between Scylla and Charybdis [例]我又想去看他,又怕他不欢迎我,真是左右为难。I wanted to go and visit him, but at the same time, I was afraid that he wouldn't welcome me there. I was really *at a loss what to do*.

### 【作壁上观】

stay behind the breastworks and watch others fight; sit by and watch; be an onlooker; watch others fight from the rampart; look on indifferently; look on with folded arms [例]他们夫妻俩吵架咱们最好别干预,我看咱们还是作壁上观吧。

We'd better *be an onlooker* instead of interfering with the quarrel between the couple.

### 【作恶多端】

commit all sorts of wickedness; do all kinds of evil (bad things); be steeped in inequity (iniquity); up to all kinds of evil; perpetrate numerous crimes; indulge in all sorts of evildoings

### 【作法自毙】

make a law only to fall foul of it oneself; caught by one's own laws or device; get into troubles through schemes established by oneself; be injured by what one intended as a snare for others; get caught in one's own trap; do things harmful to oneself; be hoist with (by, on) one's own petard; You have made your bed, so you must lie on it; stew in one's own juice (grease)

### 【作奸犯科】

do evil and break the law; commit crimes in violation of the law; violate the law and commit crimes; commit offences against the law and discipline; commit crimes and act the part of a traitor [例]警察作奸犯科也一样要受到法律的制裁。A policeman who *commits crimes* will be punished according to the law as well.

### 【作茧自缚】

spin (form) a cocoon about oneself; cocoon oneself like silkworms; weave a cocoon and get imprisoned in it; get enmeshed in one's own web; fall into a pit of one's own digging; caught in one's own trap; tie oneself up with duties (like a cocoon); suffer from troubles of one's own making; put a halter round one's neck; stew in one's own juice (grease); be hoist with (by, on) one's own petard

### 【作威作福】

use one's power or position to bully or

frighten others; lord it over; tyrannically abuse one's power; act tyrannically (like a tyrant); play the tyrant and enjoy happiness; domineer over; sit on the backs of the people; throw one's weight about; ride roughshod over [例]她虽然是我们惟一的女儿,但我们从不允许她在家里作威作福。Although she is the only daughter of ours, we never allow her to *sit on our backs*.

#### 【作贼心虚】

A thief has a guilty conscience; One's guilty conscience always fears danger; fear exposure of guilt; Uneasy lies the head of one with a guilty conscience; betray (show, reveal) one's guilty conscience; with a guilty conscience

#### 【坐吃山空】

sit at home eating away one's resources; sit idle and eat, and in time one's whole fortune will be used up; fritter away a great fortune; consume without producing; eat oneself out of house and home [例]我得尽快找份工作,否则会坐吃山空的。I have to try to find a job as soon as possible. Otherwise, I will *fritter away all my fortune*.

#### 【坐地分赃】

sit down and share the plunder; share loot without participating in robbery; divide spoils among ...; divide the booty on the spot; have a share in the bribery and corruption

#### 【坐怀不乱】

be not disturbed with a woman in one's lap; wear Joseph's coat

#### 【坐井观天】

sit in a well and look at the heaven; see (look at) the sky from the bottom (through the opening) of a well; sit at the bottom of a well to see the skies; have (take) a very

narrow view (of things); have a narrow (limited) outlook on things; look at the world through the window (all one's life); have tunnel vision; see but one side of the question; narrow-mindedness; restricted experience; see no further than (the end of) one's nose [例]幸好我不是坐井观天,因为我也曾到海里去游过一次泳。*My experience is not too restricted* since I have once swum in the sea.

#### 【坐立不安】

find no peace sitting or standing; feel uneasy whether sitting or standing; restless (with anxiety); fidgety; on the tenterhooks; ill at ease; in a fidget; on pins and needles; sit (be) on thorns; have ants in one's pants; be on the anxious bench (seat) [例]他在家里坐立不安,不知道他女朋友会不会给他来电话。He was *in a fidget* at home wondering if his girlfriend would call him.

#### 【坐山观虎斗】

sit on top of a mountain to watch the tigers fight; watching from a hilltop while two tigers fight; watch in safety while others fight, then reap the spoils when both sides are exhausted

#### 【坐收渔利】

A fisherman stands to benefit (from a fight between a snipe and a clam); set the snipe and clam at each other and then take advantage of both; profit from others' conflict (tussle); have victory (an advantage) fall into one's lap; effortlessly to reap the spoils of a contest fought by others; reap third party profit; The third party benefits when two parties fight each other; play both ends against the middle [例]你们争斗下去的惟一结果就是他可以在那儿坐收渔利。The only result of your going on fighting against each other is that he

will reap the third party profit.

**【坐享其成】**

sit idle and enjoy the fruits of others' work; sit down to the ready fruits of one's efforts; reap where one has not sown; just sit back and leave others to find a way out; get something for nothing; One beats the bush, and another catches the bird; gain (get) sth. not by labour (service); without striking a blow [例]既然你已经把饭菜烧好了,那我们就坐享其成了。Since you've already cooked the dinner, let us enjoy the fruits of your work then.

**【坐以待毙】**

sit passively for one's end; sit still waiting for death; sit still and await destruction; await death; resign oneself to death; wait helplessly for the end; wait to be killed; await one's doom [例]我们不能坐以待毙,还是尽量想想办法吧。Let's try our

best to think of some way out instead of waiting helplessly for the end.

**【座无虚席】**

All seats are occupied; no empty seat; There are no empty seats; packed to capacity; (have a) full house [例]今天晚上放映的是刚刚获得奥斯卡奖的电影,因而电影院里座无虚席。Since the film shown tonight has just been awarded the Oscar prize, the cinema had a full house.

**【凿壁偷光】**

bore a hole on the wall in order to get some light from the neighbour's house (make use of the neighbour's light to study); study very diligently; very studious

**【凿凿有据】**

with irrefutable evidence; supported by irrefutable evidence

