

学校的理想装备

电子图书·学校专集

校园网上的最佳资源

美德篇



内容简介

汉语历史悠久，丰富多彩。在语言表达中，恰当地运用成语可以使语言精炼，富有感染力。

本画册选出常用 24 则成语进行分类：奋发、美德、机智、传奇共四篇。每个成语的“解释”部分，说明成语的意义和用法。“故事”部分介绍了成语的来源和出处，并配以插图，文图对照，能加深读者对成语含义的理解，以便更准确地加以应用。

Introduction

The Chinese language has a very long history, and is rich in colorful idioms, which can be used to enhance the language's powers of expression enormously.

Here we present the 24 most common Chinese idioms in four categories: Stirring Deeds, Virtuous Conduct, Wisdom and Legends. Each idiom has a brief explanation, followed by the story, in Chinese and English, of how it arose. The profuse illustrations will help readers to understand the historical background to the idioms.

Virtuous Conduct
美德篇

Carrying Sticks and Asking for a Flogging

Explanation:

To offer a sincere apology.

Story:

During the Warring States Period the king of the State of Qin invited the king of the State of Zhao to a meeting in the territory of Qin. At a banquet in honor of his guest, the king of Qin asked the king of Zhao to play the zither. Although, this was a most humiliating request, the king of Zhao dared not refuse.

Lin Xiangru, a senior official of Zhao, who had accompanied his master to Qin, was outraged. So he picked up a large jar, strode up to the king of Qin with it and insisted that he play it like a drum. Intimidated by the fierce Lin, the king of Qin reluctantly struck the jar with his hand once. Thereupon, the assembled ministers of Qin demanded that Zhao hand over 15 cities to Qin in compensation for Lin Xian-gru's offense. But Lin coolly demanded that Qin present its capital Xanyang to the king of Zhao as a forfeit for the king of Qin's insult to his visitor. The result was a stalemate, but the king of Zhao's face had been saved. In gratitude, the king promoted Lin Xiangru to the post of grand vizier.

The honor done to Lin Xiangru, however, aroused the resentment of Lian Po, the commander-in-chief of the Zhao army. Lian Po grumbled, "I reached my position after risking my life in battle after battle. Yet this fellow Lin Xiangru climbs right to the top of the tree just through talking! I am determined to humiliate this upstart in public as soon as I meet him." When this threat was conveyed to Lin Xiangru he shut himself up indoors, pretending to be ill, so as to avoid meeting Lian Po.

One day Lin Xiangru went out in his carriage. seeing Lian Po's carriage coming from the opposite direction, he ordered his driver to turn around to avoid a confrontation with Lian Po. This caused his acquaintances to mock him as a coward. But Lin Xiangru said to them: "Who do you think is more powerful, General Lian or the king of Qin?" "The king of Qin, of course," they replied. Then Lin continued "You remember that I dared to upbraid the king of Qin public within his own domain, so how could I fear General Lian? The fact is that the only thing that deters Qin from invading Zhao is the presence of General Lian at the head of our army and myself at the head of the administration. if we two were at loggerheads Qin might be tempted to invade. I cannot risk the safety of the state for my own petty pride."

When these words were conveyed to Lian Po he was overcome with remorse. He straight away gathered up a bundle of wooden sticks, tied them onto his naked back and appeared before Lin Xiangru in an attitude

of humble apology.

负荆请罪

解释：

背着荆条请罪，表示主动向对方赔礼认错。

故事：

战国时，赵国有一个足智多谋的上大夫蔺相如，还有一个英勇善战的大将军廉颇。有一年，秦王邀请赵王到渑池相会。酒宴上，秦王请赵王弹瑟。赵王弹了一曲。

作陪的蔺相如心想，必须为赵王争回面子，于是捧起一个缸，走到秦王面前说：“大王擅长秦乐，请大王一击，以相娱乐。”在蔺相如的强逼下，秦王勉强在缸上击了一下。秦国的大臣气得大叫：“请赵国割让出十五座城作为向秦王的献礼！”蔺相如也高喊：“请秦国把首都咸阳作为向赵王的献礼！”秦国始终没能占到半点便宜。事后，赵王封蔺相如为上大夫。

廉颇很不服气，他对人说：“我出生入死，立了许多战功，而蔺相如只凭三寸不烂之舌，就官居我之上。倘若给我遇见，我一定要当面羞辱他。”

蔺相如听说以后处处忍让，上朝的日子故意装病在家，以免与廉颇引起争执。

有一天，蔺相如出门，远远看见廉颇的马车迎面驶来，他吩咐仆人把车子调转方向，避开廉颇。身边的人都说他太胆小了，蔺相如一笑，问大家：“你们看廉将军与秦王哪个厉害？”大家异口同声地说：“那当然是秦王厉害啦。”蔺相如又道：“我敢在秦国当众呵斥秦王，又怎会偏偏怕廉将军呢？只是我想到，强秦不敢侵赵，是因为有我们两个人在，我们两人要是争斗起来，敌人就要来钻空子。我不能忘掉国家的安危啊！”

这些话传到廉颇的耳朵里，廉颇很惭愧，于是光着脊背，背着荆条，到蔺相如府上请罪。

Paving Back A Thousand Pieces of Gold for a Simple Meal

Explanation:

To reward someone handsomely for a small favor done in the past.

Story:

Emperor Gaozu of the Han Dynasty had a commander-in-chief named Han Xin, who had been orphaned at an early age and, as a result, had been reduced to begging.

One day, as he was trying to catch fish in a river, an old woman came upon him. Seeing that Han Xin was so thin and pale, the old woman shared her paltry meal with him. She continued to do this for a few days, and the grateful Han Yin said to her: "'You have been so kind to me, that I am determined to pay you back some day.'" But the other only replied, "Never mind about paying me back. It will be reward enough for me if you simply learn how to feed yourself and not have to rely on others." Han Xin flushed at these words, and there and then determined to build a career for himself. He diligently studied the martial arts, and in time became a renowned fighter.

One day a local ruffian ran across Han Xin in the street and challenged him to a duel. Han Xin, knowing fully well that he could dispatch the braggart easily with his sword, was nevertheless reluctant to become involved in such pointless bloodletting in case it hindered his future career. The bully, sensing Han Yin's hesitation, said, "If you are afraid to fight me, crawl under my legs, and then I will let you five." Han Xin had no alternative but to humble himself.

Later, Han Xin became a follower of Liu Bang, whom he helped to establish the Han Dynasty by defeating his most powerful opponent, Xiang Yu.

Han Xin was given the grand title of King of Chu. Returning to his hometown in triumph he sent people to find the old woman who had shared her paltry food with him when he was destitute. To her he gave 1,000 pieces of gold. The local tough who had resulted HanXin, however, shivered with fear. But when he was brought before Han Xin the latter merely patted him on the shoulder and said to his generals: 'When this man insulted he did so m order to spur me on to make harder efforts. So he actually did me a favor.'" Thereupon, he had the man installed in a high official position.

一饭千金

解释：

吃了别人一顿饭，就拿千金来报答。比喻受恩厚报。

故事：

汉高祖刘邦身边有一员大将军名叫韩信。他出身贫困，父母早逝，每天

靠讨饭过日子。

韩信没有别人可以依靠，只好每天到河边去钓鱼，用鱼来充饥。有一天，韩信碰到一个老婆婆。老婆婆见他饿得骨瘦如柴，面无血色，便把自己的饭分一些给他吃。一连几天，这位老婆婆每天都给韩信饭吃，韩信十分感激，便对老婆婆说：“您这样照顾我，将来我一定要好好报答您。”老婆婆说：“我不要你报答。只希望你要努力自立啊！”

韩信满脸羞愧。从此，他认真读兵书，练习武艺，决心做个有用的人。

乡里有一个恶少，在街上碰到了韩信，就大声对他说：“看你整天舞枪弄棒，像个有胆量的人。来来来，你敢拿剑刺我吗？要是不敢，你就从我这胯下爬过去！”

韩信心想：“如果我拿剑刺他，岂不犯了杀人罪？日后还有什么前途呢？不如宁受眼前之辱也不逞一时之勇为好。”于是，他伏在地上，从那个恶少的胯下爬了过去。周围看热闹的人都哈哈大笑起来。

后来，韩信投奔到汉王刘邦门下，受到重用，拜为大将，并授以调兵遣将、行军布阵的大权。

韩信经过认真训练兵马，率领汉军东征西讨，终于打败了最强大的对手项羽，协助刘邦建立了汉朝。

韩信被封为楚王，回到了故乡，派人去找给他饭吃的老婆婆。韩信见了老婆婆，向她再三道谢，并送给她一千两黄金。曾经侮辱过韩信的那个恶少却吓得直打哆嗦，韩信用手拍着他的肩膀笑着说：“你不必害怕，过去的事算了。”又对左右的将士说：“这位将士从前羞辱过我，其实是激励我上进啊！让他做个中尉吧！”

韩信念念不忘曾经帮助过自己的人，对曾欺负过自己的人，也没有报复。

相反，加以原谅和提拔。他这种气度，是值得敬佩的。

Alarmed by the Rustling of Leaves

Explanation:

A fugitive is frightened even by the slightest sudden sound.

Story:

King Ping of the State of Chu in the Spring and Autumn Period was notorious for his incompetence and cruelty. On the advice of his evil councillor Fei Wuji, he decided to deprive his crown prince, Jian, of the title.

But he worried that Wu She, Jian's tutor, would oppose any such move. So, he called in Wu She and told him to accuse Jian of rebellion. Wu She refused, and was immediately thrown into prison.

Fei Wuji warned the king: Wu She's two sons are very capable, and sure to attempt to avenge their father. Your majesty must eliminate them somehow." The king forced Wu She to write a letter to his two sons, Wu Shang and Wu Zixu, in an attempt to lure them to the capital.

Reading his father's letter, Wu Zixu said to his elder brother Wu Shang: "The king is planning to murder us. We must flee first and avenge our father in the future!" But Wu Shang refused to flee, and was put to death by King Ping, together with his father. The king then ordered his men to search high and low for Wu Zixu.

Hiding in woods in the daytime and traveling only at night, Wu Zixu finally came to Shaoguan Pass on the border of Chu. The pass was strictly guarded, but as Wu's black hair had by this time turned completely grey with worry, it was easy for a sympathizer to find a man looked like Wu to fool the guards.

Having sneaked through the pass, Wu was ferried across a river by a friendly fisherman, who left him to go and get some food for him. Sitting alone on the riverbank, the exhausted Wu Zixu was alarmed by a sudden gust of wind, which rustled the leaves and the grass. Thinking that his pursuers had come upon him, Wu dived into the underbrush. To his great relief, realized his mistake.

After he had eaten his fill, Wu offered the fisherman his valuable sword as a reward for his help, but the man said, "I don't even covet the king's reward for your arrest. Why do you think I could be tempted by a mere sword, no matter how fine? I helped you because I admire your heroism, that's all." And he sent Wu Zixu on his way without even telling him his name.

风吹草动

解释：

风一吹，草就摇晃，比喻有一点点动静而引起警觉。

故事：

春秋时，楚平王是一个昏庸无道的君主。他听信一个叫费无忌的小人的谗言，要把太子建废掉。

但又担心太子建的老师伍奢不同意，于是把伍奢叫来，让他说太子建企图谋反。伍奢不承认，立刻被关进了监狱。

这时，费无忌又对楚平王说：“伍奢的两个儿子很厉害，大王一定要把他们父子三人一起除掉！”楚平王逼伍奢写信给他的两个儿子伍尚和伍子胥，骗来京城，一起除掉。

伍子胥看了父亲的信，对哥哥伍尚说：“平王想加害我们啊，还是快些逃走吧，日后为父亲报仇！”但是伍尚不肯逃走，结果和伍奢一起被楚平王杀害了。平王一定要斩草除根，下令官兵四处捉拿伍子胥。

伍子胥白天躲在丛林中，晚上出来赶路，来到了楚国的边境昭关。关上的官吏盘查得很紧。伍子胥因为出不了关而愁得睡不着觉，几天以后满头黑发竟全部变成了灰白。幸亏好心的东皋公同情伍子胥，找个模样像伍子胥的人冒充伍子胥过关。守关的逮住了假伍子胥，而那个真伍子胥却混出关去了。

伍子胥逃到一条江边正在着急时，江上过来个渔夫，把他渡过江去。

到了对岸，渔夫对伍子胥说：“将军，我回家给你弄些吃的来。”伍子胥坐在岸边等候，忽然一阵清风吹来，芦苇和野草簌簌地响了起来，伍子胥吓了一跳，以为是楚兵追来，慌忙躲进草丛里。仔细一看，原来是“风吹草动”。

渔夫让伍子胥饱餐一顿。伍子胥说：“我把这把宝剑价值千金，送给你，答谢你的救命大恩。”渔夫说：“楚王悬赏捉拿你，我都没有贪图，难道会要你这宝剑吗？”

“请问你的贵姓大名，让我日后图报。”伍子胥刚说完，渔夫就正色地说：“我救你的性命，是仰慕你是位英雄，并不冀求你什么报答，你又何必问我姓名呢！快走吧！”

Courteous to the Worthy and Supportive of Scholars

Explanation:

This idiom refers to a man of high position who respects talented and worthy people even though they may be in humble stations of life.

Story:

Li Mian lived in the Tang Dynasty. When young, he was well travelled and had a wide circle of acquaintances. His best friend was another young scholar, named Zhang. Unexpectedly, the latter fell seriously ill. Li Mian took good care of him, seeking out doctors, buying and preparing medicines, etc. However, it was all to no avail, and, sensing that the end was near, Zhang said to his friend: "I am not long for this world, Li. Here is money for my funeral expenses; whatever is left over, please keep for yourself, as a poor recompense for the good care you have taken of me."

Having given his late friend a dignified burial, Li journeyed to Zhang's home to tell his family the sad news. He also handed over to them what was left of Zhang's money, keeping none for himself, despite the fact that he was an indigent scholar.

Afterwards, Li Mian was appointed to the office of district military commissioner, in which he distinguished himself for his scrupulous honesty and respect for talent. His principles were tested on one occasion, when he met a certain Wang Cui, who impressed him as a capable official. Before he could promote Wang, an edict came from the imperial court ordering Wang's arrest. Li learned that Wang Cui had fallen foul of certain powerful officials of the court in the course of his honest handling of business, and so determined to clear the man's name. At great risk to his career, Li Mian journeyed to the capital to intercede with the emperor personally. As a result, Wang Cui was cleared of the charges against him and appointed a county magistrate. In this post he was a credit to his patron, boosting Li Mian's reputation for seeking out talent for the empire.

Eventually Li Mian became prime minister. But even when he was in this position, the pinnacle of his career, he made sure that he was approachable by even the most humble of the people, and never hesitated to visit the homes of soldiers or commoners who had done meritorious deeds. It was in reference to Li Mian that people started praising righteous people of rank and position who are "courteous to the worthy and supportive of scholars."

礼贤下士

解释：

尊重有才德的人，屈己延聘有识之士。

故事：

李勉是唐朝人。他年轻时，爱好到处游历，广交朋友。有一次，他认识了张书生，结伴来到一个叫梁的地方，谁知张书生突然生起病来，而且十分严重。李勉替他请医生，买药煎药，喂水喂饭，照顾得非常周到。但是张书生的病不见好转。张书生对李勉说：“李兄，看来我是没救了。我死后，你用我的银子替我埋葬，剩下的钱财，就送给你用吧，以答谢你连日来对我悉心的照顾。”

张书生去世后，李勉遵照亡友的遗言办理了丧事，然后收拾好行装，来到了朋友的故乡，把死讯告诉了张书生的家人，并把剩余的钱财全部归还给他的家人。李勉当时虽然也是一个穷书生，但他不贪取别人的钱财，这种诚实的行为使张书生的家人非常感动。

后来李勉当上了节度使，不但处事廉洁公正，而且十分爱惜人才。有一次，在外出巡察中，他发现一个叫王晔的县尉很有才干，正想提拔他，忽然接到皇帝拘捕王晔的命令。原来王晔为人耿直，秉公办事，得罪了朝中权贵，遭人诬告陷害。

李勉不忍王晔无辜受害，赶回京城面见皇帝，力陈王晔的为人，夸奖他是个人才，请求加以重用。皇帝见李勉极力为国家推荐人才，心里十分赞赏，赦免了王晔，还升他为县令。王晔上任后，正直清廉，勤政为民，深受百姓爱戴。大家都说李勉是个善于提拔人才的好官。

李勉在任节度使的时候，听说李巡和张参很有学问，便请他们出来办事，每有宴会，都邀请他们一同畅饮。李勉后来当了宰相，虽然地位尊贵，但从不骄傲自大，亲自到士兵家里慰问他们的家属，上上下下都称赞李勉是个礼贤下士的好官。

As Close as Guan Zhong and Bao Shuya

Explanation:

Guan Zhong and Bao Shuya were paragons of friendship, like David and Jonathan in the Bible.

Story:

Guan Zhong and Bao Shuya lived in the State of Qi during the Spring and Autumn Period. They were business partners as well as very close companions. Bao Shuya invested two-thirds of the money in their business ventures but insisted on receiving only one-third of the profit. When the members of his family complained that this was not fair, he simply said, "Guan Zhong's family is poor; he needs more money than I do."

When Guan Zhong became a senior general he never led his soldiers into battle, and when the fighting turned unfavorable to his side, he was always the first to turn and flee. But whenever people called him coward, his friend Bao Shuya sprang to his defense, saying, "Guan Zhong has to look after his aged mother; he is duty-bound to preserve his life in order to support her. He certainly does not flee from danger because he is afraid. "The king of Qi had two sons, Jiu and Xiaobai. Guan Zhong was prince Jiu's teacher, and Bao Shuya, prince Xiaobai's. Later, in a struggle for the throne, Xiaobai killed his brother and took power. Bao Shuyai immediately recommended Guan Zhong to the new king, saying that Guan Zhong would make an excellent prime minister. King Xiaobai replied, "But you were my teacher, sir. I hope you will accept the post of prime minister." Bao Shuya said, "I thank Your Majesty for your trust. It is true that Guan Zhong was Prince Jiu's teacher. Nevertheless, he is the only man who can help you achieve your ambitions."

The king took Bao Shuya's selfless advice and appointed Guan Zhong his prime minister. Under Guan Zhong's wise administration, Qi attained the height of its wealth and power.

管鲍之交

解释：

形容朋友交谊深厚。

故事：

管仲和鲍叔牙是春秋时代的人，两人互相照顾，亲如手足。

鲍叔牙与管仲合伙做生意，叔牙出三分之二的本钱，赚了钱却只要三分之一。鲍叔牙的家人表示不满，叔牙却说：“管仲家里穷嘛！”

后来，管仲当了大官，带兵打仗，可是不敢身先士卒，打败仗的时候，他总是第一个逃走。人们讥笑管仲胆小如鼠，是个没有勇气的人。这时，叔牙却出来说：“管仲家里有年老的母亲需要他奉养，其实，他并不是个怕死

的人。”

管仲和鲍叔牙都是齐国人。齐王有两个儿子，纠和小白。管仲是公子纠的老师，鲍叔牙是公子小白的老师。后来两个公子为争夺王位互相残杀，公子纠被杀，小白即位，叔牙立刻向齐王小白推荐管仲，说：“管仲是一位有才干的人，请大王聘请他做宰相。”

齐王说：“你是我的老师，我愿拜你为相。”鲍叔牙语气坚定地说：“多谢大王的信任。以前管仲是公子纠的老师，难得他对公子纠的一片忠心。主公如果要干一番大事业，管仲可是个用得着的人。”

齐王终于采纳了鲍叔牙的建议，任命管仲为相。管仲整顿内政、开发资源、发展农业，很快就使齐国强盛起来，当上了盟主。

Placing Righteousness Above Kinship

Explanation:

Sacrificing family loyalty for the benefit of the state.

Story:

During the Spring and Autumn Period, after the death of King Zhuang of the State of Wei, his heir had not been long on the throne when he was secretly assassinated by his younger brother Zhou Yu. Claiming that his brother had died of illness, Zhou Yu seized the crown for himself.

Zhou Yu planned to attack a neighboring state, but found that his ministers as well as the common people were against this. One of the king's close advisors, Shi Hou, said, "My father Shi Que is highly respected. If Your Majesty could get his support, I am sure you would no longer be opposed in your plan."

But the righteous Shi Que was very unhappy that his son had thrown in his lot with the fratricidal Zhou Yu. So when his son came to him to ask for support for Zhou Yu, he firmly refused. Shi Que told Shi Hou: "The enthronement of kings of every state must be approved by the Zhou Emperor. Now, the emperor has the utmost confidence in the king of the State of Chen. To get support for your plan, you and Zhou Yu should go and pay your respects to the king of Chen and ask him to intercede with the Zhou Emperor."

As Zhou Yu and Shi Hou set out for Chen, Shi Que sent a letter posthaste to the king of Chen, in which he told him: "The State of Wei has fallen into the hands of two evil men. I am too old to punish them. I humbly beg that Your Majesty will see that justice is done by eliminating these two."

When Zhou Yu and Shi Hou appeared in an audience with the king of Chen, the latter had the letter read aloud to them. They confessed their crimes, and were put to death. Shi Que has been honored ever since as a man who put the interests of his state before those of his own kindred.

大义灭亲

解释：

为了维护国家和民族的利益，对犯罪的亲人不徇私情，使其受到应得的惩罚。

故事：

春秋时，卫庄公去世后，由大公子继承王位。这位新的卫王性情懦弱，而他的弟弟州吁却骄傲自大，野心勃勃，总想夺取兄长的王位。

有一天，卫王出访，州吁偷偷在途中刺死了兄长，却向大臣和百姓说：“卫王害急病死了，由我继承王位。”

州吁当上卫王后，便要攻打邻国，大臣和百姓都反对。州吁忙与他的亲信石厚商量。石厚说：“我的父亲石碚德高望重。如果大王请他出山，大臣

和百姓们就不敢乱动了。”

石碣对儿子石厚助纣为虐、欺凌百姓的行为十分不满。见儿子奉州吁之命来请，就坚决推辞了。石厚无奈，再三请教安抚民心之策。石碣对石厚说：“诸侯国的王登位要得到周天子的允许。如果州吁得到周天子的公开承认，百姓就会服从。这样吧，周天子最信任陈王，你和州吁去拜望陈王，请他说说情吧。”

其实石碣早已写好一封信，差人暗地送给陈王，信里说：“卫国不幸，出了两个大逆不道的贼子。但我年纪大了，没有力量惩治他们。请为我主持正义，帮我除掉这两个恶人吧！”

州吁和石厚到了陈国。陈王就派人拿出石碣的信件大声宣读一遍。这时候州吁和石厚才知道上了石碣的当，只好低头认罪了。石碣为了国家利益，不徇私情，惩罚州吁和石厚，这种大义灭亲的故事，流传千古。

