



## 简介

## Introduction

Chinese idioms are set phrases which normally consist of four characters. They have evolved over thousands of years and make the Chinese language richer and more colourful. Most Chinese idioms originate from myths, fables and historical events. As a result, they do not conform to modern Chinese grammatical structure or syntax; normally they are very concise and abbreviated. They aim to convey the moral behind the story instead of narrating the story itself. A Chinese idiom story will not only tell you the meaning of a phrase, but will also help you to learn more about Chinese culture. The example sentences in this book show how idioms are used in context. Have fun!

zhāo sān mù sì

## 朝三暮四

### Three at Dawn and Four at Dusk

#### Meaning

The idiom originally means to fool others by playing tricks. It later extends to mean changing one's mind frequently.

#### Example

小明这个人朝三暮四，今天想学画画儿，明天又想学音乐。







lǎo rén xiǎng le xiǎng jiù shuō zhè yàng  
老人想了想，就说：“这样  
ba wǒ měi tiān zǎo shang gěi nǐ men sì ge wǎn shang  
吧，我每天早上给你们四个，晚上  
gěi nǐ men sān ge hǎo bu hǎo  
给你们三个，好不好？”



hóu zi men xiǎng le xiǎng zǎo shang sì ge  
猴子们想了想，早上四个，  
bǐ wǎn shang duō le yí ge tā men kāi  
比晚上多了一个，它们开  
xīn de tiào le qǐ lai lǎo rén  
心地跳了起来。老人  
zài páng biān xiào le  
在旁边笑了。



## 词语表 Vocabulary

- |        |           |   |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 1. 朝   | zhāo      | dawn, morning   |
| 2. 暮   | mù        | dusk, evening   |
| 3. 每天  | měi tiān  | every day   |
| 4. 果子  | guǒzi     | fruit   |
| 5. 却   | què       | but   |
| 6. 越来越 | yuèláiyuè | more and more   |
| 7. 张开  | zhāngkāi  | to open   |
| 8. 露出  | lùchū     | to show   |
| 9. 这样  | zhèyàng   | this way  |
| 10. 起来 | qǐlái     | <i>used after a verb to indicate an upward movement</i> |





shuǐ zhōng lāo yuè

## 水中捞月

### The Monkey Attempts to Scoop up the Moon

**Meaning** a fruitless attempt

**Example** 不读书，却想上好的大学，就等于水中捞月。



lǎo hóu zi yì tái tóu kàn jiàn yuè liang hái zài  
老猴子一抬头，看见月亮还在  
tiān shàng shuō bú yòng le bú yòng le yuè  
天上，说：“不用了！不用了！月  
liang zài tiān shàng ne  
亮在天上呢！”

jiù zài zhè shí shù zhī duàn le hóu zi men  
就在这时，树枝断了，猴子们  
dōu diào dào shuǐ lǐ qu le  
都掉到水里去了。





