

WRITING WORKSHEETS

Must-Know Chinese Idioms

亡羊补牢, 未为晚矣

Wángyáng bǔláo, wèi wéi wǎn yǐ

亡羊



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1. 亡羊补牢, 未为晚矣

Wángyáng bǔláo, wèi wéi wǎn yǐ

Literal Translation: It's better to finish something late than to never do it at all.

Meaning: Better late than never.

2. 有志者事竟成

Yǒuzhìzhě shì jìng chéng

Literal Translation: When you have a strong will to reach a goal in life, you get that in future.

Meaning: Where there's a will, there's a way.

3. 入乡随俗

Rùxiāng suísú

Literal Translation: It is advisable to follow the conventions of the area in which you are residing or visiting.

Meaning: When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

4. 说曹操, 曹操到

Shuō Cáocāo, Cáocāo dào

Literal Translation: The person we were just talking about showed up!

Meaning: Speak of the devil.

5. 千里之行, 始于足下

Qiānlǐ zhī xíng, shǐ yú zúxià

Literal Translation: A thousand-mile journey begins with a single step.

Meaning: You need to make your first step, if you hope to achieve a big thing.

6. 大海捞针

Dàhǎi lāozhēn

Literal Translation: Looking for a needle in a haystack.

Meaning: something impossible to do

7. 煞费苦心

Shàfèi kǔxīn

Literal Translation: make all effort possible with much attention

Meaning: To take the trouble to do something.

8. 得寸进尺

Décùn jìnchǐ

Literal Translation: Give them an inch and they'll take a mile.

Meaning: When you give someone a small amount of power or freedom to do something, he or she may try to get a lot more.

9. 有其父必有其子

Yǒu qí fù bì yǒu qí zǐ

Literal Translation: when a son is similar to his father

Meaning: Like father, like son.

10. 血浓于水

Xuè nóng yú shuǐ

Literal Translation: Blood is thicker than water.

Meaning: relationships with family (or blood relatives) is stronger than other relationships

11. 月是故乡明

Yuè shì gùxiāng míng

Literal Translation: The moon is brighter over one's hometown.

Meaning: you feel the best when at home

12. 三个臭皮匠, 顶个诸葛亮

Sān ge chòu píjiàng, dǐng ge Zhūgéliàng

Literal Translation: Two heads are better than one.

Meaning: It's easier to do something as a team than by yourself.

13. 十全十美

Shíquán shíměi

Literal Translation: something perfect in every way

Meaning: Perfect in every way.

14. 数一数二

Shǔyī shǔ'èr

Literal Translation: the top one or two

Meaning: One of the best.

15. 功夫不负有心人

Gōngfū bù fù yǒuxīnrén

Literal Translation: Hard work pays off.

Meaning: you have to work for what you want

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