

10 Simple Chinese Idioms for Kids (Ages 5-8) — Free PDF Download

If you're searching for simple Chinese idioms that 5-8 year olds can grasp and remember, you've found the right guide! Chinese idioms (called “chengyu”) are short, fun phrases that teach basic vocabulary and tiny bits of Chinese culture — perfect for young learners.

Below are 10 easy Chinese idioms for kids, each with a kid-friendly meaning, silly example, and a quick quiz to test understanding:

1. Yī Xīn Yī Yì (一心一意)

Meaning: Wholeheartedly (focused on one thing)

Example: “When I color my picture, I use yī xīn yī yì — no staring at my toy cars!”

Quiz: When do you need to be yī xīn yī yì?

- A) Playing with friends
- B) Doing your homework
- C) Watching TV

2. Hú Lún Tūn Zǎo (囫圇吞枣)

Meaning: To do things too fast (like swallowing food without chewing)

Example: “Don't eat your lollipop hú lún tūn zǎo — you might miss the flavor!”

Quiz: Which of these is hú lún tūn zǎo?

- A) Eating slowly and tasting each bite
- B) Reading a book quickly without understanding it
- C) Sharing your snack with a friend

3. Mǎn Mǎn Yì Guàn (满满一罐)

Meaning: Full to the brim (for snacks, toys, etc.)

Example: “My backpack is mǎn mǎn yì guàn with crayons and sticker sheets!”

Quiz: What can be mǎn mǎn yì guàn?

- A) An empty box
- B) A jar of cookies
- C) A quiet room

4. Shǒu Zhū Dài Tù (守株待兔)

Meaning: To wait for luck (instead of trying)

Example: “Don’ t shǒu zhū dài tù for candy — ask Mom if you can have a treat!”

Quiz: Which is an example of shǒu zhū dài tù?

- A) Waiting for the bus to arrive
- B) Waiting for a gift without asking
- C) Working hard to get a good grade

5. Huà Lóng Diǎn Jīng (画龙点睛)

Meaning: The perfect finishing touch (making something great better)

Example: “Adding googly eyes to my dinosaur drawing was the huà lóng diǎn jīng!”

Quiz: Which is an example of huà lóng diǎn jīng?

- A) Adding a bow to a birthday present
- B) Leaving a drawing half-finished
- C) Using the wrong color on a picture

6. Yī Jǔ Liǎng Dé (一举两得)

Meaning: Kill two birds with one stone (do one thing, get two good results)

Example: “Walking the dog and picking flowers is yī jǔ liǎng dé!”

Quiz: Which is yī jǔ liǎng dé?

- A) Reading a book and listening to music
- B) Watering plants and feeding the cat
- C) Doing homework and watching TV

7. Bàn Tú Ér Fèi (半途而废)

Meaning: Give up halfway

Example: “Don’ t bàn tú ér fèi on your puzzle — you’ re almost done!”

Quiz: What does bàn tú ér fèi mean?

- A) Finish something quickly
- B) Give up before you finish
- C) Take a break and come back later

8. Tián Tián Mì Mì (甜甜蜜蜜)

Meaning: Sweet and lovely (for treats or nice moments)

Example: “Eating ice cream with my friend was tián tián mì mì!”

Quiz: Which moment is tián tián mì mì?

- A) Falling off your bike
- B) Hugging your mom
- C) Losing your toy

9. Dà Jīng Shī Sè (大惊失色)

Meaning: Get scared (look shocked)

Example: “When the balloon popped, my little sister was dà jīng shī sè!”

Quiz: When would you be dà jīng shī sè?

- A) Seeing a spider
- B) Getting a hug
- C) Eating your favorite food

10. Xiào Kāi Yǎn Xià (笑开眼笑)

Meaning: Grin from ear to ear (super happy)

Example: “When I got a new bike, I was xiào kāi yǎn xià!”

Quiz: What makes you xiào kāi yǎn xià?

- A) Getting a bad grade
- B) Receiving a birthday present
- C) Losing your keys

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Bonus: Answer Key

1. B) Doing your homework
2. B) Reading a book quickly without understanding it
3. B) A jar of cookies

4. B) Waiting for a gift without asking
5. A) Adding a bow to a birthday present
6. A) Reading a book and listening to music
7. B) Give up before you finish
8. B) Hugging your mom
9. A) Seeing a spider
10. B) Receiving a birthday present

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