

10 Easy Chinese Idioms Kids Can Learn Today— Free PDF Download

1. Biān Cháng Mò Jí (鞭长莫及)

Meaning: To want to help but be unable (too far away or lacking the means)

Example: “You can’t fix your friend’s broken blocks if you’re at home — that’s biān cháng mò jí! Ask their mom to help instead.”

Quiz: Which is an example of biān cháng mò jí?

- A) Helping your classmate tie their shoes
- B) Wanting to help your cousin (who lives in another country) when they’re sick, but you can’t travel there
- C) Finishing your homework before playtime

2. Hài Qún Zhī Mǎ (害群之马)

Meaning: Someone who causes trouble for the whole group

Example: “If one kid hides the soccer ball instead of passing, they’re the hài qún zhī mǎ making the game not fun.”

Quiz: Who is a hài qún zhī mǎ?

- A) A kid who shares crayons with the class
- B) A kid who keeps talking during story time and disturbs everyone
- C) A kid who helps clean up the classroom

3. Tōu Jiān Shuǎ Huá (偷奸耍滑)

Meaning: To be lazy and cut corners on work

Example: “Don’ t only set half the plates to finish quickly — that’ s tōu jiān shuǎ huá! Set all of them.”

Quiz: What is tōu jiān shuǎ huá?

- A) Filling a water bottle all the way for your plant
- B) Only writing 2 sentences when your teacher asks for 5
- C) Helping your mom fold all the laundry

4. Huàn Nàn Jiàn Zhēn Qíng (患难见真情)

Meaning: True friends help when you’ re in trouble

Example: “When you fell off your bike, your friend got a bandage — that’ s huàn nàn jiàn zhēn qíng!”

Quiz: Which shows huàn nàn jiàn zhēn qíng?

- A) A friend plays with you when you’ re happy
- B) A friend shares their snack when you forgot yours
- C) A friend runs away when you trip and fall

5. Tān Dé Wú Yàn (贪得无厌)

Meaning: To be greedy and never satisfied

Example: “You already have 3 cookies — asking for a 4th is tān dé wú yàn! Enough

is enough.”

Quiz: What is *tān dé wú yàn*?

- A) Taking one lollipop from the jar
- B) Taking 10 stickers when the rule is 2 per kid
- C) Sharing your toy with a friend

6. Jī Fēi Dàn Dǎ (鸡飞蛋打)

Meaning: To mess up and end up with nothing

Example: “You tried to carry juice and cake at once — now both are spilled! That’s *jī fēi dàn dǎ*.”

Quiz: Which is *jī fēi dàn dǎ*?

- A) Drawing a picture and hanging it on the fridge
- B) Trying to color and play video games at once — you spill paint on the game controller
- C) Baking cookies and giving some to your neighbor

7. Lǎo Dāng Yì Zhuàng (老当益壮)

Meaning: To stay strong and active even when old

Example: “Grandpa still beats you at running — that’s *lǎo dāng yì zhuàng*!”

Quiz: Who is *lǎo dāng yì zhuàng*?

- A) A grandma who sits on the couch all day
- B) A grandpa who gardens and plays catch with you
- C) A kid who rides their bike fast

8. Bì Mén Sī Guò (闭门思过)

Meaning: To think about your mistakes alone

Example: “After hitting your sibling, you sat quietly to think — that’s bì mén sī guò!”

Quiz: When would you do bì mén sī guò?

- A) After you break a rule and need to think about it
- B) When you get a good grade
- C) When you want to play a game

9. Hù È Bù Quān (怙恶不悛)

Meaning: To keep doing bad things even after being told to stop

Example: “Your brother kept drawing on the walls — that’s hù è bù quān!”

Quiz: What is hù è bù quān?

- A) Stopping to color on paper after your mom says “no walls”
- B) Keeping to draw on the walls even after your mom warns you
- C) Helping clean the walls you drew on

10. Yǐn Zhèn Zhǐ Kě (饮鸩止渴)

Meaning: To fix a small problem with a quick, bad choice that causes bigger trouble

Example: “Eating all your candy before dinner — now you’re not hungry for veggies!”

That' s yīn zhèn zhǐ kě. ”

Quiz: Which is yīn zhèn zhǐ kě?

- A) Eating a piece of fruit when you' re hungry before dinner
- B) Skipping your homework to play games — now you have to stay up late to finish
- C) Brushing your teeth before bed

Answer Key

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. B
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. A
- 9. B
- 10. B

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