

1. Qǐ Rén Yōu Tiān (杞人忧天)

Meaning: To worry unnecessarily about something that will never happen

Example: “Don’ t worry about the sun not rising tomorrow — that’ s qǐ rén yōu tiān! It will definitely come up.”

Quiz: Which of these is qǐ rén yōu tiān?

- A) Wearing a raincoat when it’ s raining
 - B) Worrying about aliens landing on Earth
 - C) Studying for a test you have tomorrow
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2. Cóng Jǐng Jiù Rén (从井救人)

Meaning: To try to help someone in a way that puts yourself in danger

Example: “If your friend falls in the pool, don’ t jump in if you can’ t swim — that’ s cóng jǐng jiù rén. Go get an adult instead.”

Quiz: Which of these is cóng jǐng jiù rén?

- A) Calling 911 when someone is hurt
 - B) Jumping into a river to save a dog if you can’ t swim
 - C) Giving a bandage to a friend who scraped their knee
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3. Jié Gān Rù Chéng (截竿入城)

Meaning: To solve a problem in a rigid, uncreative way

Example: “Instead of breaking your long ruler to fit in your pencil case, just lay it flat — don’ t be jié gān rù chéng!”

Quiz: Which of these is jié gān rù chéng?

- A) Folding a poster to fit in your backpack
 - B) Cutting a long rope to fit in a small box
 - C) Using a different bag to carry a big item
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4. Hán Dān Xué Bù (邯郸学步)

Meaning: To copy others badly and lose your own style

Example: “Don’ t copy your friend’ s drawing — that’ s hán dān xué bù. Draw it your own way!”

Quiz: Which of these is hán dān xué bù?

- A) Wearing the same clothes as your best friend
 - B) Trying to write like your favorite author and forgetting how to write normally
 - C) Learning a new dance from a video
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5. Huò Qǐ Xiǎo Qiáng (祸起萧墙)

Meaning: Trouble starts from within your own group or home

Example: “If your team loses because you argued with each other, that’ s huò qǐ xiǎo qiáng — the problem came from inside.”

Quiz: Which of these is huò qǐ xiǎo qiáng?

- A) A team losing because they didn’ t practice enough
 - B) A fight starting between two friends on the same team
 - C) A team losing because the other team was better
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6. Huáng Liáng Yī Mèng (黄粱一梦)

Meaning: A beautiful dream that ends quickly, like a short-lived fantasy

Example: “Winning the lottery and buying a castle was just a huáng liáng yī mèng — I woke up and it was gone.”

Quiz: Which of these is huáng liáng yī mèng?

- A) A dream where you become a superhero, then wake up
 - B) A long, detailed dream that feels real
 - C) A nightmare that scares you awake
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7. Nán Yuán Běi Zhé (南辕北辙)

Meaning: To go in the opposite direction of your goal

Example: “If you want to go to the park but walk toward the house, you’ re nán yuán běi zhé — you’ re going the wrong way!”

Quiz: Which of these is nán yuán běi zhé?

- A) Walking to the library when you want to go to the park

- B) Taking a bus to school
 - C) Asking for directions when you' re lost
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8. Pìn Jī Sī Chén (牝鸡司晨)

Meaning: When someone does a job that is usually done by others

Example: “If your little brother wants to be a ballet dancer, that' s great — don' t say it' s pìn jī sī chén. Anyone can do anything!”

Quiz: Which of these is pìn jī sī chén?

- A) A boy who likes to cook
 - B) A girl who plays soccer
 - C) Saying a boy can' t be a nurse because it' s a “girl' s job”
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9. Zì Zuò Cōng Míng (自作聪明)

Meaning: To think you are smarter than you are, leading to mistakes

Example: “You thought you could build a tower with only paper — that' s zì zuò cōng míng. It fell down right away!”

Quiz: Which of these is zì zuò cōng míng?

- A) Trying to fix a broken toy with glue and making it worse
 - B) Asking for help when you don' t know how to do something
 - C) Reading a book to learn how to build something
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10. Yī Guān Chǔ Chǔ (衣冠楚楚)

Meaning: To be neatly and smartly dressed

Example: “You look yī guān chǔ chǔ in your new shirt and pants — ready for the party!”

Quiz: Which of these is yī guān chǔ chǔ?

- A) Wearing a clean shirt and pants to a party
 - B) Wearing pajamas to school
 - C) Wearing a hat and sunglasses indoors
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测试题答案

- B) Worrying about aliens landing on Earth

- B) Jumping into a river to save a dog if you can' t swim
- B) Cutting a long rope to fit in a small box
- B) Trying to write like your favorite author and forgetting how to write normally
- B) A fight starting between two friends on the same team
- A) A dream where you become a superhero, then wake up
- A) Walking to the library when you want to go to the park
- C) Saying a boy can' t be a nurse because it' s a “girl' s job”
- A) Trying to fix a broken toy with glue and making it worse
- A) Wearing a clean shirt and pants to a party

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