

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

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1. 顺其自然 / shùn qí zì rán

顺 (shùn) - to follow

其 (qí) - its

自然 (zì rán) - nature

Definition: to allow nature to take its course / to take things as they come

Nǐ shēnbiān yǒu zhèyàng de péngyou ma? | Yǒu

你身边有这样的朋友吗? | 有

Do you have this kind of friends (leftover women)? | Yes.

Tāmen shì shénmeyàng de yī gè zhuàngkuàng?

她们是什么样的一个状况?

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What is their state (of mind)?

Jiùshì bù zháojí, ránhòu jiù juéde hái shì shùn qí zìrán.

就是不着急，然后就觉得还是顺其自然。

They don't feel worried and they just let nature take its course. (meaning they don't want to rush into a marriage)

2. 与生俱来 / yǔ shēng jù lái

2. 与 (yǔ) - with

生 (shēng) - birth

俱 (jù) - together

来 (lái) - come

Definition: innate / born with

Érqiě fǎguó zhège guójiā yīzhí dōu shì wǒ bù tài xǐhuan de guójiā,

而且法国这个国家一直都是我不太喜欢的国家，

Also, France is a country I've never liked,

tā yǒuzhe yǔ shēng jù lái de àomàn.

它有着与生俱来的傲慢。

because it has an innate arrogance.

3. 以偏概全 / yǐ piān gài quán

以 (yǐ) - using

偏 (piān) - partial

概 (gài) - to generalize

全 (quán) - whole

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Definition: to overgeneralize

Kàn gèrén ba, jiùshì měigerén de qíngkuàng dōu bù yí yàng.

看个人吧，就是每个人的情况都不一样。

That varies from person to person. Everyone has a different situation.

Nǐ bù néng yǐ piān gài quán ma

你不能以偏概全嘛

You can't generalize.

4. 说来话长 / shuō lái huà cháng

说 (shuō) - to speak

来 (lái) - (auxiliary word indicating an action)

话 (huà) - words

长 (cháng) - long

Definition: It's a long story

Nǎ yīxiē bù hǎo de?

哪一些不好的?

What (about him) that is not good?

Shuō lái huà cháng, jiù bù hǎo shuō

说来话长，就不好说

It's a long story. So, it's not easy to go into it.

5. 不由自主 / bù yóu zì zhǔ

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不 (bù) - not

由 (yóu) - controlled by

自 (zì) - self

主 (zhǔ) - control

Definition: can't help but...

Nǐ fāxiàn nàge měi de shìwù huòzhě měi de rén

你发现那个美的事物或者美的人

When you discover beautiful things or people,

kěndìng huì **bù yóu zì zhǔ** de qù duō kàn jǐ yǎn.

肯定会**不由自主**地去多看几眼。

for sure you won't be able to stop yourself from looking.

6. 小心翼翼 / xiǎoxīn yì yì

小心 (xiǎoxīn) - careful

翼 (yì) - wing

Definition: with great caution / to walk on eggshells

Nàge nánháizi

那个男孩子

That boy

jiùshì zài jiā lǐbian fēicháng **xiǎoxīn yì yì**, wèiwèisuōsuō

就是在家里边非常**小心翼翼**，畏畏缩缩

is very cautious and timid at home.

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7. 因人而异 / yīn rén ér yì

因 (yīn) - according to

人 (rén) - person

而 (ér) - then

异 (yì) - differ

Definition: vary from person to person

Yīn rén ér yì ba

因人而异吧

It varies from person to person.

Měigerén duì kuàilè de xiǎngfǎ bù yīyàng,

每个人对快乐的想法不一样,

Everyone has a different definition for happiness.

nà yǒuxiē rén jiéhūn shēngzǐ yě huì juéde hěn kuàilè.

那有些人结婚生子也会觉得很快乐。

Some people think that getting married and having a baby is happiness.

8. 好聚好散 / hǎo jù hǎo sàn

好 (hǎo) - good

聚 (jù) - come together

散 (sàn) - part ways

Definition: to part without hard feelings

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Rúguǒ yàoshi zhēn shì chūguǐ dehuà,

如果要是真是出轨的话,

If he really cheats,

nà jiù hǎo jù hǎo sàn bei

那就好聚好散呗

I will just break up with him on good terms.

9. 人之常情 / rén zhī cháng qíng

人 (rén) - human

之 (zhī) - (possessive marker)

常 (cháng) - common

情 (qíng) - feeling

Definition: human nature

Kàndào měinǚ huì xīndòng ma?

看到美女会心动吗?

Do you feel attracted by the girls you see (on Chinese TikTok)?

Kàndào měinǚ kěndìng huì duō kàn liǎng yǎn.

看到美女肯定会多看两眼。

Sure, we will take a second look when we see pretty girls.

Zhège shì rén zhī cháng qíng ma.

这个是人之常情嘛。

This is just human nature.

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10. 借刀杀人 / jiè dāo shā rén

借 (jiè) - to borrow

刀 (dāo) - knife

杀 (shā) - to kill

人 (rén) - people

Definition: to let others do the dirty work

Měiguó jiù hái hǎo

美国就还好

The United States is okay,

wǒ juéde tā zhèzhǒng rén jiùshì shǔyú jiè dāo shā rén ma

我觉得他这种人就是属于借刀杀人嘛

I think they are just the type to use others to do their dirty work.

11. 三心二意 / sān xīn èr yì

三 (sān) - three

心 (xīn) - hearts

二 (èr) - two

意 (yì) - intentions

Definition: unfaithful (used in romantic relationships) / half-hearted (when doing something)

Bù tuījiàn dàjiā chūguǐ a!

不推荐大家出轨啊!

I don't recommend cheating on (your partners)!

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Jiùshì kěyǐ yǒnggǎn zhú ài, dànshì bù yào jiùshì sān xīn èr yì zhèyàngzi.

就是可以勇敢逐爱，但是不要就是三心二意这样子。

You should be brave and pursue your love, but don't be unfaithful.

12. 无可厚非 / wú kě hòu fēi

无 (wú) - no

可 (kě) - can

厚 (hòu) - thick

非 (fēi) - to criticize

Definition: not entirely unjustifiable / within reason

Kěnéng měigerén dōu huì yǒu nàme yīshùnjiān

可能每个人都会那么一瞬间

In other words, every person might have that moment

duì qítā de yìxìng yǒu nàme yīdiǎndiǎn yī sī sī de xīndòng,

对其他的异性有那么一点点一丝丝的心动，

where he/she is attracted to someone else.

nà zhè wǒ juéde shì wú kě hòu fēi de.

那这我觉得是无可厚非的。

And I think it's understandable.

13. 移情别恋 / yí qíng bié liàn

移 (yí) - to shift

情 (qíng) - affection

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别 (bié) - other

恋 (liàn) - to love

Definition: to shift one's affection to someone else / to cheat emotionally

Nǐmen rènshi de huòzhě shì zhīdào de rén, bù yīdìng shì péngyou,

你们认识的或者是知道的人，不一定是朋友，

Among the people you know, not necessarily friends,

dāngzhōng yǒuméiyǒu chūguǐ de? | Yǒu a

当中有没有出轨的？ | 有啊

did any of them cheat? | Yes.

Jiùshì tāmen yīnwèi shénme yuányīn ne?

就是她们因为什么原因呢？

What was their reason?

Yí qíng bié liàn le

移情别恋了

Falling in love with someone else.

14. 及时止损 / jíshí zhǐ sǔn

及时 (jíshí) - timely

止 (zhǐ) - stop

损 (sǔn) - loss

Definition: to cut your losses

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Tā jiùshì hé tā lǎopó jiù yīdiǎn gǎnqíng dōu méiyǒu,

他就是和他老婆就一点感情都没有，

He and his wife don't have feelings for each other at all

ránhòu tā jiù xuǎnzé shēnyè guòlái kāi chūzūchē

然后他就选择深夜过来开出租车

and the reason he chose to drive a taxi late at night

jiùshì wèile... bùxiǎng jiàndào tā lǎopó.

就是为了... 不想见到他老婆。

was to avoid seeing his wife.

Dànshì wǒ juéde zhèzhǒng xíngwéi jiù tèbié bùhǎo,

但是我觉得这种行为就特别不好，

But I think this is really bad

jiùshì gāi jíshí zhǐ sǔn de

就是该及时止损的

and he should cut his losses before it's too late.

Tā jiùshì yīnwèi hái zi ma,

他就是因为孩子嘛，

It was precisely because he had kids

suǒyǐ shuō jíshǐ méiyǒu gǎnqíng, tā yě jiù zhèyàng jiāngjiu zhe guò.

所以说即使没有感情，他也就这样将就着过。

that he tolerated the marriage even when there was no love.

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15. 衣食无忧 / yī shí wú yōu

衣 (yī) - clothing

食 (shí) - food

无 (wú) - without

忧 (yōu) - worry

Definition: have no material worries / financially secure

Nà nǐ rènwéi rúguǒ shuō zhǎobudào àiqíng yě méiyǒuguānxi ma?

那你认为如果说找不到爱情也没有关系吗?

So, you think that it will be okay if you won't find love?

Rúguǒ shízài zhǎobudào dehuà,

如果实在找不到的话,

If I really can't find the one,

zhēn de yòu yǒuqián, yě zhēn de méiyǒuguānxi.

真的又有钱, 也真的没有关系。

but I have money, that will be fine.

Yīnwèi ràng zìjǐ yě kěyǐ hěn kuàilè,

因为让自己也可以很快乐,

Because (with money), I can make myself happy

ránhòu ràng jiārén yě huì yī shí wú yōu ba.

然后让家人也会衣食无忧吧。

and my family won't need to worry about basic needs.

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16. 执迷不悟 / zhí mí bù wù

执 (zhí) - stubbornly cling to

迷 (mí) - delusion

不 (bù) - not

悟 (wù) - awaken

Definition: to refuse to correct one's errors despite clear reasons to do so

Jiǎshè nǐ de nǚpéngyou huòzhě shì qīzi chūguǐ le, nǐ huì zěnmébàn?

假设你的女朋友或者是妻子出轨了，你会怎么办？

If your girlfriend or wife cheats on you, what will you do?

Dāngrán xuǎnzé yuánliàng tā, rúguǒ wǒ hěn xǐhuan dehuà.

当然选择原谅她，如果我很喜欢的话。

Of course I will forgive her, if I like her very much.

Rúguǒ yuánliàng tā,

如果原谅她，

If you forgive her,

nǐ bù dānxīn tā hòumiàn zàicì fàn tóngyàng de cuòwù ma?

你不担心她后面再次犯同样的错误吗？

won't you worry that she will make the same mistake again?

Rúguǒ tā zhēn de **zhí mí bù wù**, nà yě jiù zhǐnéng fàngqì diào le ya.

如果她真的**执迷不悟**，那也就只能放弃掉了呀。

If she insists on doing it again, then I will have to give up.

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17. 答非所问 / dá fēi suǒ wèn

答 (dá) - answer

非 (fēi) - not

所 (suǒ) - (that which)

问 (wèn) - to ask

Definition: the answer does not match the question (either accidental or intentional)

Tā de wèntí fēicháng de qīngxī.

她的问题非常的清晰。

Her (Johnny Depp's lawyer's) questions were very clear.

Suīrán Xīěrdé dá fēi suǒ wèn,

虽然希尔德答非所问,

Although (Amber) Heard was avoiding the questions,

dàn tā dìyīshíjiān jiù bǎ Xīěrdé lāhuí dào zhèngmiàn huídá zhège wèntí.

但她第一时间就把希尔德拉回到正面回答这个问题。

(the lawyer) immediately pulled her back to address the questions directly.

18. 无理取闹 / wúlǐ qǔnào

无理 (wúlǐ) - unreasonable

取闹 (qǔnào) - to make trouble

Definition: making trouble without reason

Yǒushíhòu bǐjiào wúlǐ qǔnào ba | Zěnme shuō?

有时候比较无理取闹吧 | 怎么说?

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(I don't like women who) cause troubles for no valid reason. | How?

Wèn nǐ wèishénme shēngqì, wǒ bù shuō!

问你为什么生气，我不说!

If you ask her why she's angry, she won't tell you!

Míngmíng shuō le jiù jiějué le, wǒ bù shuō!

明明说了就解决了，我不说!

If she had told you, it would have solved the problem, but she just won't tell you!

19. 重男轻女 / zhòng nán qīng nǚ

重 (zhòng) - to value

男 (nán) - male

轻 (qīng) - to take lightly

女 (nǚ) - female

Definition: to regard men as superior to women / to prefer boys over girls

jiùshì érzi kěndìng yào duō, nǚ'ér bùnéng duō

就是儿子肯定要多，女儿不能多

In another words, we must have more boys, not girls.

Wèishá ne?

为啥呢?

Why?

Chuántǒng sīxiǎng nà kěndìng shì zhòng nán qīng nǚ a

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传统思想那肯定是重男轻女啊

(Because) our traditional thinking values boys over girls!

20. 偏听偏信 / piān tīng piān xìn

偏 (piān) - slanted / biased

听 (tīng) - to listen

偏 (piān) - slanted / biased

信 (xìn) - to believe

Definition: listen to only one side / accept a one-sided story

Suǒyǐ yǐhòu kàndào zhè yīxiē rènmén de yǒu bàodiǎn de xīnwén de shíhòu,

所以以后看到这一些热门的有爆点的新闻的时候,

So in the future, when I see hot topics discussed in the news,

wǒ xūyào gěi zìjǐ liú duō yīdiǎn shíjiān qù liǎojiě shìqing de zhēnxiàng.

我需要给自己留多一点时间去了解事情的真相。

I need to allow myself more time to learn about the truth of the matter.

Jiùsuàn liǎojiě dào de bù yīdìng shì zhēnxiàng,

就算了解到的不一定是真相,

Even if what I find out is not necessarily the truth,

yě bù yīnggāi piān tīng piān xìn.

也不应该偏听偏信。

I shouldn't just listen to one side of the story.

21. 一视同仁 / yī shì tóng rén

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一 (yī) - one

视 (shì) - to look

同 (tóng) - same

仁 (rén) - benevolence

Definition: to treat all equally

Yǒuxiē dōngxi wǒ juéde shuāngbiāo shì... yě shì néng lǐjiě,

有些东西我觉得双标是...也是能理解,

For some things, I think it's understandable to have double standards.

nà yǒuxiē dōngxi hái shì zuìhǎo jiùshì dàjiā dōu yī shì tóng rén bǐjiào hǎo

那有些东西还是最好就是大家都一视同仁比较好

But for other things, it's better if they treat us equally.

22. 深思熟虑 / shēn sī shú lǜ

深 (shēn) - deep

思 (sī) - to think

熟 (shú) - ripe / thorough

虑 (lǜ) - to consider

Definition: careful consideration

Rúguǒ nǐ zuìhǎo de péngyou chūguǐ le, nǐmen huì zěnmebàn?

如果你最好的朋友出轨了，你们会怎么办？

If your best friend cheated, what would you do

Huòzhě zěnmē jiànyì tā?

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或者怎么建议她?

or how would you advise her?

Rúguǒ shì tā de lǐngyībàn bùshì hěn hǎo dehuà,

如果是她的另一半不是很好的话,

If her partner isn't very nice,

wǒmen huì jiànyì tā **shēn sī shú lǜ**, zhīhòu ràng tā zìjǐ xuǎnzé ba.

我们会建议她**深思熟虑**, 之后让她自己选择吧

we will advice her to think it over and then, let her decide.

23. 说三道四 / shuō sān dào sì

说 (shuō) - to speak

三 (sān) - three

道 (dào) - to say

四 (sì) - four

Definition: to make irresponsible remarks / to gossip

Nà nǐ juéde xiànzài de nǚrén rúguǒ lí le hūn dehuà

那你觉得现在的女人如果离了婚的话

Do you think that if a woman divorces nowadays,

hái huì bèi rén **shuō sān dào sì** ma?

还会被人**说三道四**吗?

people will gossip about her?

Méiyǒu yǐqián nàme kuāzhāng le

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没有以前那么夸张了

It's not as bad as in the past.

24. 传宗接代 / chuán zōng jiē dài

传 (chuán) - to pass on

宗 (zōng) - family lineage

接 (jiē) - to continue

代 (dài) - generation

Definition: to ensure the family line continues

Rúguǒ shuō shì shēng yī gè dehuà,

如果说是生一个的话,

If you were to have only one child,

nǐmen huì gèng xīwàng yào nánhái háishi nǚhái

你们会更希望要男孩还是女孩

would you prefer a boy or a girl,

Háishi wúsuǒwèi? | Nánhái a kěndìng

还是无所谓? | 男孩啊肯定

or it doesn't matter? | A boy, for sure.

Wèishénme?

为什么?

Why?

Zhè lǐyóu yīnggāi dōu zhīdào ba,

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这理由应该都知道吧,

Probably everyone knows the reason, right?

jiùshì **chuánzōngjiēdài** a

就是**传宗接代**啊

To carry on the family's name!

25. 小鸟依人 / xiǎo niǎo yī rén

小 (xiǎo) - small

鸟 (niǎo) - bird

依 (yī) - to lean on

人 (rén) - person

Definition: like a clinging bird /clingy in a cute way

Nǐ xiǎngyào zhǎo gèzi gāo yīdiǎn de,

你想要找个子高一点的,

You want to find a tall guy.

wèishénme zhège shēngāo huì zhème zhòngyào ne?

为什么这个身高会这么重要呢?

Why is height so important?

Yīnwèi zhèyàng yīqǐ guàngjiē dehuà,

因为这样一起逛街的话,

Because that way, when we go walking on the street

shǒu wǎn shǒu, bǐjiào **xiǎo niǎo yī rén** na, xiǎnde zìjǐ

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手挽手，比较小鸟依人呐，显得自己

holding hands, I will appear to be smaller and cuter, like a bird.

26. 从一而终 / cóng yī ér zhōng

从 (cóng) - to follow

一 (yī) - one

而 (ér) - then

终 (zhōng) - end

Definition: be faithful to one's spouse to the end

Yǐqián hǎoxiàng gèng zhùzhòng cóng yī'ér zhōng,

以前好像更注重从一而终，

In the past, there was more emphasis on being committed to one person,

ránhòu xiànzài hǎoxiàng jiù dàjiā dōu zài zhuīqiú zhēn'ài.

然后现在好像就大家都在追求真爱。

but now it seems like everyone is pursuing "true love".

Nǎpà shì jié wán hūn zhīhòu yě zài zhuīqiú zhēn'ài

哪怕是结完婚之后也在追求真爱

They pursue true love even after they're married.

27. 相夫教子 / xiàng fū jiào zǐ

相 (xiàng) - to assist

夫 (fū) - husband

教 (jiào) - to teach

子 (zǐ) - children

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Definition: be a virtuous wife and nurturing mother

Wǒ zìjǐ běnshēn yě shì yī gè nǚshēng,

我自己本身也是一个女生,

Since I am also a woman,

rúguǒ nǐ wèn wǒ shuō zuòwéi yī gè nǚrén,

如果你问我说作为一个女人,

if you ask me that as a woman,

shìbùshì yīnggāi jiù zài jiā xiàng fū jiào zǐ,

是不是应该就在家相夫教子,

should I stay at home and be a wife and a mother,

jiù yīnggāi jiéhūn zěnmeyàng de,

就应该结婚怎么怎么样的,

get married, and so on,

wǒ juéde zhèxiē dōu shì duì nǚxìng de yīzhǒng qíshì ba.

我觉得这些都是对女性的一种歧视吧。

I think that this is discrimination against women.

28. 拍手叫好 / pāi shǒu jiào hǎo

拍 (pāi) - to clap

手 (shǒu) - hand

叫 (jiào) - to shout

好 (hǎo) - good

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Definition: to applaud and cheer

Yīnwèi Zhōngguó yě yǒuyīxiē lèisì de shìqing fāshēng ma,

因为中国也有一些类似的事情发生嘛,

Since there had been many similar things that happened in China,

jiùshì huì juéde zhōngyú yǒu yī gè shìqing wūgào,

就是会觉得终于有一个事情诬告,

it made people feel that finally, when a false accusation was made,

ránhòu bèi xǐ qīng yuānqū le.

然后被洗清冤屈了。

the truth was revealed.

Suǒyǐ nánxìng dōu huì wèi Dépǔ pāi shǒu jiào hǎo, zhèyàng de

所以男性都会为德普拍手叫好，这样的

So men applauded and cheered for Depp.

29. 一技之长 / yī jì zhī cháng

一 (yī) - one

技 (jì) - skill

之 (zhī) - (between an attribute and the word it modifies, similar to 的/de)

长 (cháng) - strength

Definition: a specialized skill

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Rúguǒ shì shuō yī gè rén dehuà, jì méiyǒu gāo xuéli,

如果是说一个人的话，既没有高学历，

If you're a (man) who doesn't have a high degree of education,

méiyǒu **yī jì zhī cháng**, qǔ lǎopó zhēn de shì...

没有**一技之长**，娶老婆真的是...

and a specialized skill, getting a wife is really...

Wǔshí wàn dōu qǔ bù dào

五十万都娶不到

You won't get (a wife) even with 500,000 yuan (\$76,923)!

30. 来龙去脉 / lái lóng qù mài

来 (lái) - coming

龙 (lóng) - dragon

去 (qù) - going

脉 (mài) - veins

Definition: the whole story / chain of events

Kěshì wǒ juéde zhēnzhèng liǎojiě guo zhěng jiàn shìqing de

可是我觉得真正了解过整件事情的

But I think anyone who really understands

lái lóng qù mài de rén,

来龙去脉的人，

the whole story,

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

huòzhě wánzhěng de kàn guo nàge tíngshěn shìpín de rén

或者完整地看过那个庭审视频的人可能就不会这么想。

or has watched the entire trial might

kěnéng jiù bùhuì zhème xiǎng.

可能就不会这么想。

not think this way.

31. 自力更生 / zì lì gēng shēng

自 (zì) - self

力 (lì) - strength

更 (gēng) - to renew

生 (shēng) - life

Definition: self-reliance

Jiù shēng nánháizi kěnéng yào fèi diǎn qián

就生男孩子可能要费点钱

It might cost more money to have a boy.

Fèi shénme qián?

费什么钱?

What's the cost?

Jiùshì yào gěi tā zhǔnbèi fáng a chē shénme

就是要给他准备房啊车什么

You need to prepare a house and a car for him.

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

dànshì wǒ gèrén gǎnjué kěyǐ ràng tā zìjǐ fāzhǎn tā,
但是我个人感觉可以让他自己发展他,
But I personally feel that we can let him develop himself

ràng tā zìjǐ chéngwéi... jiùshì zì lì gēng shēng a
让他自己成为... 就是自力更生啊
and become self-reliant.

32. 先斩后奏 / xiān zhǎn hòu zòu

先 (xiān) - first
斩 (zhǎn) - execute (by decapitation)
后 (hòu) - afterward
奏 (zòu) - report to the emperor

Definition: act now, apologize later / seek forgiveness rather than permission

Jiǎrú shuō nǐ fùmǔ bù rènkě zhège nǚshēng
假如说你父母不认可这个女生,
If you parents don't approve of your girlfriend,

jiùshì bù xǐhuan bù tóngyì, zěnmébàn?
就是不喜欢不同意, 怎么办?
what will you do?

zhèzhǒng qíngkuàng yīnggāi bùhuì chūxiàn ba
这种情况应该不会出现吧
It probably won't happen.

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Nà wànyī chūxiàn le ne?

那万一出现了呢?

What if?

Tā jiù hěn fǎnduì hěn fǎnduì

他就很反对很反对

(What if) they're very much against (you marrying her)?

Méishì ma, xiān zhǎn hòu zòu, màn màn lái ma

没事嘛, 先斩后奏, 慢慢来嘛

It will be alright. I will do it before telling them. Just take it slowly.

33. 有恃无恐 / yǒu shì wú kǒng

有 (yǒu) - to have

恃 (shì) - to rely on

无 (wú) - without

恐 (kǒng) - fear

Definition: to feel secure in the knowledge that one has strong backing

Jiù rúguǒshuō yī gè nánxìng shuō wǒ bèi jiābào le,

如果说一个男性说我被家暴了,

If a man says that he's being domestically abused,

nàme kěnéng shèhuì shàng duì tā de fǎnér shì yīzhǒng cháo fěng de shēngyīn,

那么可能社会上对他的反而是一种嘲讽的声音,

society might instead, mock him.

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

zhèyàng dehuà kěnéng shǐ jiābào zhě gèngjiā de yǒu shì wú kǒng

这样的话可能使家暴者更加地有恃无恐

This might make the abusers even more fearless

gèngjiā de jiāzhòng zhèzhǒng jiābào de xíngwéi

更加地加重这种家暴的行为

and further exacerbate the behavior of domestic violence.

34. 不务正业 / bù wù zhèng yè

不 (bù) - not

务 (wù) - to engage in

正 (zhèng) - proper

业 (yè) - profession

Definition: not engaging in a proper job or doing honest work

Jiùshì yǒu méiyǒu tīng guò biéren zěnmé píngrjià wǎng hóng de ne?

就是有没有听过别人怎么评价网红的呢?

What do people say about internet celebrities?

Tiāntiān xián zhe méishì zuò ba, jiù pāi pāi duànzi nàzhǒng

天天闲着没事做吧，就拍拍段子那种

Every day, they do nothing but make funny videos.

Bù wù zhèng yè a gǎnjué

不务正业啊感觉

It feels like they're not engaging in a decent job.

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

35. 死去活来 / sǐ qù huó lái

死 (sǐ) - death

去 (qù) - go

活 (huó) - live

来 (lái) - come

Definition: go through hell and back(emphasizing extreme emotional or conflict intensity)

Yī kāishǐ liǎng gè rén dōu shì ài de sǐ qù huó lái de ma,

一开始两个人都是爱得死去活来的嘛,

At the beginning, two people love each other to death,

dànshì nǐ shuō zhēn de jìn rù le hūnyīn de diàntáng,

但是你说真的进入了婚姻的殿堂,

but once they get married,

hěn duō àiqíng huì biàncéng yǒuqíng hé qīnqíng a

很多爱情会变成友情和亲情啊

many romances become friendship or kinship.

36. 煽风点火 / shān fēng diǎn huǒ

煽 (shān) - to fan (flames)

风 (fēng) - wind

点 (diǎn) - to light

火 (huǒ) - fire

Definition: to fan the flames / to add fuel to the fire

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Zuì xiǎng tùcáo nánshēng de shénme xíngwéi?

最想吐槽男生的什么行为?

What behavior do you want to complain about guys the most?

Tā bù ài xǐ jiǎo suàn ba? | Suàn suàn suàn

他不爱洗脚算吧? | 算算算

He doesn't like cleaning his feet. Does this count? | Sure!

Shìbùshì zhēn de? Wèishá bù ài xǐ jiǎo?

是不是真的? 为啥不爱洗脚?

Is it true? Why don't you like cleaning your feet?

Wǒ gēn nǐ shuō, nǐ yào zài **shān fēng diǎn huǒ**,

我跟你讲, 你要再**煽风点火**,

Let me tell you, if you keep adding fuel to the fire,

jiù yào chūrénmìng le, zhēn de

就要出人命了, 真的

I will be dead. Really!

37. 一己私利 / yī jǐ sī lì

一 (yī) - one

己 (jǐ) - self

私 (sī) - selfish

利 (lì) - benefit

Definition: personal gain at others' expense

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Metoo yùndòng dehuà bǎohù de shì

Metoo 运动的话保护的是

The #MeToo movement protects

zhèngdàng quánì shòudào qīnfàn de nǚxìng,

正当权益受到侵犯的女性,

women whose legitimate rights and interests are violated,

ér bùshì nàxiē wèile zìjǐ de yī jǐ sī lì,

而不是那些为了自己的一己私利,

not those who benefit themselves

ér jiāng metoo yùndòng zuòwéi zìjǐ de huǎngzi

而将 me too 运动作为自己的幌子

by taking advantage of

qù nàge wèi zìjǐ móuqǔ lìyì de rénmen.

去那个为自己谋取利益的人们。

the movement.

38. 持之以恒 / chí zhī yǐ héng

持 (chí) - to persevere

之 (zhī) - (a grammatical particle)

以 (yǐ) - in order to

恒 (héng) - permanent

Definition: to persevere / to maintain a sustained effort

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Yǒu yīzhǒng shì zhǐ zhùzhòng wàibiǎo de,

有一种是只注重外表的,

There is a type of person who only focuses on appearance,

nà tā jiù kěnéng huì tōngguò měibái shuāng dá dào měibái de xiàoguǒ.

那她就可能通过美白霜达到美白的效果。

and may use whitening creams to achieve whitening results.

Yǒu yīzhǒng tā shì shǔyú bǐjiào chí zhī yǐ héng yīzhǒng lèixíng de,

有一种她是属于比较持之以恒一种类型的,

Another type of (women) are those who value perseverance

tā fǎn'ér bùhuì qù tú nàxiē dōngxi

她反而不会去涂那些东西

and they actually won't use these (whitening) creams.

Tā huì qù guānzhù yú nàxiē shénme yǎng fū a zhīlèi de,

她会去关注于那些什么养肤啊之类的,

Instead, they will pay more attention to their skin health

ràng zìjǐ yùndòng a ràng zìjǐ de pífu bái qilai

让自己运动啊让自己的皮肤白起来

and will try to achieve a fairer skin through exercise.

39. 游山玩水 / yóu shān wán shuǐ

游 (yóu) - to tour

山 (shān) - mountain

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

玩 (wán) - to enjoy

水 (shuǐ) - water

Definition: to go on a scenic tour (emphasizing the joy and relaxation of travel, not merely sightseeing)

Nà nǐ zuì xiǎng zuò de shìqìng shì shénme ne?

那你最想做的事情是什么呢?

What do you want to do the most

Jiǎrú nǐ yǐjīng yǒu hěn duō hěn duō qián

假如你已经有很多很多钱

if you had a lot of money?

Jiù lǚyóu a

就旅游啊

Just traveling.

Qù nǎr lǚyóu?

去哪儿旅游?

Where do you want to visit?

Dàochù yóu shān wán shuǐ a!

到处游山玩水啊!

To travel everywhere!

40. 旁敲侧击 / páng qiāo cè jī

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

旁 (páng) - side

敲 (qiāo) - tap

侧 (cè) - sideways

击 (jī) - strike

Definition: to beat around the bush /to drop hints

Rúguǒshuō nǐ wúyìzhōng fāxiàn nǐ péngyou de língyībàn chūguǐ le,

如果说你无意中发现你朋友的另一半出轨了,

If you accidentally find out that your friend's partner was cheating,

nǐ huì zěnmébàn?

你会怎么办?

what would you do?

Rúguǒshuō tāmen gǎnqíng hǎo dehuà, jiù dàngzuò méi kàndào.

如果说他们感情好的话, 就当没看到。

If the couple has a good relationship, I will just pretend that I didn't see it.

Gǎnqíng bùhǎo dehuà, kěnéng huì páng qiāo cè jī de gēn tā tíxǐng yíxià.

感情不好的话, 可能会旁敲侧击地跟他提醒一下。

If their relationship is not good, I might warn him with some hints.

Tíxǐng nǐ de péngyou shì ba? | Duì, dàn bùhuì míng shuō

提醒你的朋友是吧? | 对, 但不会明说

Warn your friend? | Right, but I won't be direct.

41. 敞开心扉 / chǎngkāi xīnfēi

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

敞开 (chǎngkāi) - to open wide

心扉 (xīnfēi) - metaphor for the door to one's heart

Definition: to open one's heart /to share one's innermost feelings

Jiù hái yǒu yī diǎn jiù shì shuō,

就还有一点就是说,

Another point (about ideal love) is that

liǎng gè rén zhī jiān de huà méi yǒu shuō tài duō de...

两个人之间的话没有说太多的...

the two of us don't have

méi yǒu tài duō de yǐn cáng ba, duì a

没有太多的隐藏吧，对啊

too many secrets.

jiù shì shuō dà jiā **chǎng kāi xīn fēi** de qù shuō jiù hǎo le

就是说大家**敞开心扉**地去说就好了

We should open up our minds and talk about things.

42. 事不过三 / shì bù guò sān

事 (shì) - matter

不 (bù) - not

过 (guò) - exceed

三 (sān) - three

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Definition: a thing shouldn't be attempted more than three times (emphasizing that tolerance has limits) / three strikes and you're out

Qíshí wǒ zhīqián yǒu yī fèn gōngzuò,

其实我之前有一份工作,

Actually I had a job before,

nàge wǒ shàngmiàn de lǐngdǎo jiùshì shǐjìn gēn wǒ shuō

那个我上面的领导就是使劲跟我说

where my superior kept telling me that

nǐ wánchéng le zhège mùbiāo,

你完成了这个目标,

if I achieved a goal,

wǒ yǔnnuò gěi nǐ shénme shénme zhíwèi

我允诺给你什么什么职位

I was promised a certain position.

Dànshì wǒ wánchéng le, ránhòu tā yòu shuō nǐ zài děngděng.

但是我完成了, 然后他又说你再等等。

But when I achieved the goal, he told me to wait a little longer.

Ránhòu wǒ yòu wánchéng le yī gè mùbiāo,

然后我又完成了一个目标,

When I met another goal,

tā yòu shuō nǐ zài děngděng.

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

他又说你再等等。

he told me to wait again!

Ránhòu **shì bù guò sān** ma, dànshì tā dào dì sān cì le,

然后**事不过三**嘛，但是他到第三次了，

Three strikes and you're out. In the third time,

tā háishi zhèyàngzi, wǒ jiù zhíjiē bǎilàn le.

他还是这样子，我就直接摆烂了。

he was still like this, so I straightaway gave up (stop working hard).

43. 逢年过节 / féng nián guò jié

逢 (féng) - to encounter

年 (nián) - (new) year

过 (guò) - to celebrate

节 (jié) - festival

Definition: during important traditional celebrations

Xiànzài tánliàn'ài de shíhòu

现在谈恋爱的时候

When I am dating (and not married),

wǒ xiǎng qù nǎr wán jiù qù nǎr wán a,

我想去哪儿玩就去哪儿玩啊，

I can go anywhere I want.

nà yǐhòu nǐ **féng nián guò jié**,

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

那以后你逢年过节,

After marriage, during festivals,

nǐ yòu yào xiǎng zhe mǎi diǎn dōngxi

你又要想着买点东西

you will always need to think about buying some stuff

qù xiàojìng yíxià lǎorénjiā, zhèyàngzi

去孝敬一下老人家, 这样子

to show your respect for both parents.

Hěn máfan de ma!

很麻烦的嘛!

What a hassle!

44. 据理力争 / jù lǐ lì zhēng

据 (jù) - based on

理 (lǐ) - logic

力 (lì) - forcefully (strongly)

争 (zhēng) - to argue

Definition: to argue strongly on justified grounds

Nǐ rènwéi nǎ yī fāng de lǜshī gèng hǎo?

你认为哪一方的律师更好?

Lawyers from which side are better?

Nà kěndìng shì Dépǔ zhèbiān de ba | Wèishénme?

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

那肯定是德普这边的吧 | 为什么?

Surely Depp's side (had better lawyers). | Why?

Yīnwèi nǐ kàn nàge lùxiàng jiù zhīdào

因为你看那个录像就知道

Because if you watched the video, you could see

tāmen nàbian shì jù lǐ lì zhēng de, miànhóng'ěrchi de.

他们那边是据理力争的，面红耳赤的。

that they argued aggressively and were all fired up.

45. 闭关锁国 / bì guān suǒ guó

闭 (bì) - to close

关 (guān) - border

锁 (suǒ) - to lock

国 (guó) - nation

Definition: a policy of strict isolation from the outside world (associated with China's Qing Dynasty, which restricted foreign trade and rejected Western influence)

Jiù shuōdào Qīngcháo nǐ huì xiǎngdào shénme?

就说到清朝你会想到什么?

When speaking of the Qing Dynasty, what do you think of?

Wǒ xiǎngdào tā bì guān suǒ guó ba, tèbié de bùhǎo wǒ juéde

我想到它闭关锁国吧，特别的不好我觉得

I think of them closing off the country and this was very bad.

46. 指指点点 / zhǐ zhǐ diǎn diǎn

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

指 (zhǐ) - to point at

点 (diǎn) - to pick at or to comment on details

Definition: to point fingers and criticize unnecessarily - often with an air of superiority

Suīrán shuō wǎngluò, jīngcháng yǒu hěn duō rén

虽然说网络，经常有很多人

Even though people often

huì duì nǐ zhǐ zhǐ diǎn diǎn ba,

会对你指指点点吧，

point fingers at internet celebrities,

dàn wǒ juéde zìjǐ kāixīn jiù hěn zhòngyào le.

但我觉得自己开心就很重要了。

I feel it's important to make myself happy.

47. 口是心非 / kǒu shì xīn fēi

口 (kǒu) - mouth

是 (shì) - yes

心 (xīn) - heart

非 (fēi) - no

Definition: say yes but mean no

Kǒu shì xīn fēi | Zhège yǒushíhou huì de

口是心非 | 这个有时候会的

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

Says one thing but mean another. | This happens occasionally.

Bǐrúshuō ne?

比如说呢?

For example?

Bǐrúshuō, yào jiùshì bù yào, bù yào jiùshì yào bei

比如说, 要就是不要, 不要就是要呗

For example, yes means no, and no means yes.

Qíshí wǒ gǎnjué dàduōshù nǚshēng yīnggāi dōu shì zhèyàngzi de ba.

其实我感觉大多数女生应该都是这样子的吧。

Actually, I think most girls are like this.

48. 打情骂俏 / dǎ qíng mà qiào

打 (dǎ) - to hit

情 (qíng) - affection

骂 (mà) - to scold

俏 (qiào) - charming

Definition: playful teasing between lovers

Tā dǎ nǐ kěyǐ ma? | Gēn wǒ nào dehuà shì kěyǐ

她打你可以吗? | 跟我闹的话是可以

Can she hit you? | It's okay if she's playing with me.

Nà shì dǎ qíng mà qiào, shì ba? | Dui

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

那是打情骂俏，是吧？ | 对

That will be considered playful teasing, right? | Right.

49. 崇洋媚外 / chóng yáng mèi wài

崇 (chóng) - to worship

洋 (yáng) - Western

媚 (mèi) - to flatter

外 (wài) - foreign

Definition: to blindly admire foreign culture and things

Nǐ gānggang yǒu jiǎngdào **chóng yáng mèi wài**,

你刚刚有讲到**崇洋媚外**,

You just mentioned that some Chinese worship the West,

nǐ juéde nǎ yīxiē rén chóng yáng mèi wài?

你觉得哪一些人崇洋媚外?

who are you talking about?

Jiù juéde Zhōngguó jiùshì bùhǎo,

就觉得中国就是不好,

Some Chinese just think that China is not good,

ránhòu yīwèi de qù chóngshàng wàiguó de dōngxi a.

然后一味地去崇尚外国的东西啊。

and they blindly admire foreign things.

50. 宁缺毋滥 / nìng qu ē wù làn

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

宁 (nìng) - rather

缺 (quē) - be short of

毋 (wù) - do not

滥 (làn) - overflow

Definition: better to go without than accept mediocrity / quality over quantity

Wǒ duì liàn'ài shì bǐjiào jǐnshèn de,

我对恋爱是比较谨慎的,

I am very cautious about relationships.

yīnwèi wǒ dào xiànzài jiù yě méi tán guo

因为我到现在就也没谈过

Up to now, I haven't been in a relationship.

Jiù tǐng tiāo de

就挺挑的

I am quite picky about this.

Yīxīn xiǎng zhǎodào héshì de,

一心想找到合适的,

I've set my mind on finding the right person.

bùxiǎng yīnwèi tánliàn'ài ér tánliàn'ài,

不想因为谈恋爱而谈恋爱,

I don't want to date someone for the sake of dating.

wǒ xiǎng zhǎodào zìjǐ héshì de

Can You Understand These 50 Chengyu Commonly Used in Chinese Street Conversations?

我想找到自己合适的

I want to find the person that fits me.

Nìng quē wù làn? | Dui

宁缺毋滥? | 对

Put quality before quantity? | Right.