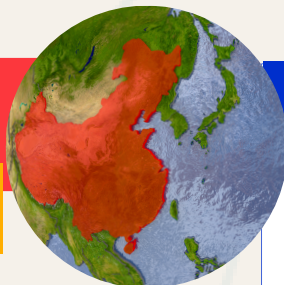


Idioms & Chengyus

Upper
Primary/Secondary



Global Links

ENG

Idioms are a type of figurative language that most of us use everyday that doesn't describe a situation, feeling or experience directly e.g. to be under the weather = to be unwell. Idioms are used in Spanish language to describe colourfully simple feelings or experiences. They are often tied to specific Spanish cultural references or experiences.

In China, a Chengyu is a four character saying that is an idiom, or a saying. They are linked to Chinese culture and often connect to a story from Chinese history, legends or celebrations. There are many unique ones that help us understand Chinese culture but we often can still find similar ones in other cultures.



Vocabulary

4 character
saying (n)



Chéngyǔ
成语

to write (v)



xiě
写

character (n)



wénzì
文字

Curriculum Links

English



Find out more about idioms!



[Idioms for kids: What is an idiom and what do they mean?](#)



Explore!

Chengyus are idioms made out of four Chinese characters.

Explore this list of common Chinese Chengyus and see how they are made up of 4 characters. For each of them, can you think of a way your culture might say the same thing?



Method

- 1 Compare the two sayings at the bottom of the card (Chengyus) - how similar are they?
- 2 Look at the sayings below and think about how they might have been created?
 - I'm happy = I'm over the rainbow
 - I'm sad = I'm feeling blue
 - I'm sick = I'm under the weather
- 3 Write your own idioms with their meaning underneath on a large speech bubble shape. For example: I'm happy = I'm dancing on rainbows:

Topics:

1. It's expensive
2. It's cheap
3. I'm tired
4. I'm excited
5. That was fun



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Chinese Idioms

Chinese

入乡随俗 /
rùxiāngsuísú

人山人海 /
rénshānrénhǎi

Meaning

When you enter a village you should follow its customs

A lot of people

English version

When in Rome, do as the Romans do

A sea of people

