

Appendix

A list of Chinese idioms used

and their English idiomatic and non-idiomatic equivalents (F & L, respectively)

1. 肯認錯即是改錯的一半。
A fault confessed is half redressed. (F)
Admitting to one's fault is the first step towards correcting it. (L)
2. 江山易改，本性難移。
A leopard cannot change his spots. (F)
A person will never change his character. (L)
3. 人不可貌相。
All that glitters is not gold. (F)
Do not judge a person based on appearance. (L)
4. 不要打如意算盤。
Do not count your chickens before they are hatched. (F)
Not everything will turn out as planned. (L)
5. 切勿不自量力。
Do not bite off more than you can chew. (F)
Do not overestimate your own ability. (L)
6. 風水輪流轉。
Every dog has its day. (F)
Everyone will have his chance. (L)
7. 木已成舟，覆水難收。
It is no use crying over spilt milk. (F)
Things done cannot be undone. (L)
8. 強中更有強中手。
Diamond cuts diamond. (F)
A strong person can be outmatched by a stronger one. (L)

9. 五十步笑百步。
The pot calling the kettle black. (F)
Criticizing someone who is no different from you. (L)
10. 千載難逢。
Once in a blue moon. (F)
A rare opportunity. (L)
11. 格格不入。
A square peg in a round hole. (F)
A sense of not fitting in. (L)
12. 乳臭未乾。
Still wet behind the ears. (F)
Having no experience in something. (L)
13. 先下手為強。
Offence is the best defense. (F)
The first who strikes has an advantage. (L)
14. 人各有所好。
One man's meat is another's poison. (F)
People have different preferences. (L)
15. 為達目的，不擇手段。
The end justifies the means. (F)
To try everything to reach your goal. (L)
16. 無風不起浪。
There is no smoke without fire. (F)
Without wind there can be no waves. (L)
17. 盡人事，聽天命。
What cannot be cured must be endured. (F)
Do your best and leave the rest to god. (L)
18. 禮尚往來。
You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. (F)

A favor received must be repaid with another. (L)

19. 大器晚成。

Rome was not built in one day. (F)

A great man's success comes late. (L)

20. 不畏艱難。

Take the bull by the horns. (F)

Do not be afraid of obstacles. (L)