

**Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 189 [English]**

Kirin: Chinese Learn Online lesson 189 .

Hello everyone , I'm Kirin .

Raphael: Hello everyone , I'm Raphael .

Kirin: Welcome to Taiwan and our progressive course teaching Chinese . What are we studying today ?

Raphael: Today we are going to teach you some “chéngyǔ” .

Kirin: Oh, what does “chéngyǔ” mean ?

Raphael: ”Chéngyǔ” (Chinese idiom) is a special sentence . Each sentence has 4 characters , and they all have special meanings .

Kirin: So who wrote these proverbs ?

Raphael: Some of these proverbs are related to stories . If you listen to a proverb , you will know what the story was saying .

Kirin: I'm not quite clear what you mean .

Raphael: That's okay . You will understand in a moment .

Kirin: Ok .

Raphael: Today's first proverb is

Kirin: Don't know where to start .

Raphael: It's the “wú” in “wúliáo” (boring) . ”Wú” has a meaning of “doesn't have” .

Kirin: So “wùliáo” means there is nothing to talk about .

Raphael: Right .

Kirin: Ah, if I'm not able to chat , I would feel quite bored .

Raphael: Mm . So what do you think “wú cóng xià shǒu” means ?

Kirin: Seems like ... I don't know where to put my hand .

Raphael: Right, so if you have something to do , but you don't know where to start , you can say

Kirin: Don't know where to start .

Raphael: Now do you understand what “chéngyǔ” means ?

Kirin: I think I understand, thanks .

Raphael: Ok, our next proverb is

Kirin: To keep busy .

Raphael: Here we can see two body parts . The first is the one we just saw above - hand . So what's the second one ?

Kirin: Foot .

Raphael: Previously we taught you the sport soccer . ”Zú” has the same meaning as jiǎo (foot) . So what do you think “shǒu máng jiǎo luàn” means ?

Kirin: It probably means that at the same time , you have to do many things .

Raphael: Right, for example , one day you sleep in , you are about to be late for class . But you have to brush your teeth , wash your face , change your clothes etc . At a time like this , we can describe it using “shǒu máng jiǎo luàn” .

Kirin: Oh, I understand .

Raphael: Ok, today's next new proverb is ...

Kirin: Eat and drink merrily .

Raphael: So when would we hear this proverb ?

Kirin: For example , we go to a party , the people who invite us to go , might say “Today you can eat and drink merrily . No need to be so polite .”

Raphael: Right, so it means “eat whatever you want to eat .” Next, our third proverb is

Kirin: To tell the truth .

Raphael: This is the “shí” in “qíshí” (actually) . When would we use this proverb ?

Kirin: Hmm, for example , if you just bought a new jacket , and you ask me “Does this jacket look good ?” If I don’t think it looks good , I would first ask you “Do you want me to say the truth ?” After hearing this , you would know that I didn’t think your jacket looked good .

Raphael: Good explanation . Today’s last proverb is ...

Kirin: To make a long story short .

Raphael: There is a very similar sentence in English . “To make a long story short.” For example , when I was young, while talking to my friend on the phone , my mom would always stand by me and say “make your long story short” , because the phone call cost a lot of money .

Kirin: Or , if a friend wants to tell me a long story , but I’m in a hurry . At this time , I can also tell her “Please make your story short .”

Raphael: Ok, let’s review the proverbs we taught you today .

Kirin: Don’t know where to start . To keep busy . Eat and drink merrily . To tell the truth . To make a long story short .

Raphael: If you need the English translation for this lesson , you can visit our website [chineselearnonline-com](http://chineselearnonline-com) .

Kirin: Keep at it !