

## Lesson 189

### Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:

成语

Chéngyǔ

Chinese idiom

无从下手

Wú cóng xià shǒu

Don't know where to start

手忙脚乱

Shǒu máng jiǎo luàn

To keep busy

大吃大喝

Dà chī dà hē

Eat and drink merrily

实话实说

Shí huà shí shuō

To tell the truth

长话短说

Cháng huà duǎn shuō

To make a long story short

脚

Jiǎo

Foot

成

chéng

Succeed

### Vocabulary Summary: Traditional

成語

Chéngyǔ

Chinese idiom

無從下手

Wú cóng xià shǒu

Don't know where to start

手忙腳亂

Shǒu máng jiǎo luàn

To keep busy

大吃大喝

Dà chī dà hē

Eat and drink merrily

實話實說

Shí huà shí shuō

To tell the truth

長話短說

Cháng huà duǎn shuō

To make a long story short

腳

Jiǎo

Foot

成

chéng

Succeed

## Lesson 189 Notes :

As described in the lessons, “chengyu” are proverbs, usually consisting of four characters, that originated from stories and folklore. Most students are taught these stories growing up, so the proverbs make sense. When the situation arises, the proper “chengyu” is used to describe the situation. There are over 5000 chengyu that are commonly used in everyday language. Classical Chinese, however, lists more than 20 000 varieties. Because a typical chengyu is limited to four characters, it doesn’t always follow proper grammar, since it tends to be a summary of a longer story or meaning. Some chengyu also use words that aren’t used in modern Chinese.

The examples used in today’s lesson were purposely chosen because they are self-evident. However some, such as “Don’t tidy your hat under the plum trees” would require a background of the story to understand the meaning behind it.