

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 419 [English]

Kirin: Chinese Learn Online lesson 419 .

Hello everyone , I am Teacher Yang .

Raphael: Hello everyone , I am Teacher Lai .

Kirin: Welcome to our learning Chinese course .

Raphael: In today's lesson , we are going to listen to sentences that we hear under special circumstances , that use different animals to describe different situations . Please listen carefully to the first sentence .

Kirin: Chickens fly and dogs jump .

Raphael: Jī is the word for chicken as used in chicken meat , and gǒu is the word for dog as used in small dog (puppy) . The meaning of this sentence is that , because something happens , to destroy the peace, the quiet chicken and dog are shocked , and so they fly and jump all over the place .

Kirin: Just like a life that used to be quite normal but is suddenly turned upside down due to circumstance , you can use this sentence to describe it . For example, due to having to move our house , everyone was busy like a flying chicken and jumping dog , the house was full of messy things that had yet to be organized .

Raphael: Very good example . Next, please listen to the second sentence .

Kirin: Playing a lute for a cow . This is a cow that we get beef from , and an instrument from the word for piano . the instrument here is a type found in China long time ago .

Raphael: The meaning of this sentence is playing the lute for this cow , but the cow just continues eating , just as if it hadn't heard the music at all .

Kirin: This is because the music that comes from a lute can only be appreciated by people , and isn't meant for a cow to listen to . It also means that you are talking to someone who doesn't have the capability to understand , so you're saying things that have no meaning for the other side , so of course they won't understand .

Raphael: That's right . Just like saying to someone who doesn't like natural scenery how beautiful Mount Everest is, is a waste of time . Please listen to the third sentence .

Kirin: The head of a cow doesn't match a horse's mouth .

Raphael: A horse is the animal which we see used in the proverb for “beginner's luck” , horses and cows are both animals with four legs . This talks about taking the head of a cow and the mouth of a horse and putting them together , it won't look like a cow or a horse . That's because cows and horses don't look like each other to begin with .

Kirin: This sentence can be used to describe that a matter has no relation to a different matter , or the question you ask and the answer you receive have no relation at all to each other .

Raphael: For example, this article only has one topic , but the content before and after the article is like the head of a cow and a horse's mouth not matching , and having no relation to each other . Next, please listen to the fourth sentence .

Kirin: A horse takes the lead .

Raphael: The character “dang” here has a similar meaning to “do” . The meaning of this sentence is that all should start off together to do something that is very difficult , but you go and do it before everyone else has had a chance to do it , then we can say “a horse does things first” .

Kirin: Normally, we feel that a person who is like a horse that does things first is very good , since not only isn't he afraid , but he also has the courage to do things before others have tried . As well, that an animal is used to describe someone is really interesting !

Raphael: Yes you're absolutely right . Please listen to the final sentence .

Kirin: Just like a fish in water .

Raphael: The “rú” here comes from the word for “if” , “if”, here it has the meaning of “it seems”, “it resembles” . This sentence is used to describe when a person reaches a place whose environment is very suitable for him just like a fish in water , and will have a very happy life .

Kirin: That's because a fish's living environment begins in water , so of course he will feel happy there . So if you do something that you're very good at , you will also have the same feeling . In a situation like this you can use this sentence .



Raphael: For example, my brother is really like a fish in water, when it comes to this job , since this happens to be his specialty . Ok, our premium subscribers can visit our website chineselearnonline-com for more practice .

Kirin: [Keep at it](#) .