

Lesson 419

Notes :

1. Note the usage of the idioms taught in this lesson. Some can be directly used as adjectives:

a. Dàjiā máng de jī fēi gǒu tiào .

大家忙得鸡飞狗跳. / 大家忙得雞飛狗跳.

everyone was busy like a flying chicken and jumping dog .

b. Zuò shìqíng zǒngshì yī mǎ dāng xiān de rén , jiānglái chénggōng de jīhuì bǐjiào gāo .

做事情总是一马当先的人，将来成功的机会比较高. /
做事情總是一馬當先的人，將來成功的機會比較高.

People who do things like a horse doing things first , will have more opportunities to succeed in the future .

c. Zhègè gōngzuò duì gēge lái shuō zhēn shì rú yú dé shuǐ , yīnwèi gāng hǎo shì tā zuì nánshǒu de .

这个工作对哥哥来说真是如鱼得水，因为刚好是他最拿手的. /
這個工作對哥哥來說真是如魚得水，因為剛好是他最拿手的.

My brother is really like a fish in water, when it comes to this job , since this happens to be his specialty .

While others are used as comparisons.

d. Bǐrú shuō , zhè yī duàn wénzhāng de zhǔtí zhǐ yǒu yīge , dànshì wénzhāng qián hòu de nèiróng què hǎoxiàng niú tóu bú duì mǎ zuǐ , wánquán méiyǒu guānxi .

比如说，这一段文章的主题只有一个，但是文章前后的内容却好像牛头不对马嘴，完全没有关系. /

比如說，這一段文章的主題只有一個，但是文章前後的內容卻好像牛頭不對馬嘴，完全沒有關係。

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 .

e. Gēn tā nà zhǒng bù jiǎng dàolǐ de rén shuōhuà , jiù xiàng duì niú tán qín yīyàng , làngfèi wǒde shíjiān .

跟他那种不讲道理的人说话，就像对牛弹琴一样，浪费我的时间。/
跟他那種不講道理的人說話，就像對牛彈琴一樣，浪費我的時間。

Talking to people like him, who don't make sense , is like playing a lute for a cow , and wastes my time .

2. In English we talk about being like a fish “out” of water, whereas in Chinese they emphasize the opposite aspect of a fish being “in” water in **Rú yú dé shuǐ** .

Rú yú dé shuǐ

如鱼得水 / 如魚得水

Just like a fish in water