

春秋时期①，有个宋国的农民正在田里种地。突然，他看见有一只野兔从旁边的草丛里窜出来，一头撞在田边的树桩上，便倒在那儿一动也不动了。农民高兴极了，因为他一点力气没花，就白②捡了一只又肥又大的野兔。那天晚上，他想，我再也不用种地了，只需要每天在树桩旁边等兔子撞上来就行了。但是一天天过去，再也没有兔子撞上来。他的地却一天天变荒了。这个成语用来讽刺那些坐等机遇的人。

Key sentences

守株待兔

Shǒuzhūdàitù

Staying by a Stump waiting for More Hares

春秋时期，

chūnqiū shíqī,

The Spring and Autumn Period in China time line which is around BC470-BC476

有个宋国的农民正在田里种地。

yǒu gè sòng guó de nóngmín zhèngzài tián lǐ zhòng dì.

A farmer in the State of Song was working in the fields.

突然，

Túrán,

Suddenly

他看见有一只野兔从旁边的草丛里窜出来，

tā kànjiàn yǒuyī zhǐ yětù cóng pángbiān de cǎocóng lǐ cuàn chūlái,

He saw a rabbit to jump out from the side of the bushes.

一头撞在田边的树桩上，

yītóu zhuàng zài tián biān de shùzhuāng shàng,

The rabbit bumped into the tree stump accidentally.

便倒在那儿一动也不动了。

biàn dào zài nà'er yīdòng yě bù dòngle.

The rabbit fell there and did not move at all.

农民高兴极了，

Nóngmín gāoxìng jíle,
The farmer was so happy.

因为他一点力气没花，

yīnwèi tā yīdiǎn lìqì méi huā,
Because he did not put any effort.

就白捡了一只又肥又大的野兔。

jiù bái jiǎnle yī zhǐ yòu féi yòu dà de yětù.
To get a big fat rabbit without any effort.

那天晚上，

Nèitiān wǎnshàng,
At that night.

他想，

tā xiǎng,
He thought.

我再也不用种地了，

wǒ zài yě bù yòng zhòng dì le,
I don't have to work in the field anymore.

只需要每天在树桩旁边等兔子撞上来就行了。

zhǐ xūyào měitiān zài shùzhuāng pángbiān děng tùzǐ zhuàng shànglái jiùxíng le.
All I have to do is waiting for rabbits to come and bump into the stump each day.

但是一天天过去，

Dànshì yī tiāntiān guòqù,
But day after day has been gone.

再也没有兔子撞上来。

zài yě méiyǒu tùzǐ zhuàng shànglái.
there is no more rabbits run into the stump.

他的地却一天天变荒了。

Tā dì dì què yī tiāntiān biàn huāngle.
And his field is getting destroyed.

这个成语用来讽刺那些坐等机遇的人。

Zhège chéngyǔ yòng lái fěngcì nàxiē zuòděng jīyù de rén.
This idiom is used to satirize those who wait for the opportunity.

Staying by a Stump waiting for More Hares

In the Spring and Autumn Period, a farmer in the State of Song was working in the fields when he saw a rabbit bump into a tree stump accidentally, the rabbit broke its neck and lied on the ground. The farmer was very happy to get a big fat rabbit without any effort. He thought it will be great to get rabbits every day like this. At that night, he thought, "I don't have to work in the field anymore. All I have to do is waiting for rabbits to come and run into it each day by the stump." But day after day, no more rabbits run into the stump. And, his field is getting destroyed.

This idiom satirizes those who just wait for a stroke of luck.

Language notes:

①春秋时期 (The Spring and Autumn Period) BC470-BC476

②白 (bái) doesn't only mean "white". When added before a verb it means to do that verb "in vain" or "with no effect". In a certain way, you can think of 白 as not being just "white" but also "blank", like when you do something for a long time without thinking, and you're just going through the motions. It's like doing something with a "blank" mind.

Vocabulary

农民 nóng mín - farmer	树桩 shù zhuāng - stump
种地 zhòng dì - to do field work	力气 lì qì - strength, effort
草丛 cǎo cóng - grass, bushes	荒 huāng - desolate
窜 cuàn - sprang	讽刺 fěng cì - satirize
撞 zhuàng - bump into	机遇 jī yù - opportunity

Lesson100 自相矛盾

楚国有个人，在市场上卖矛和盾。为了让大家愿意买他的货，他先举起盾对人们说：“你们看，我的盾是世上最坚硬的盾，任何锋利的东西都刺不破它。”接着他又举起矛，对大家说：“你们再看看我的矛，是最锋利的，无论多么坚硬的盾，都能刺破！”人群中有人问道：“如果用你的矛去刺你的盾，结果怎么样？”这个成语告诉我们，这世界上无坚不摧的东西永远不会与什么都能摧毁的东西共存。

chǔ guó yǒu gè rén , zài shì chǎng shàng mài máo hé dùn 。 wèi le ràng dà jiā yuàn yì mǎi tā de hu , tā xiān jǔ qǐ dùn duì rén men shuō : “nǐ men kàn , wǒ de dùn shì shì shàng zuì jiān yìng de dùn , rèn hé fēng lì de dōng xī dōu cì bú p tā 。”

jiē zhe tā y u jǔ qǐ máo , duì dà jiā shuō : “nǐ men zài kàn kàn wǒ de máo , shì zuì fēng lì de , wú lùn duō me jiān yìng de dùn , dōu néng cì p ! ” rén qún zhōng yǒu rén wèn dào : “rú guǒ y ng nǐ de máo qù cì nǐ de dùn , jié guǒ zěn me yàng ? ”

zhè gè chéng yǔ gào sù wǒ men , zhè shì jiè shàng wú jiān bú cuī de dōng xī yǒng yuǎn bú huì yǔ shén me dōu néng cuī huǐ de dōng xī g ng cún 。

To Contradict Oneself

A man of *the state of Chu* had a spear and a shield for sale.

In order to make others buy his goods, he held the shield and praise loudly that

“My shield is the strongest that nothing can pierce it through.”

And then he held up his spear and also said that "My spear is the sharpest that no matter how hard the shield is, it can pierce it through."

"What would happen," he was asked, "if your spear is used to pierce your shield?" The idiom tells us that it is impossible for an impenetrable shield to coexist with a spear that finds nothing impenetrable.

Vocabulary

市场 shì chǎng market	坚硬 jiān yìng - strong
矛 máo - spear	锋利 fēng lì - sharp
盾 dùn - shield	刺 cì - to pierce
矛盾 máo dùn - contradiction	破 pò - broken
愿意 yuàn yì - will	无坚不摧 wú jiān bù cuī all-
货 hu - goods	conquering
举起 jǔ qǐ - hold up ; lift	共存 gòng cún - co-insist

Culture Reflection for Fable



Please write a reflection (120-150 words) after researching Google and watching any video you can find on: 龟兔赛跑 at <https://youtu.be/QXQJ23hRAfM>

A race between the hare and the tortoise.

An example of a suitable video is also located in the sidebar.

You will need to type your reflection in a word processing document and save the file on your hard drive or a disk. Please state the URL for your video on the reflection. Then, submit your assignment.