

## Short-Form

## Long-Form


**Sēn Lín Hú Chinese Language Village**  
 July 3, 2018 · 🌐

Tonight during our 晚上節目 (wǎnshàng jiémù) each cabin presented one or two 成語 (chéngyǔ) (Chinese idiomatic expressions). Chinese idioms are arguably some of the most interesting facets of the language because they are full of deep-seated historical and cultural references. By learning chéngyǔ, our villagers not only become more familiar with the mechanics of the language but also acquire specific cultural knowledge that enriches their learning experience.

The meanings of these phrases are not simply derived from the sum of the meanings of each character within it; in other words, extracting the meaning of each character does not necessarily provide the profound meaning of the entire expression. These phrases are often metaphorical and suggestive of some previously understood knowledge. Here are a few of the chéngyǔ we learned, for example:


當仁不讓 (dāngrénbùràng) — to be unwilling to pass on one's responsibilities to others  
 守株待兔 (shǒuzhūdàitù) — to wait idly for opportunities  
 狐假虎威 (hújiǎhǔwēi) — to use powerful connections to intimidate people  
 畫蛇添足 (huàshétiānzú) — to ruin the effect by adding something superfluous

Although these are just a few examples of what was presented, we can see how the above phrases describe abstract situations. At the village we're constantly learning how to say concrete nouns, verbs, and adjectives. But with chéngyǔ, villagers have the tools to describe many different concrete settings in a meaningful way.


In addition to the linguistic benefits that learning chéngyǔ provides, we believe that the very process of learning these expressions can breed newfound understandings of how to live responsibly as a global citizen. Given the abstract nature of these idioms, villagers are pushed to reflect on the meanings of the expressions; hence villagers begin exploring ideas that they might not have considered otherwise. When learning 當仁不讓 (dāngrénbùràng), for example, our villagers might think about what it means to be responsible and perhaps even a time when they were irresponsible.


Chéngyǔ can be challenging for Chinese learners, but at Sēn Lín Hú we make learning these expressions engaging by incorporating them into performances. It was impressive to see the creativity that all the cabins brought to the table with their acting and artwork!




**Sēn Lín Hú Chinese Language Village**  
 July 10, 2018 · 🌐

The theme for last night's wǎnshàng jiémù was Chinese philosophy and religion! Our villagers attended five drop-in information sessions in a rotating fashion. They were introduced to Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, Buddhism, and traditional folk beliefs! In addition to learning about these systems of thought, our villagers were exposed to cultural artifacts and practices such as meditation!




**Sēn Lín Hú Chinese Language Village** is 😊 excited.  
 July 22, 2018 · 🌐

Rowing, ping pong, art, games, and lots of snacks! There were so many different activities going on today during 自由活動 (zìyóu huódòng) (free time).

