



| PINYIN / TERM | CHINESE | ENGLISH / MEANING |
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| Chéngyǔ | 成语 | A Chinese Saying or Idiom |
| Sīmǎ Huī | 司马徽 | Early 3rd century hermit in Sichuan. Had a reputation as a good spotter of talent. He is the Hao Hao Xiansheng |
| Hǎo Hǎo Xiānshēng | 好好先生 | Mr. Good-Good, someone who never disagrees about anything and trying to walk the middle road |
| Zhou Dynasty | 周朝 | Dynasty founded in 1046 BC, lasting to 256 BC. |
| State of Jin | 晋国 | The State of Jin, one of the major states during the Warring States Period |
| Shānxī | 山西 | Province in north central China |
| Duke Jǐng | 晋景公 | Ruler of Jin State 599-581 BC |
| Hán, Zhào and Wèi. | 汉, 赵, 魏 | The three states created after the Partition of Jin State in 468 BC (approximately) |
| Zuǒ Qīumíng | 左丘明 | 556-451 BC, Chinese historian during late Spring and Autumn Period. Writer of the Zuo Zhuan, or "Commentary of Zuo" |
| Zuǒ Zhuàn | 左传 | One of the official Chinese histories that is regarded as a commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals (Chunqiu 春秋). |
| Chéng Gōng Shínián | 成公十年 | The chapter in the Zuo Zhuan where the story behind 病入膏肓 can be found |
| Bìng | 病 | Sickness, disease |
| Rù | 入 | To enter |
| Gāo | 膏 | the vital organs of the body |
| Huāng | 肓 | in Chinese medicine is the part of the body between the heart and the diaphragm |
| Bìngrù Gāohuāng | 病入膏肓 | The disease has entered that part of the body that is incurable |

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| gùshi | 故事 | a story |
| Zhào | 赵 | The surname Zhao |
| Zhào Tóng | 赵同 | A loyal military official of Jin, murdered in 583 BC |
| Zhào Kuò | 赵括 | Another loyal official of Jin, surnamed Zhào who was murdered in 583 BC on Duke Jin's orders |
| Wū | 巫 | A witch or shaman |
| Qín | 秦朝 | The Qin Dynasty 221 to 206 BC |
| Jìn Jǐng Gōng | 晋景公 | Ruler of Jin State 599-581 BC |