

The Chinese Sayings Podcast

Looks Good on Paper

紙上談兵

S6E06

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Zhǐ Shàng Tán Bīng	纸上谈兵	To fight only on paper, an armchair strategist, idle theorizing, impracticle
Zhǐ Shàng	纸上	On paper
tán	谈	Discuss
bīng	兵	Soldier, military affairs
Chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or Idiom
Shǐjì	史记	The Record of the Grand Historian
Zhào State	赵国	One of the Seven Warring States
Lián Pō	廉颇	327-243 BC, noted Zhao general famous for his many victories over Qin
Fù Jīng Qǐng Zuì	负荆请罪	Proffer a branch and ask for a flogging, offer a humble apology
Lián Pō Lìn Xiàngrú Lièzhuàn	廉颇蔺相如列传	The Chronicles of Lián Pō and Lìn Xiàngrú, from the Record of the Grand Historian
Sān Jiā Fēn Jìn	三家分晋	Partition of Jîn, the watershed between the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, refers to the division of the State of Jin between rival families into the three states of Han, Zhao and Wei. As a result, the three states were
Shānxī	山西	Province in north China
Shǎnxī	陕西	Province in north China, located west of Shanxi
Héběi	河北	Province in north China
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	Bronze age dynasty that lasted 1046 to 256 BC
Zhào Shē	赵奢	Chinese bureaucrat and general for the State of Zhao during the Warring States period.

Zhào Kuò	赵括	Son of Zhao She, he went down hard at the Battle of Changping
Qín	秦国	The Qin State that prevailed over the other six warring states
Bái Qǐ	白起	c. 332-257 BC, great Qin general for more than 30 years
Hán	韩国	One of the Seven Warring States
Shàngd ă ng	上党	an administrative subdivision of ancient China from the time of the Spring and Autumn period (771–403 BCE). Consisting of a number of districts or Zhōu (州, or prefecture), the prefecture covered roughly the area of modern-day
Chángpíng	长平	A military campaign during the Warring States period which took place from 262 BC to 260 BC at Changping (northwest of present-day Gaoping, Shanxi province), between Qin and Zhao. After a bitter two-year stalemate, the battle
Wáng Hé	王龁	Qin general who fought at the Battle of Changping
Luòyáng	洛阳	City in Henan, served as the capital of a number fo dynasties
King Zhāoxiāng of Qín	秦照相	Long reiging (57 years) king of Qin from 306 BC to 251 BC
Fàn Jū	范雎	Qin prime minister and and advisor who died 255 BCE. He gave King Zhaoxiang the winning strategy
Yíng Zhèng	嬴政	Qin King who lived 259–210. He defeated the other six warring states and unified China in 221 BC, becoming the first emperor of China, Qin Shihuang
Chéngy ǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Chengyu Research Center, located wherever Emma resides