



The Chinese Sayings Podcast

Looks Can Be Deceiving 华而不实

S8E06

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese idiom or saying, usually but not always four characters long
Huá Ér Bù Shí	华而不实	Flowery and flashy but lacking substance
Huá	华	abbreviation of China, magnificent, splendid, brilliant, flashy, flowery
Ér	而	a conjunction which means but, yet, or on the other hand
Bù	不	No or not
Shí	实	as a noun, in the second tone means fruit but more commonly it means reality or fact. As an adjective shí can also mean true or real. In this chéngyǔ it means fruit
Zuŏ Zhuàn	左传	Chronicles of Zuŏ, Zuŏ Qiūmíng's annotations to the Spring and Autumn Annals
Wén Gōng Wǔnián	文公五年	The Fifth Year of Duke Wén
Spring and Autumn Period	春秋	This period lasted from approximately 770 to 481 BC. The Spring and Autumn Annals was a chronicle of the State of Lu between 722 and 481 BC. This is where rthe era gets its name.
Duke Wén of Jìn	晋文公	697–628 BC, also Duke Wen of Jin, second son of Duke Xian of Jin. He famously endured a long period of exile from Jin before finally being restored to power (r. 636–628 BC) and rapidly leading Jin to hegemony over the other
Tui Bi San She	退避三舍	to avoid conflict, often with positive connotations of 'beating a strategic retreat'
Duke Mù of Qín	秦穆公	Ruler of Qin from 659-621 BC
Yáng Ch ǔ fù	阳处父	A state minister of Jin State who serves as the one of the main characters of this chengyu
Jìn	晋国	a major state during the middle part of the Zhou dynasty, based near the centre of what was then China, on the lands attributed to the legendary Xia dynasty: the southern part of modern Shanxi. Although it grew in power during
Kings Wén, Wǔ, and the Duke of Zhou	周文王, 周武王, 周公	The founders of the Zhou Dynasty, all surnamed Ji. King Wu and the Duke of Zhou were the sons of Zhou founder King Wen
Chǔ	楚国	A Zhou dynasty vassal state. Chu was located in the south of the Zhou heartland and lasted during the Spring and Autumn period. At the end of the Warring States period it was destroyed by the Qin in 223 BCE during the Qin's

Níngyì	宁邑	Today, the city of Xinxiang 新乡 just north of Zhengzhou in Henan province
Zhèngzhōu	郑州	The capital of Henan province
Yíng	盲腴	The surname of the humble but ambitious inkeeper in Ningyi. Also the surname of the Qin dukes, kings and emperors
Qín	秦国	The state of Qin, an ancient Chinese state during the Zhou dynasty. Traditionally dated to 897 BC, it took its origin in a reconquest of western lands previously lost to the Rong; its position at the western edge of Chinese
Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Chengyu Research Center, located wherever Emma resides.