

The Chinese Sayings Podcast

Why Can't We Live Together 勢不两立

S8E09

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
chéngy ǔ	成语	A Chinese idiom or saying, usually but not always four characters long
Shì Bù Li ǎ ng Lì.	势不两立	Mutually exclusive; extremely antagonistic; irreconcilable. The two cannot exist together.
Shì	势	power, force; influence, momentum, tendency
Bù	不	no, not
Li ǎ ng	两	(before counter words) two, a couple
lì	立	stang, establish, ascend the throne
Zhànguó Cè	战国策	Strategies of the Warring States
Qín	秦国	The State of Qin, one of the Seven Warring States of that period running from 476-221 BC
Chǔ	楚国	The State of Chu, mostly located in and around Hubei. One of the Seven Warring States
Fán tiānxià jiāngguó, fēi Qín yě Chǔ, fēi Chǔ ér Qín, liǎngguó jiāozhēng, qí shì bù liǎng lì	凡天下彊国, 非秦 而 楚, 非 楚 而 秦, 两国交争, 其势不两 立	"When Chǔ is strong, Qín is weak; when Qín is strong, Chǔ is weak. The two cannot co-exist."
Yíng Zhèng / Qín Shǐhuáng	嬴政 / 秦始皇	The King of Qin who finished the conquest of the six other warring states. He founded the Qin Dynasty oin 221 BC.
Sān Guó Zhì	三国志	Records of the Three Kingdoms
Zhōu Yú Zhuàn	周瑜传	The Biography of Zhōu Yú, the chapter of the Records of the Three Kingdoms that this chengyu comes from
Zhōu Yú	周瑜	175–210, military general and strategist serving under the warlord Sun Ce in the late Eastern Han. After Sun Ce's death in 200, Zhou Yu continued serving under Sun Quan
Luó Guànzhōng	罗贯中	Author of the novel "Romance of the Three Kingdoms
Sūn Quán	孙权	182-252, Founder of the Eastern Wu Dynasty, one of the Three Kingdoms. Sun Quan inherited control of the warlord regime established by his elder brother, Sun Ce, in 200. He declared formal independence and ruled from November

Eastern Wu	东吴	Also called Eastern Wu or Sun Wu, it was one of the three kingdoms competing for supremacy in the Three Kingdoms period. It previously existed from 220 to 222 as a vassal kingdom nominally under Cao Wei, its rival state,
Cáo Cāo	曹操	155–220, Statesman, warlord and poet who rose to power towards the end of the Eastern Han and became the effective head of the Han central government during that period. He laid the foundation for what was to become the state of
Wèi	魏国	A dynastic state of China and one of the three major states that competed for supremacy over China in the Three Kingdoms period. With its capital initially located at Xuchang, and thereafter Luoyang, the state was established by Cao
Shǔ	蜀汉	a dynastic state of China and one of the three major states that competed for supremacy over China in the Three Kingdoms period. The state was based in the area around present-day Hanzhong, Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Guizhou,
Líu Bèi	刘备	161-223, Warlord in the late Eastern Han dynasty who later became the founding emperor of Shu Han, one of the Three Kingdoms of China.
Yuán Shào	袁绍	Died 202, Military general, politician, and warlord who lived in the late Eastern Han dynasty. He occupied the northern territories of China during the civil wars that occurred towards the end of the Han. He was also an elder half-brother of
Yuán Shù	袁术	See above
Líu Bi ǎ o	刘表	c.151-208, Military general, politician, and warlord who lived in the late Eastern Han, best known for serving as the Governor of Jing Province (present-day Hubei and Hunan) from 192 until his death in 208.
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	imperial dynasty of China. The Former or Western Han lasted from 202 BC – 9 AD. After the Wang Mang interregnum the Dynasty was restored. The Eastern or Later Han ran from 25 AD-220 AD), established by Liu Bang and ruled by
Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Chengyu Research Center, located wherever Emma resides.