

Idioms



枕 戈 待 旦

刘琨是西晋末年魏昌人，他不仅武艺高强，而且很有抱负。

有一次，他听说朋友祖获被朝廷任命了官职，就给亲属写信说：“我每天都是枕着兵器睡觉，随时准备杀敌报国。可惜祖获比我先一步建功立业。”后来刘琨当上了并州的刺史。

这则成语的意思是，形容报国心切，一刻也不放松。

zhěngē dài dàn
枕 戈 待 旦

Sleep on spear till morning

Liu Kun was a man from Weichang in the late Western Jin Dynasty. He was not only good at martial arts, but also very ambitious.



One day he learned that his friend Zu Huo was appointed to an official post by the imperial court. He wrote a letter to one of his relatives, saying: "I use my weapons as my pillow every day, ready to fight the enemy to defend our country. But it's a pity Zu Huo created exploits ahead of me." Later, Liu Kun was appointed Governor of Bingzhou Prefecture.

This idiom means a person eagerly wants to defend his country without any rest.



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zhěn 枕		gē 戈		dài 待		dàn 旦	
Sleep on		spear		wait for		morning	
Sleep on spear till morning (Be ready for battle and highly alert)							
liú kūn 刘琨	shì 是	xī jìn 西晋		mò nián 末年	wèi chāng rén 魏昌人		,
Liu Kun	is	Western Jin Dynasty		late	Weichang people		,
Liu Kun was a man from Weichang in the late Western Jin Dynasty.							
tā 他	bú jǐn 不仅	wǔ yì 武艺	gāo qiáng 高强		,	ér qiě 而且	
He	not only	martial arts	excellent		,	but also	
hěn yǒu 很有	bào fù 抱负	。					
very	ambitious	.					
He was not only good at martial arts, but also very ambitious.							
yǒu 有	yī cì 一次	,					
have	once						
One day							
tā 他	tīng shuō 听说	péng yǒu zǔ tì 朋友祖逖		bèi 被	cháo tíng 朝廷	rèn mìng le 任命了	guān zhí 官职，
He	heart	a friend named Zu Ti		was	imperial court	appointed	official post
he learned that his friend Zu Huo was appointed to an official post by the imperial court.							
jiù gěi 就给	qīn shǔ 亲属	xiě 写	xìn 信	shuō 说：			
to	relatives	wrote	letter	say:			
He wrote a letter to one of his relatives, saying:							
wǒ 我	měi tiān 每天	dōu shì 都是	zhěn zhe 枕着		bīng qì 兵器	shuì jiào 睡觉	,
I	everyday	always	sleep on...as pillow		weapons	sleep	,
"I use my weapons as my pillow every day,							
suí shí 随时	zhǔn bèi 准备	shā 杀	dí 敌	bào 报	guó 国。		
at any time	prepare	kill	enemies	defend	country		
ready to fight the enemy to defend our country.							
kě xī 可惜	zǔ tì 祖逖	bǐ 比	wǒ 我	xiān yī bù 先一步	jiàn gōng lì yè 建功立业		,
pity	Zu Ti	than	I	earlier	created exploits (fixed expression)		
But it's a pity Zu Huo created exploits ahead of me."							
hòu lái 后来	liú kūn 刘琨	dāng shàng le 当上了		bīng zhōu de 并州的		cì shǐ 刺史	
Later	Liu Kun	was appointed		Bingzhou (name of a place)		governor	
Later, Liu Kun was appointed Governor of Bingzhou Prefecture.							

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zhè ge 这 个	chéng yǔ 成 语	de 的	yì si 意 思	shì 是		
This	idiom	of	meaning	is		
This idiom means						
bào 报	guó 国	xīn qiè 心 切	yí kè 一 刻	yě 也	bú 不	fàngsōng 放 松
defence	country	eagerly	an instant		no	rest
A person eagerly wants to defend his country without any rest.						

Key words

zhěn gē dài dàn

枕 戈 待 旦 : sleep on spears as pillow till morning. A person eagerly wants to defend his country without any laches.

bú jīn ér qiě

不 仅而 且 : not only.....but also.....

bào fù

抱 负 : ambition

zhǔn bèi

准 备 : prepare

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