

Retelling Folktales

Here are some simple steps that you can take to practise your storytelling skills through retelling a folktale.

1. Select a story from a folktale anthology or the Internet and read it.
2. Learn the important words and phrases for retelling the story in English.
3. Close your eyes and 'replay' each scene of the story in your head as a film.
4. Read the story aloud, focusing on the pronunciation of the important words.
5. Replay the film of the story in your head again.
6. Continue reading the story and replaying the story in your head until you have memorised it from beginning to end.
7. Practise retelling the plot in your own way, picturing the scenes of the story in your head as you go.
8. Ask a friend to listen to you retell the story and to give you feedback.

Consider selecting one of the fables or parables from Chinese folklore that illustrate idioms commonly used in Chinese today. Here are some examples.

Chinese Fables / Parables	Meaning
The Frog in the Shallow Well	Describes a person who is too proud or boastful.
The Fox Borrows the Tiger's Terror	Describes a person who takes advantage of a leader's power to bully others.
Plucking Up a Crop to Help it Grow	Describes a person who does not allow a situation to take its natural course.
A Loss May Turn Out to Be a Gain	Describes a situation in which an unlucky event results in good luck or vice versa.

These Chinese folktales, and many others like them, can be found on the Internet both in Chinese and in English.