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# 守株待兔

## Literal meaning

waiting by a tree trunk for rabbits

## Figurative meaning

describes someone who prefers to sit back and wait for opportunities

## Similar phrase in English

no such thing as a free lunch

**eg.** Don't accept that expensive handbag from that man who wants to marry you. There's **no such thing as a free lunch!**

## Learn about words

1. zip **v.** : move around quickly
2. rabid **adj.** : describes a mad animal infected by rabies
3. nagging **n.** : complaining or criticising
4. empty-handed **adj.** : not bringing or taking something

## Learn some phrases

### 1. as dead as a dodo

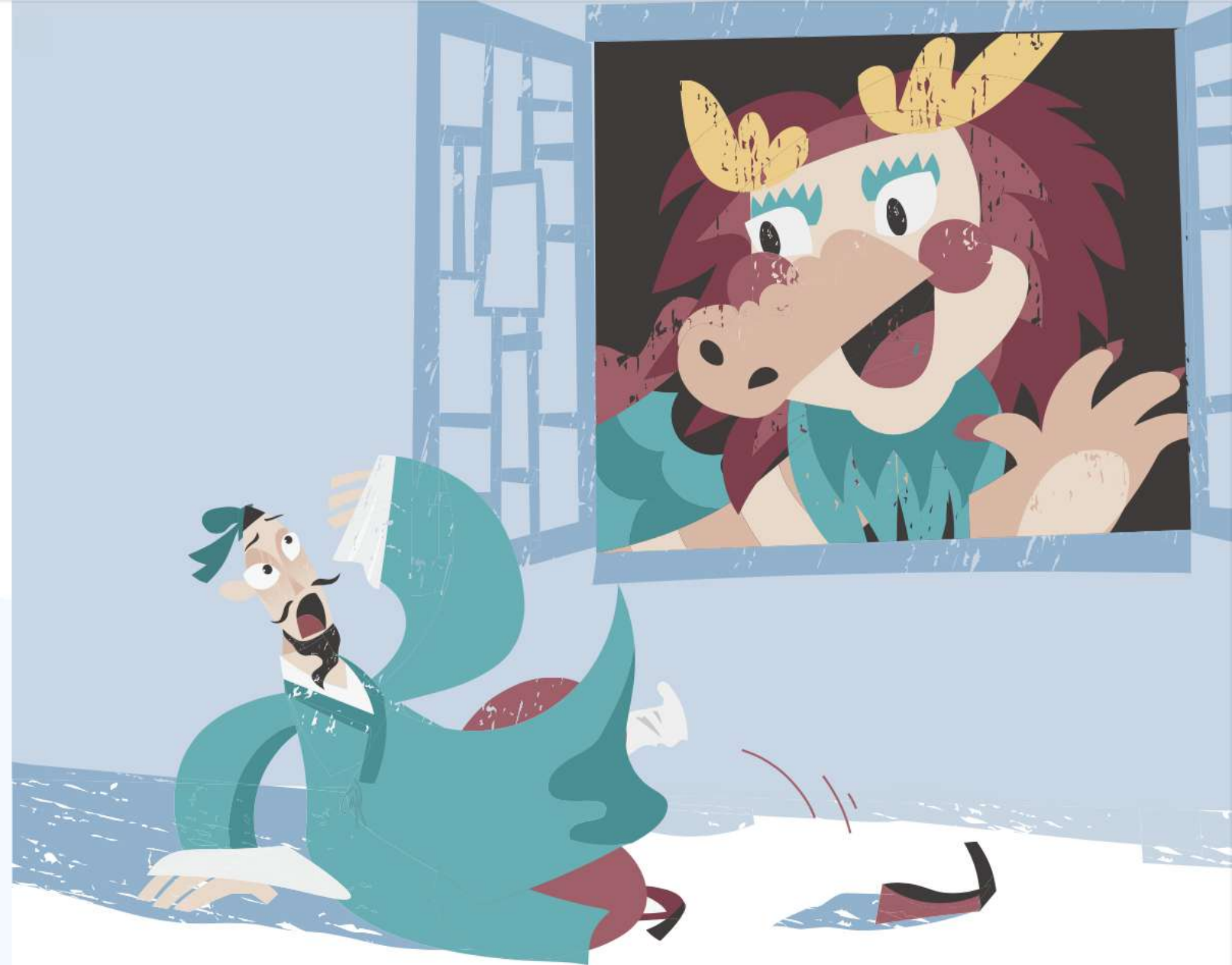
something is dead for certain

**eg.** That cockroach under my foot is **as dead as a dodo.**

### 2. have no choice but to do something

to have to do something because it is impossible to do anything else

**eg.** Poor Ray kept sneezing after petting that cat. He **had no choice but to** stay away from it.



## 葉公好龍

**Talk the talk, but not walk the walk**



**E**va, the town's seamstress, was in the main hall of Lord Ye's palace to present 100 underpants for her lord's inspection. She had spent all week embroidering different designs of dragons on the front of the underpants.

"Ooh, that's lovely!" he squealed with delight.

Lord Ye was a man who loved dragons. He loved the way they looked. He loved how powerful they were. He loved how they could summon wind and rain and fly high in the sky. He loved dragons so much that he would think about them all day and all night.

And how did he show his love for them? By having their image everywhere in his palace. He had them painted all over the walls of his home so that visitors always saw one whichever way they looked. He had dragons **carved** on chairs, on beds, on the ceiling, and on **pillars**.

Everything he wore had this **mythical** beast on it. He would be tucked up in bed wearing pyjamas that had dragons all over them. He padded around his palace wearing slippers that had this great creature's image sewn on the front.

Up in heaven, the dragon king heard about Lord Ye's obsession. It was flattered that a human loved its kind instead of fearing them.

"What a **splendid** fellow!" it said. "I must **pay this Lord Ye a visit**. He would be so happy to see me."

Thunder and lightning filled the sky as the dragon king swooped down to Earth.



**BOOM!**

It landed with such a heavy thud in front of Lord Ye's home that everything shook like an earthquake happened. Its long tail pushed through the front doors of the main hall where Lord Ye was. The dragon king smashed a window at the back of the hall when it **poked** its head through.

"Surprise! It's me!" it said. Lord Ye froze when the dragon's head was a few inches away from his own.

"AIYEEE!" Lord Ye went through the back door faster than cockroaches scuttling away when the lights are turned on. He ran out of his palace while **screaming his head off**.

"Oh dear!" the dragon king said. "What Lord Ye loves are not real dragons... only things that look like us."

# 葉公好龍

## Literal meaning

Lord Ye loves dragons

## Figurative meaning

pretending to like something when you actually don't

## Similar phrase in English

talk the talk, but not walk the walk

**[e.g.]** Bobby said he can eat 50 eggs in five minutes but I doubt that.  
He talks the talk but cannot walk the walk.

## Learn about words

1. carve **[v.]** : to make something by cutting into something
2. pillar **[n.]** : a strong column that supports a building
3. mythical **[adj.]** : existing only in ancient myths
4. splendid **[adj.]** : excellent

## Learn some phrases

### 1. pay someone a visit

to visit someone

**[e.g.]** I am happy to know that my friend who lives overseas is going to **pay me a visit**.

### 2. scream one's head off

to scream very loudly

**[e.g.]** Andrew **screamed his head off** while riding the rollercoaster.



## 畫龍點睛 The final touch