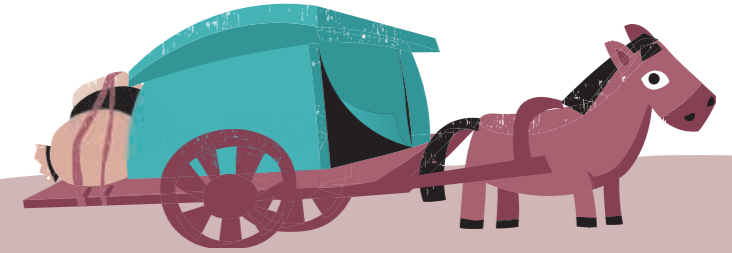




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# 樂不思蜀

## Literal meaning

so happy that one forgets about Shu

## Figurative meaning

so happy and having fun that you forget your home

## Similar phrase in English

party like it's 1999

**eg.** The exams are over! I'm ready to **party like it's 1999!**

## Learn about words

1. **repel** **v.** : to force someone to stop attacking you
2. **sarcastic** **adj.** : saying the opposite of what you mean to hurt someone's feelings
3. **feeble** **adj.** : weak
4. **ecstatic** **adj.** : extremely happy

## Learn some phrases

### 1. wipe out

to get rid of or destroy completely

**eg.** This tower was **wiped out** during the earthquake. What a pity!

### 2. laughing stock

someone silly or ridiculous that everyone laughs at

**eg.** The groom turned himself into a **laughing stock** by dressing up as a superhero.



## 愚公移山

Where there's a will, there's a way

Ever since he was a child, the 90-year-old Yugong would open the front door of his home, look at what lay ahead, and then go “ARRGH!”

He lived to the north of the Taihang and Wangwu mountains, which were situated near the Yellow River in Henan Province. Whenever Yugong and his family wanted to travel south, it was a long, **circuitous**, and **arduous** journey because the mountains blocked their way.

One day, Yugong was so fed up that he called a family meeting.

“It’s about time we did something about those mountains,” Yugong said, with a fiery look in his eyes. “Let’s work together to get rid of them!”

Everyone in the room clapped and cheered — apart from Yugong’s wife.

“Hey, foolish old man,” she said. “You can’t even **level** a small mound, let alone a large mountain range. And where will you dispose of the soil and rocks?”

“Easy!” her eldest son exclaimed. “We will dump them in the sea.” His entire family cheered again, thinking that was a good idea too.

From morning to night, Yugong led his children and grandchildren in the slow, backbreaking work of **chipping away at** the mountains. An elderly neighbour stopped by to watch them at work. He walked over to Yugong and gave a little chuckle while shaking his head.

“You’re as **daft as a brush**,” the neighbour said. “It will never happen in your lifetime.”

The **defiant** Yugong replied: “You’re the ignorant one. When I’m gone, my sons will continue the job, then my grandchildren will keep removing the mountains, and then my great-grandchildren too, and so on for many generations to come. The mountains won’t grow any higher and will be gone... eventually!”

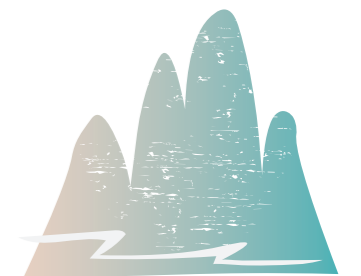
The neighbour responded by shaking his head.

The mountain gods heard every word of their conversation and were greatly alarmed, so they went to see the Heavenly Emperor and told him everything.

“It would have been much easier to move his home,” the mountain gods stated, “but this crazy, old fool wants to destroy our mountains even if it takes them hundreds of years and a long line of descendants to do so.”

Much to the mountain gods’ surprise, the Heavenly Emperor was deeply moved by Yugong’s unwavering determination. He decided to reward the old man by ordering two giants to remove the mountains.

A few days later, Yugong opened his front door, saw the Yellow River lay ahead of him, and for the first time in his life, he said, “Ahhhh!”



# 愚公移山

## Literal meaning

the foolish old man removes the mountains

## Figurative meaning

tireless efforts to achieve one's goals; or inefficient efforts

## Similar phrase in English

where there's a will, there's a way

**[eg.]** They said it was impossible, but I can now touch my nose with my tongue. **Where there's a will, there's a way.**

## Learn about words

1. **circuitous** **[adj.]** : indirect or not straight
2. **arduous** **[adj.]** : difficult and requiring great effort
3. **level** **[v.]** : to make a surface flat or even
4. **defiant** **[adj.]** : openly resisting to do what someone tells you to do

## Learn some phrases

### 1. chip away at something

to slowly destroy or breaking small pieces off something

**[eg.]** The workers keep **chipping away at the wall** to remove it.

### 2. daft as a brush

stupid or foolish

**[eg.]** Jo is as **daft as a brush**. She thinks meatballs are grown on trees.



## 杞人憂天 Groundless worries