

胸有成竹

北宋时有一位著名的画家叫文同。他画的竹子远近闻名，每天都有不少人到他家里来买画。

文同画竹子为什么画得好呢？原来，文同在他家的房前屋后种上了各种各样的竹子，无论春夏秋冬，阴晴风雨，他都经常去竹林观察竹子的生长情况，琢磨竹枝的长短粗细，叶子的形状、颜色，然后回到书房，把看到的竹子画在纸上。日积月累，竹子在不同季节、不同天气的样子都深深印在他的心中。他只要拿起笔，在画纸前一站，平时看到的竹子就在眼前。所以每次画竹，他都画得又好又快。

当人们夸他的画时，他说：“我只是把心中琢磨很久的竹子画了出来。”后来人们都说：文同画竹，胸中有成竹。

后来，人们用“胸有成竹”这个成语，比喻做事之前已做好了准备，对事情的成功十分有把握。



There is bamboo in my mind already



Wen Tong was a famous painter in the Northern Song Dynasty. His paintings of bamboo were known far and wide. Everyday, quite a few people came to his house to buy paintings.

Why was Wen Tong skilful at painting bamboo? It turns out that Wen Tong planted various kinds of bamboo around his house. In spring, summer, autumn and winter, be it sunny, gloomy, windy or rainy, he would always go to the bamboo forest to observe the bamboo's growth. As time went on, he could remember how bamboo looked in different seasons and weather. Once he took up the brush and stood in front of the blank paper, the normally-seen bamboo seemed to appear in front of him and he could paint fast and well. When people praised him for his paintings, Wen Tong said: "I just paint the bamboo that I have thought about for a long time."

Later, people said that when Wen Tong painted bamboo, the bamboo was already in his mind.

xiōng yǒu chéng zhú

Therefore, the idiom of “胸有成竹”, (the bamboo was already in mind) means to have a well-thought-out plan beforehand and to be sure of its success.



xiōng 胸	yǒu 有	chéng 成	zhú 竹			
Heart/chest	has	completed	Bamboo			
There is bamboo on my mind already						
běi sòng 北 宋	shí 时	yǒu 有	yī wèi 一 位	zhù míng 著 名	de 的	huà jiā 画 家
Northern Song Dynasty	Time/whe n	has	One	famous	Of	painter
Wen Tong was a famous painter in the Northern Song Dynasty						
jiào 叫	wén tong 文 同	。	tā 他	huà 画	zhú zi 竹 子	yuǎn jìn wén 远 近 闻 míng 名
named	Wen Tong	.	His	Painting	Bamboo	known far and wide (fixed expression)
His paintings of bamboo were known far and wide.						
měi tiān 每 天	yǒu 有	bù shǎo 不 少	rén 人	dào 到	tā 他	jiā 家
Everyday	Has	quite a few	People	Come	His	home
Everyday, quite a few people came to his house to buy paintings.						
lái 来	mǎi 买	huà 画。				
To/come	Buy	painting				
wén tong 文 同	huà 画	zhú zi 竹 子	wèi shén me 为 什 么	huà dé 画 得 hǎo 好 ?	yuán lái 原 来	wén tong 文 同
Wen Tong	Paint	bamboo	Why	skilful at painting	It turns out that	Wen Tong
Why was Wen Tong skilful at painting bamboo?						
zài 在	tā jiā 他 家	de 的	fáng 房	qián 前	wū 屋	hòu 后
At	his home	of	House	Front	House	back
It turns out that Wen Tong planted various kinds of bamboo around his house.						

zhòng 种 shàng le 上了	gè zhǒng 各 种 gè yàng 各 样	de 的	zhú zi 竹 子。	wú lùn 无 论	chūn 春	xià 夏
planted	all kinds	Of	Bamboo.	No matter	Spring	Sumer
In spring, summer, autumn and winter, be it sunny, gloomy, windy or rainy,						
qiū 秋	dōng 冬 ,	yīn 阴	qíng 晴	fēng 风	yǔ 雨 ,	tā 他
Autumn	Winter	gloomy	Sunny	Windy	Rainy	he
zǒng shì 总 是	qù 去	zhú lín 竹 林	guān chá 观 察	zhú zi 竹 子	de 的	shēng 生 zhǎng 长
always	go to	bamboo forest	Observe	bamboo	Of	growth
he would always go to the bamboo forest to observe the growth of the bamboo,						
qíng kuàng 情 况 ,	zuó mo 琢 磨	zhú 竹	zhī 枝	de 的	cháng 长	duǎn 短
Situation	Think about	bamboo	Branch	Of	Length	short
to remember the length and size of the branches and the shape and colour of leaves.						
cū 粗	xì 细 ,	yè zi 叶 子	de 的	xíng zhuàng 形 状	yán sè 颜 色。	rán hòu 然 后
Thick	Thin	leaves	Of	shape	colour.	Then
He then came to his study and painted the bamboo he had in mind.						
huí dào 回 到	shū fáng 书 房	bǎ 把	kàn dào de 看 到 的	zhú zi 竹 子	huà 画	
come back	Study	make	Seen	bamboo	Paint	
zài 在	zhǐ shàng 纸 上	rì jī yuè lěi 日 积 月 累	zhú zi 竹 子	zài 在	bù tóng 不 同	jì jié 季 节
on	Paper	As time went on(fixed expression)	Bamboo	At	Different	seasons
As time went on, he could remember how bamboo looked in different seasons and weathers.						

bù tóng	tiān qì	de	yàng zǐ	dōu	shēn shēn	yìn
不 同	天 气	的	样 子	都	深 深	印
Different	weather	Of	Appearance	All	Deeply	printed
Once he took up the brush and stood in front of the blank paper,						
zài	tā de	xīn zhōng	tā	zhǐ yào	ná qǐ	bǐ
在	他 的	心 中 。	他	只 要	拿 起	笔，
In	His	heart.	He	Once	took up	Painting brush
the bamboo seemed to appear in front of him and he could paint fast and well.						
zài	huà zhǐ	qián	yī zhàn	píng shí	kàn dào	zhú zi
在	画 纸	前	一 站	平 时	看 到	竹 子
At	painting paper	In front of	stand,	Normally	Seen	bamboo
the bamboo seemed to appear in front of him and he could paint fast and well.						
jiù	zài yǎn qián	suǒ yǐ	měi cì	huà	zhú	tā
就	在 眼 前	所 以	每 次	画	竹	他
Would/will	appear in front of him,	hence	Every time	Paint	Bamboo	he
dōu huà dé yòu hǎo yòu kuài						
都	画	得	又	好	又	快 。
Always	Paint	adv.	And	Well	And	fast.
dāng rén men kuā tā de huà shí tā						
当	人 们	夸	他 的	画	时，	他
When	People	praised	His	Painting	Time	he
When people praised him for his paintings, Wen Tong said						
shuō	wǒ	zhǐ shì	bǎ	xīn zhōng	zuó mo	hěn jiǔ
说	“我	只 是	把	心 中	琢 磨	很 久
Said	“I	Just	Make	in mind	think about	long time
“I just paint the bamboo that I have thought about in my mind for a long time.”						
de	zhú zi	huà	chū lái			
的	竹 子	画	出 来 。”			
Of	Bamboo	paint	Out			

hòu lái	rén men	dōu shuō	wén tong	huà	zhú	xiōng
后 来	人 们	都 说 :	文 同	画	竹 ,	胸
Later	People	all say	Wen Tong	Paint	Bamboo	Chest/ heart
Later people said that when Wen Tong painted bamboo, the bamboo was already in his mind.						
zhōng	yǒu	chéng	zhú	。		
中	有	成	竹			
In	Has	Completed	Bamboo	.		
hòu lái	rén men	yòng	xiōng yǒu chéng zhú	zhè ge	chéng yǔ	bǐ yù
后 来 ,	人 们	用	“ 胸 有 成 竹 ”	这 个	成 语	比 喻
Later	People	Use	“there is bamboo in my mind already”	This	Idiom	metaphor
zuò shì	zhī qián	yǐ	zuò hǎo le	zhǔn bèi	duì	
做 事	之 前	已	做 好 了	准 备 ,	对	
do things	Beforehand	Already	Done	Preparation	For	
shì qing	de	chéng gōng	shí fēn	yǒu	bǎ wò	
事 情	的	成 功	十 分	有	把 握 。	
Things	Of	Success	Very	Have	Assurance	
xiōng yǒu chéng zhú						
Therefore, the idiom of “ 胸 有 成 竹 ” means to have a well-thought-out plan beforehand and to be sure of success.						

Key words and Expressions

xiōng yǒu chéng zhú

“ 胸 有 成 竹 ” : have a well-thought-out plan beforehand and to be sure of final success

rì jī yuè lěi

日 积 月 累 : As time went on(fixed expression)

yuǎn jìn wén míng

远 近 闻 名 : known far and wide (fixed expression)

zhù míng huà jiā zhú zi

著 名 : famous 画 家 : painter 竹 子 : bamboo