

Korean four character idioms with stories worksheet

Word list

#	Hangul	Romanization	Meaning
1	새옹지마	saeongjima	good and bad luck keep turning into each other
2	어부지리	eobujiri	a third party profits when two sides fight
3	사면초가	samyeonchoga	surrounded on every side with no way out
4	각주구검	gakjugugeom [각쭈구검]	stubbornly using an outdated method
5	조삼모사	josammosa	being fooled by a change that adds up to the same
6	호가호위	hogahowi	using a powerful person's authority to threaten others
7	홍익인간	hongigingan [홍이긴간]	the founding ideal of benefiting all people
8	사군이충	sagunichung	loyalty to one's ruler and country
9	사친이효	sachinihyo	being dutiful to one's parents
10	교우이신	gyouisin	keeping faith with friends
11	임전무퇴	imjeonmutoe	fighting to the end without backing down
12	살생유택	salsaengyutaek [살쌍유택]	do not kill without good reason
13	우공이산	ugongisan	persistence can move mountains
14	형설지공	hyeongseoljigong [형설찌공]	studying hard despite poverty
15	맹모삼천	maengmosamcheon	a good environment matters for a child's education
16	관포지교	gwanpojigyo	a deep and selfless friendship
17	오비이락	obiirak	a coincidence that looks like the cause
18	사필귀정	sapilgwijeong	justice prevails in the end
19	와신상담	wasinsangdam	enduring hardship to reach a goal such as revenge
20	삼고초려	samgochoryeo	persistent, humble effort to win over a talented person
21	읍참마속	eupchammasok	enforcing rules even against someone you love
22	오월동주	owoldongju	enemies working together in a crisis
23	토사구팽	tosagupaeng	discarding a helper once he is no longer needed
24	지록위마	jirogwima [지로귀마]	twisting the truth to show power

More words: see the full list at learn-korean-hangul.com/vocabulary/word-types/four-character-idioms/idioms-from-stories/

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Matching

Name: _____ Date: _____

Hangul	Meaning
1. 새옹지마 _____	A. the founding ideal of benefiting all people
2. 어부지리 _____	B. keeping faith with friends
3. 사면초가 _____	C. being fooled by a change that adds up to the same
4. 각주구검 _____	D. do not kill without good reason
5. 조삼모사 _____	E. surrounded on every side with no way out
6. 호가호위 _____	F. being dutiful to one's parents
7. 홍익인간 _____	G. good and bad luck keep turning into each other
8. 사군이충 _____	H. stubbornly using an outdated method
9. 사친이효 _____	I. a third party profits when two sides fight
10. 교우이신 _____	J. using a powerful person's authority to threaten others
11. 임전무퇴 _____	K. fighting to the end without backing down
12. 살생유택 _____	L. loyalty to one's ruler and country

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Writing practice

Name: _____ Date: _____

새	옹	지	마	새	옹	지	마	새	옹	지	마				
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어	부	지	리	어	부	지	리	어	부	지	리				
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사	면	초	가	사	면	초	가	사	면	초	가				
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각	주	구	검	각	주	구	검	각	주	구	검				
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조	삼	모	사	조	삼	모	사	조	삼	모	사				
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호	가	호	위	호	가	호	위	호	가	호	위				
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홍	익	인	간	홍	익	인	간	홍	익	인	간				
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사	군	이	충	사	군	이	충	사	군	이	충				
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Korean four character idioms with stories worksheet

Fill in the blank

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. 회사를 그만뒀어요. 그 덕분에 더 좋은 일을 찾았어요. 인생은 _____예요.
I quit my company. Thanks to that, I found a better job. Life is a turn of fortune.

2. 두 가게가 싸우는 동안 세 번째 가게가 _____를 얻었어요.
While two shops fought, the third shop gained from it.

3. 계획이 모두 막혀서 _____예요.
All my plans are blocked, so I am surrounded on every side.

4. 시대가 변했는데 옛날 방식만 쓰면 _____이에요.
If you keep to old ways although the times have changed, it is the sword-in-the-boat mistake.

5. 이름만 바꾼 할인은 _____예요.
A discount that only changes the name is the same trick.

6. 사장님 이름을 팔아 큰소리치는 건 _____예요.
Throwing your weight around in the boss's name is borrowing the tiger's might.

7. 이 학교는 _____의 정신을 가르쳐요.
This school teaches the spirit of benefiting all humankind.

8. _____은 옛날 화랑이 지킨 가르침이에요.
Sagunichung was a teaching that the Hwarang of old kept.

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Answer key

1. G — 새옹지마 — good and bad luck keep turning into each other
2. I — 어부지리 — a third party profits when two sides fight
3. E — 사면초가 — surrounded on every side with no way out
4. H — 각주구검 — stubbornly using an outdated method
5. C — 조삼모사 — being fooled by a change that adds up to the same
6. J — 호가호위 — using a powerful person's authority to threaten others
7. A — 홍익인간 — the founding ideal of benefiting all people
8. L — 사군이충 — loyalty to one's ruler and country
9. F — 사친이효 — being dutiful to one's parents
10. B — 교우이신 — keeping faith with friends
11. K — 임전무퇴 — fighting to the end without backing down
12. D — 살생유택 — do not kill without good reason

Fill in the blank

1. 새옹지마
2. 어부지리
3. 사면초가
4. 각주구검
5. 조삼모사
6. 호가호위
7. 홍익인간
8. 사군이충