Idioms

Four character idioms chéngyǔ 四字成語

狐假虎威 hú-jià-hǔ-wēi
the fox assuming the majesty of tiger –
borrowing the power to do evil

一鳴驚人 yì-míng-jīng-rén
to make one’s mark at the first shot, to amaze
the world with a single brilliant feat

南轅北轍 nán-yuán-běi-zhè
to go south by driving the chariot north, means
and ends opposed, practice diametrically
opposed to preaching.

*Chinese chéngyǔ may function as nouns or
verbs.
Proverbs  yànyǔ  諺語
Proverbs are sentences with classical origin or a special philosophical meaning or implications.

活到老，學到老。
Huó dào lǎo, xué dào lǎo.
Learn as long as you live.

歇後語
A special expression composed by two parts. The first part is a statement or a description. The second part is the essence of the expression.

老鼠過街，人人喊打。
Lǎoshǔ guō jiē, rénrén hǎn dǎ.
When rats are running across the street, everybody yells: “Kill them!” (to be chased by all like a rat running across the street.)

和尚打傘 - 無法無天。
Héshàng dǎ sǎn – wú fǎ wú tiān.
A monk holds an umbrella – there is no hair (rhymed with ‘law’) and sky.