



马马虎虎 (**mǎma hūhu**): careless/just so so/not good, not bad

宋代 有个 画家，作画往往随心所欲，令人搞不清他画的是什么。

In the Song Dynasty, there was a painter who liked to paint anything he felt like painting. Most people could not understand his paintings.

一次,他 刚 画了一个 虎头， 碰上有个朋友来请他 画 马， 他就 随手在 虎头后 画上 马 的 身子

One day, when he had just finished a painting of a tiger's head, his friend came to ask him for a painting of a horse. So, he painted a horse's body behind the tiger's head.

朋友 问 他 画 的 是 马 还 是 虎， 他 答：“马马虎虎！”

His friend asked him if the painting was of a tiger or a horse. He answered "马马虎虎 (mǎma hūhu**) horse and tiger".**

朋友 没有 要 画， 他便将 画 挂在厅堂。

His friend rejected his painting, so he put it up in his living room.

大 儿子 见了 问 他 画 里 是 什 么， 他 说 是 虎， 小 儿子 问 他， 却 说 是 马。

His eldest son asked him "what was in the painting?" He answered, "a tiger." However, when his younger son asked him he answered, "a horse."

不久,大 儿子 外出 打 猎 时， 把 人 家 的 马 当 成 老 虎 射 死 了， 画 家 不 得 不 给 马 主 人 赔 钱。

Shortly after this, his eldest son while hunting shot someone's horse because he thought it was a tiger. The painter had to pay the owner of the horse a lot of money.

而 他 的 小 儿 子 外 出 碰 上 老 虎， 却 以 为 是 马 想 去 骑， 结 果 被 老 虎 咬 死 了。

His second son went out and saw a tiger and he wanted to ride it because he thought it was a horse. But, when the boy tried to ride the tiger it killed him.

画 家 很 伤 心， 就 把 画 烧 了。

The painter was very sad, so he burned the painting.

These days the idiom is used to describe someone who is careless or situations and things that are not special or just common.

马马虎虎 (**mǎma hūhu**): careless/just so so

In Chinese, the phrase "马虎 (mǎhu**)" and "马马虎虎 (**mǎma hūhu**)" both can refer to people who are careless.**

Examples:

他 这 个 人 做 事 比 较 马 虎。

He's a rather careless person.

你 汉 语 说 的 怎 样？ How is your **Chinese?** 马马虎虎。 Just so so.