

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 投其所好

**tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3**

A young cat jumped out of the car as her owner was driving her home. The cat was easily spooked as it had been living on the streets and was rescued only recently.

She dashed toward an excavator by the side of the road, and quickly disappeared into the belt assembly of the road work machine. The owner waited four hours to no avail.

But it turned out ending the stalemate was a piece of cake, literally. The pastry, placed near the opening of the cat's hiding place, proved too much to resist. The feline, apparently hungry after the standoff, emerged to feast on it, and was taken back into her owner's safe custody.

This method is called “投其所好” (*tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3*).

“投” (*tou2*) is “to throw,” “to put in,” “to fit in,” “to agree with,” “to cater to,” “其” (*qi2*) “that,” “that person's,” “that one's,” “his,” “hers,” “所” (*suo3*) “that which” and “好” (*hao3*) “good,” “to be fond of.” “投其所好” (*tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3*) is, literally, “to cater to what that person likes.”

The cat is, of course, not a person, but the idiom still applies as it means “to cater to another's pleasure,” “to suit one's fancy.” Giving the cat a piece of cake, which it likes, is “投其所好” (*tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3*).

If you want to win someone over, “投其所好” (*tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3*) is usually the best way. But there is a sinister side to “投其所好” (*tou2 qi2 suo3 hao3*), as it is a usual tactic people employ to bribe officials.

### Terms containing the character “投” (*tou2*) include:

投訴 (*tou2 su4*) – to complain

投資 (*tou2 zi1*) – to invest; investment

投票 (*tou2 piao4*) – to cast a vote

投降 (*tou2 xiang2*) – to surrender