

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 甜言蜜語

*tian2 yan2 mi4 yu3*

A political party recently received complaints from several young men who said they were being lured into signing up for expensive skin care service plans by one beauty salon.

The men came to know a young woman on the internet and hit it off with her as she seemed to genuinely care for them. She said she would let them try her “sweet soup” (the real dessert kind), when she has learned to make it.

After earning their trust, the young woman convinced the victims to sign up for the plans. The trick the woman has employed was “甜言蜜語” (*tian2 yan2 mi4 yu3*).

“甜” (*tian2*) is “sweet,” “言” (*yan2*) “speech,” “word,” “to say,” “蜜” (*mi4*) “honey,” “sweet,” and “語” (*yu3*) “language,” “to speak,” “to say.” Literally, “甜言蜜語” (*tian2 yan2 mi4 yu3*) is “sweet words, honey talk,” “sweet words and

honeyed phrases.”

The idiom means “fine-sounding words,” “smooth-tongued,” “to speak honeyed words.” The purpose of using “甜言蜜語” (*tian2 yan2 mi4 yu3*) is “to cajole (勸誘),” “to coax,” “to sweet-talk.”

Threatening words might be intimidating, but the most dangerous kind of trickery is “甜言蜜語” (*tian2 yan2 mi4 yu3*) as it would lead you insidiously (不知不覺地), and often willingly, into a trap, usually a seemingly “romantic” one

A similar idiom for more general situations is “花言巧語” (*hua1 yan2 qiao3 yu3*), literally “flowery and clever words.” It means “elegant but insincere words,” “sweet words,” “smooth talking,” “blandishments (奉承),” “blarney (欺人之談),” “cheating wheedling (哄騙).”

### Terms containing the character “甜” (*tian2*) include:

甜蜜 (*tian2 mi4*) – sweet; happy

蜜蜂 (*mi4 feng1*) – honey-bee

蜂蜜 (*feng1 mi4*) – honey

蜜月 (*mi4 yue4*) – a honeymoon