

# 無膽匪類

wu2 dan3 fei3 lei4

A man entered a Tsim Sha Tsui jewelry store, brandished a “gun” and declared “robbery.” The shop owner noticed that the “gun” looked so fake that it couldn’t possibly be real. He tackled the man who then beat a hasty retreat upon the first sign of resistance.

As the man was running away, he was tripped by the extended foot of an employee at a nearby jewelry store; he fell to the ground and was caught, whereupon he started to beg for mercy from his captors.

Armed robbery is a serious crime but how it was botched is almost comical. The robber, in his 60s, is qualified, literally, as “無膽匪類” (wu2 dan3 fei3 lei4).

“無” (wu2) is “without,” “膽” (dan3) “the gall,” “匪” (fei3) “a robber,” “a criminal,” and “類” (lei4) “a type,” “a category,” “a class.” Literally, “無膽匪類” (wu2 dan3 fei3 lei4) “no gall robber

## Idiom by Lon Yan

type.” “無膽匪類” (wu2 dan3 fei3 lei4) a colloquial Cantonese expression means “a wimp,” “a gutless person,” “a wuss.”

Calling someone “無膽匪類” (wu2 dan3 fei3 lei4) is the same as saying “You coward!” Interestingly, the expression is not generally used on real robbers, even a wimpy one.

“無膽” (wu2 dan3) means “lacking courage.” A “無膽” (wu2 dan3) person is someone who lacks courage. The opposite is “大膽” (da4 dan3), which means “courageous,” “bold” or “reckless.” Driving without a license is bold and reckless, so it is called “大膽車” (da4 dan3 che1).

### Terms containing the character “無” (wu2) include:

無意 (wu2 yi4) – not intentional

無關 (wu2 guan1) – irrelevant, unrelated

無理 (wu2 li3) – without reason

無線電 (wu2 xian4 dian4) – wireless