

臨危不亂

lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4

A truck apparently lost its brakes while running along a highway. The driver was seen quickly pulling the vehicle into the slow lane and grinding its side along the concrete barriers to slow it down, successfully bringing it to a stop.

No one was hurt and there was no serious damage to property. The hair-raising scene was captured on video by a driver behind and posted on the web.

Netizens were impressed by the driver, who stayed cool, calm and collected, so to speak, even when his vehicle was brakeless.

A driving instructor advised that in such situations the key to averting disaster is “臨危不亂” (*lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4*), which was exactly how the truck driver behaved.

“臨” (*lin2*) is “near,” “just before,” “危” (*wei1*) “danger,” “crisis,” “不” (*bu2*) “no,” “not” and “亂”

Idiom by Lon Yan

(*luan4*) “confusion,” “disorder.” Literally, “臨危不亂” (*lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4*) is “near danger, no disorder.” It means to be able to keep calm in the face of danger.

When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, a sure way to make it worse is to panic, which is the opposite of “臨危不亂” (*lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4*). Panic is “慌亂” (*huang1 luan4*). When you are “慌亂” (*huang1 luan4*) you won't have the ability to think and act sensibly.

Obviously, the best policy is not to get yourself into a dangerous situation in the first place, and send your vehicle for maintenance regularly.

Terms containing the character “亂” (*luan4*) include:

亂來 (*luan4 lai2*) – to act foolishly or recklessly

混亂 (*hun4 luan4*) – disorder; chaos; anarchy; disarray

亂說 (*luan4 shuo1*) – to blabber; to talk nonsense

亂世 (*luan4 shi4*) – troubled times