

# 雷厲風行

*lei2 li4 feng1 xing2*

Police launched a week-long anti-illegal parking blitz in districts with the worst traffic congestions, like Central and Mong Kok.

The campaign improved traffic conditions and was welcome by most people, except for those drivers who were ticketed. It was also reported to have reduced conflicts over road blockages caused by illegally parked vehicles.

But ironically it has caused some conflicts to break out between drivers and the law enforcement officers.

Drivers were upset with the police's "no-mercy" stance. One thought he should express his dismay by scuffling with a policeman. Of course, he found out the hard way that it is never a good idea to try to bully people, especially someone who wears a uniform and carries a gun - the driver ended up being pinned to the ground and arrested.

The police action can be described with the idiom “雷厲風行” (*lei2 li4 feng1 xing2*). “雷” (*lei2*)

## Idiom by Lon Yan

is “thunder,” “厲” (*li4*) “strict,” “stern,” “harsh,” “oppressive,” “風” (*feng1*) is “wind” and “行” (*xing2*) “to do,” “to carry out.” “雷厲” (*lei2 li4*), together, means “fiercely” “violently.” Literally, “雷厲風行” (*lei2 li4 feng1 xing2*) is “pass like thunder and move like the wind.” The idiom means “strict enforcement of an order, law or regulation,” “swift and decisive action.”

To rein in runaway property prices, the government has introduced two strong measures to cool the market. These were dubbed “double spicy moves” (雙辣招) because they were punchy, swift and resolute. So the way these measures have been implemented can also be called “雷厲風行” (*lei2 li4 feng1 xing2*).

### Terms containing the character “雷” (*lei2*) include:

雷雨 (*lei2 yu3*) – thunderstorm

雷達 (*lei2 da2*) – radar

雷射 (*lei2 she4*) – laser

雷電 (*lei2 dian4*) – a thunder bolt; thunder and lightning