

# 樂極忘形

le4 ji2 wang4 xing2

Pokemon Go, the game that sends players into the real world to search for "Pokemon" using their mobile phones, has taken the world by storm.

It is an "augmented reality," or half-real-half-virtual game. And even in the short time the game has been launched, it has become clear that mixing reality with the virtual world can cause real problems.

In New York, a driver crashed his car into a tree and admitted to police he was distracted. A 15-year-old Pennsylvania girl was hit by a car while crossing a busy intersection. Both were looking for Pokemon at the time.

In Quebec City, Canada, two officers suffered minor injuries when a car reversed into their cruiser in a parking lot, with the driver saying, "I'm sorry, I was playing Pokemon Go." Players have also trespassed into other people's property and in one case a police station, as they were tracking the cartoon monster.

## Idiom by Lon Yan

The idiom to describe such behavior is "樂極忘形" (le4 ji2 wang4 xing2).

"樂" (le4) is "happy," "joyous," "極" (ji2) "very," "extremely," "utmost," "忘" (wang4) "to forget" and "形" (xing2) is "form," "shape." Literally, "樂極忘形" (le4 ji2 wang4 xing2) is "extremely happy as to forget form." "忘形" (wang4 xing2) means "to lose all bearings," "to be beside oneself," "to forget oneself." "樂極忘形" (le4 ji2 wang4 xing2) means "to be extremely happy and forget oneself," "to be so happy as to lose all bearings." And what "樂極忘形" often leads to is "樂極生悲" (le4 ji2 sheng1 bei1): "extreme pleasure is followed by sorrow."

### Terms containing the character "極" (ji2) include:

極端 (ji2 duan1) – extreme; radical

極度 (ji2 du4) – extremely; exceedingly

終極 (zhong1 ji2) – ultimate; final

北極 (bei3 ji2) – the North Pole