

# 罪加一等

*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*

Drink-driving is a serious offense. It is 10,000 times more deadly, especially when you are a commercial airline pilot.

The latter is actually not as rare as one would think. Two pilots at a famous US airline were arrested recently for suspected intoxication before they were to fly 141 passengers from Scotland to the US. Just one month before, two of their Canadian counterparts were arrested for the same reason.

When pilots drink and fly, we can say it is “罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*) as compared to drunk driving.

“罪” (*zui4*) is “crime,” “guilt,” “blame,” “fault,” “加” (*jia1*) “to add to,” “一” (*yi4*) “one” and “等” (*deng3*) “a grade,” “a rank.” Literally, “罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*) is “fault adds one grade,” “adding one grade to the offense.”

“罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*) means “adding to the severity of the crime,” “increasing penalty for an

## Idiom by Lon Yan

offense,” “doubly guilty.”

“罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*) happens when there are aggravating factors in a crime, such as when someone commits the very crime he or she is responsible for preventing, like a bank security guard colluding with bank robbers, it is “罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*).

“明知故犯” (*ming2 zhi1 gu4 fan4*) means “to commit an offense knowing full well that it is wrong”, and this is a ground for “罪加一等” (*zui4 jia1 yi4 deng3*).

As a noun, the character “等” (*deng3*) means “a grade,” “a level,” but as a verb it means “to wait.”

### Terms containing the character “等” (*deng3*) include:

等級 (*deng3 ji2*) – a grade; a rank

頭等 (*tou2 deng3*) – first class

次等 (*ci4 deng3*) – second class; inferior

等待 (*deng3 dai4*) – to wait; to wait for