

橫衝直撞

heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4

A wild boar was found on the streets of Sai Wan Ho one morning.

No one knew how it got there, but everyone could see it was a menace. The pig wasn't taking a leisurely stroll but was doing what could be called "橫衝直撞" (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*).

The poor animal was probably scared, or agitated, or both. Regardless, it is no laughing matter when something weighing 80-kg rams into you, which was what an unlucky pedestrian found out.

As people were scrambling to get out of the way of the rampaging pig, the 73-year-old man was obviously not quick enough, so he was hurt, though not seriously. After a three-hour tussle, the pig was finally tranquilized, taken to the countryside and released.

"橫" (*heng2*) is "horizontal," "across," "sideways," "衝" (*chong1*) "to rush," "to thrust," "to dash," "to forge ahead," "直" (*zhi2*) "straight," and "撞" (*zhuang4*) "to run into," "to bump against." "橫衝直撞" (*heng2*

Idiom by Lon Yan

chong1 zhi2 zhuang4), literally, is "dash horizontally, and bump straight ahead," "bashing sideways and colliding head on."

"橫衝直撞" (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*) means "to push one's way by shoving or bumping," "to jostle and elbow one's way," "to dash," "to run amok," "to rush and swerve about madly."

The idiom is used to describe a person, a vehicle, and obviously an animal too, that is dashing around madly.

When an inexperienced person does things rashly, steps on toes and causes damage, we can also use the idiom to describe his conduct, or just tell him "not to 橫衝直撞 (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*)!"

Terms containing the character "撞" (*zhuang4*) include:

撞車 (*zhuang4 che1*) – a car crash

撞機 (*zhuang4 ji1*) – a plane crash

撞擊 (*zhuang4 ji1*) – to ram; to hit

碰撞 (*peng4 zhuang4*) – to collide