

Idiom by Lon Yan

大模大樣

da4 mo2 da4 yang4

An eight-foot-long python was filmed crossing a road leisurely in Tai Po. Fortunately for it, traffic wasn't heavy and a car driver stopped and waited until it has safely reached the other side of the road.

The snake has acted like it owned the road, and that it had every right to stop traffic just because it wanted to cross the road. That was an attitude that can be described by the idiom “大模大樣” (*da4 mo2 da4 yang4*).

“大” (*da4*) is “big,” “large,” “huge,” “模” (*mo2*) “a pattern,” “大” (*da4*) is, again, “big,” “huge,” and “樣” (*yang4*) “shape,” “appearance,” “manner.” “模樣” (*mo2 yang4*) is “appearance,” “look.” Literally, “大模大樣” (*da4 mo2 da4 yang4*) is “big in appearance and manner.”

When someone tries to look important

and big, it shows arrogance. So “大模大樣” (*da4 mo2 da4 yang4*) means “pompously,” “proudly,” “impolite,” “to swagger (大搖大擺地走).

“大模大樣” (*da4 mo2 da4 yang4*) is used to describe people who act in an arrogant way, as if they have the right to do whatever they like without regard to others.

Another version of the idiom is “大模斯樣” (*da4 mo2 si1 yang4*), which is used more often locally.

Recently, there was a complaint about a woman who relieved herself while riding on a bus in front of other passengers. The media used this idiom to describe the woman's conduct, which is certainly a very disgusting example of “大模斯樣” (*da4 mo2 si1 yang4*).

Terms containing the character “樣” (*yang4*) include:

樣子 (*yang4 zi*) – an appearance; a shape; a manner

樣本 (*yang4 ben3*) – a specimen; a sample

樣板 (*yang4 ban3*) – a prototype; a model; a template

樣貌 (*yang4 mao4*) – appearance