

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 一無是處

yi4 wu2 shi4 chu4

How much do Canadian hate Donald Trump? The Toronto Star answered the question with the story headlined: "Here's how much Canada hates Trump" with the subhead "Majority of us dislike the US president and he's souring our opinion on the US itself."

It is safe to say that few in the world like Trump, as nothing about him is likable. But Canadians clearly loathe him more: 92 percent think he is arrogant, compared to the world median of 75 percent.

As to whether he can even do his job, only 16 percent consider him well-qualified, as against the world median of 26 percent. Also, 78 percent think he is intolerant and 72 percent even think he is dangerous.

Basically, in the view of the people around the world, Canadians in particular, Trump is a

person who is "一無是處" (yi4 wu2 shi4 chu4).

"一" (yi4) is "one," "無" (wu2) "without," "nil," "nothing," "是" (shi4) "correct," "right," and "處" (chu4) "a place," "locations," "a point." Literally, "一無是處" (yi4 wu2 shi4 chu4) is "not even one point is right," "nothing is right."

The idiom means "without a single redeeming feature," "devoid of any merit," "not one good point," "everything about it is wrong."

"一無是處" (yi4 wu2 shi4 chu4) can be used to describe things, like a project that costs a lot of money but would achieve nothing useful, or a thing that is utterly useless.

It can also be used to describe a person. Someone who is arrogant, ignorant, intolerant and dangerous cannot be anything but "一無是處" (yi4 wu2 shi4 chu4).

### Terms containing the character "無" (wu2) include:

無恥 (wu2 chi3) – shameless; infamous; dishonorable

無賴 (wu2 lai4) – a rogue; a rascal; devoid of shame

無知 (wu2 zhi1) – ignorant

無助 (wu2 zhu4) – helpless