

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 橫衝直撞

*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*

Road rage wrecks lives. And motorists in Assam, a state in northeast India, came face to face with a very different kind of road rage one morning recently.

It was a two-ton rhinoceros, which got onto the road and started to charge at passing cars as panicky drivers tried to evade its attack by backing up and swerving to the side of the road.

A video of the hair-raising and “absurd” encounter was watched for over 12 million times since it was post on July 26. Fortunately, none of the vehicles was actually hit by the wild beast, which disappeared into bushes at the end of its rampage. We can call its behavior “橫衝直撞” (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*).

“橫” (*heng2*) is “horizontal,” “across,” “衝” (*chong1*) “to rush,” “to dash,” “to charge

(against),” “直” (*zhi2*) “straight,” “vertical,” and “撞” (*zhuang4*) “to collide with,” “to hit,” “to strike.” Literally, “橫衝直撞” (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*) is “bashing sideways and colliding straight on.”

The idiom means “to push one’s way by shoving or humping,” “to jostle and elbow one’s way,” “to dash,” “to run amok,” “to rampage,” “around madly,” “to barge about.” The idiom can be used to describe the behavior of animals as well as those of people.

Young children like to run around without looking at where they are going. This is “橫衝直撞” (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*). Those who are young and inexperienced would sometimes act rashly, stepping on toes and hitting brick walls. This is also a kind of “橫衝直撞” (*heng2 chong1 zhi2 zhuang4*).

### Terms containing the character “撞” (*heng2*) include:

橫掃 (*heng2 sao3*) – to wipe out; to sweep across

橫財 (*heng4 cai2*) – easy money; windfall

橫死 (*heng4 si3*) – to die an unnatural death; to meet a violent death

橫豎 (*heng2 shu4*) – anyway; in any case