

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 一舉兩得

yi4 ju3 liang3 de2

Getting stuck in traffic going to and from work is a huge inconvenience for city dwellers.

If you live not too far from your place of work, you may choose to walk. The more sporty ones would even jog to work.

But not taking public transport doesn't seem to be an option if your home and office is separated by a body of water with no connecting roads – swimming across the Victoria Harbor every day is hardly sensible, as you would probably get killed by the contaminated water, and more likely, by a boat first.

But Benjamin David of Munich is daunted by neither hazards or weather. He swims two kilometers in the river to work every day, and told a radio interview: "When I'm swimming,

I am indeed quicker, and also more relaxed," he said.

What he is doing is, indeed, “一舉兩得” (yi4 ju3 liang3 de2).

“一” (yi4) is “one,” “舉” (ju3) “to lift,” “to hold up,” “an action,” “behavior,” “兩” (liang3) “two,” “both,” and “得” (de2) “to get;” “to gain.” Literally, “一舉兩得” (yi4 ju3 liang3 de2) is “one move, two gains.”

The idiom means “to attain two objectives or gain two advantages by a single move.” It has the same meaning as “to kill two birds with one stone” which is the Chinese idiom – “一石二鳥” (yi4 shi2 er4 niao3).

Recycling items you don't use is “一舉兩得” (yi4 ju3 liang3 de2) as it's environmentally-friendly and you get more space at home.

### Terms containing the character “舉” (ju3) include:

舉行 (ju3 xing2) – to hold (a meeting, event, etc)

舉手 (ju3 shou3) – to raise one's hand

舉例 (ju3 li4) – to give an example

舉重 (ju3 zhong4) – weight lifting