

裝模作樣

zhuang1 mo2 zuo4 yang4

University of Hong Kong Council member Lo Chung-mau fell to the ground clutching his right knee as students stormed into the room during a meeting.

The head of the university's department of surgery told police he bumped his knee and hurt it as a group of students stormed the meeting. The case has been classified as assault.

Lo said he had undergone surgery on the knee about two years ago but was not sure how he injured it during the trouble.

However, he was accused of faking his injury, mocked on the internet and was likened to a cheating football player. Lo felt the accusation was a big insult.

What Lo has been accused of is “裝模作樣” (*zhuang1 mo2 zuo4 yang4*). “裝” (*zhuang1*) is “to pretend, disguise,” “模” (*mo2*) is “mold,” “作” (*zuo4*) means “to affect” and “樣” (*yang4*) is

Idiom by Lon Yan

“shape, appearance.” Literally, this idiom is “pretend mold affect appearance.”

When you say someone “裝模作樣” (*zhuang1 mo2 zuo4 yang4*), you are accusing the person of “putting on airs,” “assuming airs” or “putting on a show.”

“Feign” and “fake” are words that carry similar meaning as the characters “裝” (*zhuang1*) and “作” (*zuo4*) in the idiom. The term “模樣” (*mo2 yang4*) means appearance. “裝模作樣,” therefore, also means to give a false appearance.

“Crocodile tears” (鱷魚眼淚) are insincere tears. Shedding crocodile tears means a hypocritical show of sorrow (假慈悲). People who act like that can definitely be said to be “裝模作樣” (*zhuang1 mo2 zuo4 yang4*).

Terms containing the character “裝” (*zhuang1*) include:

- 假裝 (*ji3 zhuang1*) - disguise, simulate
- 包裝 (*bao1 zhuang1*) - packaging, to pack
- 服裝 (*fu2 zhuang1*) - clothing, attire
- 裝扮 (*zhuang1 ban4*) - to dress up