臨危不亂

lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4

A truck apparently lost its brakes while running along a highway. The driver was seen quickly pulling the vehicle into the slow lane and grinding its side along the concrete barriers to slow it down, successfully bringing it to a stop.

No one was hurt and there was no serious damage to property. The hair-raising scene was captured on video by a driver behind and posted on the web.

Netizens were impressed by the driver, who stayed cool, calm and collected, so to speak, even when his vehicle was brakeless.

A driving instructor advised that in such situations the key to averting disaster is “臨危不亂” (lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4), which was exactly how the truck driver behaved.

“臨” (lin2) is “near,” “just before,” “危” (wei1) “danger,” “crisis,” “不” (bu2) “no,” “not” and “亂” (luan4) “confusion,” “disorder.” Literally, “臨危不亂” (lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4) is “near danger, no disorder.” It means to be able to keep calm in the face of danger.

When you find yourself in a dangerous situation, a sure way to make it worse is to panic, which is the opposite of “臨危不亂” (lin2 wei1 bu2 luan4). Panic is “慌亂” (huang1 luan4). When you are “慌亂” (huang1 luan4) you won’t have the ability to think and act sensibly.

Obviously, the best policy is not to get yourself into a dangerous situation in the first place, and send your vehicle for maintenance regularly.

Terms containing the character “亂” (luan4) include:

亂來 (luan4 lai2) – to act foolishly or recklessly
混亂 (hun4 luan4) – disorder; chaos; anarchy; disarray
亂說 (luan4 shuo1) – to blabber; to talk nonsense
亂世 (luan4 shi4) – troubled times