

There's method to my madness
我有一个不合常理的办法

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Li

Hi everyone. 大家好我是杨莉, 欢迎收听《地道英语》。趁着 Rob 还没到我要赶紧找我的交通卡。I couldn't find my Travelcard this morning. I hope I haven't lost it.

(Sound of Li emptying her handbag... Then the door opens and Rob enters the room)

Rob

Hi Li, sorry I'm late. *(Rob looks at Li)* Li, what are you doing? You've emptied your handbag all over the floor!

Li

Oh, hi Rob, I wasn't expecting you to be here so soon. 不好意思啊, 我的东西摊了满地。Oh dear, this must look terrible, but believe me, there's method to my madness.

Rob

You've made a mess all over the floor and you're telling me you've gone mad!

Li

没有没有, 我可没有疯。No, I haven't gone mad, well, I hope not! 我刚才使用了一个地道的英语表达。The phrase 'there's method to my madness' 意思是, 虽然我的行为看上去难以理喻, 但我这样做是有原因的。I'm surprised that you didn't know this phrase!

Rob

I'm only joking. Of course I know this phrase. 'There's method to my madness' or you could say 'there's method in my madness', means you are doing something that looks strange but you have a plan and really, you are doing something very sensible.

Li

Yes, that's exactly right. 你解释得很好。讲话者的意思是, “我有一个不合乎常理, 但实际上很聪明的办法”。As you can see, I've emptied my handbag over the floor because it'll be easier and quicker to find my Travelcard. Then I'll re-pack my handbag.

Rob

That's good to hear. Well, this is the phrase for Authentic Real English today. Let's hear some examples of how it is used.

Examples

I'm driving to my friend's house today but I'm going to take the long route, avoiding the motorway. There's method to my madness, I think the motorway will be very busy and the longer route will be quicker.

A: What are you doing putting all the books on the floor?

B: There's method to my madness, I'm taking a photo of the books I'm putting away. The photos will help me locate the books more easily.

A: Oh, that's clever.

Rob

So Li, have you found your Travelcard?

Li

Yes! 找到啦! 一定是被压在了包的最底下了。 You see, there was method to my madness.

Rob

Well done Li. Well, I'm going now. I'll leave you to tidy up your mess!

Li

Thanks Rob.

Rob

Bye everyone!

Li

Bye!