

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 風雨不改

*feng1 yu3 bu4 gai3*

Typhoon Hato packed hurricane force winds hit Hong Kong and wreaked havoc. Hundred-year-old trees toppled, low-lying areas were flooded and ships broke mooring and ran aground.

But some citizens appeared undaunted and continued to do exercise at the waterfront. A Headline Daily picture showed a middle-aged woman doing stretching by the seafront as waves crashed against the seawall. The caption used the idiom “風雨不改” (*feng1 yu3 bu4 gai3*).

“風” (*feng1*) is “the wind,” “雨” (*yu3*) “rain,” “不” (*bu4*) “no,” “not,” and “改” (*gai3*) “to change,” “to correct,” “to alter,” “to switch to.” Literally, “風雨不改” (*feng1 yu3 bu4 gai3*) is “not to change despite wind and rain.”

“風雨” (*feng1 yu3*) means “wind and rain,” “the elements.” Figuratively, the term means “trial and hardship.” “風雨不改” (*feng1 yu3 bu4*

*gai3*) means “not to alter one’s course despite hardship,” “not compromising one’s principles regardless of hardship.”

The idiom can be used to describe the admirable spirit of adhering to one’s principles even if it would cause hardship or suffering.

It can also be used in its more literal sense to describe people who stick to their routine regardless of weather, like the woman who did exercise outdoor despite a raging storm.

The idiom can also be used like the English expression “come rain or shine,” which means “whether it rain or not,” “whatever the weather.”

When you and your friends agree to go hiking over the weekend irrespective of the weather, you can say “風雨不改” (*feng1 yu3 bu4 gai3*) – we’ll go come rain or shine!

### Terms containing the character “改” (*gai3*) include:

改善 (*gai3 shan4*) – to improve; improvement

改革 (*gai3 ge2*) – to reform; reformation

改變 (*gai3 bian4*) – to change; a change

修改 (*xiu1 gai3*) – to alter; to modify; to correct