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| **Vocabulary: Chinese Astrology** | **READING TEXT** |

The following reading and writing exercise involves Chinese astrology. Chinese astrology categorizes people according to which lunar year they were born in. An animal is assigned to each lunar year, and a series of typical personal characteristics is assigned to each animal. To find your animal sign, please consult the following chart.

Before you read the description of your animal, you must write a brief description of your personal characteristics in five categories: personality, home life, work, love and leisure. You will then choose one other person in your class, ask him or her in which year he or she was born, and then write a brief description of his or her personal characteristics. Once again, do this before you read the description of your fellow student’s animal sign. (Use the table below).

After you write your descriptions, please consult the astrological descriptions, and read them. For fun, you should also show your description of your fellow student.

Note: If you need inspiration, don’t hesitate to read the description of a sign which is not yours or the one of your chosen classmate.

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| **1940** | 8 | Feb | 1940 | - | 26 | Jan | 1941 | Dragon | **1974** | 23 | | Jan | 1974 | - | 10 | Feb | 1975 | Tiger |
| **1941** | 27 | Jan | 1941 | - | 14 | Feb | 1942 | Snake | **1975** | 11 | | Feb | 1975 | - | 30 | Jan | 1976 | Rabbit |
| **1942** | 15 | Feb | 1942 | - | 4 | Feb | 1943 | Horse | **1976** | 31 | | Jan | 1976 | - | 17 | Feb | 1977 | Dragon |
| **1943** | 5 | Feb | 1943 | - | 24 | Jan | 1944 | Goat | **1977** | 18 | | Feb | 1977 | - | 6 | Feb | 1978 | Snake |
| **1944** | 25 | Jan | 1944 | - | 12 | Feb | 1945 | Monkey | **1978** | 7 | | Feb | 1978 | - | 27 | Jan | 1979 | Horse |
| **1945** | 13 | Feb | 1945 | - | 1 | Feb | 1946 | Rooster | **1979** | 28 | | Jan | 1979 | - | 15 | Feb | 1980 | Goat |
| **1946** | 2 | Feb | 1946 | - | 21 | Jan | 1947 | Dog | **1980** | 16 | | Feb | 1980 | - | 4 | Feb | 1981 | Monkey |
| **1947** | 22 | Jan | 1947 | - | 9 | Feb | 1948 | Pig | **1981** | 5 | | Feb | 1981 | - | 24 | Jan | 1982 | Rooster |
| **1948** | 10 | Feb | 1948 | - | 28 | Jan | 1949 | Rat | **1982** | 25 | | Jan | 1982 | - | 12 | Feb | 1983 | Dog |
| **1949** | 29 | Jan | 1949 | - | 16 | Feb | 1950 | Ox | **1983** | 13 | | Feb | 1983 | - | 1 | Feb | 1984 | Pig |
| **1950** | 17 | Feb | 1950 | - | 5 | Feb | 1951 | Tiger | **1984** | 2 | | Feb | 1984 | - | 19 | Feb | 1985 | Rat |
| **1951** | 6 | Feb | 1951 | - | 26 | Jan | 1952 | Rabbit | **1985** | 20 | | Feb | 1985 | - | 8 | Feb | 1986 | Ox |
| **1952** | 27 | Jan | 1952 | - | 13 | Feb | 1953 | Dragon | **1986** | 9 | | Feb | 1986 | - | 28 | Jan | 1987 | Tiger |
| **1953** | 14 | Feb | 1953 | - | 2 | Feb | 1954 | Snake | **1987** | 29 | | Jan | 1987 | - | 16 | Feb | 1988 | Rabbit |
| **1954** | 3 | Feb | 1954 | - | 23 | Jan | 1955 | Horse | **1988** | 17 | | Feb | 1988 | - | 5 | Feb | 1989 | Dragon |
| **1955** | 24 | Jan | 1955 | - | 11 | Feb | 1956 | Goat | **1989** | 6 | | Feb | 1989 | - | 26 | Jan | 1990 | Snake |
| **1956** | 12 | Feb | 1956 | - | 30 | Jan | 1957 | Monkey | **1990** | 27 | | Jan | 1990 | - | 14 | Feb | 1991 | Horse |
| **1957** | 31 | Jan | 1957 | - | 17 | Feb | 1958 | Rooster | **1991** | 15 | | Feb | 1991 | - | 3 | Feb | 1992 | Goat |
| **1958** | 18 | Feb | 1958 | - | 7 | Feb | 1959 | Dog | **1992** | 4 | | Feb | 1992 | - | 22 | Jan | 1993 | Monkey |
| **1959** | 8 | Feb | 1959 | - | 27 | Jan | 1960 | Pig | **1993** | 23 | | Jan | 1993 | - | 9 | Feb | 1994 | Rooster |
| **1960** | 28 | Jan | 1960 | - | 14 | Feb | 1961 | Rat | **1994** | 10 | | Feb | 1994 | - | 30 | Jan | 1995 | Dog |
| **1961** | 15 | Feb | 1961 | - | 4 | Feb | 1962 | Ox | **1995** | 31 | | Jan | 1995 | - | 18 | Feb | 1996 | Pig |
| **1962** | 5 | Feb | 1962 | - | 24 | Jan | 1963 | Tiger | **1996** | 19 | | Feb | 1996 | - | 7 | Feb | 1997 | Rat |
| **1963** | 25 | Jan | 1963 | - | 12 | Feb | 1964 | Rabbit | **1997** | 8 | | Feb | 1997 | - | 27 | Jan | 1998 | Ox |
| **1964** | 13 | Feb | 1964 | - | 1 | Feb | 1965 | Dragon | **1998** | 28 | | Jan | 1998 | - | 5 | Feb | 1999 | Tiger |
| **1965** | 2 | Feb | 1965 | - | 20 | Jan | 1966 | Snake | **1999** | 6 | | Feb | 1999 | - | 4 | Feb | 2000 | Rabbit |
| **1966** | 21 | Jan | 1966 | - | 8 | Feb | 1967 | Horse | **2000** | 5 | | Feb | 2000 | - | 23 | Jan | 2001 | Dragon |
| **1967** | 9 | Feb | 1967 | - | 29 | Jan | 1968 | Goat | **2001** | 24 | | Jan | 2001 | - | 23 | Jan | 2002 | Snake |
| **1968** | 30 | Jan | 1968 | - | 16 | Feb | 1969 | Monkey | **2002** | 12 | | Feb | 2002 | - | 31 | Jan | 2003 | Horse |
| **1969** | 17 | Feb | 1969 | - | 5 | Feb | 1970 | Rooster | **2003** | 1 | | Feb | 2003 | - | 21 | Jan | 2004 | Goat |
| **1970** | 6 | Feb | 1970 | - | 26 | Jan | 1971 | Dog | **2004** | 22 | | Jan | 2004 | - | 8 | Feb | 2005 | Monkey |
| **1971** | 27 | Jan | 1971 | - | 14 | Feb | 1972 | Pig | **2005** | 9 | | Feb | 2005 | - | 28 | Jan | 2006 | Rooster |
| **1972** | 15 | Feb | 1972 | - | 2 | Feb | 1973 | Rat | **2006** | 29 | | Jan | 2006 | - | 17 | Feb | 2007 | Dog |
| **1973** | 3 | Feb | 1973 | - | 22 | Jan | 1974 | Ox | **2007** | 18 | Feb | | 2007 | - | 6 | Feb | 2008 | Pig |

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| **YOUR DESCRIPTION** |

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| **SIGN** |  |
| **PERSONALITY** |  |
| **HOME LIFE** |  |
| **WORK** |  |
| **LOVE** |  |
| **LEISURE** |  |

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| **DESCRIPTION OF ANOTHER STUDENT** |

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| **NAME** |  | **SIGN** |  |
| **PERSONALITY** |  | | |
| **HOME LIFE** |  | | |
| **WORK** |  | | |
| **LOVE** |  | | |
| **LEISURE** |  | | |

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| **CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL SIGNS** |

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|  | **THE RAT** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | The rat lives for the present and is afraid of failure. The rat is charming, sociable and light-hearted. The rat likes bargains and secrets, and tries to take advantage of every situation. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Rats love to be outside their homes. Their homes are usually clean, well-organized, well-furnished and comfortable. |
| **WORK** | Rats are aggressive. They are happy when they have a lot of work to do. Rats hate physical labour. They are good at making profits from any situations. |
| **LOVE** | Rats are romantic and passionate. They are selfish once a relationship is stable. Rats are nervous at the start of a relationship. They are generous with their partners. |
| **LEISURE** | Rats enjoy shopping for bargains. They like puzzles and gambling. They do not enjoy sports. Rats like parties. |

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|  | **THE OX** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Oxen are down-to-earth people, who are conservative and reliable. They are very honest and practical. They do not appreciate advice. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Oxen like a comfortable home, but they are very practical, and don’t buy luxury items. Oxen like to live in the country if possible. Their house should be near water. |
| **WORK** | The ox can be organized, but usually only the ox can understand the organizational system. The ox is usually careful and even meticulous. Oxen will blame other people for their own mistakes. They always arrive on time. |
| **LOVE** | The ox is usually cautious and even nervous about falling in love. The ox is not visibly romantic, but oxen are loyal and faithful partners. Oxen hate to be betrayed. |
| **LEISURE** | Oxen enjoy traditional team sports such as hockey or football. They are very good at martial arts. Oxen do not like to travel. They enjoy group activities. |

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|  | **THE TIGER** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | The tiger can change quickly, like the colour of his stripes. Tigers are usually critical of others and of society. They can make important decisions very quickly. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Tigers like a comfortable house. They decorate with souvenirs from trips they have taken. If tigers win a trophy or get a university diploma, they will display it in the house to impress visitors. |
| **WORK** | Tigers are leaders. They like to work for themselves, and often become the owners of large businesses. Tigers can also be artists, film makers or writers. |
| **LOVE** | Tigers are quick to fall in love. They are passionate lovers at first, but can quickly lose interest. Tigers are not always faithful. |
| **LEISURE** | Tigers enjoy extreme sports such as bungee-jumping, mountain-biking, hang-gliding or high-speed skiing. They love big parties and travel. |

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|  | **THE RABBIT** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | The rabbit appears quiet and passive, but tries to obtain control without fighting. The rabbit can be sneaky and manipulative. The rabbit is independent, sensitive and emotional. |
| **HOME LIFE** | The rabbit enjoys a small, warm, clean and tidy home. Rabbits prefer being at home to going out to parties. |
| **WORK** | The charming, peaceful and diplomatic rabbit is good at problem-solving and negotiation. They are not ambitious, so they make very good assistants. |
| **LOVE** | In love, the rabbit is a quiet partner who is a better listener than talker. The rabbit will work hard to make a relationship work. |
| **LEISURE** | Rabbits enjoy many different activities, but they do not like to be responsible for organizing things. They enjoy concerts and art museums. Rabbits are gourmets who enjoy both cooking at home and going out to fine restaurants. |

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|  | **THE DRAGON** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Dragons are enthusiastic people, who love new projects. They can be great successes or terrible failures. They are sincere, and enjoy spending time with other people. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Dragons do not like to be at home. They are happy if they can move often. If they cannot move, they will redecorate. |
| **WORK** | Dragons are not ambitious, but they are great and natural leaders. They do not like routine, but they enjoy problem-solving. They are creative at work. |
| **LOVE** | Dragons are often loved by others, but do not often fall in love themselves. The dragon has a strong ego, but is loyal in love. |
| **LEISURE** | Dragons are generalists, not specialists. They like to try many different things, but they don’t become experts at any of them because they are quickly bored. |

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|  | **THE SNAKE** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | The snake loves to give advice, but it cannot take it. Snakes are often intellectuals. They are very good liars. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Snakes love to be at home. Their homes are accurate reflections of their personalities. Snakes like to be secure and comfortable at home, and so their furniture will be soft, and their kitchens and bars full. |
| **WORK** | The snake is efficient, and will do his or her work quickly. Snakes like to think carefully before taking action. They do not like to take risks. Snakes make good university professors. |
| **LOVE** | Snakes are passionate and flirtatious. They like to have many love affairs, and a snake’s partner should be careful about this. |
| **LEISURE** | Snakes are happy relaxing at home with a good book, some good music and a drink. They enjoy relaxing at a country house. They also like attending the opera and the theatre. |

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|  | **THE HORSE** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Horses are happy and popular people who enjoy socializing. They appear to be brave people who are good leaders, but in fact they are afraid of almost everything. Horses need the approval of others. |
| **HOME LIFE** | The horse’s home is not usually dirty, but it is usually messy. The horse does not like to spend a lot of time at home. The horse likes to decorate his or her house with souvenirs from his or her many trips. |
| **WORK** | Horses are good at coming up with ideas, but they are not good at working on long-term projects. Horses can be enthusiastic about something for only a short time. They are excellent communicators. They hate routine. |
| **LOVE** | Horses are emotional people who fall in love easily, but who often lose interest in their partners quickly too. Horses are unstable in love, and their partners will have to endure many crises. |
| **LEISURE** | Horses enjoy competitive sports. They are not cooperative, but they like the support they receive from teammates in team sports. Horses love to be outdoors. |

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|  | **THE GOAT** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Goats are positive people who always look at the bright side of people and situations. They always try to make others happy. Goats are sensitive and creative. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Goats love beautiful furniture and decoration in a beautiful house, but they are too disorganized to obtain them. Goats are not materialists, and will be happy as tenants or as long-term visitors in someone else’s house. |
| **WORK** | Goats do not like to work, and do so only for the money. They love the arts, however, and will work very hard if they have an artistic job, such as actor or musician. |
| **LOVE** | The goat is a romantic person who will give a lot in a romantic relationship, and who will expect a lot in return. The goat does not like to be depended on however, and does not want to know about his or her partner’s problems. |
| **LEISURE** | Goats do not enjoy physical effort. They prefer spending time at art museums or classical music concerts than at the pool or the track. They enjoy socializing, especially when they are visitors, and not hosts. |

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|  | **THE MONKEY** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Monkeys are smart, competitive, curious and tricky. Monkeys are good at manipulating others. The monkey always tries to be honest, but will lie whenever he or she feels it is necessary. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Monkeys like to be outside of the house. They like to move often, or at least to make major changes in their homes. Monkeys enjoy decorating their houses, and do not need to spend a lot of money to find attractive furniture. |
| **WORK** | Monkeys love a job with many challenges and surprises. They do not like routine. Monkeys get bored easily, and often change jobs. |
| **LOVE** | Monkeys are very enthusiastic lovers at the beginning of a relationship, but they can become critical and bored if a relationship is not stimulating. Monkeys need to be entertained by their romantic partners. |
| **LEISURE** | Monkeys are very sociable people. They enjoy parties, talking on the telephone, and playing board games. They often cheat when playing games. Monkeys enjoy taking pictures and visiting art exhibitions. |

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|  | **THE ROOSTER** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Roosters are very concerned with how they look. They are very talented and creative people. They are also very independent and excellent under pressure or in a crisis. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Roosters love electronic equipment such as computers, televisions and stereo systems. They like to have expensive, but simple, furniture. They are able to live anywhere. Roosters like to have a room reserved for themselves. |
| **WORK** | Roosters do not appreciate stress, and they are not very ambitious. They do not like having a boss however, so they often become bosses themselves, even though they are not very ambitious. Roosters make good sales people. |
| **LOVE** | The rooster is usually a self-centred person who does not share his or her innermost secrets. This means that the rooster is not easy to live with. |
| **LEISURE** | Roosters are extreme people. Their favourite uses of free time are either to read or to socialize. |

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|  | **THE DOG** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | The dog is very loyal. Dogs are very concerned about justice, and they are quick to judge other people. Dogs are quick thinkers. They are idealists, but are also cynical. |
| **HOME LIFE** | The dog is not materialistic and is not interested in fashion. The dog’s home is usually comfortable, but not chic. |
| **WORK** | Dogs are good employees. They are not natural leaders, but will work very hard if they have a job which suits their idealistic interests. They make good priests, teachers or judges. |
| **LOVE** | Cynical dogs are slow to fall in love. Once they do, however, they are both very loyal and very demanding of their partners. Dogs are full of anxiety, and need a partner who will reassure them. |
| **LEISURE** | Dogs are not adventurers. They prefer urban activities such as the theatre and restaurants. They enjoy simple, individual sports such as cycling or swimming. |

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|  | **THE PIG** |  |

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| **PERSONALITY** | Pigs are natural, open and honest people. Pigs are very good friends, and need good friends too. Pigs are reliable and sympathetic. They also like their privacy. |
| **HOME LIFE** | Pigs are sensual people who love a very comfortable home. They love big soft and comfortable furniture. They are gourmets and gourmands who always have a well-equipped kitchen. |
| **WORK** | Pigs are not ambitious, but they work hard to make sure they can afford a comfortable lifestyle. They are good at dealing with people. Pigs are open to advice and make careful and good decisions. |
| **LOVE** | Pigs are sentimental people who fall in love deeply and quickly. They pay a lot of attention to their partners. Pigs usually fall truly in love only once in their lives. |
| **LEISURE** | Pigs are very good cooks. They love fine food and wine. They enjoy writing letters to old friends. Pigs enjoy the wilderness, and they like adventurous sports such as white-water rafting and mountain climbing. |

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| *VOCABULARY* |

***failure:*** the opposite of success;  ***light-hearted:*** happy and not worried; ***puzzles:*** a game that requires an intelligent solution to a problem***; gambling:*** betting on uncertainties, such as card games or horseracing; ***down-to-earth:*** basic, honest, direct, without pretention;  ***meticulous:*** extremely careful; ***faithful:*** being true or loyal; ***sincere:*** to say what you mean;  ***routine:*** doing the same thing at the same time repeatedly; ***flirtatious:*** acting as if you are in love when in fact you have no emotional commitment;  ***materialists:*** people who think objects and possessions are very important; ***to manipulate:*** with people, to make people do what you want them to do; ***to cheat:*** to violate the rules;  ***idealists:*** people who believe that things could be perfect; ***cynical:*** the idea that people’s motivations are obviously bad;  ***gourmet:*** a person who loves good food and drink; ***gourmand:*** a person who loves to eat and drink a lot

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| *Answer the following questions.* |

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| 1. | What was your biggest surprise when you read the description of your sign?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 2. | Do you have any general comments about your sign and your character?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 3. | What was your biggest surprise when you read the description of your classmate’s character?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 4. | Do you believe in this? Why or why not?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |