

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.

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

YOUR DESCRIPTION

SIGN	
PERSONALITY	
HOME LIFE	
WORK	
LOVE	
LEISURE	

DESCRIPTION OF ANOTHER STUDENT

NAME		SIGN	
PERSONALITY			
HOME LIFE			
WORK			
LOVE			
LEISURE			

CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL SIGNS

THE RAT

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.

THE OX

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.

THE TIGER

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.

THE RABBIT

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.

THE DRAGON

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.

THE SNAKE

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.

THE HORSE

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.

THE GOAT

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.

THE MONKEY

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.

THE ROOSTER

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.

THE DOG

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.

THE PIG

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.

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

Answer the following questions.

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?
