

The DBL Times



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Happy New Year of the OX!

Editor: Carla Kerr

Chinese New Year Animal History

The history of the 12 animals of the zodiac.

Tradition says that Lord Buddha had called for all the animals to come to him before he departed from the earth. When the cat got to know about the news, he told rat about it and the two animals decided to go together the next day. However, the next morning the rat did not wake up the cat. Therefore, the cat could not make it to the gathering on time and did not get a year. This is why there is no year of the cat and this is one of the reasons why cats hate rats.

The rat made it first to the assembly and received the first year, though the rat did a lot of trickery to reach first to the congregation. At first he tricked the ox to let him ride on its head. The ox agreed and they went together. Just when they were about to reach to the assembly the clever rat jumped off the ox's head and got through the finish line first. This is why the year of the rat is the first year in the cycle and the year of the ox is the second.

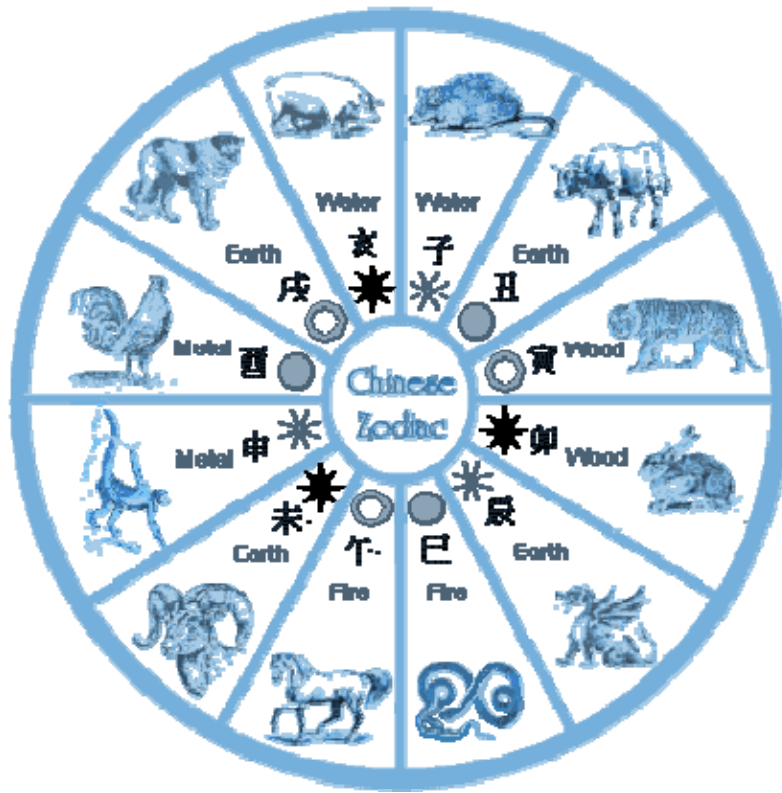
This is probably the reason why the first of the twelve years is the Year of the Rat then followed by the year of Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

But only twelve animals came to offer Lord Buddha farewell and as a token of appreciation he named a year after each of the twelve animals in the order they arrived. In this way each year got linked with an animal. People born in that year are believed to share different traits.



Which animal are you?

YANG



YIN

What year were you born in the Chinese zodiac calendar?

Browse the calendar to find your birth year and more about your Chinese zodiac sign:

Rat	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008
Ox	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009
Tiger	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010
Rabbit	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011
Dragon	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012
Snake	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013
Horse	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014
Sheep	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015
Monkey	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016
Rooster	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017
Dog	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018
Pig	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019

Which signs are compatible in the Chinese zodiac?

The 3 animals which are evenly spaced from one another in the zodiac circle are generally considered to be good matches. Rat, Dragon and Monkey ✨; Ox, Snake and Rooster ●; Tiger and Horse and Dog ○; Rabbit, Sheep and Pig ✨ are suitable for one another. Matching symbols on the Zodiac chart indicate compatible signs.

The signs that are opposite each other in the Zodiac Circle chart are poor matches. Generally a Rat and Horse; Ox and Goat; Tiger and Monkey; Rabbit and Rooster; Dragon and Dog; Snake and Pig will not get along with each other. These signs make poor partners in love and in business. Family members who have opposite signs may experience friction and disharmony in the home.

Each person is [a combination](#) of the sign of the year they are born in as well as influences of the time of day and the larger cycles of the zodiac. You may find that even though a person was born in a year that would seem to make you a poor match, the other influences that you share balance the ill effects of incompatible signs and make for a very good relationship — or cause problems in even the most compatible signs!

Are you an OX?

Years

1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021, 2033

Ox personality traits

Still waters run deep, as anyone who has observed an Ox will tell you.

People born in the Year of the Ox are the supremely self-assured, and as a result are noted for inspiring confidence in others. Generally patient and thoughtful, they measure their words, and will speak clearly and concisely often when it matters most.

Born to lead, Ox people can be quite stubborn — but also stubbornly loyal to those they love. However, when opposed, their fierce tempers are legendary. So always follow this very wise advice : never cross an Ox!

Generally placid and easy-going on the outside, the Ox can be very dogmatic. There are no gray areas evident within their narrow scope of vision, and they often only see things as good or bad. Therefore, they are never easily persuaded by a clever argument. Possessing an excellent memory, the Ox can often recall verbatim a conversation weeks or months after it has occurred. Their physical stamina combined with their mental alertness is a distinct advantage when it comes to completing any task at hand. In fact, Oxen can often be seen patiently working away ... long after everyone else has dropped from sheer exhaustion!



Ox people are also generally good with their hands, and together with sterling leadership abilities are often successful as doctors or surgeons, construction managers, army generals or business leaders. **Oxen are most compatible with** : Rat, Snake, Rooster

Famous people born in the Year of the Ox : Johann Sebastian Bach, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charlie Chaplin, [George Clooney](#), Walt Disney, Anton Dvorak, Clark Gable, George Frideric Handel, [Oscar De La Hoya](#), Richard Nixon, [Barack Obama](#), [Aishwarya Rai](#), [Wayne Rooney](#), Vincent Van Gogh

What's in store for you this NEW YEAR?

Rat

As the Year of the Rat ends and the Year of the Ox kicks off, rodents will be glad to hear that the frantic pace of the last year should slowly start to ease. That said, it's not quite time to drop out of the rat race and retire to the sewers yet. There is plenty of opportunity for advancement in the coming months, both professionally and personally, for rodents who plan carefully and focus on one goal at a time. 2009 may be a bumpy year for friendships, and, as your life continues to move on, you may leave some of your furry friends behind.

Ox

You may have been disappointed by a relatively modest 2008, but as your sign enters the heaven, the groundwork you laid should start paying off in 2009. Don't expect fireworks, but success should arrive both in your family life and in business. This is a great year to achieve personal ambitions as well as take action on major decisions. You'll find both family and friends supportive of new plans.

Tiger

Tigers spent most of 2008 having stripes torn off and out of them, and while 2009 won't be a walk in the savannah, it will be much better. Lone tigers will be glad to hear their time in the wilderness is over, and the chance for finding a mate is high. Friendships will also fare better than 2008, but you should be wary of people taking advantage of you, especially in business, as you may find yourself being swindled.

Rabbit

If 2008 was a warren of problems for rabbits, 2009 is going to be even less carrot and more stick. Expect bumps in the relationship road, as well as financial strains, while you'll also find some of your friends hopping away for greener pastures. Some good news comes from your professional life, where, if you're conscientious and shrewd, you may find yourself climbing the career ladder.

Dragon

Dragons had a fiery 2008, and although the Year of the Ox won't quite extinguish the flame, things should be quieter for better and worse. Dragons should steer clear of heated disputes in both their home and work life, or they're likely to be slain by some knight in shining armour. Conversely, a cool head will be rewarded with steady progress. Those looking to share their cave with someone special in 2009 will find love is in the air, and even if the perfect mate can't be found, you'll find yourself surrounded by friends.

Snake

Snakes should enjoy a fantastic 2009, and for those with big plans this is the time to put them into action. Snakes can expect to slither up the career ladder, make new friends and, if you're planning to tie the knot, now is the time to pop the question. All of this success won't come without effort, but any hard work you put into the year will be richly rewarded.

Horse

Horses will have many fences to jump in the Year of the Ox, but the year should bring much more happiness than 2008. There is success to be had, both in your home life and in business, but you will have to be careful not to gallop off down the wrong track, as the potential for a tumble is also lurking. You should look to old friends and family for advice, and be wary of counsel from those who may not have your best interests at heart.

Goat

Goats did not enjoy a favourable 2008, and, while the Year of the Ox offers a slight improvement, the Goat is still going to have a difficult twelve months in the farmyard. Goats will find themselves butting heads with family and friends, unless they stay cool and approach tricky situations diplomatically. You might be inclined to try and force some success at work or in money, but, again, you should bide your time until your luck starts to change in the final quarter of the year.

Monkey

The lion may be called the King of The Jungle, but in 2009 Monkeys are set to knock Leo from his throne with a blockbuster of a year. Relationships and friendships are set to blossom and your efforts at work will be well rewarded, in fact, with some many opportunities you may feel a little overwhelmed; don't be, swing into each one while you can. If primates can steer clear of monkey business then this could be one of their best years in memory.

Rooster

After a somewhat mixed 2008 in the coop, Roosters can once again look forward to spreading their wings and crowing about their success in the Year of the Ox. Hard work in all areas of your life over the past year will start to pay dividends, and you should make great bounds in your professional life. If you have plans for your finances or a business plan, now is the time to put them into action.

Dog

Canines will need to work like a dog to get the best out of the Year of the Ox, but those that do will find themselves with more than a bone to show for their efforts. Hard work will win rewards at work, and is the best place to focus your efforts. Relationships may be less rewarding, and while you may find yourself out in the dog house, you should find plenty of friends to share your kennel with.

Pig

The Year of the Ox can be a good one for the Pig, but ambitious **swine** need to climb out of the **pigsty** and put their energy into what is most important to them, if they are to gain success. There will also be challenges to come, particularly in your personal life, and you should avoid spreading yourself to thin. Make the bacon by focusing on one goal at a time.

Sam asked some of our students about their plans for the holidays. Here are their replies!

Liu:

Dear Sam,

Hello! How are you? It will soon be Christmas. Have you got any plans for Christmas? I will be off two days over Christmas. But I don't have plans for the holidays now. I want to meet some friends and we can go to a Chinese restaurant. But I don't want to spend a lot of time going out. I want to get a new handbag. It is a very good present.

I hope you'll enjoy your holiday also

Yours,

Liu

Chris:

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your letter. Happy Christmas! I have 2 weeks holiday, but I don't know what I am going to do during my holiday. I'd like to go out with my flat mate and go shopping and go to the cinema and to a restaurant, etc. Maybe we'll take some photos. The present I most want to get I think is a plane ticket to China because I am going back to China for a few weeks next month.

Enjoy your Christmas!

Chris

Yan:

Dear Sam,

Hello! I'm not too well, I'm sick. How about you? It will soon be Christmas. I will get two days off. I will have a small party with my friends in my house for Christmas. We'll cook together and eat, talk, and play games.

On New Year's Eve, we will talk about what has happened this year – what things were good and what things were bad for this year in our life. Then we'll think about next year – what things we'll change for next year.

I hope I can receive a gift of wind chimes.

Yours,

Yan

Qi :

Dear Sam,

Hello! I'm very well. What about you? I will get one week's holidays. On Christmas Day my friends and me stay home and cook a big meal and play mah jong.

On New Year's Eve, maybe we'll go skating.

I want to get a lot of presents, but nobody gives those to me! I'd like some x-box games. How about you? What presents do you want to get?

I hope you enjoy your holiday,

Qi

Xia

Dear Sam,

Hello! I'm very good. How about you? It will soon be Xmas. I will be off for 2 days. Those are the 25th and the 26th. I will go to my friend's house and have a Christmas party on Christmas Day. I will bring a present. Its Chanel Number 5 perfume for my friend because she likes this. I want to buy a handbag to give as a reward to myself for hard work last year. Then I will stay home two days, sleep in my bed, relax, and cook some of my favourite food. But on New Year's Eve I must work all day. Enjoy your holiday and Merry Christmas,

Xia

Ana:

Dear Sam,

Hello! I'm fine, and you? Yes, it will soon be Christmas and a New Year is coming! I think I'll have every day off for these holidays! Maybe I'll meet some friends for Xmas, but we're not going to travel.

This New Year's Eve I'm planning to go to London because I have some friends there. But it's not for sure . . . I want to keep money because I'm not working now.

So, I don't need presents on Xmas, but if you want to give me something, you can choose it!

And what will you do on Xmas and New Year's Eve? I hope you'll enjoy your holiday too!

Write me when you can, telling me about your holiday.

Yours,

Ana

Melissa:

Dear Sam,

I'm great. I'll be off the whole Christmas holiday (I think.) Maybe on Christmas night, I'll have dinner with my host family who I have been staying with. In fact I've just arrived in Ireland and I'm looking for a job. If I find a job probably I will work. If not, I will stay at a friend's on New Year's Eve.

The biggest present that I would like to have—it is impossible at the moment—is to stay with my family in my house. But, next year I'll be there.

That's all for now. See you soon,

Melissa

How were your holidays? Write and tell us – the best will be published!

Where Do You Live?

My name's Yang. I'm 28 years old. I'm from China. I have lived in Dublin for five years. I live in Beaumont Road, Dublin 9. It's 5 minutes walk from the hospital and 20 minutes to the city centre by bus. There's a Spar shop, barber shop and petrol station.

I live in a house. There are three bedrooms, two bathrooms and another toilet, one living room, a dining room and a kitchen. There are two large gardens, front and back. There is a sofa and a TV in the living room. I have a cooker, fridge and microwave.

I like my house, because my house is comfortable and clean. It is my home. YANG

My name is Rogerio. Here in Ireland, I live in Dublin 8, a very good place. I like living here a lot. There are many buses that facilitate my life. I live near my work. I go walking. Near my house, there are supermarkets, churches (St Patrick's and Christ Church), and many convenient shops. It is a good place to live.

My apartment is good, too. It isn't small, but it's also not big. It is an ideal size. There are two bedrooms, one bathroom, one kitchen, one living room and one terrace. My house is very good.

I like living here a lot, because I'm learning to speak English, and I can travel to many countries, too. I can also get to know other people of the world. ROGERIO

I live in Raheen Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24. I live in a house. There are 3 bedrooms, two big bedrooms and one small room. There is one big living room. In the living room, there are a desk and TV, coffee table and sofa. In my kitchen I have a washbasin, cooker, wok and cupboard. There's also one bathroom.

I like my house, because it's so nice. CHEN Q

I study English in DBL in Dublin. I just live near my school. Every day I walk to school in 5 minutes. I like living in the city centre, because I can buy some food in the supermarket and travel easily. There is a Centra near my house. There are 2 bars on the same street. There aren't any restaurants, but there is a Chinese take-away.

I live with my friends. There are 5 people living together. My house is an apartment. There are two bedrooms. One is double, the other is single. There's a big living room. There are two small sofas and five chairs, a TV and a dinner table in the living room. There's a bathroom, but it's big. I don't like the kitchen, because it's small. There's a roaster, microwave, cooker, washing machine and cupboard in the kitchen, but there isn't a dryer.

I like living in the city centre, because there are lots of shops. I can get anything easily and there are lots of buses and trains, you can get anywhere easily. CHEN M



Emails From Afar

From: xiangjinmei@china.com
To: Carla@dublin.com
Subject: We're in China!

Hi Carla!

How are you? Jinmei and I are fine. We're in China in the DBL Hotel. It's great!

Giselle and Luciano are in the DBL Hotel too. They are our friends. They're from Brazil.

Love,

Xiang and Jinmei

From: giselleluciano@brazil.com
To: Carla@dublin.com
Subject: We're in Brazil!

Hi Carla!

How are you? Luciano and I are happy. We're in Rio de Janeiro in the Ipanema Hotel. It's pretty! Rio de Janeiro is hot.

Xiang and Jinmei are in the Leblon Hotel. They are our friends. They're from China.

The attachment is a photo of Xiang and Jinmei. They are at the beach. It's very beautiful!

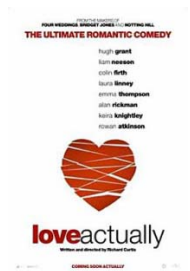
Love,

Giselle and Luciano



Movie Reviews

Love Actually



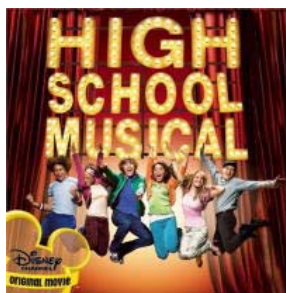
This is a love story. It takes place in England. It's about relationships for boyfriends and girlfriends, husbands and wives, fathers and sons, boss and staff. They have different love. I like it. CHEN PING YONG

It's a love story and is about Christmas time. I'd like to live in this place, because it's a lovely world with happiness. The story is all around Christmas. Some people find new love. Somebody lost his wife, but his son became the most important one in his life. Somebody loves one girl, but she is his best friend's wife. The relationships change for everybody in this film, but in the end, they all have the courage to tell someone they loved them, and they all fall in love. SUN

It's a love story. At the start, everybody is very happy at Christmas in the airport. In two weeks, Christmas is coming. People are happy and sad, but some people are looking for love. Love is very important. It takes place in England. YING

This movie is set before Christmas. It's a love story. The movie is about David. He loves his helper, Natalie. When they meet another man, she finishes her job. David likes Natalie so much, but the President of the USA likes her too. On Christmas Eve, David gets a Christmas card from Natalie. He feels so happy. Later, he tries to find her. He meets her in her house. She wants to explain that nothing happened with the President. Another man loves a woman, but she's his best friend's wife and he doesn't want to break their love. I like it. WAYNE

High School Musical



Troy and Gabriella like singing together. They prepare for a musical. I liked it because of the dancing. I love dancing! GISELLE

It's about a guy who met a nice girl at school, but he likes basketball and she likes singing, and he leaves his basketball to sing with her. I like it, because it's very happy. MANOEL

One boy and one girl met on New Year's Eve. Later, they met in school. He plays basketball and she is an expert in science. They sing in the school. She wants to do a Scholastic Decathlon. They win everything. I like it, because I like movies that have music. ROGERIO

The film is about two main characters, Troy and Gabriella. They study in a school. They study different courses, but they like singing. I think they're very good singers, but some people don't believe in them. In the end, their dream can come true. I like the film, because the story is interesting. FENG

This is a school film. Troy met Gabriella. He wants to win the basketball championship. Gabriella is a beautiful girl. She's a good singer. They study in East High School. In the end, they get victory. I like it. It's a nice school film. JACKIE

This film is about a sporty boy and a girl who want to sing, but their friends don't like it. They go to a show. I like it, because the film tells you to do anything you want, to try the best for yourself, and there's very good music. YANG

This film is about Troy and Gabriella. It's about music and basketball, and some things happen to them. I like it, its fun. XING

It's about the students' life in school. Troy and Gabriella follow their dreams. Troy wins a basketball game. Troy and Gabriella win the singing audition. I like it because lots of the songs are nice. CHEN

