

## 十二生肖 Chinese Zodiac

依照中國的習俗，每一年都有一個代表性的動物，十二年為一個循環，而每個人的所屬動物則跟他出生年、月、日甚至時辰息息相關。中國民間故事流傳，當年佛祖邀請所有的動物去參拜牠。因種種的原因，最後只有十二生肖動物參加。為了獎勵這些參加的動物，佛祖將所有來參加的動物依照他們抵達的順序作為年份的名稱。

According to Chinese customs, each year of every twelve years is named after a different animal, so everyone has a "birth pet" according to their year of birth. A Chinese legend explains that all the animals of the world were invited to come and visit Buddha. Only twelve came. In order to reward these animals for their loyalty, Buddha named a year after each one in the order they appeared before him.

根據中國命理學的說法，每個人的生肖是依其出生的時辰、月份及年份所決定的。每一年所代表的動物都不一樣，共有十二隻動物又稱為十二生肖。十二生肖的動物依次是鼠、牛、虎、兔、龍、蛇、馬、羊、猴、雞、狗及豬。如此十二年為一輪迴。

Each individual is represented by one of twelve animals of the zodiac, according to Chinese astrology. One's time, day, month, and year of birth determine the animal sign to which one belongs. The Chinese predict certain characteristics of a person's personality based upon his or her birth time/date/month/year. How does this all work? Well, the date of the Chinese New Year is determined by the lunar calendar. Dating methods are cyclical, with 12 years per cycle. Each year is named for one of 12 symbolic animals in sequence. The twelve symbolic animals are, in their sequential orders, Rat (Mouse), Ox (Cow), Tiger, Rabbit,

Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram (Sheep), Monkey, Rooster (Chicken), Dog and Boar (Pig).

今(2005)年為雞年，在傳統上，當聽到雞鳴即視為黑夜退去，清晨到來，所以我們可行伸為今年會是一個新的開始。在十二生肖的動物中，唯有雞擁有一雙翅膀，一邊象徵天堂而另一之翅膀則代表人間，而雞正是傳遞消息於其中的使者。

Year 2005 is the Year of the Rooster, according to the Chinese Zodiac. The rooster has traditionally been considered to be a good sign as its crow meant the break of dawn, the beginning of a fresh start. Among the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, the rooster is the only one with wings. It has been regarded as the messenger that connects the two worlds, heaven and earth.

屬雞的人是一個熱愛工作的人，通常擁有敏銳及果決的判斷力。但也因為如此，你常讓

人覺得你很大。做一個夢想家、前衛的服裝設計師、餐廳老闆、評論家、軍人或環遊世界的旅行家都很適合你。歷史上屬雞的名人很多像日裔美籍前衛藝術先鋒小野洋子 (Yoko Ono)、藝人洛史都華 (ROD STEWART)、艾力克萊普頓 (ERIC CLAPTON)、電影失嬰記 Rosemary's Baby 的女主角米雅法羅 (Mia Farrow)、寵愛楊貴妃的唐明皇及至聖先師孔子等等不勝枚舉。你是屬雞的嗎?

The Rooster is a hard worker; shrewd and definite in decision making often speaking his mind. Because of this, if your sign is the Rooster, you tend to seem boastful to others. You are a dreamer, flashy dresser, and extravagant to an extreme. Born under this sign you should be happy as a restaurant owner, publicist, soldier or world traveler. Famous Roosters include Yoko Ono, Rod Stewart, Mia Farrow, Eric Clapton and Confucius as well. Are you a Rooster?