

MONKEY: People born in the Year of the Monkey are the erratic geniuses of the cycle. Clever, skillful, and flexible, they are remarkably inventive and original and can solve the most difficult problems with ease. There are few fields in which Monkey people wouldn't be successful but they have a disconcerting habit of being too agreeable. They want to do things now, and if they cannot get started immediately, they become discouraged and sometimes leave their projects. Although good at making decisions, they tend to look down on others. Having common sense, Monkey people have a deep desire for knowledge and have excellent memories. Monkey people are strong-willed but their anger cools quickly. They are most compatible with Dragon and Rat people.

ROOSTER: People born in the Year of the Rooster are deep thinkers, capable, and talented. They like to be kept busy, are devoted beyond their capabilities and are deeply disappointed if they fail. People born in the year of the Rooster are often a bit eccentric, and often have rather difficult relationship with others. They always think they are right—and they usually are! Rooster people are timid and although they give the outward impression of being adventurous, they are introverts. Rooster emotions, like their fortunes, swing very high to very low. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be extremely brave. They are most compatible with Ox, Snake, and Dragon people.

DOG: People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence with their ability to keep secrets. But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

PIG: People born in the Year of the Pig are chivalrous and gallant. Whatever they do, they do with all their strength. For Boar Year people, there is no left or right and there is no retreat. They have tremendous fortitude, great honesty, and are incredibly loyal. They don't make many friends, but those they do make stick with them for life. Boar people don't talk much but have a great thirst for knowledge. They study a great deal and are generally well-informed. While quick-tempered, Boar people hate arguments and quarreling and are kind to their loved ones. No matter how bad problems seem to be, Boar people try to work them out, honestly if sometimes impulsively. They are most compatible with those born in the year of the Rabbit and Sheep.



The Chinese animal signs are a 12-year cycle used for dating the years. They represent a cyclical concept of time, rather than the Western linear concept of time. The Chinese Lunar Calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, and is constructed in a different fashion than the Western solar calendar.

One tradition has it that the Supreme Being, the Yellow Emperor of Heaven, Huangdi, decided one day that humans needed a compass to guide them through the invisible maze of life's undertakings. So, he decided to create the zodiac. To decide upon the symbols, he announced to all the animals of the world that there would be a race, and the first 12 beasts to cross the finish line would be chosen to stand forever as signs of human character and destiny.

On the eve of the race, all the animals went to sleep early. But the Ox suddenly awoke in the middle of the night and thought, "I am so slow that if I am to have any chance of being among the 12, I had better start now." He began. As he passed by the sleeping animals, he woke the Rat, who figured out his plan and thought, "I am so small that no matter how hard I run, even Ox will beat me." Rat scurried up a tree and dropped so lightly on the ox's back as he passed below, that the Ox didn't know it.

At dawn, all of the other animals awoke, except for the Dragon. They discovered that the Ox and Rat were gone, so they raced off after them as fast as they could. No matter how fast they ran, they still could not catch up. By the time Dragon awoke, he flew toward the finish line, but was delayed when he saw people surrounded by a huge fire, and stopped to help. When the finish line came into view, Ox was comfortably ahead of every animal in the race. Ox paused to look back and was pleased to see how well his plan had worked. But as he paused, Rat leaped off his back and raced across the line. This is why the Rat comes first in the zodiac followed by the Ox.

Next to cross was powerful Tiger, followed by Rabbit, who was pushed to shore by a puff of breath from Dragon. Snake, who was sneakily hiding on Horse's back, snuck across in sixth place, just in front of Horse. Then Ram, Monkey, and Rooster, who had worked together to cross the rushing river made it to the finish line. Finally, after a bath in the river, Dog emerged, and claimed the eleventh spot in the zodiac, followed by the Pig, who made it, just in the nick of time, after a lavish meal and a nap.

The animals of the Chinese zodiac are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

RAT: People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

OX: People born in the Year of the Ox are patient, speak little, and inspire confidence in others. They tend, however, to be eccentric, and bigoted, and they anger easily. They have fierce tempers and although they speak little, when they do they are quite eloquent. Ox people are mentally and physically alert. Generally easy-going, they can be remarkably stubborn, and they hate to fail or be opposed. They are most compatible with Snake, Rooster, and Rat people.

TIGER: People born in the Year of the Tiger are brave and self-confident. They are charming, unpredictable, and powerful, making them strong leaders. They tend to be intelligent, yet arrogant, and like to show off their many accomplishments. Although they are not known for their ability to prepare in advance, Tiger people are trustworthy and are able to go with the flow and handle whatever comes their way. In ancient times, Tigers were put on a high pedestal, and were viewed in the same light as emperors. Tiger people are most compatible with those born in the years of the Dragon, Horse, and Pig.

RABBIT: People born in the Year of the Rabbit are articulate, talented, and ambitious. They are virtuous, reserved, and have excellent taste. Rabbit people are admired, trusted, and are often financially lucky. They are fond of gossip but are tactful and generally kind. Rabbit people seldom lose their temper. They are clever at business and being conscientious, Rabbit people never back out of a contract. They would make good gamblers for they have the uncanny gift of choosing the right thing. However, they seldom gamble, as they are conservative and wise. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Sheep, Pig, and Dog.

DRAGON: People born in the Year of the Dragon are healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered, and stubborn. They are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. Dragon people are the most eccentric of any in the eastern zodiac. They neither borrow money nor make flowery speeches, but they tend to be soft-hearted which sometimes gives others an advantage over them. They are compatible with Rats, Snakes, Monkeys, and Roosters.

SNAKE: People born in the Year of the Snake are deep. They say little and possess great wisdom. They never have to worry about money; they are financially fortunate. Snake people are often quite vain, selfish, and a bit stingy, yet they have tremendous sympathy for others and try to help those less fortunate. Snake people tend to overdo, since they have doubts about other people's judgment and prefer to rely on themselves. They are determined in whatever they do and hate to fail. Although calm on the surface, they are intense and passionate. Snake people are usually good-looking and sometimes have marital problems because they are fickle. They are most compatible with the Ox and Rooster.

HORSE: People born in the Year of the Horse are popular. They are cheerful, skillful with money, and perceptive, although they sometimes talk too much. They are wise, talented, good with their hands, and sometimes have a weakness for members of the opposite sex. Horse people are impatient and hot-blooded about everything except their daily work. They like entertainment and large crowds. They are very independent and rarely listen to advice. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Tiger, Dog, and Sheep.

RAM: People born in the Year of Ram are elegant and highly accomplished in the arts. They seem to be, at first glance, better off than those born in the zodiac's other years. But ram year people are often shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life. They are usually deeply religious, yet timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy in speech, they are always passionate about what they do and what they believe in. Ram people never have to worry about having the best in life for their abilities make money for them, and they are able to enjoy the creature comforts that they like. Ram people are wise, gentle, and compassionate. They are compatible with Rabbits, Pigs, and Horses.