

LANGUAGE WORKSHOP



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CHINESE NEW YEAR

(Suggested Level – B1+)

Before the lesson:

Go online to find out when and how Chinese New Year is celebrated (*February 8*).

1. Work in pairs and decide whether the statements (A–F) are true or false.

A Chinese New Year is always on the same date.

B Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival.

C It is usually celebrated for 15 days.

D Tiger dances and dragon dances are common ways of celebrating Chinese New Year.

E The Lantern Festival, when people let paper lanterns fly into the sky, is usually observed on the first day of the Chinese New Year celebration.

F Chinese people light fireworks and burn firecrackers to chase off evil spirits which come around New Year, according to an old legend.

2. Look at the names and years of the Chinese zodiac signs in Task 2. What’s your sign? When is the next year of your sign?

3. Read the descriptions of typical personalities for different signs of the Chinese zodiac. Use the words in brackets to form one adjective for each gap.

4. Is the description of your sign true about you / your friends / family? Why (not)? Discuss.



Rat (1996, 2008, 2020)

People born under the sign of the Rat are quite (1) _____ (*discipline*) and (2) _____ (*system*). They are (3) _____ (*industry*), they work a lot. However, they also enjoy hanging out with friends.



Tiger (1998, 2010, 2022)

People born in the year of the Tiger may often act on impulse, they are (7) _____ (*predict*). But this doesn’t mean they don’t make good friends, since they are also (8) _____ (*affection*) and generous.



Ox (1997, 2009, 2021)

Oxen are difficult to make angry, since they are very (4) _____ (*patience*). Being (5) _____ (*ambition*) and (6) _____ (*decide*), they always achieve their goals. As friends, Oxen may be rather difficult, because they tend to be stubborn.



Rabbit (1999, 2011, 2023)

If you are a Rabbit, you probably have lots of friends, who like your (9) _____ (*sense*) and (10) _____ (*compassion*) personality. Since rabbits are usually very (11) _____ (*artist*), they often become good at music or painting.

Picture: st2.depositphotos.com


Dragon (2000, 2012, 2024)

As the name suggests, Dragons are extremely (12)_____ (*passion*) in everything they do. They are (13)_____ (*diligence*) in their studies or work and (14)_____ (*amour*) in their relationships.


Monkey (2004, 2016, 2028)

Monkeys are great inventors and problem solvers. They are highly (21)_____ (*inquire*) and (22)_____ (*intellect*), and they like to compete with others.


Snake (2001, 2013, 2025)

Snakes are naturally deep thinkers. People often see them as wise and (15)_____ (*prudence*) loners. You can always rely on the (16)_____ (*responsibility*) Snakes, but they may not always trust you.


Rooster (2005, 2017, 2029)

Roosters, who are usually highly (23)_____ (*criticism*) and (24)_____ (*opinion*), might be difficult to please. However, they are really good at organising things and they always have plenty of practical ideas.


Horse (2002, 2014, 2026)

People born under the sign of the Horse are commonly the life and soul of the party. Being (17)_____ (*cheer*) and (18)_____ (*quick/wit*), they have no trouble making friends.


Dog (1994, 2006, 2018)

The loyal and amicable dogs make wonderful friends. They are (25)_____ (*trust/worth*) and (26)_____ (*faith*), and will never keep secrets from you.


Sheep/Goat (2003, 2015, 2027)

Sheep are usually easy to get along with. These (19)_____ (*sympathise*) and (20)_____ (*sincerity*) people always try to understand and help their friends.


Pig (1995, 2007, 2019)

People born in the year of the Pig are often quite (27)_____ (*peace*) and calm. They have a tendency to be rather (28)_____ (*think*), but they enjoy being in good company as well.

5. Give advice for the following problems using words from task 3. Several answers are possible.

Example: I can never organise myself. I always forget important things or leave my wallet or phone at home. It's extremely difficult for me to stick to deadlines.

You should be more disciplined/responsible

1. My problem is that I don't get very good marks at school. My parents are always mad at me. I hate doing homework and I don't think it's very important. I'm not going to be a scientist anyway.

2. I often offend my friends when I don't mean to. I always tell them what's on my mind, even if it's not what they want to hear. This is what friends are for, right?

3. My little sister is so annoying. She keeps asking me to play with her when I don't want to. She's really noisy and she asks too many questions. So I often shout at her, but my parents don't like it.

4. My girlfriend thinks I'm not honest with her. She thinks I keep secrets. I don't want to upset her, but I just don't like telling people everything.

5. I'm the manager of my department. My colleagues tell me one of the employees doesn't do his job properly, and I should do something. But it's so difficult for me to tell him about this. I'd rather just wait and hope he'll change.

6. Choose 5 traits of character from the text that are most important in a good friend. Compare your answers in groups.

Keys

Task 1

A false, the date depends on the Chinese lunar calendar

B true

C true

D false, lion dances and dragon dances are common

E false, it is observed on the last day of the Chinese New Year celebration

F true

Task 2. Students' own answers.

Task 3

1 disciplined, 2 systematic, 3 industrious, 4 patient, 5 ambitious, 6 decisive, 7 unpredictable, 8 affectionate, 9 sensitive, 10 compassionate, 11 artistic, 12 passionate, 13 diligent, 14 amorous, 15 prudent, 16 responsible, 17 cheerful, 18 quick-witted, 19 sympathetic, 20 sincere, 21 inquisitive, 22 intellectual/intelligent, 23 critical, 24 opinionated, 25 trustworthy, 26 faithful, 27 peaceful, 28 thoughtful.

Task 4. Students' own answers.

Task 5. Suggested answers

1. You should be more industrious/ambitious/diligent/prudent/responsible.

2. You should be more sensitive/compassionate/prudent/sympathetic.

3. You should be more patient/sensitive/sympathetic.

4. You should be more sincere/trustworthy/affectionate/sensitive.

5. You should be more decisive/responsible/critical.

Task 6. Students' own answers

Я не отримав передплачене видання. Що робити?

Звернутися із листом-заявою до начальника свого поштового відділення упродовж одного місяця (для газет) або двох місяців (для книжок). Додати ксерокопію передплатного абонементу (квитанції).

Продублювати лист-заяву на адресу видавництва: 01014, м. Київ, вул. Бастіонна, 15.

Нагадуємо, що за ненадходження номерів відповідає Державне підприємство з розповсюдження періодичних видань «Преса»