



My Drift

Title: Year of the Dog

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Apache at 4 Months

RAT	OX	TIGER	HARE	DRAGON	SNAKE	HORSE	RAM	MONKEY	ROOSTER	DOG	PIG
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043
2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055
2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067
2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079
2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091
2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103



Did you know that 2018 is the year of the Dog? Well, according to the Chinese Zodiac, the year of the Earth Dog starts on February 16th. I probably would not be writing about this if it was any other animal. My favorite animal is the Dog! So, what animal is your sign? Just in case you are not into this kind of stuff, it is based on the year of your birth – See the chart above.

What does the Chinese Zodiac Horoscope have to say about your sign? Will the year of the Earth Dog (2018) be your year to shine? Or does it spell disaster? You will find out later.

The Chinese Zodiac History

The Chinese zodiac consists of twelve animals that first appeared in the Zhan Guo period [5th century B.C.]. No one knows the exact date as of when the zodiac was essentially created, but they were officially identified during the Han Dynasty [206 B.C.–9 A.D.], which was over 2000 years ago. The zodiac became a popular way to determine a person’s birth year during the North Zhou Dynasty [557-581 A.D.] and is still very commonly used today. The zodiac is calculated by a cycle of sixty years in which each animal signifies a different year.

The lunar calendar paved the sequence of the Chinese zodiac animals. This calendar can be traced back to the 14th century B.C. Myths say that Emperor Huangdi, the first Chinese emperor, in 2637 B.C. invented the Chinese lunar calendar, which follows the cycles of the moon.

The zodiac was based on Chinese astrology and was used as a way to count years, months, days, and hours in the calendar. It was formed from two components: the Celestial Stem and the Terrestrial Branch. Each of the 12 animals stands for a year in a 12-year cycle, a day in the a 12-day cycle, and for every two hours in a 24-hour day. These were used to name each year along with the animal signs, but now they mainly just use the dates.

This year is the year of the Dog: 2018! You may wonder, “What does that mean?” For starters, it may be helpful to think of the Chinese zodiac as a system similar to the one in Western astrology. But instead of using the birth month and date to

determine someone's horoscope, the Chinese zodiac uses the year of birth based on the lunar calendar. The animal sign that comes with your year of birth is supposed to represent your character.

The Chinese zodiac is known as "生肖 (Shēng xiào)" in Chinese. It functions around a twelve-year cycle which rotates between these 12 animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep/Goat/Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig.

The Great Race: The Origin of the order of the Chinese Zodiac

There exists a story, in Chinese mythology, of a great race that decided which animals made it into the Zodiac and in what order.

The Jade Emperor, the ruler of all gods within Chinese mythology, hosted the race. To finish the race and become one of 12 animals in the calendar, the animals had to cross a river. Here's the primary interpretation of this story!



The great race loomed just on the horizon and the Cat and the Rat were best of friends. Together, the two of them hatched a plan to ride the Ox across the river together. They knew the large and hardy Ox was accustomed to crossing rivers and would likely finish first.

At the start of the race, the two animals slipped atop the Ox. Being rather thick-headed, the Ox was oblivious to the two animals atop him. But, as the Cat and the Rat rode atop the Ox, the Rat jolted abruptly forward. The sudden force sent the Cat flying off the Ox and into the river. The Cat let out a piercing hiss directed at the Rat, but by then, it was too late, and the Ox, with the Rat atop, was already too far ahead of the Cat.

Even to this this day, Cats still hold a grudge against Rats. This is why Cats hate water and chase Rats every time they see one!

The Ox lumbered towards the finish line. The Ox was going to come first. But suddenly, the Rat leapt from Ox's back and crossed the finish-line first. The Ox crossed the finish line a moment later. However, the Ox was too composed a sort to make a big fuss.

Water splashed forth from the river. The Tiger had burst from beneath the water, his coat sopping wet. The water had weighed the proud Tiger down, but the well-muscled Tiger pushed forth in spite of the burden, hind legs rippling with tense firmness. His huge paw prints bore down on the damp muddy shore and with one final fierce stride, the Tiger claimed the third spot in the Zodiac.

The Rabbit stood perched upon a rock in the river. He was only lagging slightly behind the Tiger. River water lapped up at his paws. The Rabbit let out soft huffs and heaves. He had been trying desperately to keep up with the Tiger. Despite the Rabbit's small stature, he had kept pace, leaping from one rock to another so he could quickly cross the river. A long trail of rocks jutted up from the river bed. As worry overtook the Rabbit, the Rabbit hastened his motions, pulling back hurriedly on his strong hind legs.

The Rabbit feared that if he did not pick up his pace, another animal might seize the fourth spot from him. Suddenly, the Rabbit slipped, tumbling back-first into the murky waters of the river. The Rabbit's thoughts began to race. Would he even be able to finish in time?

A moment later the Rabbit's eyes widened. A log was floating slowly by. Nearly leaping up from the river, the Rabbit sped into a wild paddle, water flying up around him. He pressed both paws to the log, clinging on as tightly as he could muster.

Alas, the log was barely moving, bobbing complacently in the water. A sudden gust stirred thickly in the air, sending the log hurdling down the river. The Rabbit's heart throbbed in slow motion as the log drifted towards the shore where the finish line was. The Rabbit's pulse gradually slowed, seemingly one beat at a time, as he neared the shore, a deep-seated feeling of relief overtaking him. The Rabbit peered backwards as he floated closer to shore. No other animals were in sight. The Rabbit hopped right across the finish line.

The Rabbit did not stop as he passed the Jade Emperor. The Emperor was smiling at the Rabbit with a generous grin. The Rabbit passed rice paddies as he made his way towards the forest. Reaching a shaded and secluded thicket the Rabbit collapsed into a tiny heap of white fur. A mix of relief and exhilaration had seeped through his being, replacing the disappointment he had felt about only getting fourth place.

Over the finish line the Dragon soared swiftly, moving in a majestic aerial stride as it shimmied through the clouds, his long tail streaming and lashing about the placid sky, wind racing past him. As the Dragon made his rapid descent, the clouds seemed to part. The Jade Emperor stood awaiting the great creature. Why has the Dragon not come in first place? he wondered. When the Jade Emperor addressed the Dragon, he began to explain the circumstances that had befallen him.

“Exalted Jade Emperor ~ on my way I saw several villagers that were in trouble. A fire had ignited amidst their crops and they had been surrounded in a circle of blaze. I knew that my spot in the Zodiac was on the line, but I could not stand by and watch. To put out the flames, I used my breath to extinguish the blaze, snuffing it out like a flickering candle. I had to be careful though. I did not want to also sweep the villagers up in this gale of my own creation. I also saw a tiny Rabbit in the river clinging to a log, so I used my breath to push it to shore.”

The Jade Emperor smiled again. He was well acquainted with the Dragon’s nature. He was not disappointed in him.

As the Dragon and the Jade Emperor spoke, the Horse was in the midst of galloping across the river, splashing up water as her hooves moved like beating pistons through the ankle-deep water, beads of mist silhouetting her strong equestrian form.

The Horse burst from the river. Only a few strides separated her from the finish line. Something slithered through the grass. From the grass the Snake surged out, approaching from behind the Horse’s hooves. Overtaken by shock the Horse recoiled, leaping backwards. A high nay exited the Horse’s mouth, hooves thrown up towards the sky. With a quick slither, the Snake crossed the finish line.

The Jade Emperor watched the snake move past the finish-line, still smiling. He did not judge the Snake. The Snake had merely been clever.

The Horse lowered her long-face, a tinge of shame lingering in her dark beady eyes as she stepped slowly across the finish line. Fear had cost her the sixth spot. Her legs,

which moments ago had carried her in an untamed gallop were now locked in slow shaky steps, which barely left imprints upon the dirt.

Back in the river, the Monkey, the Rooster, and the Sheep, all floated atop a raft, which the Rooster had found resting by the opposite shore – unclaimed by anyone. Together, the three of them worked furiously, using lengthy branches as makeshift paddles. The sticks would often get caught in tangles of unwieldy underwater weeds, which weaved up from the riverbed, but the three of them did not stop paddling, severing the leafy binds with forceful branch strokes. When the Rooster, the Monkey, and the Sheep reached the river's shore, they let the Sheep cross first – claiming 8th place.

The Sheep had been so comforting and formed such harmonious bonds with them, that the others felt it was only right to let the Sheep claim the 8th place. If the sheep had helped foster these bonds, they may not have all made it to the finish-line.

The Monkey claimed the ninth place and the Rooster took the tenth place.

Coat sopping wet, the dog scrambled across the finish line next, panting as he did so, canine tongue flapping from his open mouth. The dog was an adept swimmer, but because he had not bathed for some time, he had over indulged in the river, frolicking without a care in the water. The sun sat high in the sky today and had heated the water, making it pleasant to bathe in. And, thus, the dog claimed the eleventh place in the race.

By the finish line stood the Jade Emperor. Eleven animals had already crossed. There was only one spot remaining in the Zodiac now. What animal will conclude the race? the Jade Emperor wondered.

Over the horizon, a loud exhausted oink sounded. The Pig waddled towards the finish line, pink skin caked in dense layers of dirt, sniffing snout pasted brown with mud. Yet, the Pig moved at a surprisingly swift gait, little feet locked in a tiny cyclical gallop.

The Jade Emperor gave the pig a sharp glance as he crossed the finish line. “How has one such as you who possesses such surprising speed fallen so far behind?” he asked. The Pig snorted as he readied himself to speak. “Sorry, Exalted Jade Emperor – I was hungry and couldn't resist stopping to gobble something up. I felt sleepy after eating and couldn't help myself.”

The Jade Emperor smiled again as he peered down at the dirt covered Pig. The race had concluded. The Pig collapsed onto his side, lapsing back into sleep. Snorts that sounded like snores sounded from the Pig's rotund heaving form. The 12 animals of the Zodiac had been decided and so concluded the great race.

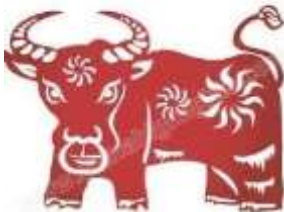
Personality of each Animal

According to the Chinese zodiac, the unique personality of each animal is passed on to those born in the years it rules. The general personality characteristics for the animals are as follows:



Rat 鼠 (Shǔ)

A rat is resourceful, kind, smart, lovely, witty, alert, and spirited. The rat is timid and lacking in command skills, and therefore not fit for the role of a leader. However, their curiosity takes them far, as they are quick learners and flexible.



Ox 牛 (Niú)

The ox is a hard worker and persistent in whatever it does. As an ox, one of the things to watch for is when being too stubborn or demanding. Another characteristic is the ox's reluctance to reveal themselves to others. Most will be firm with their beliefs and experience minimal relaxation in their lives and will live long healthy lives.



Tiger 虎 (hǔ)

Competitive, brave, confident, bold, resilient, and charming, the tiger makes for a strong leader. A challenge will always be taken if offered—though the tiger can sometimes be too hot-headed. Tigers enjoy engaging in action and have abundant energy, so they stay active often and participate in sports.



Rabbit 兔 (Tù)

People born in the year of the rabbit are kind, affectionate, pure, and pleasant. However, sometimes sentiment will cause them to seem superficial. They are cautious and conservative, which will cause them to miss good opportunities. Rabbits are best known for their gentle, skillful, patient, and quiet character.



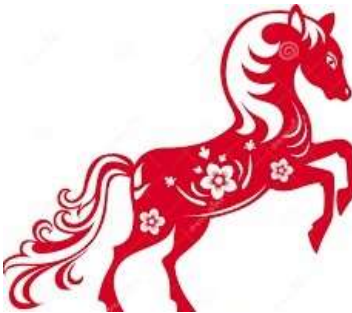
Dragon 龙 (lóng)

The dragon is known as the most vital beast in the Chinese zodiac. It is the only imaginary animal out of the twelve. Dominant, ambitious, and powerful, those born during the year of the dragon embrace challenges, tests, and risks. However, like the tiger, a dragon can be rash.



Snake 蛇 (shé)

The snake is an enigmatic animal. Snakes prefer a peaceful life with a workload that is manageable, as they are easily stressed when their lives are not in order. Intuition is the snake's strong suite, with intelligence and wisdom to come along in the package. As for the weak points, a snake is prone to procrastination, jealousy, and boredom.



Horse 马 (Mǎ)

Those born in the year of the horse live positively and are hard workers. However, stress from work and responsibility quickly weaken the horse, and therefore it is advised that those born in this year do not overwork. Socially, the horse is very pleasant, amiable, and humorous, which makes them easy to get along with. They are guaranteed popularity and a large circle of friends.



Sheep/Goat/Ram 羊 (yáng)

Sheep and Goats prefer to stay in groups, as they do not enjoy being the center of attention. They are thoughtful, honest, amicable, and gentle. Because of their calm nature, health is not often a problem—their pessimism is where they fall short.



Monkey 猴 (Hóu)

The monkey is witty, intelligent, sharp, crafty, and naughty. Sometimes their jokes and pranks can end up hurting others even though monkeys do not have bad intentions. An urban environment is definitely preferred over the rural, since the environment fits better with the monkey's abilities.



Rooster 鸡 (jī)

The rooster is observant, confident, shrewd, and hardworking. These traits can sometimes give off a negative impression to others, since roosters who often speaking their mind can come off boastful. They are social animals who enjoy attention; but this can also be a weak point of roosters, since their attention seeking can annoy others.



Dog 狗 (Gǒu)

The dog is faithful and honest but can find it hard to trust others. If one slips or breaks a promise with a dog, the relationship is immediately questioned by the dog. Additionally, dogs come off as having a stubborn personality, and are cursed with a worrisome mind. Dogs are easily liked for their loyalty and willingness to help others over themselves.



Pig 猪 (zhū)

The pig makes for a worthy companion because they are tolerant, sincere, generous, and compassionate. They are ambitious animals who set difficult goals for themselves and will work at their hardest to achieve a set goal. While doing so they do not seek for other's help very often and are cautious in their actions. This is not surprising since the pig is known for a great sense of responsibility.

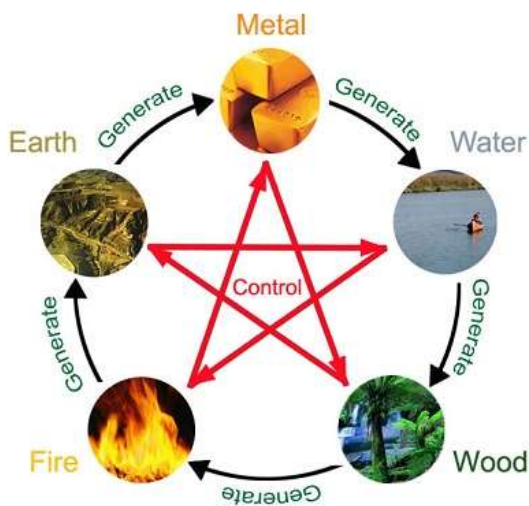
Understanding the Chinese Elements Cycle

In Asian culture, there is a strong focus placed on balance. As energy flows in one direction, it ebbs in another. From Feng Shui to holistic medicine, the interactions and relationships within the universe are only harmonious when kept in balance. The Five Elements Theory, or Wu Xing, is a Chinese philosophy that is used as the basis for everything from medicine, fortune telling, martial arts and more. The five elements -- earth, metal, wood, fire, and water -- are believed to be the fundamental roots of the universe, between which all interactions occur.

Each Chinese element has its own characteristics and associations and each plays a crucial role in the balance of the universe. No element is stronger or more important than another, and each has its own defined strengths and weaknesses. According to the Five Elements Theory, all things arise from and return to the universe and are

composed of these elements. This is why understanding our own connection to them is important.

Each of the five elements stands independently, however, each influence and molds the others. The world's interactions are determined by the Chinese elements creating and destroying each other. The process of creation promotes development, while the process of destruction restrains this development. The two are complimentary processes and create a harmonious stillness when balanced. For example:



Creation:

- Water feeds Wood.
- Wood fuels Fire.
- Fire makes Earth (ash).
- Earth produces Metal.
- Metal carries Water.

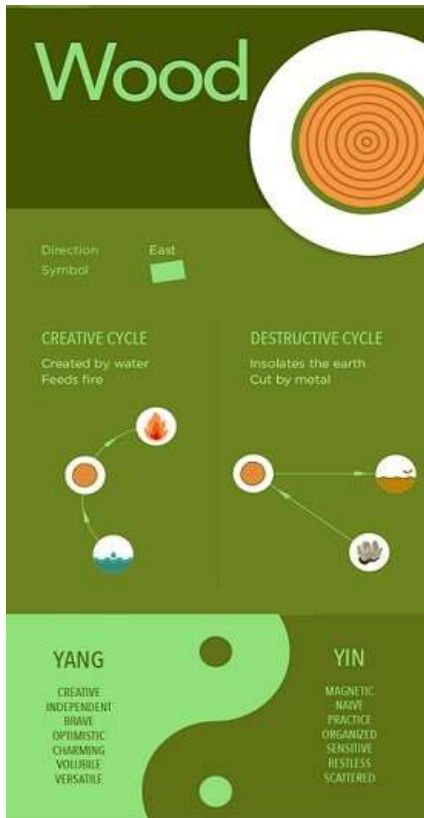
Destruction:

- Wood separates the Earth (i.e. roots).
- Earth absorbs Water.
- Water smothers Fire.
- Fire melts Metal.
- Metal penetrates Wood.

Five Elements – Find your birth Element in the following chart

	Metal	Water	Wood	Fire	Earth							
Rat	1900	1912	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008	2020	Rat
Ox	1901	1913	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009	2021	Ox
Tiger	1902	1914	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010	2022	Tiger
Rabbit	1903	1915	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011	2023	Rabbit
Dragon	1904	1916	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012	2024	Dragon
Snake	1905	1917	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013	2025	Snake
Horse	1906	2018	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014	2026	Horse
Goat(Sheep)	1907	1919	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015	2027	Goat(Sheep)
Monkey	1908	1920	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016	2028	Monkey
Rooster	1909	1921	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017	2029	Rooster
Dog	1910	1922	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018	2030	Dog
Pig	1911	1923	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019	2031	Pig

What Your Chinese Element Means



Wood is generous and expansive and cares deeply for others. As with bamboo, Wood is strong yet flexible and is a natural born leader. Its roots dig deep into the Earth, constantly looking to expand and push forward. However, Wood also needs moisture to survive. The characteristics of Wood are often associated with sensuality and patience. However, to balance this, Wood can also be intrusive and aggressive.

Strengths:

Patient and understanding
Warm, sociable, and compassionate
Flexible and adaptable
Stable and practical
Generous

Weaknesses:

Doesn't have a good grasp of boundaries or limits
Can be too passive
Yields easily under pressure
Can rely too heavily on others



Fire is always directed upward and its energy seems never ending. It is persistent and strong, however, it also spreads and wanders easily. Those with Fire as their element tend to be thrill seekers, who roam from one adventurous moment to the next. Fire is often associated with warmth, passion, and the need to create. However, on the reverse side, it can also be related to aggression, impatience, and destruction.

Strengths:

Passionate, persuasive, and enthusiastic
Creative and charismatic
Spontaneous and adventurous
Always up for a challenge
Warm and loving

Weaknesses:

Attention seeking – Aggressive, impulsive, and volatile
Impatient and manipulative
Susceptible to mood swings
Dislike being alone



Earth is stabilizing and mediating. It is a natural born peace-keeper. Earth is patient, thoughtful, and calm. While the Earth is warm and nurturing, it can also become easily self-centered as it believes it is the center of everything. Earth is protective and the represent the roots that hold everything together, however, it can also become controlling. People of this element contain a vast amount of empathy and find themselves constantly worried about the happiness of others.

Strengths:

- Stable and rooted
- Serious, practical, and logical
- Compassionate, caring, and empathetic
- Responsible, loyal, and honest
- Organized and good at planning

Weaknesses:

- Overprotective
- Stubborn
- Conservative -- have trouble taking risks
- Reserved



Metal is the diamond found in the rough -- it is the breath of life. Metal respects itself and also others. It is strong and hard but will adapt and change when put under pressure. Metal is often seen to be unyielding, rigid, and determined. People with this element tend to be minimalists -- enjoying the simplicity of an organized and clean life. However, on the negative side, Metal is matter-of-fact and does not see a need for complex or unnecessary emotion in its life.

Strengths:

- Courageous, ambitious, and competitive
- Independent, determined, disciplined, and focused
- High morals and high standards

Weaknesses:

- Lacks communication skills
- Stubborn and sometimes unreasonable
- Judging and cuts ties easily
- Susceptible to being cruel and merciless



Water represents intelligence and wisdom. Water is flexible yet strong, flowing yet still, calm yet dangerous. For Water, the surface is only the beginning, with the real movement hidden in its depths. Those with the Water element are not reclusive, however, they enjoy their own company and time for inner reflection. They are often quiet and peaceful but have great capacity to overwhelm others.

Strengths:

- Diplomatic and observant**
- Empathetic and good mediators**
- Persistent and determined**
- Intuitive and flexible**
- Gentle yet strong**

Weaknesses

- Self-Indulgent**
- Too passive**
- Rely on others too much**
- Indecisive**
- Anxious**

So, aligning the five elements to the 12 animals or years of the zodiac creates 60 different combinations -- a complete cycle that lasts 60 years. I think we have enough information now to identify our zodiac animal and element. We should also be able to put together a list of our personality traits and characteristics along with our strengths and weaknesses.

My Chinese zodiac animal, element, and associated personality traits

I was born on July 23, 1940

My animal sign is the Dragon

My element sign is Metal so I'm a Metal Dragon

The Metal Dragon in Chinese Astrology

The Dragon is the mightiest of the signs. They are the only imaginary animal out of the twelve. Dragons symbolize such character traits as dominance, ambition, authority, dignity, and capacity. Dragons embrace challenges, tests, and risks. Dragons prefer to live by their own rules and if left on their own, they are usually successful.

Metal Dragons are more than happy to do things by themselves if people should disagree with them or refuse to co-operate. They usually have very high moral values and will always have an ego boost from their friends and families.

Personality and Horoscope for the Metal Dragon

The Dragon is one of the most powerful signs in Chinese astrology. When combined with an element like Metal, which is known to grant intensity, the Dragon is naturally transformed into what is perhaps the most assertive personality of the entire zodiac.

The Dragon is a proud and lively person with a never-ending supply of self-confidence. They are highly intellectual and are always very quick to take advantage of any chance. They are determined and strong-minded to do well in anything they attempt, which usually comes naturally to them. They are somewhat of a perfectionist and will always try to maintain high standards that they set for themselves.

The Dragon will be extremely quick to criticize anybody that tries to make a fool out of them. They can sometimes be seen as blunt and straight to the point and are certainly not diplomatic or sensitive. They can be quite gullible and will often believe what people tell them. The Dragon does not take insult lightly, if they feel they have been insulted or hurt then it will take a long time for them to learn to trust you again as they do not forget things easily.

The Dragon is usually extremely outgoing and is great at attracting publicity and attention. They enjoy being the center of attention and will cope well with problems should they be faced with them. The Dragon can be portrayed as a bit of a showman that rarely lacks an audience.

Their views are very highly valued as they will usually have something interesting to say. They are very energetic and are often prepared to work long and unsociable hours in order to achieve what they desire. They can sometimes be quite impulsive and do not always consider the consequences that may follow. They have a tendency to live for the moment which again can have consequences that they do not think of. They hate to be kept waiting and become very impatient over the smallest of delays. The Dragon holds much faith in their abilities. This can sometimes make them a bit over confident which can sometimes lead them to make bad judgements that can be a big problem at times but the Dragon has the ability to bounce back and pick up the pieces again.

The Dragon will often go very far in their career, this is due to the fact that they have a very self-assured personality and have a tremendous desire to be successful. They

have substantial management qualities and will do very well in a position where they can put their own ideas into play. They are usually very successful in politics, a manager's position within their job, show business and anything that brings them into contact with the media.

The Dragon will always rely on their own judgement and can be quite mocking of other people's advice. They love to feel self-sufficient and there are many Dragons who cherish their independence to such a level that they prefer to remain single throughout their lives. And yet those that this Dragon allows to enter the recesses of his/her heart would find this personality is capable of a love that is as passionate as it is committed. It is not in the nature of Metal Dragon to be very voluble about his/her emotions since he/she would much rather express them through actions and gestures of love. In the end, the Metal Dragon makes for a committed and passionate, if slightly silent, partner.

True or False – For those who know me, does this description of an Metal Dragon sound like me? My own analysis says it is mostly true.

Let's end this article with a little more information about the Year of the Dog. Based on your zodiac animal, is the year 2018 going to be good year or is it going to be a stressful trying bad year for you?



The Year of the Dog



Years of the Dog include 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, and 2018.

Five Types of Dog - Which One Are You?

Type of Dog	Year of Birth	Characteristics
Wood Dog	1934, 1994	Sincere, reliable, considerate, understanding, and patient
Fire Dog	1946, 2006	Intelligent, hardworking, and sincere
Earth Dog	1958, 2018	Communicative, serious, and responsible in work
Medal Dog	1910, 1970	Conservative, desirable, cautious, and always ready to help others
Water Dog	1922, 1982	Brave and self-centered, even seemingly selfish; well-versed in dealing with financial issues

Famous Dog	Birth Date	Element
Winston Churchill	November 30, 1874	a Wood Dog
Elvis Presley	January 8, 1935	a Wood Dog
Bill Clinton	August 19, 1946	a Fire Dog
Donald Trump	June 14, 1946	a Fire Dog
George W Bush	July 6, 1946	a Fire Dog
Madonna	August 16, 1958	an Earth Dog
Michael Jackson	August 29, 1958	an Earth Dog

Lucky Things for Dogs

- **Lucky numbers: 3, 4, and 9**
- **Lucky days: the 7th and 28th**
- **Lucky colors: red, green, and purple**
- **Lucky flowers: rose and orchids**
- **Lucky directions: east, south, and northeast**
- **Lucky months: Jun, Oct, and Dec**

Unlucky Things for Dogs

- **Unlucky colors: blue, white, gold**
- **Unlucky numbers: 1, 6, and 7**
- **Unlucky direction: southeast**
- **Unlucky months: May and Aug**

The Dog's Personality

Dogs are loyal and honest, amiable, and kind, cautious, and prudent. Due to having a strong sense of loyalty and sincerity, Dogs will do everything for the person who they think is most important.

As Dogs are not good at communication, it is difficult for them to convey their thoughts to others. Therefore, Dogs tend to leave others with the impression that they have a stubborn personality.

Dog's Finances, Career, Health, and Love Prospects in 2018

Finances - In 2018, Dogs should be hands on people, and take the initiative, to make a profit. It will be hard, but you can get some rewards from real estate projects or technical investments.

Career - Dogs are ambitious, and this will be more obvious in 2018. But it will not be easy for you to get a promotion, so you should study further to get more qualifications.

Health - It's not a good year for health prospects for Dogs. You are more likely to have a bloody accident. You should also pay attention to your respiratory system.

Love - Dogs will actively try to seek for love or develop relationships in 2018 but the results may not be ideal.

Summary - 2018 is an Unlucky Year for Dogs. According to Chinese astrology, people in the year of their birth sign origin (of) life year will offend Tai Sui, the God of Age in Chinese mythology. They are believed to have bad luck in this year. Therefore, Dogs should be more careful about all aspects of their lives in a year of the Dog.

Comment: Can you believe that George W Bush, Bill Clinton, and Donald Trump are all Fire Dogs?

Based on your Zodiac Animal sign, let's find out what kind of year 2018 is going to be for you. We will be looking at these four areas:





Fortune or Finances: Will you have more money at the end of the year than you do now? Will the Stock Market and other investments be good or bad in 2018?





























































Career: Will you have a job? Will you get a promotion in 2018? Will you stay status quo? Will you get fired?

Health: Will you have a healthy year 2018? Or will you have several health issues?

Love: Will you find true love in 2018? Will your marriage be a happy one? Or will your love life go to hell?

Color Codes:

Bad	
So-So (Average or No Change)	
Good	
Exceptional	

Chinese Zodiac Animal	Fortune / Finances	Career	Health	Love Life	Combined Summary
Rat					
Ox					
Tiger					
Rabbit					
Dragon					
Snake					
Horse					
Sheep/Goat/Ram					
Monkey					
Rooster					
Dog					
Pig					

Well, it looks like 2018 is going to be a bad year for Oxen, Sheep/Goats/Rams, and Dogs. It will be a good year for Snakes, Rats, Tigers, and Pigs. For the rest of the animals, it will be a so-so average year.

My sign the Dragon is projected to have a so-so year 2018 in every category. I will be happy if this turns out to be true. Here's why:

- I have no stocks or investments. I'm not trying to make any more money than I already have or receive. I'm getting by okay.
- I'm retired – my career is over.
- My health is the only category that really concerns me and providing there is no change in 2018, I will be very happy. I'm actually pretty healthy right now in my old age.
- I have no love life. I'm 77 years old with a sick wife and no girlfriends. However, I do have a puppy!

Goat or Ram or Sheep?



The Chinese word yáng refers both to goats and sheep, with shānyáng specifically goats and miányáng sheep. In English, the sign (originally based on a horned animal) may be called either. The interpretation of sheep or goat depends on the culture. In Vietnamese, the sign is mụi, which is unambiguously goat. In Japan, on the other hand, the sign is hitsuji, sheep; while in Korea and Mongolia the sign is also sheep or ram. Within China, there may be a regional distinction with the zodiacal yáng more likely to be thought of as a goat in the south, while tending to be thought of as a sheep in the north.

If this is your zodiac sign, you can take your pick.

No matter what your zodiac animal sign is, I wish the best for you all in the coming year 2018 - The Year of the Earth Dog.

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