



A Lunar New Year's Guide

(Cantonese & Traditional Chinese Characters)



General New Year's Greeting

san1 nin4 faai3 lok6
新 年 快 樂 = Happy New Year!

san1 nin4
新 年 = new year
faai3 lok6
快 樂 = happy

gung1 hei2
恭 喜 = to congratulate
faat3 coi4
發 財 = to be prosperous

gung1 hei2 faat3 coi4
恭 喜 發 財
Wishing you a happy and prosperous new year

san1 tai2 gin6 hong1
身 體 健 康
(I) wish (you) good health

san1 tai2
身 體 = body
gin6 hong1
健 康 = healthy

daai6 gat1 daai6 lei6
大 吉 大 利 = good luck and prosperity



Did you know?













During lunar new year, it is very common for Chinese people to display and decorate a tangerine tree in their houses, similar to western traditions of decorating a Christmas tree. Tangerine is viewed as a the lucky charm of Chinese new year due to its pronunciation 桔 (gat1), which is the same as 吉 (gat1), which means lucky.

daai6 gat1
大 吉 = propitious

daai6 gat1 daai6 lei6
Original phrase: 大 吉 大 利 = good luck and prosperity

daai6 gat1 daai6 lei6
With the tangerine pun: 大 桔 大 利 = good luck/tangerine and prosperity

sang1ciu3
12 Zodiac Signs 生肖

											
RAT syu2 鼠	OX ngau4 牛	TIGER fu2 虎	RABBIT tou3 兔	DRAGON lung4 龍	SNAKE se4 蛇	HORSE maa5 馬	GOAT joeng4 羊	MONKEY hau4 猴	ROOSTER gai1 雞	DOG gau2 狗	PIG zyu1 豬
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911

se4 nin4 daai6 gat1
蛇 年 大 吉 = good luck in the year of the snake!

ngo5 suk6 se4
我 屬 蛇 = My Chinese zodiac sign is a snake.

ngo5 m4 hai6 suk6 ngau4
我 唔 係 屬 牛 = My Chinese zodiac sign is not an ox.

nei5 suk6 me1
你 屬 咩 ? = What is your zodiac sign?



Did you know?

A common mistake that most non-native speakers would make when they mention zodiac sign is saying “我係...(ngo5 hai6) I am ...” You will never use the “我係... (ngo5 hai6) I am ...” structure to indicate your zodiac sign because comparing a person to an animal can be degrading. For example, saying “我係豬 (ngo5 hai6 zyu1) I am a pig” would imply that you exhibit the undesirable traits of a pig such as being indolent and unintelligent.

Personalities for 12 Zodiac Signs

daai6 fong1 lek1 jau5 kap1 jan5 lik6
大方、叻、有吸引力
Generous, smart, charming



zing1 lik6 cung1 pui3 duk6 laap6 mou5 noi6 sing3
精力充沛、獨立、有耐性
Energetic, independent, impatient



paa3 cau2 wo4 oi2 wo4 muk6
怕醜、和藹、和睦
Shy, kind, peaceful



jau5 ceoi3 zing1 lik6 cung1 pui3 zik1 gik6
有趣、精力充沛、積極
fun, energetic, active



duk6 laap6 jin6 sat6 kan4 lik6
獨立、現實、勤力
independent, practical, hardworking

jau5 noi6 sing3 daai6 fong1 zung1 sing4
有耐性、大方、忠誠
patient, generous, faithful



jau5 oi3 sam1 fun1 jung4 lou5 sat6
有愛心、寬容、老實
loving, tolerant, honest



lek1 jau5 kap1 jan5 lik6 hau2 coi4 hou2
叻、有吸引力、口才好
smart, charming, persuasive



jau5 noi6 sing3 wo4 oi2 ngaang6 geng2
有 耐 性、和 藹、硬 頸
patient, kind, stubborn



gam2 cing4 fung1 fu3 jung5 gam2 daai6 daam2
感 情 豐 富、勇 敢、大 膽
emotional, brave, fearless



sau6 fun1 jing4 wo4 oi2 zan1 sing4
受 歡 迎、和 藹、真 誠
popular, kind, sincere



zing1 lik6 cung1 pui3 daai6 daam2 jit6 sam1
精 力 充 沛、大 膽、熱 心
energetic, fearless, warm-hearted



Describing someone's zodiac sign

keoi5 suk6 joeng4
佢 屬 羊。
My zodiac sign is a sheep.

keoi5 suk6 se4 keoi5 hou2 daai6 fong1
佢 屬 蛇；佢 好 大 方。
His/her zodiac sign is a snake, and he/she is very generous.



suk6 se4 ge3 jan4 hou2 daai6 fong1
屬 蛇 嘅 人 好 大 方。
Those with a snake zodiac sign are very generous.

suk6 lung4 ge3 jan4 hou2 jit6 sam1
屬 龍 嘅 人 好 熱 心。
Those with a dragon zodiac sign are very warm-hearted.

My Zodiac Sheet

syu2 ngau4 fu2 tou3 lung4 se4

鼠	牛	虎	兔	龍	蛇
---	---	---	---	---	---

maa5 joeng4 hau4 gai2 gau2 zyu1

馬	羊	猴	雞	狗	豬
---	---	---	---	---	---

ngo5 giu3
我 叫 _____。
My name is

ngo5 suk6
我 屬 _____。
My zodiac sign is a

suk6 ge3 jan4 hou2
屬 _____ 嘅 人 好 _____。
Those with a ... zodiac sign are very

daan6 hai6 kei4 sat6 ngo5
但 係，其 實 我 _____。

Here is a picture of my zodiac sign:



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