

Speaking Practice:

A: gōng xǐ fā cái 恭喜发财! <i>Happy New Year!</i>	B: tóng xǐ tóng xǐ 同喜, 同喜! <i>Same to you.</i>
A: chūn jié nǐ men fàng jǐ tiān jiǎ 春节你们放几天假? <i>How many holidays do you have?</i>	B: qī tiān 七天。 <i>Seven days.</i>
A: nǐ men zěn me guò nián 你们怎么过年? <i>How do you celebrate the New Year?</i>	B: míng tiān wǒ men yī jiā qù nán fāng lǚ yóu 明天我们一家去南方旅游。 <i>Our family is going to travel to the South tomorrow.</i>
A: nǐ men de ér zi jǐ suì le 你们的儿子几岁了? <i>How old is your son?</i>	B: tā sì suì le 他四岁了。 <i>He is 4.</i>
A: shì ma tā kàn shàng qu hěn xiǎo 是吗? 他看上去很小? <i>Really? He seems to be very small.</i>	B: tā de shēng rì shì zài dà nián yè 他的生日是在大年夜。 <i>He was born on New Year's Eve.</i>
A: xiǎo péng yǒu men zuì xǐ huān guò nián 小朋友们最喜欢过年。 <i>Kids like the most to celebrate the New Year.</i>	B: wǒ ér zi xǐ huān fàng biān pào kàn yān huǒ 我儿子喜欢放鞭炮和看烟火。 <i>My son likes to let off firecrackers and watch fireworks.</i>

Useful phrases and words:

fàng jiǎ 放假 <i>to have holiday</i>	zěn me 怎么 <i>how</i>	chūn jié 春节 <i>Spring Festival</i>	chūn lián 春联 <i>Spring couplets</i>	nián huà 年画 <i>New Year poster</i>
jiǎn zhǐ 剪纸 <i>paper cuttings</i>	tuán yuán 团圆 <i>reunion</i>	bài nián 拜年 <i>pay a New Year call</i>	hóng bāo 红包 <i>red packets</i>	tiào lóng wǔ 跳龙舞 <i>Dragon dancing</i>

Metaphors about Rabbits:

1. dǎn zi bǐ tù zi hái xiǎo 胆子比兔子还小。 <i>One's courage is less than the rabbit's.</i>
2. ěr duo bǐ tù zi hái líng 耳朵比兔子还灵。 <i>One is more alert than a wild rabbit.</i>
3. pǎo de bǐ tù zi hái kuài 跑得比兔子还快。 <i>One can run faster than a rabbit.</i>

❖ Chinese animal years' symbols and calendar

Dog	1934 1946 1958 1970 1982 1994 2006
Pig	1935 1947 1959 1971 1983 1995 2007
Rat	1936 1948 1960 1972 1984 1996 2008
Ox	1937 1949 1961 1973 1985 1997 2009
Tiger	1938 1950 1962 1974 1986 1998 2010
Rabbit	1939 1951 1963 1975 1987 1999 2011
Dragon	1940 1952 1964 1976 1988 2000 2012
Snake	1941 1953 1965 1977 1989 2001 2013
Horse	1942 1954 1966 1978 1990 2002 2014
Goat	1943 1955 1967 1979 1991 2003 2015
Monkey	1944 1956 1968 1980 1992 2004 2016
Rooster	1945 1957 1969 1981 1993 2005 2017

tā shǔ shén me

他属什么?

What animal year is he?

tā shǔ shǔ tā sì suì le

他属鼠。他四岁了!

His year is the year of the Rat. He is 4!

???

Q. How to be sure you have the correct animal year if you are born in January or February?

The New Year's Day in the Chinese calendar is in January OR February of the Western calendar depending on the year. If you are born in January or February, you may need to find the actual year in Chinese calendar.

The most important day is the Chinese New Year's Day (CNYD). For example, CNYD is Feb. 12 in 2002. 2001 is the Year of Snake while 2002 is the Year of Horse. You are a "Horse" if you are born in or After Feb. 12, 2002, but you are a "Snake" if you are born Before Feb. 12, 2002. Here are the CNYD for one hundred years -- Formats in "Year (CNYD-mm/dd)":

Example: 2003(02/01/) means CNYD is Feb. 1 in year of 2003.

1900(01/31), 1901(02/19), 1902(02/08), 1903(01/29), 1904(02/16),
 1905(02/04), 1906(01/25), 1907(02/13), 1908(02/02), 1909(01/22),
 1910(02/10), 1911(01/30), 1912(02/18), 1913(02/06), 1914(01/26),
 1915(02/14), 1916(02/03), 1917(01/23), 1918(02/11), 1919(02/01),
 1920(02/20), 1921(02/08), 1922(01/28), 1923(02/16), 1924(02/05),
 1925(01/24), 1926(02/13), 1927(02/02), 1928(01/23), 1929(02/10),
 1930(01/30), 1931(02/17), 1932(02/06), 1933(01/26), 1934(02/14),
 1935(02/04), 1936(01/24), 1937(02/11), 1938(01/31), 1939(02/19),
 1940(02/08), 1941(01/27), 1942(02/15), 1943(02/05), 1944(01/25),
 1945(02/13), 1946(02/02), 1947(01/22), 1948(02/10), 1949(01/29),
 1950(02/17), 1951(02/06), 1952(01/27), 1953(02/14), 1954(02/03),
 1955(01/24), 1956(02/12), 1957(01/31), 1958(02/18), 1959(02/08),
 1960(01/28), 1961(02/15), 1962(02/05), 1963(01/26), 1964(02/13),
 1965(02/02), 1966(01/21), 1967(02/09), 1968(01/30), 1969(02/17),
 1970(02/06), 1971(01/27), 1972(02/15), 1973(02/03), 1974(01/23),
 1975(02/11), 1976(01/31), 1977(02/18), 1978(02/07), 1979(02/28),
 1980(02/16), 1981(02/05), 1982(01/25), 1983(02/13), 1984(02/02),
 1985(02/20), 1986(02/09), 1987(01/29), 1988(02/17), 1989(02/06),
 1990(01/27), 1991(02/15), 1992(02/04), 1993(01/23), 1994(02/10),
 1995(01/31), 1996(02/19), 1997(02/07), 1998(01/28), 1999(02/16),
 2000(02/05), 2001(01/24), 2002(02/12), 2003(02/01), 2004(01/22),
 2005(02/09), 2006(01/29), 2007(02/18), 2008(02/07), 2009(01/26),
 2010(02/14), 2011(02/03), 2012(01/23), 2013(02/10), 2014(01/31),
 2015(02/19), 2016(02/08), 2017(01/28), 2018(02/16), 2019(02/05).

Top 10 Lucky Chinese characters used in Chinese New Year

福

1.) Fú – Blessing, Good Fortune, Good Luck

Fú is one of the most popular Chinese characters used in Chinese New Year. It is often posted upside down on the front door of a house or an apartment. The upside down fú means good luck came since the character for upside down in Chinese sounds the same as the character for came.

禄

2.) Lù – Prosperity

It used to mean official's salary in feudal China.

寿

3.) Shòu – Longevity

Shòu also means life, age or birthday.

喜

4.) Xǐ – Happiness

Double happiness is usually posted everywhere on Chinese weddings.

财

5.) Cái – wealth, money

Chinese often say money can make a ghost turn a millstone. It is to say money really can do a lot of things.

和

6.) Hé – harmonious

'People harmony' is an important part of Chinese culture. When you have harmonious relations with others, things will be a lot easier for you.

爱

7.) Ài – love, affection

Don't need to say any more about this one.

美

8.) Měi – beautiful, pretty

The United States of American is called **měi guó** in the short form. **guó** means country so **měi guó** is a good name.

吉

9.) Jí – lucky, auspicious, propitious

Hope all is well.

德

10.) Dé – virtue, moral

Dé means virtue, moral, heart, mind, and kindness, etc. It is also used in the name for Germany, i.e., **dé guó**.