

# 蛇 Year of the Snake

**The Snake is a passionate presence in the Chinese horoscope. People born in this year draw on their inner resources to get what they want, are calculating in business, intuitive and wise. However, they can be mistrustful of others and cannot tolerate failure.**

**Snakes are born in:** 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025.\*

**Famous people born in the Year of the Snake** – Snakes prefer quiet and calm. They usually know what they want, but pursue it in their own time, with apparent ease, and without hurrying. They are analytical, enigmatic and passionate.

Famous Snakes include: Robert Downey, Jr., Bob Dylan, Ella Fitzgerald, Greta Garbo, Howard Hughes, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Dorothy Parker, Brad Pitt, Charlie Sheen, Mae West, Vivienne Westwood, Oprah Winfrey, Virginia Woolf.

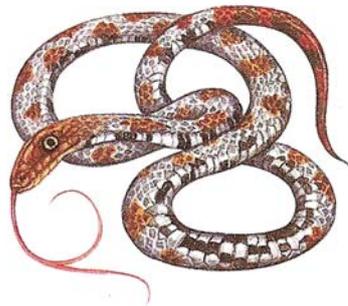
**Chinese name:** She, sign of sagacity

**Colour:** Red

**Gems and stones:** Topaz, jasper, bloodstone

**Hour:** 9 am-10:59 am

**Western counterpart:** Taurus



### Snake characteristics

Snakes are notoriously indolent. They dislike noisy crowds and being disturbed, preferring rest and relaxation. Typical favourite past-times include: fishing, stamp collecting, photography, diving, painting, orienteering. Within the house, Snakes enjoy quality and refinement. Textures are chosen for their sensual feel, furniture for its deep comfort, and artefacts for detail and effect.

Snakes are selective when directing their affections and do not make friends easily. When they allow people into their inner sanctum, they remain close friends for life, however, they can still be guarded. Their relationships with others can be complex: they don't like small talk but enjoy gossip, scandal and intrigue; although generally quiet and solitary creatures, Snakes are not averse to social get-togethers, especially if it is a big or elegant function.

Ultimately, they dislike being crossed. In business they can come across as secretive and ruthless, and in love and relationships, they become spiteful and can display deep malice.

- + Perceptive, intuitive, attractive, composed in a crisis, enigmatic, subtle, shrewd, discrete, wise, introverted, philosophical, organised, elegant, decisive.
- Secretive, mistrustful, proud, manipulative, vane, possessive, indolent.



The characteristics of people born under the Snake sign are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements of Wood (born 1965), Fire (1917, 1977), Earth (1929, 1989), Metal (1941, 2001) and Water (1953, 2013).

### 2013 Year of the Water Snake

Lunar New Year is the celebration of the beginning of the year of several Asian calendars and includes Chinese New Year, Japanese New Year, Korean New Year, Mongolian New Year, Tibetan New Year and Vietnamese New Year. In 2013, the Lunar New Year will start on Sunday 10 February and is 15 days in duration.

10 February 2013 is the first day of the Lunar New Year. The exact new moon time is 7:21 am Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). This is the beginning of the 4711th Chinese year – a Water Snake Year in the five-element system.

Water Snakes have highly developed intuitive faculties and strong psychological insights. They also have good business minds, strong powers of concentration, and great determination. They are extremely practical, and are also intellectual, and their forte lies in the management and organisation of people and institutions.

*\* In the Chinese calendar, based on the movement of the moon, new year's day does not fall on a fixed date. Therefore, if you were born in January or February, consult a lunar calendar chart as you may belong to the previous animal year.*



### Personality

Snakes are typically smooth, sensual and sophisticated. They are refined, wise and never in a hurry. They usually pursue what they want and adore intrigue, but this passion can appear negative to others who view them as secretive, jealous, possessive, ruthless and vengeful.

Snakes are likely to be financially successful if they follow their instincts, however, they need to avoid impulse-buying or making rash financial judgments – they may be intuitive, but they make poor gamblers and wild speculation can bring disaster for Snakes.

While Snakes take things quietly and may appear lazy, they are in fact extremely conscientious and can act quickly when necessary. Snake children in particular can be slow starters, and need to be allowed to develop in their own time, with additional words of encouragement or formal guidance needed to coax them into developing their latent talents. Snakes overall like to sort things out on their own.

### Professions best suited to Snakes

Snakes are shrewd in business, intuitive in their dealings and tenacious over their assets. They attract money. They often change career at least twice, and are unlikely to be attracted by mundane jobs.

Snakes have good organisational skills and the ability to perceive problems and solve them. They are suited to occupations where concentration, an eye for detail, and precision are required. Ideal careers include: scientist, technologist, researcher, analyst, potter, painter, musician, jeweller, silversmith, spiritual leader, investigator, politician, psychologist, surgeon, sociologist, philosopher, astrologer, magician, dietitian.



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### Health and constitution

Snakes are prone to stress complaints. They prefer space and time and avoid noisy, chaotic situations. Snakes may like to show off their social side, but have a strong need to be left alone too, and need to rest after periods of activity. Their formula for long life is not to burn the candle at both ends, staying calm, and getting plenty of sleep.

### Love

Snakes are attracted to elegant, refined partners and are most compatible with those born in the Years of the Ox and Rooster. However, Snakes in love are intensely possessive and jealous. Due to the Snake's mixture of closeness, passion and jealousy, their slight remoteness or secretive nature can discourage people with a more easy-going nature.

Overall, people born in the Year of the Snake are stylish, charming, beautiful, well-groomed, sultry and devastatingly seductive. Their sensual nature leads them into intimate relationships, but as with their career, they may have several different partners throughout life.

### The year ahead

The year's pace will be slow, offering an opportunity to recover from the hectic Year of the Dragon. It will be a year of introspection and transformation. It will be important to stay on the side of caution in terms of health, relationships and finances. Look for stability in all your undertakings.

While the year will present challenges, it will also bring some of the best opportunities seen in a long time. If you are prepared and lay the foundations now, you should fare well. In fact, by making an effort, this could be the year you take huge leaps, not just steps, forward.

In general, the Yin Water Snake year should bring optimism and enthusiasm for new innovations and progress, and will trigger travel plans and be conducive to long distance relationships, networking opportunities abroad, and moving.

### Forthcoming Chinese New Year dates:

- 10 February 2013
- 31 January 2014 (Horse)
- 19 February 2015 (Sheep)
- 8 February 2016 (Monkey)



## History



### Clean Day (25th lunar day of the 12th lunar month)

Before the Tang dynasty, cleaning house was a religious ceremony to get rid of disease. During the Sung dynasty, Clean Day was set on the 24th day of the 12th lunar month, when Zao Jun, the Kitchen God, was said to have returned to Heaven to report on a family's behavior during the previous year. A negative report by the Kitchen God means a family will suffer bad luck in the year to come.

During the week before the new year, people start to clean the entire house. Every corner is dusted, windows are cleaned and rooms washed so the house can be decorated for the coming new year.



### Cake Day (26th lunar day of 12th Lunar Month)

The Chinese traditionally make different kinds of rice cakes to worship the gods on Chinese New Year's Eve. The most popular sweet cakes are:

*Fa-Gao* - Eating Fa-Gao helps to improve one's career, wealth and health.

*Nian-Gao* - Think of it as a sticky rice fruit cake. The custom of feeding Sticky Cake to the Kitchen God was to ensure he either gave a favourable report to the Jade Emperor, or his mouth was too full of cake to pass on an unfavourable report. Often steamed, it is usually re-heated (sliced and fried) before serving. The sweetness of Sticky Cake symbolises a rich, sweet life; the layers symbolise abundance for the coming year; and its round shape signifies family reunion.

### Lucky red envelopes

'*Hong Bao*', also known as lucky money, often carries boundless blessings. Red envelopes are given at happiness occasions, such as New Year's day, weddings, or birthdays and are given out to signify good fortune and good energy, especially when the money consists of crisp new notes with fresh 'chi' energy. The amount of cash inside the red envelope is usually an even number.

Many older Chinese people say that the red envelope is given to symbolise longevity for the bearer. By giving children red envelopes, the older person "borrows" the young 'chi' from children, and in exchange, the children receive lucky money in the red envelope.

The use of red stems from religious rituals and is considered an auspicious colour by the Chinese. Before the introduction of paper, red pigment on cloth or red thread would most likely have been used. Today, red envelopes are made of paper, come in different sizes and designs with a combination of blessings and lucky symbols to wish good fortune, wealth and happiness.

Over time, the practice of giving red envelopes stuffed with lucky money has flourished. Lucky red envelopes are often placed on appropriate items or places in the home or office to bring good Feng Shui, to create or attract positive 'yang' energy to help bring harmony, happiness and success.

The Chinese believe that the red envelope will bring good luck to the person who receives it and to the person who gives it. The more you give out, the more luck comes back to you.



References: Man-Ho Kwok, *Chinese Astrology*; Lori Reid, *The Complete Book of Chinese Horoscopes*; [www.chinesefortunecalendar.com](http://www.chinesefortunecalendar.com); [www.gotohoroscope.com](http://www.gotohoroscope.com); [www.theholidayspot.com/chinese\\_new\\_year/](http://www.theholidayspot.com/chinese_new_year/); [www.springsgreetingcards.com](http://www.springsgreetingcards.com); [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_calendar); [www.mercurytreasures.com/brchdr.html](http://www.mercurytreasures.com/brchdr.html); <http://fengshuischool.blogspot.com/2010/01/chinese-dragon-statue.html>; <http://www.astrology.com>; [www.travelchinaguide.com](http://www.travelchinaguide.com); <http://lunaf.com/english/moon-phases/lunar-calendar-2013>; [www.gutenberg.org/etext/15250](http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/15250); <http://chinesefood.about.com>; <http://redlotusletter.com>.



## The year ahead

### Rat

The Snake is smart, sharp and clever, making this a very favourable year for you. If you were successful in 2012, your good fortune will continue. If you weren't, success is on its way!

### Ox

You start a new, lucky life cycle in 2013. Finally your hard work is rewarded. This is your year to cultivate a spiritual practice, be it yoga, tai chi or any other form of meditation.

### Tiger

You want to act, express and do – whereas the Snake is content to coil up, contemplate and seek answers within. Slow down and don't lose your temper this year, Tiger. Patience! The Year of the Horse will bring you joy in 2014.

### Rabbit

Luck is with you this year, as the Snake brings calm energy after the stress of the Dragon in 2012. The slower pace is reassuring for a gentle and peaceful soul like you.

### Dragon

Your good fortune continues from 2012's Dragon year. Be sure and move slowly, building on your newly set foundation. You have much to look forward to.

### Snake

The Snake year is about transformation for you, marking the start of a new 12-year cycle. The meditative focus of a Snake year is even stronger now because this is a Water year, inspiring reflection.

### Horse

The Horse is yang, the Snake is Yin – these two signs approach life quite differently. It's best for you to slow down this year and make plans for 2014 – a lucky Horse year for you.

### Sheep/Goat

This is an excellent year as a new attitude overtakes you. Your life is far less stressful, and your kindness is infectious. This Snake year launches a three-year lucky cycle for you.

### Monkey

The restless Monkey doesn't always flow with the slow pace of the Snake. You two are allies, but you're not quite in sync. If 2012 was successful for you, maintain what you accomplished. If it wasn't, learn from your mistakes and start over.

### Rooster

The Snake makes your dreams come true. Your hard work pays off and your luck blossoms. The year ends in a beautiful transformation. Plan well and anticipate good fortune.

### Dog

This is an excellent year to recover from any difficulties the Dragon threw your way in 2012. The Water Snake's easy flow offers you stability. You won't feel stressed or under pressure anymore. Breathe!

### Pig

The Snake is your opposite – don't expect too much this year. Go slowly and don't make any major changes. It's okay to dream, but avoid things like moving, marriage or changing careers.

