



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Happy Niu Year 牛年快乐

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Celebrating in Style 庆新年

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

2008 is now finally in the past as millions of Chinese people around the world welcomed the Chinese New Year on Monday 26 January. As we waved goodbye to the Year of the Rat, the Year of the Ox was greeted in traditional style with firecrackers, parties and feasts.

As the Chinese word for Ox is pronounced 'Niu' which sounds similar to 'new' in English, but has the meaning of being 'bullish', this pun is interpreted as an auspicious start to the year.

According to Chinese astrology, people born in the Year of the Ox are patient, hardworking and can inspire confidence in others. However, they can be fierce and remarkably stubborn at times.

Traditionally in London, the Chinese New Year celebration is held on the first Sunday after New Year's Day. This year, the mayor of London has promised spectators a rich mixture of live performances, a colourful parade and culinary delights at the famous landmark Trafalgar Square.

Further up in Derry, in Northern Ireland, the celebration arrived early. Locals were treated to calligraphy demonstrations, authentic Chinese tea tasting and a Chinese banquet. The mayor of Derry, Gerard Diver, thought the events were extremely important, not just for the Chinese community, but to everyone in Derry.

"We live on an island, and I sometimes think that we're perhaps not as exposed to different cultures or to different ways of doing things as we should be. This is a valuable opportunity to gain an insight into Chinese culture and traditions, and it's also an important sign of progress," said Mr Diver.

The global financial crisis has, however, affected celebrations elsewhere in the country. Coventry Community Chinese Association was forced to cancel its plans for the New Year due to lack of funding. Similarly in the south west part of the country, decisions were made to scale down the celebration after a number of sponsors were forced to cut back on financial support.

Despite the setbacks, people are determined to welcome the Niu Year in style and hope the Year of the Ox will bring prosperity through fortitude and hard work.



Glossary 词汇表

bullish – 乐观的	pun – 双关语
auspicious start – 幸运吉利的开始	astrology – 占星学
inspire confidence – 给予信心	fierce – 脾气火爆
stubborn – 顽固的	a rich mixture of – 丰富多彩的
colourful parade – 多彩多样的游行	culinary delights – 烹饪佳肴
landmark – 著名地点	calligraphy demonstrations – 书法表演
authentic – 地道的	banquet – 晚宴
exposed – 接触	gain an insight into – 了解
scale down – 缩减	cut back – 减少
prosperity – 兴旺昌盛	fortitude – 毅力

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

1. Niu in Chinese means being bullish. True / False
2. People born in the Year of the Ox can have hot tempers. True / False
3. According to Chinese lunar calendar, the Year of the Ox is before the Year of the Rat. True / False
4. The city of Derry is in southern England. True / False
5. Coventry will have a very colourful and large celebration for the Chinese New Year. True / False

2. Vocabulary 词汇

All of the words below are related to characteristics of an ox. Match the word to its definition.

下列词汇都同牛的性格相关。请将单词和相应的定义配对。

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. leadership | a. describes someone who is determined to do what they want and refuses to do anything else |
| 2. perseverance | b. to try to do or continue doing something in a determined way |
| 3. stubborn | c. to feel that you can count on someone to help you out at difficult times. |
| 4. dependable | d. the set of characteristics in people which helps them to be in charge |

Now use the words to complete the following sentences.

请用下列词语填空：

1. Through hard work and _____, Jane worked her way up from a secretary to the managing director of a multinational company.
2. Being _____ can sometimes cause huge rows in relationships.
3. Jason is liked by many people, because he's honest, warm and _____.
4. The board decided to hire Mark to be the marketing director, because he demonstrated excellent _____ skills in his interview.

3. Fill the Gaps 填空

Find the best word that describes the character description with the right Chinese zodiac sign.

请将合适的性格形容词联接到相关的中国属相。



Rats are _____, they are full of energy and love running around.



Pigs are _____, they are dependable and trustworthy.



Snakes are _____, they are clever.



Dogs are _____, they are careful and very committed to their work.



Horses can be _____, meaning they can change suddenly and without reason.



Roosters love talking to others, they are very _____.



Dragons can appear _____ to some, because they are large and powerful.



Rabbits are _____ to others, they show understanding towards other people's feelings.



Sheep are _____, they have lovely temperament.



Monkeys are full of _____, they are always doing things and don't want to stop.



Tigers are _____ about life, they have a positive attitude.



Oxen can be _____, once they've decided on something; it's difficult to change their mind.

loyal stubborn unpredictable intelligent good-natured
scary communicative optimistic energy lively diligent
considerate

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with the Chinese New Year in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与中国新年有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

p	r	t	u	j	a	b	n	i	n	d	p
a	a	c	u	f	t	m	d	g	r	v	r
r	t	s	n	i	n	s	t	i	n	b	o
a	o	n	t	e	x	p	o	s	e	d	s
d	w	m	z	r	u	u	m	b	r	i	p
e	n	c	a	c	o	n	a	t	i	o	e
n	i	c	q	e	n	l	i	h	g	a	r
m	c	l	a	r	e	c	o	n	t	n	i
b	u	l	l	i	s	h	v	g	m	i	t
u	i	c	u	l	i	n	a	r	y	u	y
s	u	b	r	u	n	e	c	a	l	n	c
c	a	l	l	i	g	r	p	h	y	i	q

astrology	fierce	exposed	parade	culinary
prosperity	calligraphy	bullish	pun	rat

Answers 答案

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5. Coventry will have a very colourful and large celebration for the Chinese New Year. False

3. Fill the gaps 填空

Find the best word that describes the character description with the right Chinese zodiac sign.

请将合适的性格形容词连接到相关的中国属相。

- Rats are lively.
 Pigs are loyal.
 Snakes are intelligent.
 Dogs are diligent.
 Horses can be unpredictable.
 Roosters are very communicative.
 Dragons can appear scary to some.
 Rabbits are considerate to others.
 Sheep are good natured.
 Monkeys are full of energy.
 Tigers are optimistic about life.
 Oxen can be stubborn.

2. Vocabulary 词汇

All of the words below are related to characteristics of an ox. Match the word to its definition.

下列词汇都同牛的性格相关。请将单词和相应的定义配对。

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. c

Now use the words to complete the following sentences.

请用以上词语填空:

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2. Being stubborn can sometimes cause huge rows in relationships.
3. Jason is liked by many people, because he's honest, warm and dependable.
4. The board decided to hire Mark to be the marketing director, because he demonstrated excellent leadership skills in his interview.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

p	r									p
a	a			f						r
r	t	s		i						o
a			t	e	x	p	o	s	e	d
d				r	u					p
e				c	o	n				e
				e	l					r
							o			i
b	u	l	l	i	s	h		g		t
		c	u	l	i	n	a	r	y	y
c	a	l	l	i	g	r	p	h	y	