

Zodiacs and Trines

Season	Lunar Month	Fixed Element	Solar Longitude	Solar Term	Western Date
Spring	1st – 寅(yin) Tiger	Wood	314°	立春 lichūn	Feb 04 – Feb 18
			329°	雨水 yǔshuǐ	Feb 19 – Mar 05
	2nd – 卯(mao) Rabbit	Wood	344°	啓蟄 qǐzhé (驚蟄 jīngzhé)	Mar 06 – Mar 20
			0°	春分 chūnfēn	Mar 21 – Apr 04
	3rd – 辰(chen) Dragon	Earth	14°	清明 qīngmíng	Apr 05 – Apr 19
			29°	穀雨 gǔyǔ	Apr 20 – May 4
Summer	4th – 巳(si) Snake	Fire	44°	立夏 lixià	May 5 – May 20
			59°	小滿 xiǎomǎn	May 21 – June 5
	5th – 午(wu) Horse	Fire	74°	芒種 mángzhòng	Jun 06 – Jun 20
			89°	夏至 xiàzhì	Jun 21 – Jul 06
	6th – 未(wei) Goat	Earth	104°	小暑 xiǎoshǔ	Jul 07 – Jul 22
			119°	大暑 dàshǔ	Jul 23 – Aug 06
Autumn	7th – 申(shen) Monkey	Metal	134°	立秋 liqiū	Aug 07 – Aug 22
			149°	處暑 chùshǔ	Aug 23 – Sep 07
	8th–酉(you) Rooster	Metal	164°	白露 báilù	Sep 08 – Sep 22
			181°	秋分 qiūfēn	Sep 23 – Oct 07
	9th–戌(xu) Dog	Earth	194°	寒露 hánlù	Oct 08 – Oct 22
			211°	霜降 shuāngjiàng	Oct 23 – Nov 06
Winter	10th – 亥(hai) Pig	Water	224°	立冬 lìdōng	Nov 07 – Nov 21
			244°	小雪 xiǎoxuě	Nov 22 – Dec 06
	11th – 子(zi) Rat	Water	251°	大雪 dàxuě	Dec 07 – Dec 21
			271°	冬至 dōngzhì	Dec 22 – Jan 05
	12th – 丑(chou) Ox	Earth	284°	小寒 xiǎohán	Jan 06 – Jan 19
			301°	大寒 dàhán	Jan 20 – Feb 3

First Trine

[\[edit\]](#)

The first trine consists of the **Rat, Dragon, and Monkey**. These three signs are intense and powerful individuals, capable of great good or great evil. They make great leaders, but the three may have different approaches. Frustrated when hampered, these signs are ruled by highly potent energy and unpredictability. At their worst, Rats are ruthlessly power-hungry, vindictive, and [Machiavellian](#); Dragons are inflexible megalomaniacs and narcissists; and Monkeys are destructive manipulators and hedonists. They are intelligent, magnanimous, charismatic, charming, authoritative, confident, eloquent, and artistic. They can also be tyrannical, bombastic, prejudiced, deceitful, imperious, and ruthless.

Second Trine

[\[edit\]](#)

The second trine consists of the **Ox, Snake, and Rooster**. These three souls conquer life through endurance, application, and slow accumulation of energy. Although each sign is fixed and rigid in opinions and views, they are geniuses in the art of meticulous planning. They are hardworking, discreet, modest, industrious, charitable, loyal, punctual, philosophical, patient, and good-hearted individuals with high moral standards. They can also be self-righteous, vain, critical, judgmental, myopic, narrow-minded, and petty. They are also natural leaders, but are better natured than the first trine.

Third Trine

[\[edit\]](#)

The third trine consists of the **Tiger, Horse, and Dog**. These three signs seek a true lover, and are like-minded in their pursuit of humanitarian causes. Idealistic and impulsive, the Tiger, Horse and Dog follow the beat of their own drum. Defiant against injustice, these three signs wilt without large amounts of physical affection and loyal support for causes. They are productive, enthusiastic, independent, engaging, dynamic and honorable. They can also be rash, rebellious, quarrelsome, hot-headed, reckless, anxious, moody, disagreeable, and stubborn. Although these three signs are loyal, they can be very protective when lied to. The three signs do not enjoy being told what to do, but will listen when it is a person they love or trust whole-heartedly. These three animals can also be particular and will get aggressive when something true to them is broken..

Fourth Trine

[\[edit\]](#)

The fourth trine consists of the **Rabbit, Goat, and Pig**. The quest for these three signs is the aesthetic, beauty, and a more philosophical, and intellectual approach in life. Their calm nature gives them great leadership abilities. They are artistic, refined, intuitive, intelligent and well-mannered. These souls love the preliminaries in love, and are fine artists in their lovemaking. The Rabbit, Goat, and Pig have been bestowed with calmer natures than the other 9 signs. These three are compassionately aware, yet detached and resigned to their condition. They seek beauty and a sensitive lover. They are caring, unique, self-sacrificing, obliging, sensible, creative, empathetic, tactful, and prudent. They can also be naive, pedantic, insecure, cunning, indecisive, and pessimistic.

The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of the Rat. The following are the twelve zodiac signs (each with its associated **Earthly branch**) in order and their characteristics.^[1]

1. **Rat** – 鼠 (子) (Yang, 1st Trine Fixed Element **Water**)
2. **Ox** – 牛 (丑) (**Water buffalo** in **Vietnam**) (Yin, 2nd Trine, Fixed Element **Water**)
3. **Tiger** – 虎 (寅) (Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element **Wood**)
4. **Rabbit** – 兔 or 兔 (卯) (**Cat** in Vietnam) (Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element **Wood**)
5. **Dragon** – 龍 / 龙 (辰) (Yang, 1st Trine, Fixed Element **Wood**)
6. **Snake** – 蛇 (巳) (Yin, 2nd Trine, Fixed Element **Fire**)
7. **Horse** – 馬 / 马 (午) (Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element **Fire**)
8. **Goat** (aka Ram or Sheep) – 羊 (未) (Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element **Fire**)
9. **Monkey** – 猴 (申) (Yang, 1st Trine, Fixed Element **Metal**)
10. **Rooster** – 雞 / 鸡 (酉) (Yin, 2nd Trine, Fixed Element **Metal**)
11. **Dog** – 狗 / 犬 (戌) (Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element **Metal**)
12. **Pig** – 豬 / 猪 (亥) (**Boar** in **Japan** and **Elephant** in **Northern Thailand**) (Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element **Water**)



Stone carving of Chinese zodiac

In Chinese astrology the animal signs assigned by **year** represent what others perceive you as being or how you present yourself. It is a common misconception that the animals assigned by year are the only signs and many western descriptions of Chinese astrology draw solely on this system. In fact, there are also animal signs assigned by **month** (called inner animals), by **day** (called true animals) and **hours** (called secret animals).

While a person might appear to be a **Dragon** because they were born in the year of the Dragon, they might also be a **Snake** internally, an **Ox** truly and **Goat** secretly. In total, this makes for 103,680 possible combinations (60 year cycle (5 elements × 12 animals) × 12 months × 12 days × 12 periods of the day) that a person might be. These are all considered critical for the proper use of Chinese astrology.^[2]