



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

THE YEAR OF THE PIG



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## The Year of the Pig 猪年

### An Interesting Animal 一种有趣的动物

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

I'm a pig, my son is a rabbit, I have snakes for daughters, and my wife, believe it or not, is a dragon! Do I live in a zoo? No, of course not! I am talking about our Chinese zodiac signs. Depending on the year of your birth, each person has an animal for a sign. That's why I am a pig and my wife is a dragon.

February the 18<sup>th</sup> is Chinese New Year and 2007 is the year of the pig, so let's take a closer look at this interesting animal.

Pigs were first domesticated by man about 9,000 years ago, and are still a very common farm animal in many parts of the world. We don't just use pigs for their meat – almost every part of the animal is used. The bones and skin are used for glue and footballs. The hair is used for artists' brushes and insulation. The fat is used in the manufacture of insecticides, floor waxes, rubber and plastics. Amazingly, pigs are a source of nearly 40 pharmaceutical drugs and their heart valves can be used in surgery to replace human ones.

Pigs have also been important in the world of entertainment. In 1995 the film 'Babe' starred a loveable talking pig as its main character. The film won an Oscar and was nominated for 6 more.

In England you can even go to watch pig racing. A farmer, Rob Shepherd, has been raising money for charity by staging pig races on his farm. The events have been very successful. People don't just want to eat pigs, it seems!

Pigs also feature in the English language. To say that something is unlikely to happen you can say "Pigs might fly!" A man that thinks men are superior to women is a "chauvinist pig". Hungry? Well then, you can "pig out" and eat lots of food. And what if someone rescues you? Well, you can say that they "saved your bacon".

If you, like me, were born in the year of the pig, then you are brave, thoughtful and loyal. The year of the pig is filled with good fortune. Happy Chinese New Year!

## Glossary 词汇表

zodiac - 十二生肖	loveable - 可爱的
domesticated - 饲养的	nominated - 提名
glue - 胶水	charity - 慈善
brushes - 刷子	staging - 举行
insulation - 绝缘	chauvinist - 沙文主义者
manufacture - 生产	bacon - 咸肉
insecticides - 杀虫剂	brave - 勇敢的
waxes - 蜡	thoughtful - 考虑周到的
pharmaceutical drugs - 药制品	loyal - 忠诚的
heart valves - 心脏瓣膜	good fortune - 好财运

### 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. The Chinese Zodiac depends on the month of your birth. True / False
2. We only use pigs for their meat. True / False
3. The movie 'Babe' was a big success. True / False
4. People born in the year of the pig get scared easily. True / False
5. You will be lucky in the year of the pig. True / False

## 2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words) 根据课文内容简短回答问题（1-6 个词）。

1. When is Chinese New Year?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How long has the pig been domesticated for?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which part of the pig can be used in surgery?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many Oscars did the film 'Babe' win?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What can you watch in England?

Now choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

请选择正确答案填空，a, b 或 c.

6. A chauvinist pig thinks...

a. women are superior   b. men are superior   c. pigs are superior

7. If you pig out, you...

a. eat a lot      b. eat a little      c. are rude

8. You rescued me! You saved my...

a. pork      b. meat      c. bacon

9. It will never happen! Pigs might...

a. fly      b. run      c. be brave

10. People born in the year of the pig are brave, thoughtful and...

a. funny      b. good fortune      c. loyal



### 3. Summary Completion 选词填空

Complete the summary with words from the box.

选词填空完成下面文章小节：

bacon	charity	domesticated	drugs	fly
glue	nominated	out	thoughtful	skin

February the 18<sup>th</sup> is Chinese New Year, and 2007 is the year of the pig. Pigs were 1. \_\_\_\_\_ by man 9,000 years ago.

Today, we use the pig for many things apart from meat. We make 2. \_\_\_\_\_ from their bones and 3. \_\_\_\_\_. We use their hair for brushes, and over 40 pharmaceutical 4. \_\_\_\_\_ also come from pigs.

In 1995, a talking pig was the star of the film 'Babe'. The film won 1 Oscar and was 5. \_\_\_\_\_ for 6 more.

A farmer in England stages pig racing for 6. \_\_\_\_\_, and many people go to watch.

Pigs are common in the English language. If something isn't likely to happen, we say "and pigs might 7. \_\_\_\_\_". A man who thinks women are inferior is a "chauvinist pig". When you eat a lot, you "pig 8. \_\_\_\_\_", and you can rescue someone to "save their 9. \_\_\_\_\_".

People born in the year of the pig are brave, 10. \_\_\_\_\_ and loyal. The year of the pig is full of good fortune. Happy New Year!

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with year of the pig in the puzzle below.

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与猪年有关的英语单词来。

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

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。

T	M	N	G	V	O	C	D	R	E	W	D
P	H	L	B	G	T	S	Y	H	N	M	R
O	E	O	J	P	G	W	C	D	F	J	A
I	D	V	U	I	F	Y	Q	A	F	F	G
U	C	E	U	G	D	T	A	A	R	M	O
Y	V	A	I	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	N
T	F	B	L	M	N	T	V	C	D	S	A
R	B	L	K	O	H	G	F	P	I	Y	G
E	A	E	L	C	Y	L	K	U	H	T	R
D	C	R	O	D	F	A	Z	X	L	V	D
Z	O	D	I	A	C	L	L	Q	P	K	F
H	N	F	P	A	S	D	B	R	A	V	E

pig	dragon	zodiac	loveable	oscar
charity	bacon	brave	thoughtful	loyal

## Answers 答案

### 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. The Chinese Zodiac depends on the month of your birth. **False**
2. We only use pigs for their meat. **False**
3. The movie 'Babe' was a big success. **True**
4. People born in the year of the pig get scared easily. **False**
5. You will be lucky in the year of the pig. **True**

### 3. Summary completion 选词填空

1. domesticated
2. glue
3. skin
4. drugs
5. nominated
6. charity
7. fly
8. out
9. bacon
10. thoughtful

### 2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

1. February 18<sup>th</sup>
2. for 9,000 years/since 9000 years ago
3. heart valves
4. one
5. pig racing
6. b
7. a
8. c.
9. a.
10. c.

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

T					O					D		
	H	L				S				R		
		O		P			C			A		
		V	U	I				A		G		
		E		G					R	O		
		A		C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	N	
		B	L			T						
		B	L		O			F				
		A	E			Y			U			
		C					A			L		
Z	O	D	I	A	C			L				
		N						B	R	A	V	E