

5B

Old wives' tales

Russell Stannard

Type of activity

Reading. Pair work.

Aim

To talk about superstitions.

Task

To match two halves of a superstition.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students. Cut up section B into cards as indicated.

Timing

30 minutes

Procedure

- 1 Ask the students if they know what *old wives' tales* are (superstitions). Encourage the students to tell you examples of old wives' tales from their countries.
- 2 Divide the class into pairs and give each pair section A of the worksheet. Explain that these are the first halves of some old wives' tales from Britain. Ask the students to read through them quickly and try to guess what the outcome of each situation is. Circulate, helping with vocabulary.
- 3 After a few minutes, give each pair a jumbled set of cards from section B of the worksheet. Ask the students to try to match the cards with the situations to complete the old wives' tales. Continue to circulate, helping with vocabulary.
- 4 Check the answers with the whole class. (The superstitious are correctly matched as they appear on the worksheet page.)

Follow up

For homework ask the students to write three more old wives' tales. Superstitions vary a lot from country to country and this often leads to a good mini-writing activity.

A **B**

1 If you blow out all the candles on your birthday cake at the first puff,	you can make a wish and the wish will come true.
2 If you dream of fish,	it means someone you know is pregnant.
3 If your ear starts to itch,	it means that someone is talking about you.
4 If your hand starts to itch,	it means you're going to come into money in the near future.
5 If you break a mirror,	it will bring you seven years' bad luck.
6 If you sneeze, place a hand over your mouth	to stop your soul escaping.
7 Knock three times on wood after mentioning good fortune	so that evil spirits that hear you won't ruin it.
8 Put salt on the doorstep of a new house	to prevent any evil entering.
9 If someone is sweeping the floor and sweeps over your feet,	you'll never get married.
10 If a black cat walks towards you,	it brings good fortune.
11 If three people are photographed together,	the one in the middle will die first.
12 If you bite your tongue while you are talking,	it means you've been lying recently.
13 Open all the windows when someone dies	so that the soul can leave.
14 Keep a rabbit's foot in your pocket	to protect you from evil spirits.

22 Horoscope exchange

Type of activity

whole class mêlée
retelling a horoscope, and looking for someone who can tell you your own

Level/Time required

advanced/average

Games material

Texts: Western horoscopes – Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces; Chinese horoscopes – Rat, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig
Worksheet

Function practised

talking about character and emotions

Structures

present simple, *may*, *will*, imperative

Lexical areas

character, emotions

Problem vocabulary

Aries: *paradox, rash, conventional, idealistic, hard-headed, abrupt, arrogant, frank, charge, trample, daisy, self-doubt, conflict, halting, passion, expertise, plodding, statistics, uncommunicative, layabouts*

Taurus: *sensualists, domain, coerce, cross someone, earthquake, stubborn, ponderous, persistent, conduct, capacity, rage, demolition, tenacity, hustle, fair-weather friends, pushy*

Gemini: *different as chalk and cheese, duality, two-faced, wits, affable, gregarious, chilly, disgruntled, profile, insatiable, urge, restless, skim, glibly, gaily, versatility, hung-up, illogical*

Cancer: *swirling, ebbing and flowing, calculate the odds, gruff, judicious, caution, stops them in their tracks, perspicacity, exceptional, immerse, unwavering, tenacity, inquisitive, capricious, untrustworthy, rebuff*

Leo: *benevolent, despot, lordly, conduct, patronizing, superiority, flattery, pompously, snobbishly, posturing, mean-spirited, petty, lunatic, extravagance, inhibited, being dictated to, outdo*

Virgo: *purists, loners, impeccable, judgement, reserved, down-to-earth, industry (= hard work), keen intellect, dedication, trim, immaculate, diligent, methodically, objectives, dedication, pretentious, pomposity*

Libra: *predictability, unsophisticated, device, tactful, conduct, defect, superficiality, inharmonious, pride, passion, elegant, perfectly tuned, harmony, discourteous, freakish, inconsistent, unjust*

Scorpio: *misunderstood, ruthless, intensity, count the cost, mysterious, hunches, intuition, compelling, revenge, loyal, thrive, victory, motivating, stuffy, insincerity, deliberately*

Sagittarius: *crude, unbridled, tact, delicacy, superficial, touchy, jovial, breezy, exuberance, frosty, undemocratic, gloomy*

Make notes on your star sign or year animal under the headings.

Positive characteristics

Negative characteristics

Habits

Problems

Way of life or typical career

How they behave towards others

How others should behave towards them

Capricorn: one-track mind, prestige, financial recognition, materialistic, illustrate, trim, wiry, endurance, survival, agility, persevering, motivating, tradition, talk down to, irresponsible, frivolous, nag

Aquarius: idealist, melt, shocked, cheerily, hard facts, altruistic, spontaneous, utopian, eccentrically, individualistic, inventiveness, motivating, spirit, orthodoxy, conventional standards

Pisces: conflicting forces, spiritual, idealism, tentative, hesitant, conduct, vague, defect, worldliness, intensity, misplaced, motivating, intolerance

Rat: adaptable, creative, flair, inventiveness, quick-witted, sociable, ostentatiousness, appealing, crafty, opportunist, erratic, budgeting, scarce, lavishly

Ox: steadfast, methodical, suspicious, untried, unproven, reliable, take the initiative, dependable, authority, administrative, flair, unromantic, select (adj), acquaintances, loyal, possessive, prosperity, risk, logical, resolute, practicality, endurance, routine, patience

Tiger: competitive, easily influenced, authority, disputed, stimulant, novel (= new), paraded, bravery, rashness, impetuosity, hall-marks, ardent, restrained, convention, streak, personnel, manner

Hare: established, reserved, withdrawn, submissive, humble, confrontations, benevolent, clear-sightedness, judge, instinct, sincerity, sensing, falsehood, healers

Dragon: exotic, flamboyantly, extrovert, elegant, forefront, fertile, dream up, schemes, practical, despair, chaos, fragments, abandoned, decisive, spectacular gains, offset, adulation, the bright lights, seek out, sphere (= area)

Snake: by no means, pushy, adept, averse to, double-dealing, scandal, to be above something, aptitude, research, detection, academia, analytical

Horse: overawed, worship, disdain, relate to, team effort, gang, force, liaison

Sheep: affection, trust, caring, selflessness, craftsmanship, originality, complacent, confrontation, diplomatic, aggression, operates, crisis, guidance, voluntarily

Monkey: inventive, agile, insatiable curiosity, quick-witted, schemer, at a loss, fundamental insecurity, mask, impudence, take seriously, recognition, frustration, channel their energies, fertile, counterfeiter, versatile, go to his head, arrogance, alienates, humour, sociability

Rooster: abrasive, aggressive, resolute, shrewd, alert, precise, reserved, neglected, stamina, vitality, contribute, stimulating, perfectionist, tolerance, second-rate

Dog: fidelity, humour, steady, trusted, valued, handicapped, conservatism, adjust, defensive, maligned, shoulder to cry on, displays, justified, be relied on, friction, eagerness, mix (socially)

Pig: ambitions, benefits, prime concern, shunning, displays, pretence, jollity, caring, industrious, bear evidence, aptitude, carpentry, needlework, put the last touches to, naive, trusting, easy prey, confidence trickster, caring professions, counselling, hospitable, varied

How to use the activity

Make at least one copy of each text (see below for details of quantities and distribution, according to class size). Make enough copies of the worksheet for each student to have one each.

Begin by discussing horoscopes. Get the students to work out what star sign and year animal they are, if they don't already know:

Aries 21 March – 20 April, Taurus 21 April – 21 May, Gemini 22 May – 21 June, Cancer 22 June – 23 July, Leo 24 July – 23 August, Virgo 24 August – 23 September, Libra 24 September – 23 October, Scorpio 24 October – 22 November, Sagittarius 23 November – 21 December, Capricorn 22 December – 20 January, Aquarius 21 January – 19 February, Pisces 20 February – 20 March

Rat	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996
Ox	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997
Tiger	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998
Hare	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999
Dragon	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000
Snake	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001
Horse	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990
Sheep	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991
Monkey	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992
Rooster	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993
Dog	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994
Pig	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995

Give out the texts. There are twenty-four altogether (twelve Western horoscopes and twelve Chinese horoscopes) and you should ensure that they are all given out. If you have twelve students, give everyone two texts: a Western horoscope and a Chinese horoscope. If you have twenty-four or more students, give everyone one text each. If you have between twelve and twenty-four students, give the faster students two texts and the slower students one text. The activity is not really suitable for fewer than twelve because of the length and density of reading matter. If you do not have enough students in your class, see if you can combine classes with a colleague.

Try to ensure that no one gets the horoscope for their own star sign or year animal. Give them some time to read the texts, asking you for help if necessary.

Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to complete it. While they are completing the worksheet, circulate and deal with problems and queries.

When they have finished, ask them to stand up and go around the class talking to other students.

The object of the activity is to find the person who can tell them their Western horoscope and the person who can tell them their Chinese horoscope.

You could finish off with a class or group discussion on whether the two analyses were similar or totally different, which was closer to the truth, etc.

Key: Answers to the worksheet will vary.

Follow-up: Students can write a comparison of the two character analyses.

ARIES ... Sign of the Ram (21 March – 20 April)

Their life-style

Ram personalities live in a constant state of paradox. They're rash but conventional. They're idealistic but hard-headed. They'll lead you to believe they're the eighth wonder of the world but deep down they doubt every word they tell you.

Their angle

Abrupt in manner, arrogant in conduct, frank in speech, they charge their way through their day and don't even notice if they trample down a daisy or two in transit.

Their problems

The only thing which really throws them is inner conflict, and then they become nervous, timid, halting – just another sheep.

Their attitude

Typical Ram personalities have minds that go with their passion for rushing into things. With them, courage, quick decisions, bright ideas and competition are the breath of life.

Individual expertise, speed and a forceful personality are the Ram's answer to everybody's problems. Solid teamwork or plodding through statistics is strictly for others.

Action is the Ram's motivating force.

Never try to order Ram personalities around. They can't bear taking orders, uncommunicative friends, or layabouts.

TAURUS ... Sign of the Bull (21 April – 21 May)

Their life-style

Bull personalities are committed sensualists of beautiful simplicity. All they ask is a satisfying partner, a comfortable domain, and a regular supply of good, plain food. But cross them, coerce them or try to fence them in and you'll wonder what started the earthquake.

Their angle

Slightly ponderous in manner, persistent in conduct, slow of speech. No one could describe them as selfish but they can be very stubborn and detest being contradicted.

Their problems

In fact, their only problem is their capacity for sudden blind rage. Then they become violent, destructive, terrible – satisfied with nothing less than total demolition.

Their attitude

Typical Bull personalities have minds that go with the calm, comfortable, simple life in which there is always time to pause and watch the grass grow.

They'll work on solid, worthwhile projects with a tenacity of purpose that has to be seen to be believed. Construction is the Bull's motivating force.

Never try to push or hustle Bull personalities. They can't bear ugly surroundings, fair-weather friends or pushy, restless people.

GEMINI ... Sign of the Twins (22 May – 21 June)

Their life-style

Geminis actually do have twin personalities, both as different as chalk and cheese. This duality adds up to double trouble for any ordinary person trying to understand them. As a result, even their nearest and dearest find them 'two-faced'.

Their angle

Quick with their wits, alert, sympathetic and affable, they never ever lose their air of youthful let's-have-a-party type enthusiasm.

Their problems

As long as the sun's shining and gay, gregarious Twin Number One's in charge – they're everybody's friend. But let the storm clouds gather and the first flash of lightning will often reveal the self-centred, chilly, disgruntled profile of Twin Number Two.

Their attitude

Typical Twin personalities have minds that fit their insatiable urge for new places, people and ideas. Mentally and physically restless.

Short-term learning appeals and long-term study appalls. They skim over the surface of life, winning their way with their quick, double-edged wits, chatting glibly and gaily. Versatility is the Twin's motivating force.

They can't bear hung-up characters, slow minds or dreamy, illogical reasoning. Never try to restrain Twin personalities.

CANCER ... Sign of the Crab (22 June – 23 July)

Their life-style

Crab personalities live in a swirling sea of emotions, which sweep them along – ebbing and flowing, rising and falling like the tides of the ocean. But until you really know them, you'd never suspect it!

Their angle

Slightly gruff in manner, immediately sensitive to atmosphere, careful of speech, they pick their way over the rocks of life with judicious caution. Always prudent, sometimes ruthless but never reckless, they have a strong sense of duty.

Their problem

The only thing that stops them in their tracks an encounter with a stranger whose perspicacity is sharp enough to see through them.

Their attitude

Typical Crab personalities have a tough surface, concealing exceptional softness of heart. They can immerse themselves absolutely in work or play with unwavering determination. Tenacity is the Crab's motivating force.

They can't bear inquisitive strangers, capricious minds or untrustworthy people. Never neglect or rebuff Crab personalities.

LEO ... Sign of the Lion (24 July – 23 August)

Their life-style

Lordly in manner, commanding in conduct, slightly patronising in speech.

Lion personalities are benevolent despots.

Their problems

Indeed, it is this supreme faith in their own superiority and strength which is their greatest weakness. It leaves them open to persuasion by flattery and can make them behave pompously and snobbishly, which in turn leads to wrong decisions and foolish posturing.

Their attitude

Typical Lion personalities have minds which go with their high, wide and handsome life-style.

They are never mean-spirited or petty, often generous to the point of lunatic extravagance. Lion personalities love to be loved and often are – for those reasons.

Power is the Lion's motivating force.

They can't bear inhibited characters, or being dictated to. Never try to outdo Lion personalities.

VIRGO ... Sign of the Virgin (24 August – 23 September)

Their life-style

Virgin personalities are purists.

Their angle

Basically loners, they usually look for occupations where they have only to rely on their own impeccable judgement. Professions like law, medicine and journalism thus appeal.

Slightly reserved in manner, down-to-earth in conduct, quick but sparing of speech, they possess talents, great industry, keen intellect – and so rarely fail.

Their problems

Sadly, the absolute dedication of Virgin personalities don't exactly encourage close friendships or warm communication.

Their attitude

Typical Virgin personalities have minds that fit their neat, trim and immaculate appearance. Cool-hearted, clear-minded and incredibly diligent, they methodically pursue chosen objectives with quiet dedication.

Their recreations are invariably some other form of work.

They can't bear pretentious behaviour or pomposity. Never push Virgin personalities into accepting second-best efforts or second-best relationships.

LIBRA ... Sign of the Scales (24 September – 23 October)

Their life-style

Scales personalities function with the perfect predictability of a beautiful but unsophisticated mechanical device.

Their angle

Agreeable in manner, tactful in conduct, they genuinely strive to balance the scales of life and create a calm, comfortable, civilised world.

Their problems

The only defect is their superficiality. Because they see but rarely feel, they do not understand that human responses are frequently inharmonious, often unbalanced with pride or passion.

Their attitude

Typical Scales personalities have minds that work like a perfectly tuned machine plus an elegant, appearance.

They are attracted to civilised occupations.

Harmony is the Scales motivating force.

They can't bear discourteous people or freakish attitudes.

Never be inconsistent or unjust with Scales personalities.

SCORPIO ... Sign of the Scorpion (24 October – 22 November)

Their life-style

Scorpion personalities are born to be misunderstood, loved or hated but never ignored. They act with a ruthless intensity which rarely counts the cost to themselves or to others.

Their angle

They rely on hunches and intuition. Because of their deep secret minds, Scorpion personalities work in mysterious ways.

Their problems

The only defect in their powerful and compelling personality is their refusal to trust any leadership but their own and their desire to revenge themselves on those who wrong or oppose them. They are loyal friends and are dangerous enemies.

Their attitude

Usually highly intelligent, they apply themselves with silent determination to the achievement of their private dreams. The rougher the competition, the more they thrive. For the Scorpion, winning is the name of every game. Victory is the Scorpion's motivating force.

They can't bear insincerity or stuffy, formal parties. Never deliberately deceive Scorpion personalities or make them promises you can't keep.

SAGITTARIUS ... Sign of the Centaur
(23 November – 21 December)

Their life-style

Centaur personalities are creatures divided against themselves. Their instincts are crude, easily satisfied and unbridled. (They emanate from the horse half!) Their thoughts are noble, high-minded and pure. (They emanate from the human half!) Their actions can be dictated by either half or by both halves together.

Their angle

Tact or delicacy is beyond them. They are open in manner, confident in conduct, jovial in speech.

Their problems

The chief defect in their big, bold and breezy natures is their animal exuberance, which often leads them into empty boasting.

Their attitude

Typical Centaur personalities have minds that fit their favourite maxim: 'a healthy mind in a healthy body'. Most forms of athletic effort exert a lifelong attraction, particularly those connected with horses and dogs. In work and play, they take wins and losses with equally exuberant good humour. The race is always for the excitement – not the gold cups. Enthusiasm is the Centaur's motivating force. They can't bear frosty manners, undemocratic people, or gloomy behaviour. Never try to control Centaur personalities.

CAPRICORN ... Sign of the Goat
(22 December – 20 January)

Their life-style

Goat personalities are individuals with one-track minds. Their track is narrow, lonely and the signpost always says 'The Way to the Top'. For 'Tops' – professional, social and emotional – are all Goats really care about. They must climb every Everest they encounter – or die in the attempt (which in fact, sometimes happens). Desire for prestige and the financial recognition of it, drive them, onward and upward.

Their angle

Austere, taciturn, routine-minded, they leap to success until the topmost summit is theirs.

Their problems

By far the most materialistic of the twelve personality types, they may sadly illustrate the old maxim: 'The higher they fly, the harder they fall'.

Their attitude

Typical Goat personalities have minds that go with their strong, trim, wiry bodies. They're mentally and physically built of endurance, survival, agility. Learning appeals. Sports do not. Throughout their lives they never lose the same persevering approach to everything. Tradition is the Goat's motivating force. They can't bear being talked down to, or mixing with irresponsible, frivolous people. Never nag Goat personalities.

AQUARIUS ... Sign of the Water-Bearer
(21 January – 19 February)

Their life-style

Water-Bearer personalities are the original. They confidently expect all troubles to melt away and are positively shocked when they don't. Nevertheless, the daily disappointments of life never give them pause and they travel cheerily on.

Their angle

Altruistic, independent and spontaneous, Water-Bearer personalities can be lost in their thoughts of brotherly love and dreaming their utopian dreams while the bus goes without them.

Their problems

People often regard them as eccentrically individualist to the point of being unreal.

Their attitude

Neither organised sport nor study have much appeal to Water-Bearers. They are always far too busy working out bigger, broader and better designs for living. Inventiveness is the Water-Bearer's motivating force. They can't bear meanness in money or spirit. Never preach orthodoxy or conventional standards to Water-Bearer personalities.

PISCES ... Sign of the Fish (20 February – 20 March)

Their life-style

Fish personalities are creatures of the depths, forever pulled this way and that by the conflicting forces of their physical and spiritual selves. They think deeply on all kinds of problems, but aren't really interested in solving them.

Their angle

Tentative in manner, hesitant in conduct and often vague in speech. Because of their idealism, Fish personalities are lifelong 'Love thy neighbour' types.

Their problems

The major defect is their total lack of worldliness. Because they feel the need of others with such intensity, they are too easily swept away by (often misplaced) trust only to find themselves left with nothing.

Their attitude

Idealism is the Fish's motivating force. They can't bear intolerance. Never put a control on Fish personalities.

The Rat

personality

The Rat is adaptable and creative, not lacking in flair or inventiveness. But, quick-witted, bright and sociable, the Rat also tends towards ostentatiousness.

The Rat's outward personality is certainly appealing; but below the surface there is sometimes a crafty and opportunist character, who tends to 'use' friends before eventually losing or dropping them, for one reason or another.

In financial matters, Rat-personalities are erratic: budgeting carefully when money is scarce, but spending lavishly instead of saving in times of plenty.

In a business situation Rats make great planners.

The Ox

personality

The Ox is steadfast and methodical, reliable and sensible. Suspicious of anything that is untried and unproven, the Ox fears taking the initiative. Being so thoroughly dependable, the Ox may rise to positions of authority; but not to administrative posts where quick-thinking and a flair for making immediate decisions are essential.

The Ox may be unromantic, but there is no lack of affection for a few select friends. Preferring such company to a wide circle of acquaintances, the Ox can be both loyal and possessive.

In business, the Ox often brings prosperity – not through imagination and risk, but as a result of logical thought, resolute practicality and honest endurance. What others achieve through flair and invention is what the Ox achieves through routine and patience.

The Tiger

personality

The Tiger is a born leader, fiercely competitive, never afraid to fight. Not easily influenced, the Tiger's natural authority is seldom disputed. The Tiger is also a great stimulant to others, through brilliant conversation, where unexpected and novel ideas are constantly paraded.

But while bravery, rashness and impetuosity are the hall-marks of the Tiger-personality, Tigers can be warm, sincere, and even ardent in love. In this and other respects, the Tiger is unlikely to be restrained by convention.

The Tiger's competitive streak is excellent material for business activities. Tigers are likely to succeed in sales, personnel management and uniformed careers. They should take care, however, that their manner does not gain them enemies along the way.

The Hare

personality

The Hare needs company, and needs to belong to an established crowd. Safely within their social circle, Hares feel protected and secure; outside it, they are reserved and withdrawn.

The typical Hare will be submissive, even humble, in a constant effort to avoid all confrontations. Happiest with friends, this kind and benevolent lover of conversation, reading and literary pursuits may appear rather meek.

Traditionally associated with clear-sightedness, the Hare is an excellent judge of character, with an instinct for recognising sincerity in others and an ability for sensing falsehood.

Hare personalities are often gifted healers.

The Dragon

personality

A lover of the exotic, the Dragon is one of the most flamboyantly extrovert characters of the Chinese astrological calendar. Always elegant Dragon-types are to the forefront of the fashion scene with a very individual sense of style.

Blessed with an extraordinarily fertile imagination, the Dragon is forever dreaming up fresh schemes and ideas, few of which are wholly practical. Such a character can be the despair of friends, and at work may even cause chaos if not surrounded by people capable of picking up the fragments of abandoned projects. Strong and decisive, Dragons would become wealthy were it not for the fact that spectacular gains are often offset by the money they waste.

Dragons delight in any form of adulation, and both socially and in business they tend to seek out the bright lights. They are thus ideally suited to careers on the stage, but in general any sphere where there is close contact with the public is rewarding.

The Snake

personality

Snake personalities often make their way to the top, but they are by no means pushy, using others to get them there. They ensure that they are in the right place at the right time, which means when the right people are there as well.

Snake-types are also adept at giving the impression that they know far more about a subject than they do. They are not averse to double-dealing when it suits them. Fond of scandal, they are not above creating it.

The Snake has an aptitude for research, detection or academia, all areas which should satisfy the Snake's analytical brain.

The Horse

personality

Whether male or female, Horse personalities feel more comfortable in the company of their own kind. The Horse may be afraid of the opposite sex, overawed by them, worship them, or disdain them, but relate to them – never.

Sporty and sociable, the Horse is the sort of person for whom clubs were invented. But sociability does not rule out competitiveness, although in sports the Horse prefers to be part of a team effort rather than perform as an individual. The Horse needs to feel successful, and to be seen as one of the gang.

Horse-types are good talkers, never short of conversation, though less quick with ready ideas and always keen to hear other people's opinions. Love of social contact remains the most important force in the Horse's life; and whatever career is chosen, ideally it will involve close liaison with others.

The Sheep

personality

The Sheep is associated with affection, caring, trust and selflessness.

The positive side of the Sheep-nature is best seen in its artistic talent. This usually, however, finds expression in craftsmanship rather than originality.

Complacent and avoiding confrontation whenever possible, the Sheep is ever diplomatic and often succeeds where active aggression would fail.

The Sheep is a follower rather than a leader, and thus operates best in the company of others. No Sheep, however, is happy when being directed by others, preferring a democratic community, where decisions are shared. In times of crisis, the Sheep urgently needs guidance and direction.

The Sheep may be involved, either professionally or voluntarily, in social work of some description, while a sensitivity for the arts may well lead to a career in music or a craft.

The Monkey

personality

An inventive and agile mind, together with an insatiable curiosity, produce a quick-witted schemer, sometimes unscrupulous. The Monkey is never at a loss for words, or ideas, but hides a fundamental insecurity behind a mask of impudence.

Despite apparent popularity, the Monkey is never taken seriously, and this lack of recognition often leads to frustration.

Older and wiser Monkeys are able to channel their energetic and fertile imaginations into the solving of extremely complex problems; and such skills might be used by the micro-surgeon or the counterfeiter.

Generally, the Monkey is extremely versatile and can do well at almost anything. Success, however, can easily go to the Monkey's head, bringing out arrogance which often alienates friends. But it is rarely long before the Monkey's agreeable humour and sociability win them back again.

The Rooster

personality

Abrasive and aggressive, the Rooster frequently alienates people. The Rooster is resolute in pursuing a career and has a shrewd business sense.

The Rooster is alert, with precise attention to detail. The problems arrive when so many projects are taken on that some get lost. This happens, not just in business, but in personal relationships as well, when the quieter, more reserved members of the Rooster's social circle or family may be neglected or forgotten.

Stamina in business and vitality in play contribute to making the Rooster a stimulating companion.

The Rooster has high ideals and, being a perfectionist, has little tolerance for people whose standards are second-rate.

The Dog

personality

Fidelity, honesty and humour are among the traits of a typical Dog-character. Such a likeable personality easily makes friends and, being a steady worker, the Dog becomes a trusted and valued member of any community.

The Dog, however, is handicapped by conservatism, and takes a long time to adjust to major changes. Nothing is really ever as good as it was 'in the old days'.

Intensely defensive where friends and family are concerned, the Dog will not stand by while others are maligned. The Dog has a sympathetic ear for other people's troubles and is always ready with a shoulder to cry on. Rare displays of violent anger are almost always justified; but wrongs are quickly forgotten.

Very active and liking sports of all kinds, the Dog can always be relied on to join in at social events, especially if these are outdoors. This can, however, lead to friction at home unless the partner is particularly understanding of the Dog's eagerness to mix.

The Pig

personality

The Pig's ambitions are concerned not so much with career, but the benefits which come at the end of it. The Pig looks forward to retirement.

Pigs are home-lovers whose prime concern is the family. They are particularly natural beings, shunning displays or pretence, and enjoying company and jollity generally. Caring and industrious, Pigs are far from lazy; their homes bear evidence of an aptitude for carpentry, needlework, and other domestic skills.

In business, too, Pigs are the finisher, the ones who put the last necessary touches to a project, and in this respect they may become extremely successful financially. But they are naive and trusting, falling easy prey to the confidence trickster. Pig personalities enjoy such caring professions as nursing or counselling. Locally, the Pig will almost certainly be known as a good neighbour.

Hard-working, hospitable and trusting, the Pig gets on well with most people, generally possessing a large and varied collection of friends.