

## CHINESE ZODIAC

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### OX (BUFFALO)

Years: 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021



Patient and meticulous, the Ox is the reliable one of the Chinese horoscope, toiling around the clock until he or she has achieved his goal. All work and no play may make Jack a dull boy, but it simply sharpens an Ox's keen intelligence. They are ideally suited to routine work and, as they repeatedly carry out their tasks, they become valued experts.

As well as being exceptionally hard-working, the Ox is very particular about time-keeping and will move heaven and earth to keep an appointment. They are also neat and tidy in appearance and spend a good deal of time polishing their halos to brilliant perfection!

The home of the Ox is likely to be somewhat less orderly than his person. This is because he simply cannot bear to throw away anything that might hold a treasured memory. Champagne corks, bus tickets, theatre programmes – as if these aren't enough, the Ox, the ultimate hoarder, will probably have his or her first bib!

He especially hates to throw out favourite clothes, and by the time he or she has tired of a well-loved costume, it has probably gone out of fashion and come back in style again – not that the Ox is likely to wear anything but classical designs being traditional and conservative by nature.

Oxen are not normally taken by flights of fancy. Their clean, shiny hooves are planted firmly on terra firma, and they like to keep them there. Faced with a new situation or opportunity, they will coolly and rationally weigh up all the pros and cons of going ahead. Similarly, they aren't often swept off their feet (sorry, hooves) by sudden romantic encounters. They will get to know their partner slowly before making promises.

People born in the Year of the Ox can appear a little distant at times, and they require a considerable amount of privacy. They are also extremely self-reliant and it irks them to have to ask other people for help. They are natural leaders and can carry any amount of responsibility on their broad shoulders. They rarely lose their tempers, which is just as well as, when something annoys them, such as their stalwart qualities being taken for granted, they can become quite fearsome beasts!

Our bovine friend tends to hide his light under a bushel, which is a shame because he is disappointed when he isn't noticed as often as the more extrovert signs. However, he should rest assured that he is a vital member of any team, whether at home or at work – as necessary to human happiness as the soil is to the growth of each season's new crops. The Ox is not a risk-taker. It goes against the grain to gamble his hard-won security – anyone relying on an Ox will be glad of this trait.

In partnerships, the Ox is often attracted to the glamorous Rooster, who will bring him excitement. The mysterious Snake will also appeal, with an intuitive wisdom that complements the Ox's great common sense.

