



Business Chinese Radio Classes— Lesson 7 Chinese Zodiac

I Text:

A: 你属什么?

B: 我属鸡, 今年是我的本命年。

II Language Points

1 属

2 鸡

3 本命年

III Cultural Points

2017 是鸡年

IV Questions

本命年是什么意思

V Script:

Colin: Hi Xiaomeng, how are you doing? I know Chinese Lunar New Year is coming, so happy new year, 新年快乐 xīn nián kuài lè!

Xiaomeng: Colin, 谢谢! 新年快乐! Do you know what year is this year?

Colin: Ahh, I know last year is the year of monkey, but I've no idea about this year. Can you tell me something about the Chinese animal zodiac?

Xiaomeng: The Chinese animal zodiac is a repeating cycle of 12 years, with each year being represented by an animal and its reputed attributes. In order, the 12 animals are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Colin: Cool, so last year is the year of monkey, and this year should be the year of the rooster!

Xiaomeng: Exactly! Your Chinese Zodiac sign is decided by the year you were born. It's set according to the Chinese lunar calendar. As the Chinese zodiac recurs every 12 years, your zodiac year will come around when you are 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, etc. If this year is your zodiac year, we say this year is your 本命年。Let's listen to a dialogue about “本命年”。

Dialogue begins:

A: 你属什么?

B: 我属鸡, 今年是我的本命年。

Xiaomeng: Let's listen to the English version.

A: What is your Chinese animal zodiac?

B: I am rooster, and this year is my zodiac year.

Xiaomeng: Chinese animal zodiac is called 属相 in Chinese, and 你属什么 means what is your animal zodiac?

Colin: I see, 你属什么 “nǐ shǔ shén me” means what is your animal zodiac, so the answer is 我属 wǒ shǔ...

Xiaomeng: That's right! In the dialogue, the man said 我属鸡, 鸡 is the rooster.

Colin: Oh, so this year is his animal year!

Xiaomeng: That's true! That's why he said 今年是我的本命年。今年 means this year, and 本命年 means my animal year, so 今年是我的本命年 means this year is my animal year.

Colin: Interesting! 我属狗 wǒ shǔ gǒu, so next year is my 本命年 běn mìng nián!

Xiaomeng: Very good! Shall we practice this dialogue again?

Colin: Sure!

Xiaomeng: 你属什么?

Colin: 我属鸡, 今年是我的本命年。wǒ shǔ jī, jīn nián shì wǒ de běn mìng nián

Colin: Thank you for listening. This is the end of today's program. Today's question is how to say **"this year is my animal year"** in Chinese? You can email your answer or your comments to CIB@Chinamericaradio.com and we will post them on our twitter account @Confuciusbiz.

Xu: You can download today's transcript or listen to the program again for free at Chinamericaradio.com Just go to the Partners page and click on the SUNY-CIB banner.

Tingting: You can also see a listing of the upcoming activities at SUNY-Confucius Institute for Business. See you next week! 下周见 xià zhōu jiàn"