

transcript

level 1

Try not to look at this until you've done all the exercises that go with the listening.

Oink oink!

- Richard: For this week's podcastsineenglish.com we're looking forward to the Chinese New Year and next year it's the Year of the Pig. Now, it's a big year for you Jackie isn't it, because you are a Pig!
- Jackie: [laughs] Yes, February 18th the Chinese New Year changes from a dog, it's the Dog year at the moment, to the Year of the Pig. In Chinese astrology there are twelve animals and each animal has a year.
- Richard: So, why are there twelve?
- Jackie: Well, my favourite story is that when Buddha left the Earth there were twelve animals that came and said goodbye to him, and he named each year after one of the animals. And the first animal to arrive to say goodbye to him was the rat, and the last animal was the pig.
- Richard: Ha ha, the last one was the pig, was it? Is that because he stopped to have something to eat because pigs are very greedy. Is that right?
- Jackie: [laughs] I don't know!
- Richard: So Jackie, what does Chinese astrology tell us about you, and other people born in the Year of the Pig?
- Jackie: Well, actually they say very nice things about Pig people because people who are born in the Year of the Pig ...um are meant to be, for example, very easy-going, helpful and kindly - they're meant to be kind people.
- Richard: Oh really? Well, I think you're very helpful, and you're very kind, not so sure about easy-going though.
- Jackie: [laughs] Yes, maybe you're right! They make great friends...
- Richard: Yes, good
- Jackie: Yeah? I think... I think so, and, although they have lots of friends, they actually have very few close friends who really understand them.
- Richard: Oh OK, I think that's true, true for you, yes.
- Jackie: OK. Um... what else does it say? Oh, this is interesting: Pigs dislike travelling too far from home.

- Richard: Well, you like travelling but certainly not by aeroplane so... you like travelling by train perhaps but not flying, does that count?
- Jackie: But it says here that they dislike being made to travel too far from home.
- Richard: So, that's not true then is it?
- Jackie: No, no, but what is interesting is it says unless it's a trip to the countryside because Pigs are meant to love nature and I definitely agree with that.
- Richard: Yes, I... er you do.
- Jackie: OK, what else do they say? That Pigs are loyal people...
- Richard: Yes, true
- Jackie: ...but there are some negative sides to the Pig.
- Richard: I thought there would be, yes.
- Jackie: Yes, one of their main problems with Pigs apparently is they're not very good with money.
- Richard: Well, that's strange, because um... what about a piggy bank [laughs] I keep my money in the piggy bank!
- Jackie: Yes, I'm not sure about that either. And the only other negative thing seems to be that Pigs often do things without thinking.
- Richard: Oh, Ok. I don't think that's true for you, either.
- Jackie: No
- Richard: Spontaneous, is that?
- Jackie: Yes, and it sounds like they do negative things because they haven't thought about what may happen as a result, I'm not quite sure about that either.
- Richard: No
- Jackie: Yeah
- Richard: So, you're a Pig, are there any other famous Pigs?
- Jackie: Yes, there's quite a few famous Pigs and most of them I'm quite happy to, to...

Richard: ... share your pig, piggery* with! [laughs]

Jackie: [laughs] Yeah, for example, Hilary Clinton, she's a Pig.

Richard: OK

Jackie: The Dalai Lama

Richard: Really?

Jackie: And... Madonna.

Richard: Oh, OK

Jackie: I'm not surprised, I think that's fine. [Richard laughs] er... Kevin Spacey.

Richard: Right, the actor.

Jackie: The actor, yeah, he's a Pig. The only one I'm not too sure about is Arnold Schwarzenegger, he's a Pig as well.

Richard: Yes... oh well! [Jackie laughs] Ok, so next year is the Year of the Pig...

Jackie: Well, from February 18th.

Richard: From February 18th, I believe I saw something um... on the Internet about China issuing some new and interesting stamps. Did you hear about that?

Jackie: Yes, many countries including New Zealand and Canada, have special pig stamps but I think the ones from China are very special, aren't they?

Richard: You can scratch the... the stamp, and it smells of sweet and sour pork I believe.

Jackie: And also isn't it true that if you lick the back of the stamp it tastes of pork as well!

Richard: [laughs] Yes, not so good if you're a vegetarian.

Jackie: Or if you're a Muslim!

Richard: Yes, anyway Happy New Year for all you Pigs out there.

Jackie: Happy Year of the Pig!

piggery* this is a made up word