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# 5

Unit

# A taste of culture



Nowadays, Chinese college students have great opportunities to travel, study and live in foreign countries. Wherever you go, you represent an image of China and Chinese people. You may be asked to introduce Chinese culture on different occasions: a friends' gathering, a class presentation, an international event, and so on.

When these occasions arise, do you feel confident enough to explain our cultural heritage in English accurately, clearly and vividly? You may not be absolutely sure. Chinese cultural heritage is fascinating to people around the world. But some people actually know very little about it. That's why as today's Chinese college students, it is time for you to step up and be the ambassadors of Chinese culture, and to present and promote it to the world. The following scenario might be a platform for you to do so.

## Scenario

You are an exchange student in a foreign country. You are required to make a presentation together with other students from China on a certain aspect of Chinese culture. You will work with your teammates, choose a topic, prepare carefully, and give the presentation as a group to an international audience.

Which aspect of Chinese culture will you choose? How will you cooperate with your teammates? How will you present the culture to an audience from different cultures? Follow the step-by-step learning process and you will be able to complete the task after studying this unit.

## Learning objectives

**Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:**

- talk about Chinese cultural heritage using new vocabulary
- use examples to explain your points
- introduce the local cuisine of your hometown to a foreign friend
- understand the meaning behind a cultural phenomenon
- make a group presentation on a certain aspect of Chinese culture to an international audience

## Viewing

What aspects of Chinese culture are fascinating to foreigners? No matter how many people you ask, “Chinese food” must rank high on the list of answers. Yes, food is an important part of Chinese culture. Watch a video clip about a foreign person’s recommendations of Chinese food.



### 1 Fill in the blanks with what you hear from the video clip.

I live in Sichuan, in Chengdu, the land of the 1) \_\_\_\_\_ food in the world. And I’ve made a list of my top five favorite 2) \_\_\_\_\_ that you’ve got to try.



#### No. 5: On the paper grilled fish.

It comes in the juice that’s full of peanuts and huge chunks of garlic and 3) \_\_\_\_\_.



#### No. 4: Sichuan ducks.

One is sweet, and one is 4) \_\_\_\_\_.



#### No. 3: Firewood chicken.

My taste buds were blown from pure 5) \_\_\_\_\_.



#### No. 2: Xinjiang cuisine.

Three things: pumpkin and lamb 6) \_\_\_\_\_, lamb kebabs, and lamb and onion *rounang*.



#### No. 1: Tibetan food.

Over Tibetan yak 7) \_\_\_\_\_ tea, blood sausage, spicy yak meat, and handpicked local greens and 8) \_\_\_\_\_, we discussed what life is like in the mountains for them.

### 2 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What’s your favorite food?
- 2 Are there any stories connected with the food?
- 3 How would you recommend the food?



## Reading

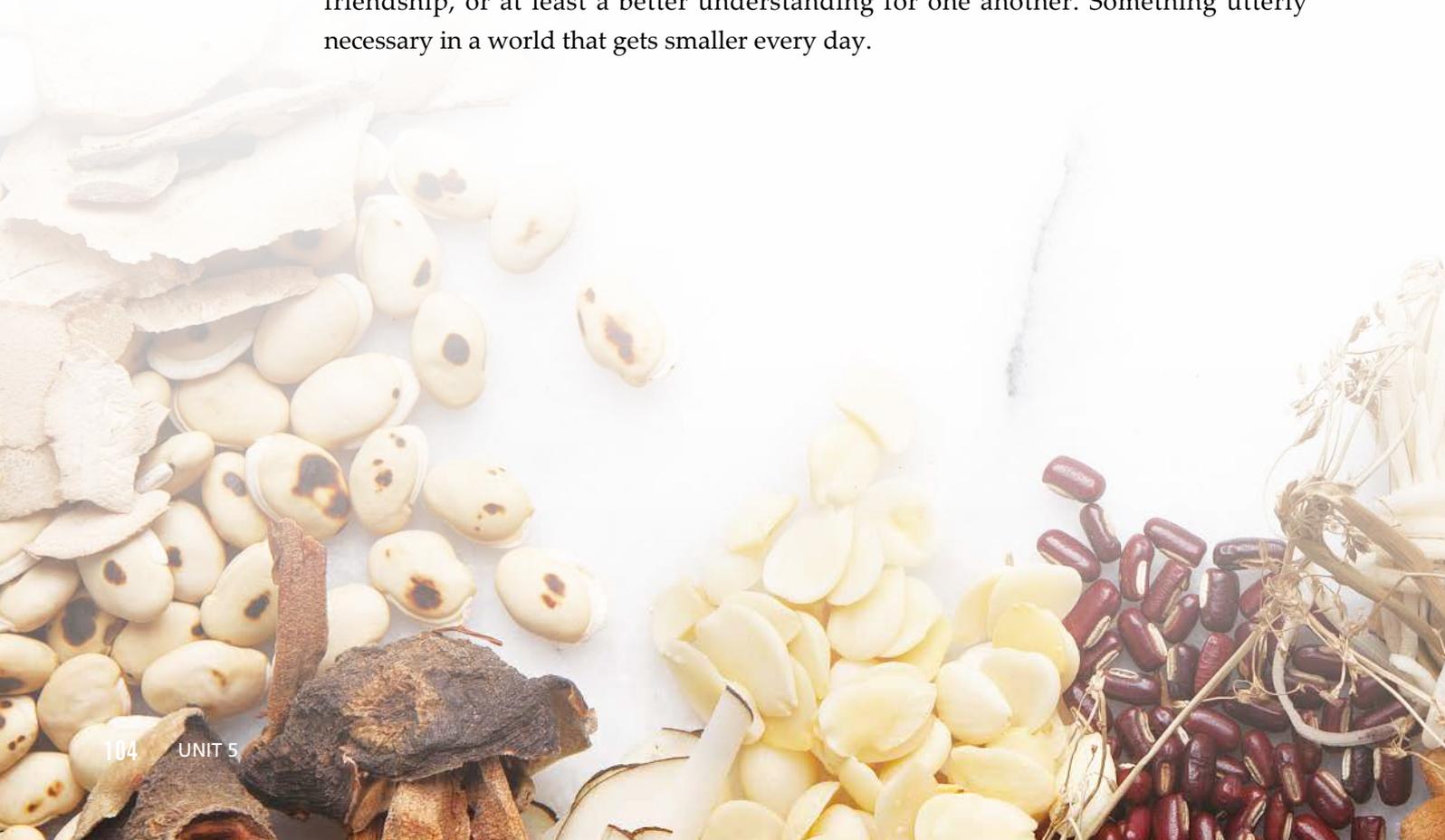
From the video, we can see China is a country with a wide variety of delicious food. In fact, Chinese cuisine is known as a symbol of Chinese culture to the world. People from all over the world are interested in Chinese food not only for its taste, but also because it is an important way to understand Chinese culture. In the following text, the author shares with us how she feels about Chinese cuisine and culture from a Westerner’s view.



## On cuisine and culture

- 1 You can learn culture through cuisine. Next to living within a country and speaking the language, food is one of the most important means to understand a culture.
- 2 The way we consume and acquire it, the fashion in which it gets cooked and by whom, who is invited to the table and who eats first, such tradition is a form of nonverbal communication – a social code abundant with meaning.
- 3 Cuisine is a source of pleasure and pride, elevating the basic act of eating from a purely biological necessity to an art. In many places of the world it is one of the main instruments of socialization and identification.
- 4 Every culture has designated what it considers to be edible, which type of animal can be eaten and how it should be prepared – Judaism and Islam being among the most prominent instances. Food often is used symbolically by nations; it tells us what is important to them and can educate us about their history.
- 5 *Zhongguoren de kouwei*, food cooked to Chinese taste, is a simple expression comprising a culinary tradition with a long-standing history and thousands of named dishes. The flavours are so diverse it blew me away when I sampled the real thing on my first visit to China.
- 6 On that trip (before I became a vegetarian, and I have to say I never found a more varied vegetarian cuisine than in China) I made up my mind to eat anything my hosts would put in front of me. A decision that took courage, considering the Chinese word for animal is *dongwu* (moving thing).
- 7 I tried Sichuanese snails, bird's nests, fried scorpions, sea cucumber – which I found so delicious I had three servings, to the delight of my generous hosts – and frogspawn in a delicate vanilla-cream filled pastry. After all, taste is an acquired thing; a lobster is not much more than a cockroach of the sea and cheese is arguably rotten milk.

- 8 While there, I fell in love with the philosophy behind food in China. The principles of yin and yang – hot and cold, male and female – lie at the heart of Chinese cuisine and can be found in any of its dishes. While certain foods are regarded as having warming, or yang, properties, other foods have cooling, or yin, properties. The goal is maintaining a balance between yin and yang.
- 9 Illnesses are more often treated with herbal teas and dietary changes than with pills, the idea being that the kind and the amount of food one consumes is directly related to one's health. Diet is used as a means of prevention from illness and as a cure. Food, therefore, is medicine.
- 10 Few other cultures are as food-oriented as the Chinese. A meal with friends or family can easily become a several-hour affair. For the Chinese it is an opportunity to affirm the importance of the people they are spending time with. It would be rude to hurry through a meal.
- 11 In fact the meaning of eating is of such significance that one of the most common greetings when meeting one another, instead of "How are you?" is "Have you eaten?" Historians believe this custom stems from the times of great famine in China.
- 12 In the appreciation of culture, the importance of cuisine lies in its unlimited variety that is not essential for human survival. For mere survival people everywhere could eat the same basic types of food. The very fact that we all eat so intricately differently from each other reflects a deeper aspect of human existence: the way we understand ourselves in the context of the world. Whoever is aware of this holds the key for friendship, or at least a better understanding for one another. Something utterly necessary in a world that gets smaller every day.



## Understanding the text

- 1** In the text, the author shares her views about the food culture in China. What do you know about Chinese food and food culture? Read the text and complete the table.

Chinese food culture	Examples
Diverse taste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sichuanese 1) _____</li> <li>• bird's nests</li> <li>• 2) _____ scorpions</li> <li>• sea cucumber</li> <li>• frogspawn in a 3) _____ vanilla-cream filled pastry</li> </ul>
Philosophy behind food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain foods regarded as having 4) _____, or yang, properties, others having 5) _____, or yin, properties</li> <li>• diet used as a means of 6) _____ from illness and as a cure</li> </ul>
Significance of eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance of a meal with 7) _____</li> <li>• "Have you eaten?" being one of the most common 8) _____</li> </ul>

- 2** Work in pairs. Read the sentences from the text and discuss the questions.

- The way we consume and acquire it, the fashion in which it gets cooked and by whom, who is invited to the table and who eats first, such tradition is a form of nonverbal communication – a social code abundant with meaning. (Para. 2)*  
How do you understand this statement? Use your own words to paraphrase it. Can you find an example showing how food tradition is a form of nonverbal communication in Chinese culture?
- Cuisine is a source of pleasure and pride, elevating the basic act of eating from a purely biological necessity to an art. (Para. 3)*  
Do you agree with this statement? Do you think cuisine should be an art? Can you support your answer with examples?
- After all, taste is an acquired thing; a lobster is not much more than a cockroach of the sea and cheese is arguably rotten milk. (Para. 7)*  
Why does the author mention "lobster" and "cheese" here? Is there a type of food that you didn't like at first, but then gradually accepted and liked it? If yes, what made the change?



## Sharpening your skills

### WRITING SKILLS

#### How to use examples to explain your points

To help readers understand and remember information, a great number of examples are used throughout the text. Examples make information clear, specific and vivid. They can be short or long, simple or detailed. Below are the two most common types of examples:

- **Brief example:** An example given briefly to explain a point

*Every culture has designated what it considers to be edible, which type of animal can be eaten and how it should be prepared – Judaism and Islam being among the most prominent instances. (Para. 4)*

Brief examples are used to explain an easy-to-understand point.

- **Extended example:** An example given in detail to explain a topic

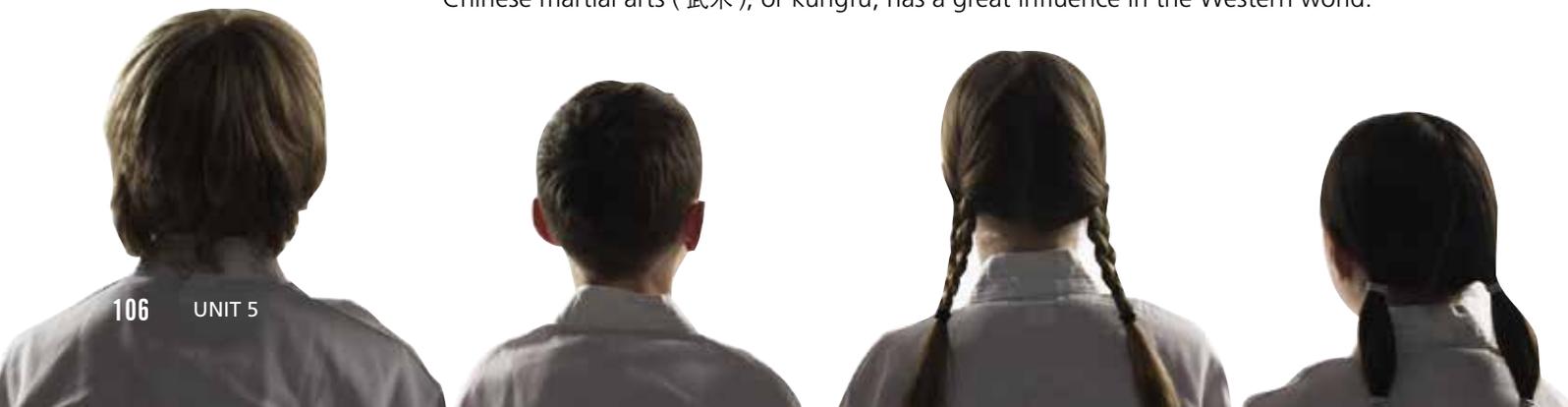
*While there, I fell in love with the philosophy behind food in China. The principles of yin and yang – hot and cold, male and female – lie at the heart of Chinese cuisine and can be found in any of its dishes. While certain foods are regarded as having warming, or yang, properties, other foods have cooling, or yin, properties. The goal is maintaining a balance between yin and yang. (Para. 8)*

Extended examples are used to explain a relatively complicated point.

A combined use of brief and extended examples can help readers better understand and relate to the key points of an article.

#### Provide two types of examples for the following statement.

Chinese martial arts ( 武术 ), or kungfu, has a great influence in the Western world.



## Building your language

### Words and expressions

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Change the form where necessary.

**cuisine**      **biological**      **delight**      **utterly**  
**dietary**      **elevate**      **historian**      **abundant**

- 1 As China has \_\_\_\_\_ natural conditions across its land, Chinese people living in different areas enjoy different but rich staple food ( 主食 ).
- 2 Having a long history and many different types, cuisine has been \_\_\_\_\_ to an irreplaceable status in China.
- 3 Food \_\_\_\_\_ Annie Gray says food symbolism has a lot to do with religion.
- 4 Once formed, \_\_\_\_\_ habits can be very difficult to change.
- 5 There are many regional \_\_\_\_\_ across China with different flavors: spicy, sweet, sour, etc.
- 6 Apart from satisfying \_\_\_\_\_ needs, food is also an expression of cultural identity.
- 7 Duck can be made into numerous dishes including roast duck ( 烤鸭 ), crispy duck ( 脆皮鸭 ), duck bone soup, fried duck pieces, which are all \_\_\_\_\_ delicious.
- 8 To the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Chinese friends, I had lots of red bean buns ( 豆沙包 ), the popular sweet version of *baozi*, on my trip to China.

2 Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the words and expressions below.

**identification**      **prominent**      **comprise**      **essential**  
**famine**      **mere**      **diverse**      **make up one's mind**

- 1 A meal in China typically consists of two parts: main food (rice, noodles, or steamed buns), and accompanying dishes (vegetables, fish, meat, or other items).
- 2 For many people, delicate food is extremely important for everyday life.
- 3 Now that she's living in China, she's decided to learn to make spring rolls ( 春卷 ) at home.
- 4 Local people in Guilin have Guilin rice noodles ( 桂林米粉 ) not as just breakfast, but also for lunch or dinner.
- 5 People keep culinary customs years after they migrate ( 移民 ), which shows the importance of basic foods as an element of cultural recognition.
- 6 In a very short time, the small village has gone from extreme hunger to feast ( 盛宴 ): Today, the food in the village is as varied as it is plentiful.
- 7 Sichuan hotpot is outstanding for its spicy flavor, resulting from a special seasoning – Sichuan pepper ( 花椒 ).
- 8 Travelers in Wuhan can be satisfied by the various choices in street food.



## Collocations

Complete the sentences by choosing suitable words in brackets to collocate with the italicized words.

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ (appreciation, enjoyment) *of a culture* involves understanding of the food tradition of the country.
- 2 Chinese culture lays much stress on \_\_\_\_\_ (maintaining, containing) *a balance* between yin and yang.
- 3 Nowadays many Chinese people believe that they can \_\_\_\_\_ (enlarge, elevate) *their living standards* by cooking and eating at home.
- 4 It is not polite to *hurry through the* \_\_\_\_\_ (cuisine, meal) in Chinese culture, unless you have a reason to do so.
- 5 In Chinese culture, food is often seen as a means of *disease* \_\_\_\_\_ (prevention, prediction).

## Vocabulary learning strategies



You have learned some words about food and cuisine in the text. Some words refer to food itself such as “sea cucumber” (Para. 7), some refer to the taste of food such as “delicious” (Para. 7). You can scan the QR code to learn more about these words.

## Language focus



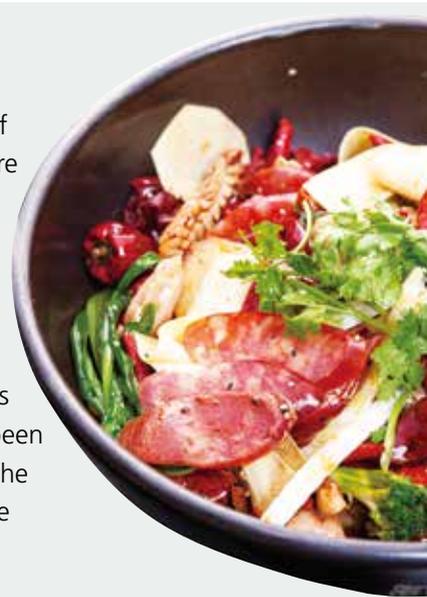
In the text, “not much more than” and “while” are used to compare two things. In the sentence “a lobster is not much more than a cockroach of the sea” (Para. 7), “not much more than” is used to say two things are not much different. In the sentence “While certain foods are regarded as having warming, or yang, properties, other foods have cooling, or yin, properties” (Para. 8), “while” is used to emphasize the difference between two situations. You can scan the QR code to learn more about the two sentence patterns.

## Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

praise	resources	appreciate	prominent	survival
delicate	abundant	elevated	cuisines	historian
separate	oriented	philosophy	rule	essential

As one of the most food 1) \_\_\_\_\_ countries in the world, China is widely known for its diverse and 2) \_\_\_\_\_ food choices. Chinese people see color, smell and taste as the three 3) \_\_\_\_\_ elements of their food. China has eight great regional 4) \_\_\_\_\_. These styles are distinctive from one another. Their differences stem from the geography, climate, natural 5) \_\_\_\_\_, and eating habits of the specific area. Nowadays, we need food not just for 6) \_\_\_\_\_, so it's important to learn Chinese culture from Chinese food. After all, food is one of the things that stick to culture. For example, in the West, people take what they like on a(n) 7) \_\_\_\_\_ plate since ancient times whereas Chinese people share food with guests, friends and families. Food has been 8) \_\_\_\_\_ from a necessity to an art. Whoever truly understands the 9) \_\_\_\_\_ behind food in China will 10) \_\_\_\_\_ not only the food, but also the culture.



## Sharing your ideas

After reading through the text, do you feel a bit refreshing to see our own food through a Westerner's eyes? Make a one-minute oral report to introduce the local cuisine from your hometown to a foreign friend. Use the clues in the following table to organize your line of thoughts.

	The cuisine
Name	
Ingredients	
Flavor	
Why I like it	

## Viewing

As a Chinese person, every one of us is familiar with the notion of the Chinese zodiac (中国十二生肖). However, do you know the story behind it? Have you read about the myth of how the Chinese zodiac came into being? Watch a video clip about the myth. It can be an interesting story to share with your foreign friends.



### 1 Fill in the blanks with what you hear from the video clip.

- 1 As the story goes, Yudi, or Jade Emperor, \_\_\_\_\_ of the heavens, wanted to devise a way to measure time. So he organized a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Because the rat was small and couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ very well, he asked the bigger animals for help. While the tiger and horse \_\_\_\_\_, the kind-hearted ox agreed to carry the rat across. Yet, just as they were about to reach the other side, the rat \_\_\_\_\_ off the ox's head and secured first place.
- 3 The final spot was \_\_\_\_\_ by the pig, who had gotten hungry and stopped to eat and nap before finally waddling across the \_\_\_\_\_ line.

### 2 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you like the myth of "The Great Race" in this video clip? How well do you think the myth explained the Chinese zodiac?
- 2 What's your zodiac sign? What's the meaning or spirit that your sign represents? Do you believe in it?



## Reading

You have learned about the myth of the Chinese zodiac. Nowadays, when we talk about zodiac signs, what do we mean? How could you explain the Chinese zodiac to foreign friends? In the following text, the author makes a speech about the Chinese zodiac that is both informative and entertaining.



- 1 Have you ever been asked by your Chinese friend, “What is your zodiac sign?” Don’t think they are making small talk. If you say, “I’m a Monkey,” they immediately know how old you are.
- 2 Asking a zodiac sign is a polite way of asking your age.
- 3 By revealing your zodiac sign, you might also be evaluated. Judgments may be made about your fortune or misfortune, your personality, career prospects and how you will do in a given year. If you share you and your partner’s animal signs, they will paint a picture in their mind about your private life. Maybe you don’t believe in the Chinese zodiac. As a quarter of the world population is influenced by it, you’d be wise to do something about that.
- 4 So what is the Chinese zodiac, exactly? Most Westerners think of Greco-Roman zodiac, the signs divided into 12 months. The Chinese zodiac is different. It’s a 12-year cycle labeled with animals, starting with a Rat and ending with a Pig, and has no association with constellations. For example, if you were born in 1975, you are a Rabbit. Can you see your zodiac sign there? Our Chinese ancestors constructed a very complicated theoretical framework based on yin and yang, the five elements and the 12 zodiac animals. Over thousands of years, this popular culture has affected people’s major decisions, such as naming, marriage, giving birth and attitude towards each other. And some of the implications are quite amazing.
- 5 Some Chinese believe certain animals get on better than the others. So there has been a tradition that parents choose specific years to give birth to babies, because they believe the team effort by the right combination of animals can give prosperity to families. Some people even refer to the zodiac when entering into romantic relations. I’m a Pig; I should have perfect romance with Tigers, Goats and Rabbits. But some animals are natural enemies. As a Pig, I need to be careful with a Snake.



- 6 We believe some animals are luckier than the others, such as the Dragon. Unlike the Western tradition, the Chinese Dragon is a symbol for power, strength and wealth. It's many people's dream to have a Dragon baby. Jack Ma's parents must have been very proud. And they are not the only ones. In 2012, the Year of the Dragon, the birthrate in China increased by five percent. That means another one million more babies. With a traditional preference for baby boys, the boy-girl ratio that year was 120 to 100. When those Dragon boys grow up, they will face much more severe competition in love and job markets.
- 7 According to the BBC and the Chinese government's press release, January 2015 saw a peak of cesarean sections. Why? That was the last month for the Year of the Horse. It's not because they like horses so much, it's because some of them tried to avoid having "unlucky" Goat babies.
- 8 If you are a Goat, please don't feel bad. Bill Gates, Yo-Yo Ma and Julia Roberts are all Goats. They don't look like losers to me.
- 9 Tiger is another undesirable animal, due to its volatile temperament. Many Chinese regions saw a sharp decline of birthrate during those years. Perhaps one should consider zodiac in reverse, as those Tiger and Goat babies will face much less competition. Maybe they are the lucky ones.
- 10 One last but interesting point: Some Chinese people make their investment decisions based on the zodiac sign index. Although the tradition of the zodiac sign has been over thousands of years, the trend of using it in making major investment decisions did not really happen until the past few decades. Our ancestors were very busy surviving poverty, drought, famine, riot, disease and war. And finally, Chinese people have the time, wealth and technology to create an ideal life they've always wanted. The decisions they made may affect everything, from health care and education to property and consumer goods. As China plays such an important role in the global economy, the decisions made based on Chinese traditions may impact everyone around the world.

#### CULTURE NOTES

**Greco-Roman zodiac (古希腊 – 罗马星座):** The zodiac has been in use since the Roman era. It derived from an earlier system of lists of stars along the ecliptic (黄道). In Western astrology, the zodiac is divided into 12 signs, each roughly corresponding to the 12 constellations (十二星座).

**Eastern and Western dragons:** Eastern dragons were said to live in a lake or ocean. They are held with high respect from the people in the East. To the Chinese, dragons represent power, wealth and wisdom. Western dragons were said to live in the deserts or even in fire. They are viewed as unwanted and something people want to get rid of.

## Understanding the text

- 1 What is the Chinese zodiac? How do you describe it and explain the belief and tradition of it? Read the text and complete the diagram.

When your Chinese friend asks you, "What is your zodiac sign?"

- It's a polite way of 1) \_\_\_\_\_.
- You might be evaluated about your 2) \_\_\_\_\_ or misfortune, your 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and how you will do in a given year.
- If you share you and your partner's animal signs, they will 4) \_\_\_\_\_ in their mind about your 5) \_\_\_\_\_.



What is the Chinese zodiac?

- It's a 6) \_\_\_\_\_ cycle labeled with animals, starting with a 7) \_\_\_\_\_ and ending with a 8) \_\_\_\_\_. It has no 9) \_\_\_\_\_ with constellations.
- It's a very complicated theoretical 10) \_\_\_\_\_ based on yin and yang, the 11) \_\_\_\_\_ and the 12 zodiac animals.

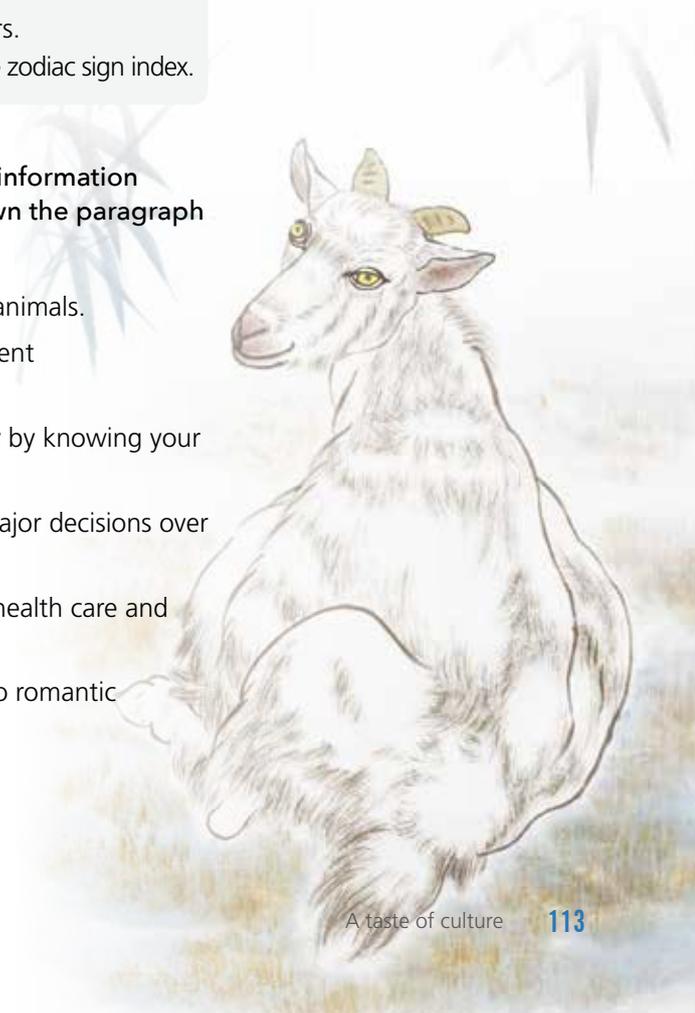


What do the Chinese believe?

- Certain animals 12) \_\_\_\_\_ than the others.
- Some animals are 13) \_\_\_\_\_ than the others.
- Some Chinese people 14) \_\_\_\_\_ based on the zodiac sign index.

- 2 Read the text and identify the paragraph from which the information contained in each of the statements is derived. Write down the paragraph number in the blanks.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 The Chinese zodiac is a 12-year cycle labeled with animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 The Chinese and the Western traditions have different understandings about the Dragon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 People can make judgments about your personality by knowing your zodiac sign.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 The Chinese zodiac culture has affected people's major decisions over thousands of years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 The decisions made by Chinese people may affect health care and education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Some people refer to the zodiac when entering into romantic relations.



## Building your language

### Words and expressions

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Change the form where necessary.

**framework**      **implication**      **undesirable**      **combination**  
**judgment**      **decline**      **romance**      **fortune**

- 1 Different individuals will prefer different \_\_\_\_\_ of work and leisure.
- 2 Qu Yuan, Li Bai and Li He were well-known poets of \_\_\_\_\_ in Chinese history.
- 3 Throughout Chinese history tattooing (文身) has been seen as damaging to the body, something \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Taking ancient times as the mirror, we may know the prosperity and \_\_\_\_\_, which is a political motto (格言) in Chinese traditional culture.
- 5 It's hard to come to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ about which language is more difficult to learn.
- 6 The theoretical \_\_\_\_\_ of Chinese culture is of practical significance to modern product design.
- 7 Professor Wang will give a lecture on the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of Chinese painting.
- 8 As a symbol of wealth and good \_\_\_\_\_, gold has always held a special place in the hearts and minds of some Chinese people.

2 Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the words and expressions below. You may need to make other changes.

**prosperity**      **drought**      **ratio**      **personality**      **severe**      **in reverse**

- 1 The traditional city will hold a national conference on climate change, especially the consequences of continuous dry weather and flooding.
- 2 The villagers are encouraged to develop their traditional skills in cutting paper to increase the proportion of profits to incomes.
- 3 Traditional sports, as a symbol of our inherited culture, are faced with strong challenges and many problems.
- 4 In ancient China, one's birthday and birth hour was used to calculate their character or fate.
- 5 Red is an important color in Chinese culture, symbolizing fortune.
- 6 You say the given name first and then the surname for Western names, but you say the Chinese names in the opposite way.



## Collocations

Complete the sentences by choosing suitable words in brackets to collocate with the italicized words.

- 1 Many Chinese areas saw a \_\_\_\_\_ (sharp, high) *decline* of birthrate during the year of the Tiger.
- 2 *Book of Changes* (《周易》) \_\_\_\_\_ (constructed, claimed) a *framework* that is still highly regarded in Chinese culture.
- 3 Chinese people think roosters could \_\_\_\_\_ (give, cause) *prosperity* to families in terms of population and wealth.
- 4 In China, smartphones have become popular high-tech electronic *consumer* \_\_\_\_\_ (goods, spending).
- 5 It is said that Goat babies may \_\_\_\_\_ (receive, face) *less severe competition* when they grow up.

## Vocabulary learning strategies

The text uses some pairs of synonyms (近义词) for example “influence” (Para. 3) and “affect” (Para. 4), and antonyms (反义词) for example “wealth” (Para. 6) and “poverty” (Para. 10). If you learn synonyms and antonyms in pairs, it’s not easy for you to forget and it will help you enrich your vocabulary. You can scan the QR code to learn more pairs of synonyms and antonyms.



## Translation

### 1 Translate the paragraph into Chinese.

By revealing your zodiac sign, you might also be evaluated. Judgments may be made about your fortune or misfortune, your personality, career prospects and how you will do in a given year. If you share you and your partner’s animal signs, they will paint a picture in their mind about your private life. Maybe you don’t believe in the Chinese zodiac. As a quarter of the world population is influenced by it, you’d be wise to do something about that.



Translation skills



2 Translate the paragraph into English, using the words and expressions below.

preference impact ratio give birth

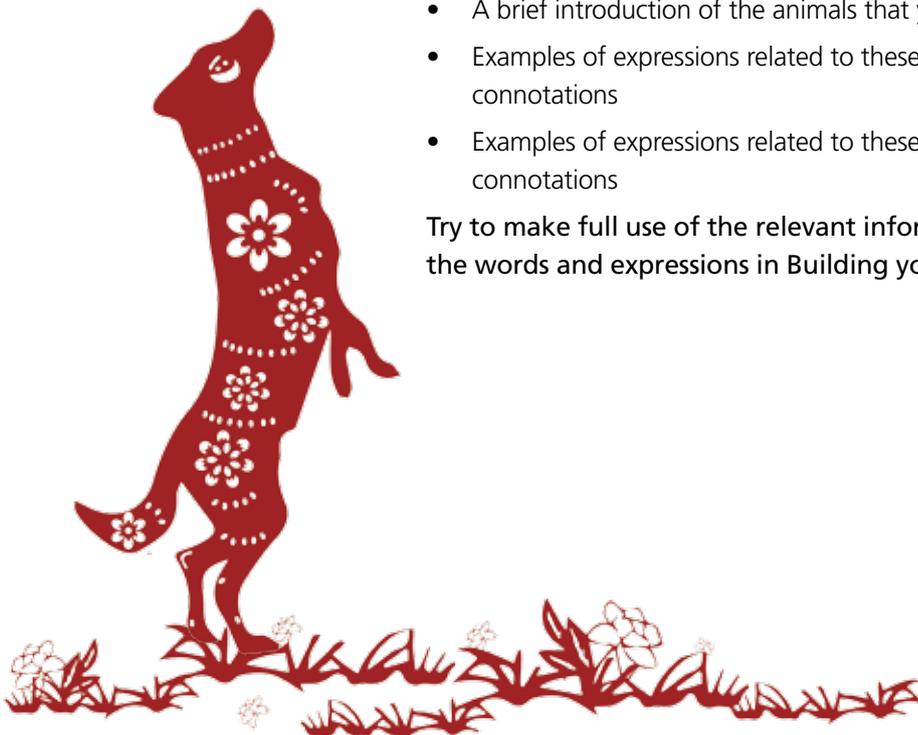
哲学深深植根于文化。生肖、阴阳以及五行说 (theory of the five elements) 相结合, 对人们的决定和信仰产生了很重要的影响。如果你问中国人是否相信生肖, 很多人一开始会说: “哦, 不。我们是现代人。”可是, 当你问他们准备何时要小孩, 他们可能会说: “要个龙宝宝不错。”在 2012 年这个龙年, 中国的人口出生率增长了五个百分点。由于传统上对于男孩的偏爱, 当年男孩和女孩的出生比率为 120 比 100。这些单个的以家庭为单位的决定可能是小范围的, 但这些决定对消费需求的影响却是实实在在的, 甚至会影响整个经济。

## Sharing your ideas

The text explains the complicated framework of the Chinese zodiac in the way that is both easy to understand and easy to remember. The author believes that the zodiac is a fun way to learn more about Chinese culture. Through reading the text, we have understood how important it is to know about different cultures and keep an open mind about their differences and similarities. Work in groups. Pick 3-4 animals represented in the Chinese zodiac. Discuss and find out their connotations in Chinese and English. To complete the task, you may include the following elements in your discussion:

- A brief introduction of the animals that you pick
- Examples of expressions related to these animals in Chinese and their connotations
- Examples of expressions related to these animals in English and their connotations

Try to make full use of the relevant information from the text, and the words and expressions in Building your language.



## Unit project

### Making a group presentation

#### Introducing an aspect of Chinese cultural heritage

If you were asked to introduce a particular aspect of Chinese culture, what would be your choice? From iExplore 1 of this unit, you have learned what a Westerner thinks about Chinese food. From iExplore 2, you have learned how to introduce the Chinese zodiac. Now it's your turn to choose an aspect of Chinese cultural heritage and introduce it to an international audience. The following steps may help you with the project.

### Step 1

#### Choose your topic

You need to brainstorm the possible choices for your main topic. Try to come up with as many options as possible. Write them down and discuss the reasons for choosing or not choosing a topic. The possible choices are: the Spring Festival, kungfu, Peking opera, calligraphy, Tang poetry, etc.

Choice 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for choosing / not choosing: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for choosing / not choosing: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for choosing / not choosing: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 2

#### Work out your outline

Once you've chosen your topic, organize your presentation in a clear and coherent order. For example, if your topic is "the Spring Festival":

#### Outline

**Beginning:** Ask the audience to guess the topic.

e.g. *Here're some clues for you to guess our topic ...*

**Body:**

1 The history of the Spring Festival

e.g. *So what's the story behind the Spring Festival?*

2 How Chinese people celebrate the Spring Festival

e.g. *The Chinese celebrate the Spring Festival in many ways.*

3 The influence of the Spring Festival over the world

e.g. *Not only does the Spring Festival play an important role in China, its influence has been seen by the world as well.*

**Ending:** Summarize the traditions of the Spring Festival and its influence.

### Step 3 Use examples

In order to accomplish this project, it is particularly important to use accurate and abundant examples. In Sharpening your skills of iExplore 1, you are given instructions about how to use brief and extended examples to explain information. Integrate this skill when you select your content. To explain your information, you can use:

- Brief examples: 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Extended examples: 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4 Rehearse your presentation

After you've chosen your topic, worked out your outline and filled in your outline with details, you can practice delivering the presentation with your group members. Each of the group members should be responsible for one section of the delivery. It's essential that each member have a thorough understanding of not only their part, but also the whole presentation. You can use the following table for your rehearsal.

Group member	Part of presentation	Time duration

### Step 5 Give your presentation

Now you've got everything ready, it's time to give your presentation. You may also refer to the following checklist to improve your performance.



# Checklist

## OK Need improvement

- 1 We have chosen a topic that is engaging and informative.
- 2 We have organized the presentation in a clear and coherent way.
- 3 We have used examples of different types that are accurate and abundant.
- 4 We have used accurate and clear language.
- 5 We have rehearsed our presentation and each member has a full understanding of their part and the whole presentation.



YOU CAN  
UPLOAD YOUR  
PRESENTATION TO  
THE ONLINE  
COURSE AFTER  
FINISHING IT.



# Vocabulary

## Explore 1

### New words

**cuisine** /kwiːzi:n/ n. [U] a style of cooking 烹饪  
*Cuisine and dining traditions are important in local culture.*

**nonverbal** /,nɒnˈvɜ:bl/ a. not using words 不用言辞表达的  
*Body movements are a nonverbal means of expression.*

**abundant** /əˈbʌndənt/ a. existing or available in large quantities 大量的; 丰富的; 充裕的  
*The country has an abundant supply of natural resources.*

**elevate** /ˈelə,veɪt/ vt. (fml.) to improve the status or importance of sth. or sb. 提高, 提升 (地位或重要性)  
*He was elevated to a higher rank.*

**purely** /ˈpjʊəli/ ad. completely and only, without anything else being involved 完全地; 纯粹地; 仅仅  
*I don't enjoy it, but I run purely for the sake of good health.*

**biological** /,baɪəˈlɒdʒɪkl/ a. relating to living things 生物的  
*Biological systems have been doing this for billions of years.*

**identification** /aɪ,dentɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ n. [U] a strong feeling that you are like sb. or sth., and share the same qualities or feelings 情感相通; 认同  
*Her identification with the heroine of the book makes her more confident.*

**edible** /ˈedɪbl/ a. sth. that is edible can be eaten 可以食用的  
*This kind of mushroom is edible, but that kind is not.*

**prominent** /ˈprɒmɪnənt/ a. well known and important 著名的; 重要的; 杰出的  
*She is likely to play a prominent part in this project.*

**symbolically** /sɪmˈbɒlɪkli/ ad. representing sth. important 象征地  
*Her vote is symbolically important for this activity.*

**comprise** /kəmˈpraɪz/ vt. (fml.) to consist of particular parts, groups, etc. 由...组成; 包括  
*The collection comprises 270 paintings.*

**culinary** /ˈkʌlɪn(ə)rɪ/ a. relating to cooking 烹饪的  
*Mary learned a lot of culinary skills from her mother.*

**long-standing** /,lɒŋˈstændɪŋ/ a. having continued or existed for a long time 持续长久的; 长期存在的  
*They are pleased to have resolved this long-standing puzzle.*

**diverse** /daɪˈvɜ:s/ a. very different from each other 不同的  
*Society is now much more diverse than ever before.*

**vegetarian** /ˌvedʒəˈteəriən/ n. [C] sb. who chooses not to eat meat or fish 素食(主义)者  
a. relating to or intended for vegetarians 素食(主义)者的  
*She's recently become vegetarian.*

**snail** /sneɪl/ n. [C] 蜗牛

**scorpion** /ˈskɔ:piən/ n. [C] 蝎子

**sea cucumber** /ˈkju:,kʌmbə/ n. [C, U] 海参

**serving** /ˈsɜ:vɪŋ/ n. [C] an amount of food for one person 一人份食物  
*He eats two or three servings of milk per day.*

**delight** /dɪˈlaɪt/ n. [U] a feeling of great pleasure and satisfaction 高兴; 快乐; 满意  
*The children dance round him in delight.*

**frogspawn** /ˈfrɒŋ,spɔ:n/ n. [U] (一团) 蛙卵

**pastry** /ˈpeɪstri/ n. [U] 油酥点心

**lobster** /ˈlɒbstə/ n. [C] 龙虾

**cockroach** /ˈkɒkrəʊtʃ/ n. [C] 蟑螂

**rotten** /ˈrɒtn/ a. badly decayed 腐烂的; 变质的  
*The rubbish outside this building smells like rotten eggs.*

**herbal** /ˈhɜ:bl/ a. made of or relating to herbs 药草(制)的  
*Herbal treatments are not suitable for everyone.*

**dietary** /ˈdaɪət(ə)rɪ/ a. relating to sb.'s diet 与饮食有关的  
*Because of the disease, she has to change her dietary habits.*

**oriented** /'ɔ:ri,entɪd/ a. giving a lot of time, effort, or attention to one particular thing 重视的; 感兴趣的  
*The girl is very career-oriented.*

**affirm** /ə'fɜ:m/ vt. (fml.) to state publicly that sth. is true or correct 断言; 声明; 确认  
*She affirmed the rumor of leaving school soon.*

**greeting** /'gri:tɪŋ/ n. [C] sth. you say or do when you meet sb. 问候; 招呼  
*They exchanged greetings and sat down.*

**historian** /hɪ'stɔ:riən/ n. [C] sb. who studies or writes about history 历史学家; 史学工作者  
*She is a historian teaching in a key university.*

**famine** /'fæmɪn/ n. [C, U] a situation in which a large number of people have little or no food for a long time and many people die 饥荒  
*War brings death and famine.*

**essential** /ɪ'senʃl/ a. important and necessary 重要的; 必不可少的  
*Light is absolutely essential for the healthy development of plants.*

**survival** /sə'vaɪvəl/ n. [U] the state of continuing to live or exist 继续生存; 幸存  
*They are still fighting for survival.*

**mere** /mɪə/ a. (only before noun) used to emphasize how small or unimportant sth. or sb. is 只不过的, 仅仅的 (用以强调小或微不足道)  
*Her comments are mere opinion, not fact.*

**intricately** /ɪn'trɪkətli/ ad. very detailed in design or structure 复杂精细地; 盘根错节地  
*This intricately designed building is not liked by the public.*

**whoever** /hu:'evə/ pron. used to say that it does not matter who does sth., is in a particular place, etc. 不管是什么人; 无论是谁  
*Whoever gets the job will be responsible for the annual budget.*

**utterly** /'ʌtəli/ ad. completely or totally 完全地; 十足地  
*He was utterly wrong in that matter.*

## Phrases and expressions

**next to sb. / sth.** used to say what is first of a list of things you like or prefer (喜好程度) 仅次于某人 / 某物  
*Next to basketball, swimming is the sport I enjoy most.*

**blow sb. away** to make sb. feel very surprised, esp. about sth. they like or admire 使大为惊讶 (尤指对喜欢或羡慕的东西)  
*It blew him away that the book he bought was so great.*

**make up sb.'s mind** to be determined to do sth. 打定主意  
*She has made up her mind to start a business after her graduation from university.*

**fall in love with** to start to love sth. or sb. 爱上  
*Slowly but surely she started to fall in love with reading.*

**hurry through** to do sth. or go somewhere more quickly than usual, esp. because there is not much time 匆匆完成  
*She hurried through the work and went to meet friends.*

**stem from** to develop as a result of sth. else 源于; 来自  
*Many of his poems stem from simple memories.*

## Proper names

**Judaism** /'dʒu:deɪ,ɪz(ə)m/ 犹太教

**Islam** /'ɪzlɑ:m/ 伊斯兰教

## iExplore 2

### New words

**zodiac** /'zəʊdi,æk/ n. (the ~) 黄道带 (指太阳、月亮及行星所构成的假想带)

**judgment** /'dʒʌdʒmənt/ n. [C, U] an opinion that you form, esp. after thinking carefully about sth. (尤指经过仔细思考后形成的) 意见, 看法  
*He's too quick to make judgments about other people.*

**fortune** /'fɔ:tʃən/ n. [U] luck, esp. good luck 运气; (尤指) 好运

*I had the good fortune to work with a group of brilliant students.*

**personality** /ˌpɜ:sə'næləti/ n. [C, U] sb.'s character, esp. the way they behave toward other people 个性; 性格

*A good personality is better than an outstanding intelligence.*

**rat** /ræt/ n. [C] 鼠

**constellation** /ˌkɒnstə'leɪʃn/ n. [C] 星座

**framework** /'freɪmwɜ:k/ n. [C, usu. sing.] a set of facts, ideas, etc. from which more complicated ideas are developed, or on which decisions are based 体系; 参照标准; 框架

*This paper provides a framework for future research.*

**implication** /ˌɪmpli'keɪʃn/ n. [C, U] sth. that is not directly said or shown, but that is suggested or understood 含意; 暗指; 暗示

*He smiled, with the implication that he didn't believe me.*

**prosperity** /prɒ'sperəti/ n. [U] a condition in which people have money and everything that is needed for a good life 发达; 繁荣

*Economic prosperity depends critically on an open trading system.*

**romance** /rəʊ'mæns/ n. [U] love, or a feeling of being in love 爱情; 浪漫

*Producers decided to end her on-screen romance with Tom.*

**birthrate** /'bɜ:θ,reit/ n. [C] the number of births for every 100 or every 1,000 people in a particular year in a particular place 出生率

*The birthrate is on the decrease.*

**ratio** /'reɪʃiəʊ/ n. [C] a relationship between two things expressed as two numbers or amounts (两个数量之间的) 比, 比例, 比率

*The adult to child ratio is 1 to 6.*

**severe** /sɪ'viə/ a. very bad, or serious enough for you to worry about 严重的; 剧烈的

*We are in one of the most severe recessions in modern times.*

**cesarean** /sɪ'zeəriən/ n. [C] (also ~ section, C-section) (mainly AmE) 剖腹产手术

**unlucky** /ʌn'lʌki/ a. causing bad luck 不吉利的; 不祥的  
*It was thought unlucky to see a black cat when you were going out.*

**loser** /'lu:zə/ n. [C] sb. who is never successful in life, work, or relationships (在生活、工作或关系方面) 总是输的人, 老是失败的人

*He had not been famous in his all life; in fact he considered himself as a loser.*

**undesirable** /ˌʌndɪ'zairəbl/ a. (fm/.) not welcome or wanted 不受欢迎的; 不合意的; 讨厌的

*Houses near industrial sites are often regarded as undesirable.*

**volatile** /'vɒlə,taɪl/ a. sb. who is volatile can suddenly become angry or violent 易激动的; 易怒的

*Armed soldiers guard the streets in this volatile atmosphere.*

**temperament** /'tempərəmənt/ n. [C, U] the emotional part of sb.'s character, esp. how likely they are to be happy, angry, etc. 性情; 性格; 秉性

*The two sisters have entirely different temperaments.*

**decline** /drɪ'klaɪn/ n. [C, U] (usu. sing.) a gradual decrease in the quality, quantity, or importance of sth. 减少; 下降

*He criticized the government for failing to stop economic decline.*

**reverse** /rɪ'vɜ:z/ n. [U] (in ~) opposite 相反

*Amy told the story in reverse, from the moment the man died.*

**drought** /draʊt/ n. [C, U] a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water 干旱; 旱灾

*Last year a severe drought has ruined the crops.*

**riot** /'raɪət/ n. [C, U] a violent protest by a crowd of people 暴乱; 骚乱

*Twelve people have been killed during a riot at the prison.*

## Phrases and expressions

**make small talk** to make polite friendly conversation about unimportant subjects 闲谈; 聊天

*The guests stood with drinks, making small talk about the weather.*

**give birth** to bear (a child) 生 (孩子)

*She's just given birth to a baby girl.*

**one last but ...** the last but usu. important or interesting point 最后但...的一点

*One last but a possible opportunity is that their company may get this land.*

## Proper names

**Greco-Roman** /ˈɡrekəʊ,rəʊmən/ **zodiac** 古希腊 - 罗马星座

**Jack Ma** 马云 (阿里巴巴集团创始人)

**the BBC** (the British Broadcasting Company) 英国广播公司

**Yo-Yo Ma** 马友友 (美籍华人, 大提琴演奏者)

**Julia Roberts** /ˈdʒuːliə,rəʊbɜːts/ 朱莉娅·罗伯茨 (美国演员)