## 10-minute English: Animal Idioms/Phrases

(Re: 6D Class Assembly - 12 Chinese Zodiac)

| smell a rat | an ox eye/ ox-eyed | paper tiger |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| make a hare of somebody |  | a snake in the grass |
| dark horse | a black sheep of the family | put somebody's monkey up |
|  |  | guinea pig |

## Zodiac Origin Story

## The Great Race

Once upon a time, all the animals were assembled by the Jade Emperor. The Emperor told them he wanted to choose 12 of them to be the representative of each year, so he decided to organize a competition. The animals can be the first 12 cross the river to the meeting place will be the representative of the year and the year will be named as their names in the order they arrived to the meeting place.

In fact, the cat and the rat were the worst swimmers in the animal kingdom. However, they were both intelligent. They decided that the best and quickest way to cross the river was to jump on the back of the ox. The ox is a kind and good-natured animal, agreed to carry them across. To overcome the keen competition, the rat decided in order to win, it must do something and promptly pushed the cat into the river. Then as the ox had crossed the river, the rat jumped ahead and reached the shore first, and it claimed the first place in the race. Because of this, the cat has never forgiven the rat, and hates water as well.
The rat has cheated to be the first one and the ox be the second one and later, all the 12 animals had arrived at the meeting place one after one.

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Rat-Ox—Tiger-Hare(Rabbit)—Dragon—Snake—Horse—Sheep(Goat)—Monkey
-Rooster(Chicken)—Dog—Pig
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## Chinese Zodiac Compatibility Grid

| Sign | Best Match | Match | No Match |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Rat | Ox, Dragon, Monkey | Rat, Snake, Pig, Dog, Tiger | Horse, Rabbit, Rooster, Sheep |
| Ox | Rat, Snake, Rooster | Ox, Tiger, Monkey, Dragon, Rabbit, Pig | Horse, Sheep, Dog |
| Tiger | Horse, Dog, Rabbit | Rat, Ox, Tiger, Dragon, Sheep, Rooster, Pig | Snake, Monkey |
| Rabbit | Sheep, Dog, Pig | Tiger, Rabbit, Snake, Monkey, Ox, Dragon, Horse | Rat, Rooster |
| Dragon | Rat, Monkey, Snake | Tiger, Rooster, Dragon, Sheep, Horse, Pig, Ox, Rabbit | Dog |
| Snake | Ox, Rooster, Dragon | Rat, Rabbit, Monkey, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Dog | Tiger, Pig |
| Horse | Tiger, Sheep, Dog | Dragon, Snake, Monkey, Rooster, Pig, Rabbit, Horse | Rat, Ox |
| Sheep | Rabbit, Horse, Pig | Tiger, Dragon, Snake, Sheep, Monkey, Rat, Rooster | Rat, Ox |
| Monkey | Rat, Dragon, Rooster | Ox, Rabbit, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Snake, Dog, Pig | Tiger |
| Rooster | Ox, Snake, Monkey | Tiger, Horse, Sheep, Rooster, Dog, Pig | Rabbit, Rat |
| Dog | Tiger, Horse, Pig | Rat, Snake, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Rabbit | Ox, Dragon |
| Pig | Sheep, Rabbit, Dog | Rat, Ox, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Rooster, Pig | Snake |

