

Like every year, the question arises: do we really need wishes? Either... or Chinese wishes insofar as this course of a few ideograms is supposed to make us familiar with immortality: a whole life is not enough to master the almost 50,000 signs of the Chinese language (and already for the 5000 most used you have to hang on!) So, let's imagine that learning a few annual characters add more time to our lives.

Let us show a minimum of optimism in this dark month of November while I'm writing this text.

As in 2013, we will be interested in the Serpent who will make his debut on the 29th of January 2025.

This year it is a snake linked to the wood element.

Addicts can review

-the ideogram of wood and some derivatives

-the ideogram of the Snake already presented in 2013

The wood element associated last year with the Dragon also returns for the year with the snake

Wood allows you to discover pretty ideograms that are easy to trace:

木材 the wood 林 lin

树 the tree 木 mù or shù and for the forest 森林 we put lots of trees (and we pronounce senēi lin)

This key also appears in a primordial ideogram in China that of tea 茶 "Composed of 3 "keys": starting from the bottom the key of the tree, surmounted by

the man's key, 人 ren itself surmounted by the sign of grass (in its simplified version).

And there you have, before your amazed eyes, a man who climbs a tree to pick the leaves. » (I had some doubts about the need to climb a camellia sinensis, but the height can reach 2 or 3 meters)

The ideogram of the Snake 蛇

= shé is pronounced cheuu by raising the tone on the 2nd „eu“

It is made up of the key 虫 chong (pronounce tchong when lowering your voice)

which designates insects and earthworms and 它 which is equivalent to the pronoun he or she when we speak about an animal.

The Snake is hated in our Judeo-Christian civilizations: is it not the vile tempter of Eve in Genesis?

We were chased out of a politically correct, kissy paradise because of his deceitfulness "Go on Eve, grab the apple!" ... "There is a lot to say about this story that I personally find shocking.

I don't like howling with wolves, so I have a lot of indulgence for this animal which is also my Chinese zodiac sign.

Likewise, I must admit to a weakness for Kaa who leads Moogli by the nose in Jungle Book.

I allow myself to skim over the very rich, often esoteric symbolism surrounding the Snake, seriousness is not my cup of tea.

Powerful symbol that leaves no civilization indifferent

Sometimes considered as a link between Man and Mother Earth, a link between life and death between good and evil.

For the goddess Athena he it is wisdom and knowledge

For Native Americans he it was a guide to spirituality



“The snake's moulting leads us to believe that this animal is in constant renewal. This is illustrated by the Ouroboros (the serpent that bites its tail) which signifies the cycle of the universe, the immortality and eternity of creation. It also refers to the Yin and Yang of Chinese culture. »

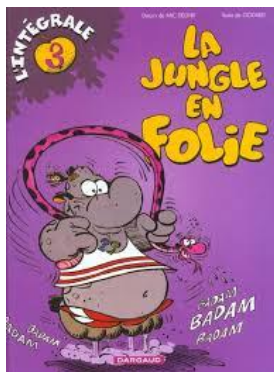
A snake wraps itself around the caduceus of carers causing a big fight between specialists: caduceus of Hermes with two snakes or staff of Aesculapius

which only has one?) it is associated with the idea of vital force and healing.

But to make things funnier, I made an effort to find some nice snakes for you:

There is of course Mortimer, Joe the Tiger's friend in the comic book Jungle Madness (whose

father Christian Godart just passed away.



I found 2 recipes using the critter in fricassée, but the search for the basic ingredient took me to exotic and a bit «weird» site. Too bad it seems that it's delicious.

I have promised myself to go and see this work of art up close: “north of Saint-Brevin on the "Nez de Chien" beach, at “the transverse limit of the sea” (...) the immense Ocean Serpent of Chinese artist Huang Yong Ping. “



We can finally turn to music with this beautiful, rare bass instrument (Snake) which allows us to introduce these characters 音乐 where Yīn 音 = the sound

Yīnyuè = music 音乐

Yuèqì = musical instrument) 乐器

You have a whole year ahead of you to learn how to draw these 2 new characters. Otherwise, you can try to make this snake origami to adorn your table or even add a Vietnamese viper alcohol which acts as a panacea, even an elixir of long life. I see some of them moving around at the back of the class: “what about the snake in tai chi?

„ The one who puts himself in an attacking position and darts his tongue?
Here it is masterfully interpreted by Thierry Alibert in this video



In this grey November I tried to project myself into the future and remain optimistic.

I wish you a happy new year 2025 I wish you to overcome the fear of snakes and your other fears, I wish you to fill your life with all kinds of music, and on some of them to be able to dance freely and in good health.



新年快乐 Xīn nián kuài lè! Happy new year We will dance again!

Bénou/ Paule-Annick Ben Kemoun

Thanks to Martine Besson for the drawing

Links

- [Editeur de Chinois en ligne](#)

- [Serpent 2013](https://www.taichibauge.com/annee-du-serpent/) (<https://www.taichibauge.com/annee-du-serpent/>)

- [Le Serpent d'Océan Saint Brevin](https://www.saint-brevin.com/le-serpent-d-ocean.html) (<https://www.saint-brevin.com/le-serpent-d-ocean.html>)

- [le serpent instrument de musique](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlqxDjO18BA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlqxDjO18BA>)

- [Sonate n°1 opus 20 Michel Corette](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9mB72TC8Kw) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9mB72TC8Kw>)

- [musique charmeur de Serpent](https://youtu.be/1EGMgfX9P9k?si=EniPmrtiO6hWp5ax) (<https://youtu.be/1EGMgfX9P9k?si=EniPmrtiO6hWp5ax>)

- [symbolique du serpent](https://lemagdesanimaux.ouest-france.fr/dossier-2263-pourquoi-symbole-serpent-important-nombreuses-cultures.html) (<https://lemagdesanimaux.ouest-france.fr/dossier-2263-pourquoi-symbole-serpent-important-nombreuses-cultures.html>)

-Origami serpent

