

## PHASES/BRANCHES/ANIMAL EQUIVALENTS

The following are the correspondences for what are called, at times, the ‘human equivalents’ for the ten stems and the twelve earthly branches. This is especially to be seen in the first table. The ten stems are the five traditional elements with their yin and yang counterparts. The twelve branches are more commonly known as the animal signs, although what they actually describe are the twelve phases of a complete cycle. The animal signs are of a late construct, relatively, in Chinese astrology, and should be seen as a convenient and populist way of remembering what are actually phases of a cycle.

BRANCH	PHASE	STEM EQUIVALENT	DESCRIPTION	ANIMAL
I	Commencement	yin water	Birth	Rat
II	Closure	yin earth, yin water, yin metal	Childhood	Ox
III	Establishing	Yang Water, Yang Fire, Yang Earth	Adolescence	Tiger
IV	Dividing	yin wood	Adulthood	Rabbit
V	Filling	yin wood, Yang Earth, yin water	Prime	Dragon
VI	Equating	Yang Fire, Yang Earth, Yang Metal	Decline	Snake
VII	Fixing	yin fire, yin earth	Aging	Horse
VIII	Regulating	yin water, yin earth, yin fire	Death	Sheep
IX	Breaking	Yang Earth, Yang Metal, Yang Water	Dormancy	Monkey
X	Danger	yin metal	Void	Rooster
XI	Protecting	yin metal, Yang Earth, yin fire	Embryo	Dog
XII	Receiving	Yang Water, Yang Wood	Pregnancy	Pig

### The Natural Pairs

I, II	III, XII	IV, XI	V, X	VI, IX	VII, VIII
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### The Powerful Trios

I, V, IX (North)	III, VII, IX (South)	IV, VIII, XII (East)	II, VI, X (West)
Water	Fire	Wood	Metal

### The Clashes

I, VII	II, VIII	III, IX	IV, X	V, XI	VI, XII
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### The Contrasting Trios

I, II, XII (North)	VI, VII, IX (South)	III, IV, V (East)	IX, X, XI (West)
Water	Fire	Wood	Metal