

IT'S IN THE STARS

onestopenglish

Age: Teenager/Adult

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

- » read about horoscopes
- » match character descriptions with horoscopes
- » write horoscopes

Language focus: character adjectives; making predictions

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Optional preparation: make copies of horoscopes from a local newspaper or magazine for students to read and translate into English

PROCEDURE

1. As a warmer, ask students if, where and how often they read their horoscope. Take a vote to find out what percentage of the class believes in astrology.
2. Write the following questions on the board.
 - » What percentage of people in Britain regularly read their horoscope?
 - » How many people in Britain believe in astrology today?
 - » Which US president regularly consulted an astrologer?

Hand out copies of the worksheet. Ask students to read the introduction and find out the answers. Check the answers as a class.
3. Write a list of the star signs on the board: Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius. Ask students to identify their star sign and say what characteristics people born under their sign usually have, if they know.
4. Ask students to look at Exercise 1. First, they read the adjectives in the box. Ask them to look up any words they don't know in a dictionary, and clarify meanings if necessary.
5. Students pick three adjectives from the box that they think best describe their character. If your class get on well, you could also put them in pairs and ask them to choose three adjectives to describe their partner. The pairs can then compare their lists and see if they agree with what their partner has written.
6. Students then read the descriptions and choose the one they think best describes them.

7. Students read the paragraphs again. They work in pairs, and match the descriptions to the star signs. If they aren't sure, encourage them to make a guess, explaining their reasoning to their partner.
8. Check answers as a class. Ask students to look back at the description they chose that was closest to their own personality. Did they choose their own star sign? Ask for a show of hands. Have they changed their minds about astrology? Do they think their behaviour and character has anything to do with their star sign?
9. Ask students to look at Exercise 2. Draw attention to the way the signs are grouped according to the four elements – earth, air, water and fire. Ask for volunteers to read each description aloud. Students should then find out the elements of the people sitting either side of them – which student, according to the elements, would make their best class partner? Students then read the combinations and see if they were right.
10. Students do Exercise 3 in pairs, matching the personality adjectives with their opposites. Check answers as a class.
11. Students read the two horoscopes in Exercise 4 and guess which signs they are for. (Note: The content relates to the character descriptions the have already read.)
12. Using the expressions underlined in the texts, students then write horoscopes for the remaining star signs. You could ask them to write a horoscope for their own sign, or work in pairs and write their partner's horoscope instead.

Extension activity: Translate horoscopes

Students translate horoscopes from a local newspaper or magazine into English.

Key:

Warmer

1. between 60 and 80 per cent
2. more than 50 per cent
3. Ronald Reagan

Exercise 1

1. d; 2. h; 3. k; 4. l; 5. g; 6. j; 7. i; 8. b; 9. e; 10. f; 11. c; 12. a

Exercise 2

Students' own answers

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Exercise 3

1. independent / impressionable
2. generous / selfish
3. cool-headed / nervous
4. confident / timid
5. hard-working / lazy
6. patient / impatient
7. optimistic / pessimistic
8. stable / wild

Exercise 4

1. Gemini
2. Capricorn

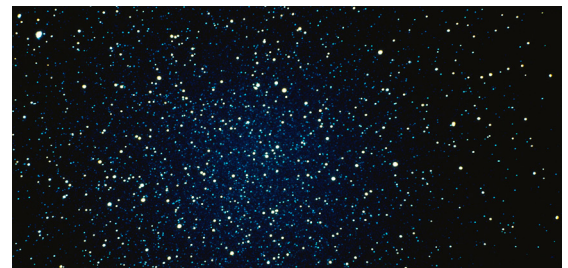
IT'S IN THE STARS

Warmer

How often do you read your horoscope? Every day? Once a month? In recent years, astrology has been growing in popularity. Surveys in Britain suggest that between 60 and 80 per cent of people regularly read their horoscope.

For centuries, astrologers have claimed that they can describe a person's personality and destiny from the time and place of their birth. Astrology is now a huge business, with thousands of telephone lines, internet sites and horoscope columns in newspapers and magazines around the world.

Fifty years ago, only 13 per cent of people in Britain believed in astrology, compared with more than 50 per cent today. Some people think astrology is replacing religion in our lives. There are many famous people who believe in astrology. Ronald Reagan, the former US president, consulted an astrologer when making presidential decisions. Princess Diana also consulted an astrologer. What do you believe?



Exercise 1: What are you like?

Read the character adjectives below. Choose the three that best describe you.

independent	noble	perfectionist	nervous	sincere	inquisitive	original
stable	generous	selfish	competitive	happy	hard-working	responsible
determined	loyal	conscientious	jealous	analytical	persistent	impressionable
artistic	sensitive	critical	inventive	versatile	sociable	impatient

Now read the descriptions below. Which best describes your character? How many of the three adjectives that you chose are in the description?

- A. You are a good thinker and express your ideas well. You are confident, independent and don't like receiving orders.
- B. You are stable, determined and very hard-working. You never change your mind. You are artistic and know how to look after money.
- C. You have a lot of energy. You are proud, generous and a good leader. Napoleon Bonaparte and Alexander the Great were both born under this sign.
- D. You are very attached to the home. You are very loyal. People of this sign are good parents, cooks and actors.
- E. You are also very attached to the home. You like the good things in life. You are artistic and a perfectionist, but you're very lazy.
- F. You are very conscientious, sensitive and critical. You are always willing to help others and you don't let anything worry you.
- G. You can be a leader or a follower. You are nervous and need a lot of rest. You are often bored and never finish what you start. You can often be competitive and impatient.
- H. You are artistic, receptive and impressionable. You live in a world of your own. You have good judgment but always want to do tomorrow what you should do today.
- I. Determined, responsible and with an instinct for business, you know exactly what you want and you make decisions easily. You can be very religious.
- J. You have great powers of concentration. You are inventive, patient and hard-working. You can be either a genius or crazy.
- K. You are very concerned about your image in public. You need respect. You are inquisitive and practical. You feel the need to obey rules.
- L. You are impatient and complaining. You're versatile and analytical, happy and very sincere. You are reliable, but sometimes you talk too much.

Each of the character descriptions above describes an astrological 'star sign'. Can you match the character (A-L) to the sign (1-12)?

1. Cancer _____	3. Capricorn _____	5. Aries _____	7. Scorpio _____	9. Libra _____	11. Leo _____
2. Pisces _____	4. Gemini _____	6. Aquarius _____	8. Taurus _____	10. Virgo _____	12. Sagittarius _____

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Exercise 2: Test the elements

What kind of student are you? Discover your strengths and weaknesses in the classroom. Find your star sign and read the description below. Do you agree with what it says?

EARTH SIGNS

Capricorn December 22 – January 20

Virgo August 23 – September 22

Taurus April 21 – May 20



You are a very practical student, coolheaded, determined, self-disciplined and a clear thinker. You work best if there is a routine to your classes. You like everything in its place and demand clear explanations of what is going on. Other students like you because they know that if they have any problems then you will be able to help because you see everything so clearly. Although you are a good student and a perfectionist, you resist change and should try to experiment more.

AIR SIGNS

Gemini May 21 – June 21

Libra September 23 – October 21

Aquarius January 21 – February 18



You are a popular student, although at times you can be rebellious. You are happier doing activities in class that do not involve your emotions because, although you are extrovert and a good talker, you are not always confident about your feelings. You are a flatterer, which means you will probably be popular with your teacher! But you are often too content just to sit back and let the school year pass you by. You have all the qualities to make a success, so start now and do it.

WATER SIGNS

Cancer June 22 – July 21

Pisces February 19 – March 20

Scorpio October 22 – November 21



You live in a world of your own and are not very communicative in class. Your relationship with your teacher is very important for you, and you don't feel comfortable in class unless you like the other students. You are very creative and artistic, which makes your work very interesting, although not always very accurate! Try to combine your imagination with the practical side of studying and you should do well. And remember to do your homework.

FIRE SIGNS

Aries March 21 – April 20

Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Leo July 22 – August 22



Fire signs usually make optimistic students. You are, however, often impatient and want to make quick progress instead of spending time concentrating on one thing. You have lots of enthusiasm, which is important in class, but you also sometimes have your head in the clouds and don't know or care what is going on around you. To make good progress you will have to try to concentrate on what you are doing today and not what you want to do tomorrow.

Ask two other students their elements, and read the description of their character. Who would you work best with in class? Look below to see the astrological answer!

FIRE & FIRE

When Fire meets Fire the rest of the class will be left behind. You will start by working incredibly well together and may even become very close friends. But be careful! Fire signs get bored very quickly and you could end up hating each other equally fast.

EARTH & EARTH

A great team! As you already know, Earth signs make good students. You know what to expect from your partner and your working relationship will probably be secure and stable. However, Earth signs often need a more lively partner to make life more exciting so your relationship may not be all roses.

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WATER & WATER

Water signs have very intense feelings but are not very good at expressing them properly. It is possible that although you can support each other as students (and human beings), neither of you will be brave enough to talk about your language or personal problems.

AIR & AIR

Air signs are fantastic communicators and will instantly become friends. But while you are both happy to analyse and discuss a problem from every possible angle, neither of you will be able to get down to the real problem of solving it!



FIRE & EARTH

It sounds as though it could be a disaster – Fire with your head in the clouds and Earth with your feet firmly on the ground. But even though you will have your ups and downs, you will bring out the best in each other and create a perfect balance.

WATER & FIRE

Fire can be very good for Water because it will insist on bringing things out into the open instead of allowing the Water sign to keep its feelings inside. The main problem is that Fire needs freedom while Water can be possessive.

AIR & WATER

You will either find this an impossible combination or a surprisingly successful one. Air may find Water too emotionally deep, while Water may find Air too light-hearted. If you can agree that you are both very different then maybe it will work.

EARTH & WATER

You can make perfect partners. Your relationship will be one in which actions speak louder than words, which is probably good because Water signs find it very hard to express themselves spontaneously.

AIR & EARTH

Air is the perfect sign to shake Earth up a bit and help it live life to the full. You should both see eye to eye on most matters, although Earth may feel neglected because of Air's habit of being independent.



FIRE & AIR

You will probably have a wild time and be so happy chatting that you'll forget about everyone else in the class. Your partnership will be both dramatic and passionate. Although it might seem superficial, you are guaranteed to have a good time.

Exercise 3: Personality opposites

Match the personality adjectives (1-8) with their opposites below.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. independent | <input type="checkbox"/> | wild |
| 2. generous | <input type="checkbox"/> | lazy |
| 3. cool-headed | <input type="checkbox"/> | impatient |
| 4. confident | <input type="checkbox"/> | timid |
| 5. hard-working | <input type="checkbox"/> | selfish |
| 6. patient | <input type="checkbox"/> | impressionable |
| 7. optimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> | nervous |
| 8. stable | <input type="checkbox"/> | pessimistic |

IMPRESSIONS SIMPRESSIONS IMPRESSIONS SIMPRESSIONS

TEACHER'S
NOTES

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one stop english

Exercise 4: Your weekly horoscope

Read the two weekly horoscopes. Which star sign do you think they are for? Look back at the descriptions in Exercise 1 to help you identify the signs.

1. _____

This could be a difficult week for you. You tend to complain about things and expect others to be as reliable as you are, but you may find that you are the object of complaints yourself over the next few days. If so, don't be defensive. Try to listen to what people say. Your analytical abilities will help you to solve any problems.

2. _____

This week will be full of opportunities, so be sure to make the most of them. If you can stop worrying about what others think and be yourself, you will make a good impression. You generally like to follow the rules, but this is a good time to be spontaneous and take some risks.

Now use some of the underlined expressions to help you write a weekly horoscope for another star sign.

HOROSCOPE

