

## Episode 2: Talk Segment with Professor Long

(Piano Riff) Hello everyone and welcome to the talk segment with Professor Long. My name is Christopher Long and I am a professor in the English Department here at Tohoku Gakuin University. Yes, Tohoku Gakuin University here in Sendai. The students of this university are bringing you this podcast.

Okay, so, uh, what is the topic for today (car horn)? Well, um, the other day, I went to the post office and I noticed that they were selling New Year's postcard. You may know that in Japan, people typically buy post cards that they send to their friends and colleagues instead of maybe a Christmas card, if you celebrate Christmas, that is.

So, anyway, these New Year's postcard always have the theme of an animal the animal from the Chinese Zodiac of that year. Yes, the Chinese Zodiac. Now, there are 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac, 12 animals. And so, one complete cycle of the zodiac is, of course, 12 years. Now, the reason I was thinking about this is because this, next year (this new year) is going to be my 12<sup>th</sup> year here in Sendai. So, when I was at the post office the other day and I saw that the animal for the new year I noticed it's the Rooster. And, well, of course, the Rooster was year, the animal of the year that I first came to Sendai. So I have completed one full cycle of life here in Sendai.

Now, um, you may not know (or you may know) but the animals of the Chinese Zodiac are believed to have different characteristics. So, depending on the year that you were born, or more precisely, the animal of the year that you were born, that will supposedly determine your personality. At least this is what some people believe. So for example, the animal of the year I was born is the snake. So, what are the characteristics of the snake? Well, the snake is a flexible animal and, uh, so one of the characteristics is that people born in the year of the snake are supposedly good at compromising. Now, I don't know if I am good at compromise, but, anyways, how about this year? The new year, the year of the rooster. What are the characteristics of people born the year of the rooster? Well, the main characteristic associated with the rooster, surprisingly is consistency. Okay? Consistency means someone or something that stays the same, that doesn't change. Now I don't know why a rooster, or someone born the year of the rooster, would be considered consistent, but, that is the characteristic...the main characteristic.

So, wat does this mean? Does that mean that in 2017, the new year, we're going to have

year with no change or a year that is somehow boring or uninteresting or uneventful? Well, my guess is, no! Given all, considering all that is happening in the world, things that I spoke about in my last, in the last episode, I really doubt it's going to be boring. I hope, I just hope for everyone's sake that nothing drastic or crazy happens in 2017.

Um, okay, so anyway, that is my take on the New Year (old phone ringing). Oh look, we've got a phone call. Who could it be? It is you! Yes, well, I hope. I want you to contact us. Well, not by telephone. But, you can send us an email. Go to our webpage on the Tohoku Gakuin University website and please send us your questions and comments. What do you think about the Chinese New year? What kind of year do you think it is going to be

(Piano riff) Okay folks, that's all for now. Yes, we are done.

Class is out! Thank you very much. See you next time.