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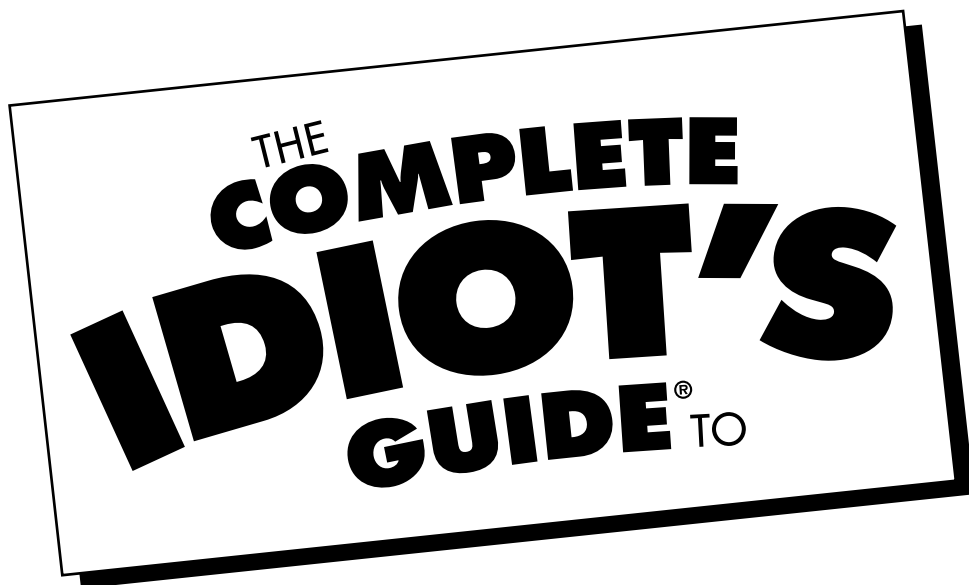
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**Madeline Gerwick-Brodeur
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Foreword

How a Book—Not as Good as This One—Made Me See Stars!!!

I was on a train, going from Grand Central Station in New York City up to New Canaan, Connecticut. I dug into the book I had just bought impulsively—just as you have perhaps bought this one. As far as astrology was concerned—and perhaps brain surgery or fixing electrical appliances—I was at the “idiot level.”

I found myself immediately fascinated: There were juicy new power words to learn, ways to say things that sounded a little mysterious but, according to the author, were as clear as the Liberty Bell clanging for my personal freedom, my individuality as a birthright gift from the gods! “I’M a CAPRICORN because the Sun was located in that sign when I was born! I MEAN BUSINESS. I GET THINGS DONE. (I can be pretty melancholic sometimes, but don’t tell anyone) BUT, I’M IN THERE FOR THE LONG HAUL. I AGE WELL!”

My brain was racing through the pages to pick up more things about my Capricorn nature. There was something pointed out about my tremendous attraction to any PISCES woman who ever lived. I filed that away (and remembered it regularly throughout 27 years with two Pisces ladies!).

There was a lot about my incompatibility with ARIES people (and I knew that that explained everything about my relationship with my mother, God take her soul!).

Okay. When I finally settled down, I saw that astrology had *reasons* for these generalities, that those reasons were tied to the miracle of creation, to millennia of keen observations by wise people, and that the mysteries of being were easily converted into strategies of becoming—I was hooked!

By the time I had arrived at New Canaan on that hot summer day, I didn’t need a cool drink as much as I needed pencil and paper. I was going to follow the guidelines in the book and start to build my horoscope, the portrait of my birth in space and time, the portrait of who I am (the nice stuff, the tough stuff, all of it!).

Books, Lines, and Thinkers: How hooked was I? I studied, studied, studied, and gradually realized that nothing was more interesting to me in the world than astrology—and it probably was also in a previous life, as I was learning. I saw how I could appreciate myself and my purpose in life, and how I could help others to do the same. Time and space now started to mean something more than three meals a day, a raise now and then, college education for the children, and the IRS.

And that book, with the neat lines and the quotes from all the wise men from Ptolemy to Newton to Einstein to J. P. Morgan, was NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS THIS ONE YOU’RE HOLDING RIGHT NOW.

Watch Out! Be warned: Madeline Gerwick-Brodeur has the lines that will hook you, too; she's one of those wise thinkers in astrology who really knows what she's talking about.

And Madeline and her co-author, Lisa Lenard, have STYLE. This book is a breeze. For example (getting back to the Pisces issue, please), their "Fish Facts for Pisces" talks about the (delightful) character trait to live largely in the world of the imagination, the realm of dreams, where objects and events seem to have no connection to outer reality. (I, the Capricorn warlord of accomplishment, I love it!) But then, they tack on the lines that show you the substance within all the fun: "Above all, Fishes (Pisces) are here to give, not just to those like themselves, but to anyone who needs their help, love, attention, or whatever." Isn't that lovely? Isn't that valid? ... And that's just the beginning. How do all the traits, powers, and interrelationships among the planets within the signs reflect your life, the details of your progress, the outlines of your dreams, the dynamics of your relationships?

Well, my fateful train ride those many years ago took me to write some twenty-four technical astrological texts of my own, to lecture throughout the world, and to appreciate *this* "Complete Idiot's Guide" to the field I love. I can tell you for sure that, from now on, when I introduce newcomers to this fascinating world, I will recommend this guide. They, and you, will be thrilled with Madeline Gerwick-Brodeur and Lisa Lenard's introduction to seeing stars. It's expert, it's charming, it's easy.

All Aboard!

—Noel Tyl, world-renowned astrologer and presiding officer of the Association for Astrological Networking

Introduction

Okay, so you're probably familiar with Sun sign forecasts, those horoscopes that appear in the daily newspapers. And you probably know your Sun sign, too. But did you know that Sun signs are just the beginning of astrology? Did you know, for example, that all 12 signs appear somewhere in your own birth chart? Or that, in addition to the Sun, the Moon and planets appear in your birth chart, too? Have you ever heard of astrological houses?

Based on the date, place, and time of your birth, the planets and signs in the houses of your birth chart create a metaphor for you. While there are hundreds of astrology books out there, some general and some so technical they make even our heads spin, this book is unique because it's about *you*. It shows you how your planets in their signs and houses can help you understand more about yourself and your life. It explains not only what all those symbols for signs and planets mean, but also how they connect with your everyday life—who you are, who you love (and who you don't!), why you do what you do, feel like you do, live where you live, and work where you work.

Astrology can explain all of that? Yes, it can. Planets are the *what* of astrology, showing the various energies at work in your life. Signs show *how* those energies behave in your birth chart, and houses are *where* the various areas of your life unfold—from relationships to financial concerns! Curious? Read on and find out more about astrology and you.

How to Use This Book

While the central material of this book will make more sense if you have a birth chart in front of you, it's not a requirement—and it's certainly not needed for the early or later parts of the book. We do strongly recommend, though, that you start with a birth chart in hand—and we've provided a coupon in the back for getting your birth chart drawn up. If you'd rather, you also can get one from your local metaphysical bookstore; see Chapter 19, "Getting Started," for more details on how to do this.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Astrology, Second Edition is divided into six parts.

Part 1, "All About Astrology," introduces you to astrology: its history, some of its branches, and the basics of exactly what a birth chart is—and what's in one.

Part 2, "Touring the Zodiac: Sun Signs and Ascendants," takes you through the Sun signs. This is more than just a cursory look; it's an analysis of each sign in love and health, at work, at home, and with money, as well as each sign's best and worst sides. You'll also look at your ascendant, or rising sign.

Part 3, "Good Heavens: Heavenly Bodies, Houses, and Your Astrological Chart," moves through the planets in each sign and house so that you become more familiar with the potentials for each one. You'll also learn about the effects of retrograde planets.

Part 4, “Getting and Interpreting Your Astrological Chart,” shows you the basics of what a computer does to calculate a birth chart and then moves beyond the basics of a chart to help you understand aspects, transits, and progressions. Then we’ll explore relationship astrology—and take a look at Julia Roberts’s and Lyle Lovett’s charts.

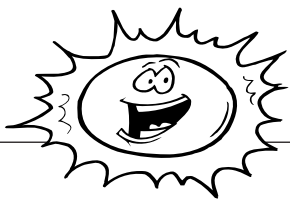
Part 5, “You’ve Done Your Chart, Now You Want More,” discusses some associated sciences: Tarot, palmistry, numerology, and psychic intuition—and their connections to astrology.

Part 6, “Astrology’s Spin on the Globe,” shows you how astrology is connected to your everyday life. Here you’ll learn about Moon phases and how to use them to have the best garden in town. You’ll also discover how to time your business and money decisions wisely.

So welcome to your past, your present, and your future. Fasten your seatbelt for an astrological ride—and guide—through your life.

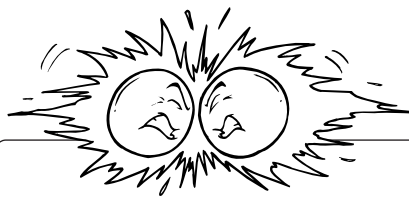
Extras

In addition to helping you understand and learn more about astrology, there’s other good information in this book as well, highlighted in sidebars like the following:



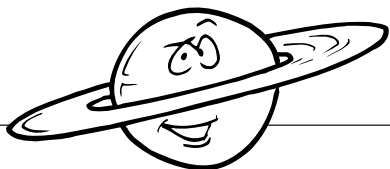
Star Facts

Here’s where you’ll find fascinating bits of information you may not have known that relate to astrology.



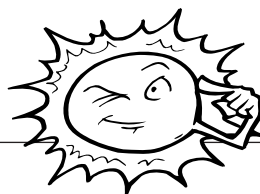
Star-Crossed

Take care with these cautionary sidebars; they can help you avoid making astrological errors.



AstroLingo

These sidebars define astrological terms so that you, too, can speak the language.



Heaven Knows

These astrological tips are just the tip of the iceberg to all that the heavens hold!

Acknowledgments

Astrology assumes the interconnectedness of all things, which is called *synchronicity*. And how we came to write this book is a tale of synchronicity: Lee Ann Chearney at Amaranth, our book producer, happened to be in Colorado several years ago, and Lisa happened to meet her there. Then Lisa found Madeline online when Lee Ann approached her about this book. Synchronicity acknowledges that there are meaningful coincidences, and this book is proof that they do exist.

Lisa would like to thank Bob and Kait, Lee Ann, and Will Camp, her students (with a special thanks to her Spring 1997 Advanced Composition class at Fort Lewis College in Durango, and to Erika Wilson, for the lightbulb jokes), Joanie, Connie, Joan, Chris, Ken, Linda, her mother, Steve at Aquarius Adventures in Durango, and anyone else who listened to or otherwise put up with her while this book was being written. Most of all, thanks to Madeline, who, gently yet firmly, time and time again, took a little sailboat named Lisa that had drifted off course and set her in the right direction. She dedicates this book to the memory of Nikko and Loba, two wonderful dogs.

Madeline gives many thanks to David, Aria, and Lee Ann for their support, and to the clients she had to reschedule to meet this book's deadlines. A special thanks also to Harold J. Langseth, her first business client, and to all her friends, peers, and clients for their continued encouragement. Most of all, she gives thanks to Lisa for finding her and for creating a funny, readable book about a complex topic. She dedicates this book to her late brother, James, her family's first author.

Special Thanks to Noel Tyl

Both of us would like to give a very special thanks to world-famous astrologer Noel Tyl, for reviewing and endorsing this book. When we caught up with him he was preparing for a tour of South Africa, guiding 170 correspondent students, writing a book, and, of course, seeing clients! His graciousness in accommodating our special needs was truly tremendous.

Noel Tyl is well-known for his more than 24 books on astrology, his frequent talks throughout the world for over 20 years, and his pioneering work in the connections between psychological need theory and astrology. Mr. Tyl, a graduate of Harvard University, is also an internationally acclaimed opera singer and presiding officer of the Association for Astrological Networking (AFAN). True to his Capricorn nature, Mr. Tyl has distinguished himself in many ways, and we are thrilled to have his endorsement.

Special Thanks to the Technical Reviewers

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Astrology, First Edition, was reviewed by an expert who not only checked its technical accuracy but also added significant insights and suggestions. Our special thanks to Joanne Wickenburg.

Ms. Wickenburg is one of the foremost astrologers in North America. She has conducted classes and workshops throughout the U.S. and Canada and has designed and teaches an internationally recognized correspondence course in astrology. She is one of the founding Board Members of The Kepler College of Astrological Arts and Sciences, the first-ever liberal arts college in which the complete curriculum is designed around astrology.

Ms. Wickenburg has served as both president and treasurer of the Washington State Astrological Association, who presented her with the Most Inspirational Astrologer award in 1982. She has professional certification through both the WSAA and the American Federation of Astrologers.

A frequent lecturer for numerous national and international astrology conferences, Ms. Wickenburg is the author and co-author of several popular books on astrology.

The second edition of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Astrology* was reviewed by astrologer and Tarot reader Arlene Tognetti, co-author, with Lisa Lenard, of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Tarot and Fortune-Telling*. We thank Arlene for her attention to technical accuracy and insightfulness, particularly in regard to relationship astrology and astrology and psychic intuition.

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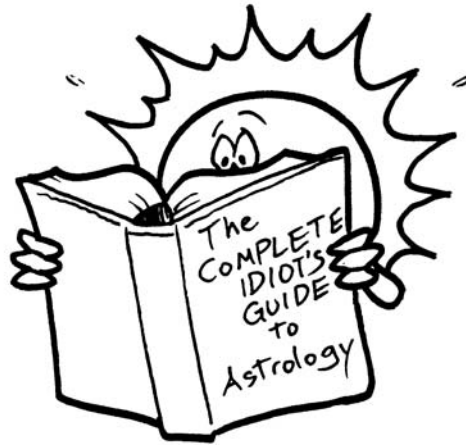
Part 1

All About Astrology

What is astrology, anyway? Why are so many people interested in it? Well, for starters, it's not a "dark art," and smart people use it every day. Astrology was the first science—and famous astrologers included the Three Wise Men, Pythagoras, Nostradamus, and Isaac Newton.

Astrology studies the movements of the Sun, Moon, and planets and their connection to everyone and everything on Earth.

Are you ready to get in touch with ancient rhythms and apply them to your everyday life? Then pack up your open mind, your curiosity, and your sense of humor and come along for a fascinating tour that takes you beyond your Sun sign to what astrology reveals about you.





What Is Astrology?

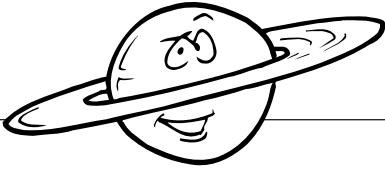
In This Chapter

- Astrology was the first science
- Astrology is not a dark art
- Astrology and science can coexist
- Steering by the stars

Astrology: The First Science

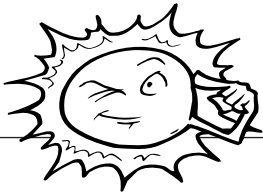
Long before physics, chemistry, biology, or any of those other subjects you tried to avoid in high school or college, there was *astrology*. Astrology, in fact, was the first science. As early as 2900 B.C.E., the Sumerians built temples in the form of ziggurats, or terraced pyramids, to observe the stars and planets. It's a pretty safe assumption that astrology existed even prior to this.

Astrology soon developed into an incredibly complex practice. By 2000 B.C.E., the magi of Mesopotamia believed that there were no accidents, and that everything in the universe—people, objects, and events—was connected. Not only did the magi (priests trained in astrology and other sacred knowledge) study the stars, they looked for omens in the weather, predicted the future from the livers and intestines of animals, and listened to what they believed to be the words of trees, dogs, cats, and insects to hear what they had to say.



AstroLingo

Astrology began as the study of the “wandering” stars, or planets, as we know them today. It is actually the study of cycles, indicated by planetary movements and associated with energies and events occurring at the same time on Earth. It uses the harmony of the universe to observe the possibilities of human behavior and experience. Astrologers analyze the position of the planets at the time and place you were born to map your strengths and challenges and your soul’s purpose.



Heaven Knows

Your birth chart represents *your possibilities*: knowing if you have a tendency to be direct in matters of business or circumspect in matters of love, for example, can help you determine how to use such strengths and weaknesses to your best advantage. Think of astrology as a way of discovering more about your unique self!

Let’s forget about the magi for the time being, though, and picture our ancestors, standing outside, looking up. What did they see? Well, they saw what we see—stars, and planets, and meteors. They saw the Milky Way, and the sunrise and the sunset, and the Moon in all its phases.

Long before other sciences came along, in fact, astrology was used to explore the relationship between the position of Earth and the positions of those bodies in the heavens. In ancient times, astrology and astronomy were one science, and astrologers were the best educated people: they had to understand astronomy, math, spiritual symbols and mystic meanings, psychology, and human nature.

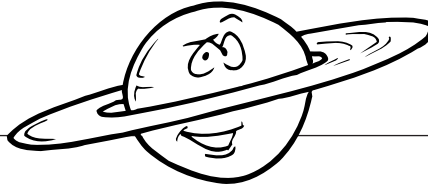
It shouldn’t come as a surprise, then, that astrology was taught in the universities until the 1600s, when “rational science” took over. Today, most astrologers are still very well-educated and often hold college degrees in various fields. They frequently have training in psychology or counseling, and in addition to their in-depth knowledge of astrology have a great deal of spiritual understanding.

Put simply, astrology is based on the relationships between the *planets*; the Sun and the Moon; 12 *zodiac*, or *Sun, signs*; and 12 areas of a person’s life, called *houses*. Even after thousands of years, astrology is still the most complex psychological model available, offering explanations for phenomena rational science just can’t address.

And you thought astrology was for idiots!

Our Calendar Is Based on Astrology

You probably didn’t know that all common calendar cycles are reflected by the movement in the heavens—and in astrology. A month, for example, is roughly the amount of time between New Moons (about 29 days). And, coincidentally, a month is approximately the amount of time it takes for the Sun to move to a new sign in the zodiac.



AstroLingo

Planets are the “what” of astrology. They represent the various energies of a person, including mental and emotional nature, desires, vitality, soul, will, consciousness, and subconscious, as well as the people in a person’s life. Throughout, we’ll include the Sun, Moon, and the North and South Nodes, even though they aren’t actually planets.

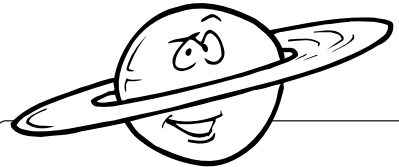
The **zodiac** is the name of the elliptic pattern the Earth follows in its annual revolution around the Sun. This path is always the same, and always passes through the same 12 signs.

The **signs** of the zodiac are: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. All zodiac signs appear in every person’s chart. The needs and styles of the planets are shown by the signs, as well as what methods could be used to achieve those needs and styles.

The **houses** are the “where” of astrology. Each of the 12 houses encompasses a specific arena of life and is the stage where the drama of the planets unfolds.

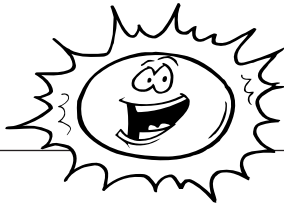
A year is the amount of time the ancients thought it took for the Sun to travel through the entire zodiac (from the perspective of Earth), but today we know it’s the time it takes the earth to travel around the Sun. (Still, pretty smart for a bunch of guys without computers!)

These same smart guys noticed that the Sun was moving through certain constellations at certain times of the year. Each constellation had a specific meaning for the ancients, a meaning reflected when the 12 zodiac signs were named.



AstroLingo

Your **birth chart** is a unique map of who you are. Using the date, time, and place of your birth, it shows the positions of the planets in the signs and houses. The odds of anyone else having the same birth chart as you are astronomically small!



StarFacts

A week, as you know, has seven days, but you may not have known that's because that's how many planets could be seen by the ancients. In fact, the days of the week are named after the first seven planets (or rather, the first seven discovered celestial bodies, not including Earth):

Sunday	Sun
Monday	Moon
Tuesday (<i>mardi</i> in French)	Mars
Wednesday (<i>mercredi</i> in French)	Mercury
Thursday (<i>jeudi</i> in French)	Jupiter
Friday (<i>vendredi</i> in French)	Venus
Saturday	Saturn

The days are named for planets.



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday

Debunking the Myths

We modern types like to think that we know better than to believe in astrology, but much of what we think we know about astrology is actually not true at all. For example, astrologers never say that the planets influence human behavior, and, not only is astrology not a “dark art,” many smart people, including some well-known physicists, use astrology’s ideas as the basis for some far more complex scientific theories. So let’s debunk some of those myths about astrology.

The Planets Don’t Influence Human Behavior

The planets do not *cause* things to happen, or *make* people behave in certain ways. Actually, the planets are like barometers, or indicators of the same energies occurring on Earth—in people, places, in everything. We can watch the planets and use them as co-incident indicators of what’s happening here, or in a person or place, for example. But to attribute cause or influence to the planets is like attributing the outside temperature to a thermometer. No one would do that!

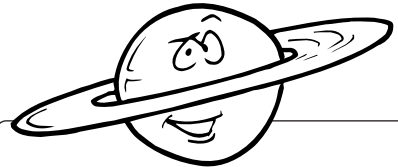
Astrology is a symbolic system that appears to work via *synchronicity*, sometimes known as meaningful coincidences, an idea first proposed by psychoanalysis pioneer Carl Jung. In terms of astrology, this means that what occurs overhead is merely a reflection of what is happening on Earth. In other words, the two are co-incident with each other, or synchronous.

Astrology Is Not a Dark Art

Astrology is based on three spiritual premises:

1. The outer reflects the inner, or, our external lives actually reflect what is happening internally.
2. A person’s chart shows his or her soul’s purpose.
3. Each person is continually evolving spiritually.

The Bible is actually filled with astrological information and messages, but without training no one would ever know it. For example, the 12 disciples of Christ and the 12 tribes or houses of Israel each represented one of the 12 zodiac signs. Christ ushered in the Piscean Age, and the symbol of the fish (Pisces is symbolized by fish) was used as the secret symbol of Christians.



AstroLingo

Synchronicity is (in addition to being the name of one of the Police’s albums) the idea that everything in the universe is interconnected, a pattern of meaningful coincidences, or, as Jung said, everything that is born or occurs at a particular time has the energies of that time!

The mystical Jewish text, the Kabbalah, has mystical and astrological meanings as well. One book, for example, the *Zohar*, describes God as containing all of life—and each life containing all of God. And, according to the *Zohar*, an astrological chart was considered an expression of the Divine Will of God.

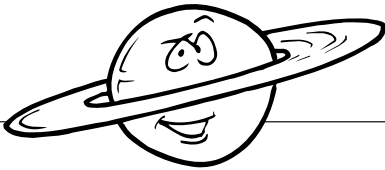
Astrology and Science Can Peacefully Coexist

Some physicists now believe that astrology shows the order underneath what we see on the surface. This theory is based on physicist David Bohm's work (Bohm was one of Einstein's right-hand men). Basically, Bohm explains how energy, matter, and meaning are enfolded together, and he has written formulas that support this, kind of like $E=mc^2$. Bohm's theory explains how inner and outer reality are interwoven, or, as physicist Will Keepin puts it, "The nature of reality is a single undivided wholeness." In other words, we are all part of something, and, like DNA, we each contain the pattern of that something as well.

Keepin explains that for each point in space-time, a unique astrological chart exists. Or, to put it another way, when astrologers define an astrological chart, they need a specific point in space plus a specific point in time—and that point is *you!* You don't get much more scientific than that!

Smart People Use Astrology

Carl Jung not only recognized the synchronicity that is the basis of astrology, he once said, "We are born at a given moment, in a given place, and like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and of the season in which we are born."



AstroLingo

The four **elements** describe the basic qualities of the signs and of life. There are three signs for each element. The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius; the earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn; the air signs are Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius; and the water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

T. S. Eliot's epic poem, *The Waste Land*, is filled with astrological references, and four of its sections are named for the astrological elements: fire, earth, air, and water.

Another well-known user of astrology is Nancy Reagan, who, after the assassination attempt on her husband Ronald Reagan in 1981, used astrology to determine the best times and worst times for Reagan to do everything from sign bills to travel to foreign countries. While the news media made fun of Mrs. Reagan at the time, it should be noted that Reagan was the first president since Jefferson elected in a year ending in "0" not to die in office. Using astrology can't hurt.

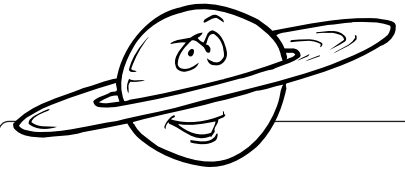
Many other smart people have used astrology, including turn-of-the-century financier J. P. Morgan, who used astrology for business timing to amass his fortune. Morgan may have summed it up best when he said, "Millionaires don't use astrology; *billionaires* do."

Famous Astrologers

Smart people have been using astrology since astrology began, and in fact, there are a lot of historical folks who were astrologers. For example ...

The Three Wise Men

Have you ever wondered why the Three Wise Men were looking for that star over Bethlehem in the first place? Well, it was because they were astrologers. It is believed that they learned from studying the stars that the Christ child would be born at the time of a *conjunction* of planets that signaled the arrival of a new age (the Piscean). Still, it wasn't quite as easy as it sounds: the two planets—Jupiter and Saturn—were bright, but not something an average person would have noticed. Even though they were trained astrologers, it took them some time to actually locate Jesus in Bethlehem. But if they hadn't studied the stars, they might not have been looking in the first place!



AstroLingo

A **conjunction** of planets means that the two planets appear in the same place in the sky at the same time. It begins a new cycle, a cycle that reflects the planets involved.



The Three Wise Men looking for the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.

Pythagoras (580?–500? B.C.E.)

So maybe you can't remember the Pythagorean theorem (try to remember the Scarecrow reciting it in *The Wizard of Oz*—something about the hypotenuse of a right triangle). It may surprise you to learn that the mathematician responsible for that leap of logic was also an astrologer.

In addition to the Pythagorean theorem, Pythagoras also gave us the musical scale, and he believed that, similar to musical harmonies, the larger harmony of the universe could be discovered in numbers as well. (It is still believed by many mathematicians that the secret of the universe can be discovered somewhere in *pi*, the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.)

Nostradamus (1503–1566)

This is the guy who predicted most of the bad stuff that's happened this century, like world wars, atomic bombs, and assassinations. Nostradamus's predictions, written in 1555, foretold everything that would happen from that date until the end of the world, which he posted at 3797 C.E. (thank goodness!). What did he base those predictions on? You guessed it—astrology. Nostradamus predicted many disasters and tough times, but he predicted some good stuff, too, including a Golden Age, or 1,000 years of peace, at the millennium (let's hope he's right!). After all, in addition to being an astrologer and a seer, Nostradamus was also a practicing physician, so his motto was "Do no harm."

Isaac Newton (1642–1727)

Long before he sat under the proverbial apple tree, Isaac Newton was a practicing astrologer. Like all 16th-century scientists, he studied the stars, and understood the larger relationship between everything that's since been largely ignored by the rational sciences.

Among Newton's many ponderings were questions about the secret of the universe, the nature of gravity itself (yes, it *exists*—but *why?*), and a belief in the existence of animal spirits in the human body. It's ironic that scientists after Newton would use Newton's Laws to discount any further examination of the more occult sciences he had examined himself!

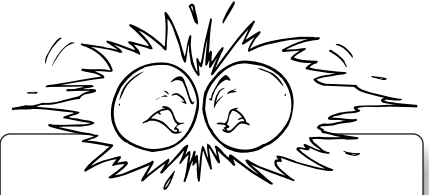
Steering by the Stars

Well, we all know the ancient navigators thought the world was flat, and yet they got into those ships of theirs anyway. How did they steer? Remember, this is before radar and sonar and cell phones (which is probably why it took Odysseus so long to return home after the Trojan War).

You guessed it again: They steered by the stars. Ancient astrologers drew maps of the sky, and, just as we notice the Sun rising and setting in slightly different places at different times of year, those maps showed where certain constellations would be at certain times of year. This was called celestial navigation: Those ancient ship captains could just point toward Orion and sail toward Cairo (or wherever it was they wanted to go). And while celestial navigation, the most ancient way to plot a course, can be limited by the weather (you can't see the stars if it's cloudy, after all), it is still used today.

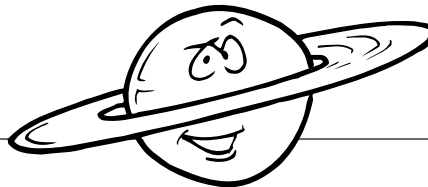
But the stars were used for more than navigation: They also were used to help determine when to sow and when to reap, and they reminded people when to celebrate various holidays. The ancient people noticed that there was a regularity to the movements of the planets, and that everything from the seasons to social needs could be predicted by those patterns.

Astrology is a symbolic system from which we can learn the interconnection between external reality and internal reality. Like the smart people we've learned about, we can use astrology as a map for our own route through life. Like those ancient sailors, we, too, can learn to steer by the stars!



Star-Crossed

It's popular to assume that astrology is the same as fate. Not so! Astrology shows potentials, just as a map can show you possible routes. But to think of astrology as an absolute is a big mistake. Instead of looking to astrology for answers, look at it for choices. *You* provide the answers—you pick the route you want to take.



AstroLingo

Natal astrology involves the creation of your birth chart based on the position of the planets at the time and place that you were born. It creates a map unique to you and your true self.

Your **ascendant** is your rising sign, the sign that was rising over the horizon at the moment of your birth. Your rising sign represents the "you" that the outside world perceives, as well as personality traits and needs, and your physical characteristics.

Your **descendant** is the cusp of your seventh house, and represents how you channel your energies through partnerships and relationships.

Getting in Touch with Ancient Rhythms

This book is going to help you discover your unique self, both its positive and negative sides, by helping you discover your Sun sign, Moon sign, *ascendant*, *descendant*, the signs for all your planets, and the houses in which those planets reside. This is called *natal astrology*, and this branch is concerned with *you*—your unique position within the synchronicity of the universe.

Getting in touch with the ancient rhythms of astrology involves both being aware of your constantly evolving history, a history that includes both Now and Then, and your unique position within that history. You'll learn more about just *how* unique you are in Chapter 2, "Heavenly Revelations."

An Open Mind, a Curious Nature, and a Sense of Humor

If you're a Taurus, you may already be wondering what all the fuss is about. That's because Taureans are from Missouri: They're constantly saying, "Show me," and if you can't show 'em, they just won't believe it.

So, if you're a Taurus, or any of the other Doubting Thomases of the zodiac, keep an open mind. Find the Gemini in your chart, the part of you that's naturally curious, and get in touch with your Sagittarius, where your sense of humor lies. Sure, it's hard to believe in something you can't see, but we're not asking you to believe; we're asking you to come along and see what astrology has to offer you. You *will* be surprised—and you'll be rewarded and shown something about the cycles of your life as well!

The Least You Need to Know

- Astrology, the first science, is a complex study of planetary cycles and their relationship with energies and events on Earth.
- Astrology has its own language.
- Astrology creates a unique birth chart for you, based on the position of the planets in the sky at the time and place that you were born.
- Planets are the "what" of astrology.
- Signs reveal your "needs" and "styles."
- Houses are the "where" of astrology.



Heavenly Revelations

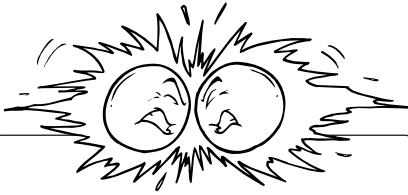
In This Chapter

- ▶ What astrology can tell you about your everyday life
- ▶ Astrology and your love life
- ▶ Astrology on the job
- ▶ Astrology and your health
- ▶ Astrology and your money

What Astrology Can Reveal in Your Everyday Life

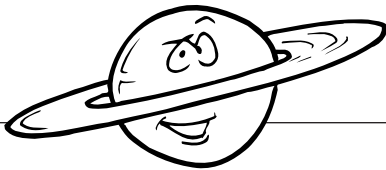
Just like doctors, lawyers, or teachers, astrologers have different areas of expertise, based on their backgrounds and interests. Astrology is used in many different ways, from counseling kings and business leaders about strategies, tactics, and timing to learning about personal astrology for health, vocation, relationships, evolutionary paths, strengths, and challenges.

There are astrologers who specialize in the stock market, in business, or in sports. And there are those who specialize in psychological astrology, which gets to the root of why you behave a certain way and explores your mental makeup. So, move over brokers, bankers, personal trainers, and therapists—make room for astrologers!



Star-Crossed

Astrological charts can be interpreted and understood on many different levels. The same astrological symbol can represent events in your childhood, people in your life, an internalized psychological complex, or a spiritual lesson. Don't assume that if you know one possible interpretation for a particular item, you understand it completely. To fully understand your chart (or anything in it) takes time, patience, and plenty of study. Remember, there's more to a book than its cover.



AstroLingo

Relationship astrology studies people's charts to determine their compatibility—or incompatibility.

In addition to helping you understand various areas of your life, astrology also can predict what you might do next. Part of this stems from the fact that people don't change their behavior very much—predicting that Liz Taylor might get married again may not be a great stretch—but because there are actually many different ways the same energy or prediction can manifest itself, predictions don't limit your scope, but rather, show your direction. Hey, Liz, maybe another marriage isn't the answer.

It's also important to remember that the "outer" reflects the "inner," so if you're in complete inner turmoil, that's what's going to manifest itself, not what you *want* to control and *have* happen. We all know someone who always seems to pick the wrong guy—that's an example of what we mean here.

You *do* have more control than you realize, but much of it is given over to your subconscious, and so may manifest itself as your fears—or as a replaying of scenes from your childhood to discredit something you learned then. You may try to run, but you can't hide from yourself.

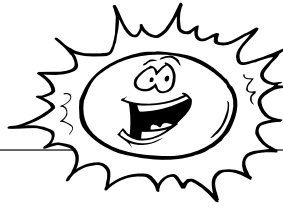
How much conscious control you have usually depends on how aware you become of your own issues and strengths. Still, what happens is entirely up to you—and what you do with your potential.

The Company You Keep

Your relationships are based on all the planets, signs, and houses in your birth chart—and how they interact with all the planets, signs, and houses in other people's charts. (And here you thought it was that great new hairstyle.) *Relationship astrology* studies just how compatible two (or more) people are, taking into account all the different aspects between the people, as well as what type of relationship it is.

Relationship astrology can tell whether two people are emotionally, mentally, or sexually compatible, and whether they would work well together as partners, as boss and employee, "just be good friends"—or recommend they avoid each other like the plague. And while you can't choose your family, with relationship astrology, at least you'll have fun exploring your family's dys"fun"ction. Who knows, maybe you'll gain some valuable insights.

Relationship astrology also can tell you when one person in a relationship will want to control the other one and in what ways—devious, bold, good-intentioned, steam-rolling, empowering, manipulative, unconscious—the assault will be launched. Relationship astrology can determine if you have similar or conflicting value systems or beliefs, as well as many other specific issues and strengths. Relationship astrology, in other words, can save you a whole lot of heartache and headaches right from the start. So pay attention, okay? In Chapter 23, “Should You Love the One You’re With?” we’ll be taking a closer look at relationship astrology.



StarFacts

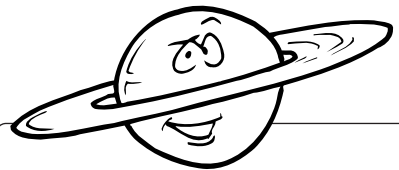
In some countries where marriages are arranged, astrologers are consulted first to determine if the two people are compatible. Only then is the couple approved for marriage by the families.

The Signs and Your Career

Vocational astrology assesses your various personality traits and needs, your productive resources and capabilities, your special talents, and the paths you have taken up to now, as well as what type of work you will find rewarding in order to recommend the best possibilities for your career. Imagine—all this, just from carefully studying your birth chart.

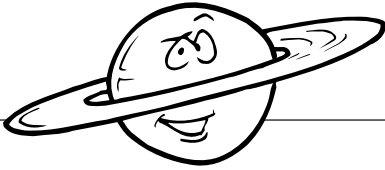
What kind of work you will do is related to your Sun sign—but it’s not quite that simple. Let’s use the example of a Gemini Sun sign, which signals work in communications. You might be a journalist or teacher, a writer, someone who creates Web sites, or you might work in advertising. Maybe you’ll be a manager, negotiate contracts, or work as a partner in a business.

Or, you might travel or work with foreign trade, work in publishing, the legal system, or teach at a university. There’s obviously a great deal more to choosing your vocation or career than just what your Sun sign can predict.



AstroLingo

Vocational astrology studies your potentials in order to determine your career or path.



AstroLingo

Medical astrology uses your chart to determine the best ways for you to stay healthy and achieve a sense of well-being. It also can be used for diagnosis.

All these examples deal with communications in some way, right? But they're all very different ways of working in communications. Vocational astrologers *never* look at *just* your Sun sign—and neither should you.

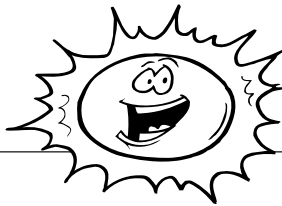
Healthy in Mind and Body

Nothing is more important to us than our health; without it, we can't do any of the other things that matter so much to our lives—from love to work to where we live. And astrology and health have been connected for a very long time. Hippocrates, the Greek philosopher and physician who lived around 400 B.C.E., and who is considered the father of modern medicine (do the words “Hippocratic Oath” ring a

bell?), once said, “A physician without a knowledge of astrology has no right to call himself a physician.”

In “the good old days,” when people went to the doctor, the first thing that doctor did was draw up their astrological charts. These days, most doctors don't do that, but we can still use what astrology can tell us to stay healthy and achieve a sense of well-being.

Today, there are medical astrologers—and even physicians—who use astrology to discover what isn't always found through the tests commonly used in traditional medicine. *Medical astrology* also can be used for more basic information, like understanding your metabolic nature, the types of foods that will be helpful or stressful to you, and general areas that need to be monitored in order for you to maintain your optimum health.



StarFacts

Each sign of the zodiac is associated with a particular part of the body. The first sign, Aries, is associated with the head, and the last, Pisces, with the feet. But whether the physical part of the body associated with your Sun sign is strong or weak depends on several factors that are discussed later in the book.

In addition to representing a part of the body, each sign is associated with certain glands, and so has particular dietary and vitamin needs associated with it. Certain foods may be very good for you—and others may send you spinning. Capricorn, for example, represents the bones, joints, knees, and teeth, so naturally, a lot of protein and calcium are going to be useful if you were born under this Sun sign.

Like all of astrology, the connections between the signs and parts of the body are part of the science that holds that the entire cosmos is reflected in the human body. As Shakespeare's Hamlet muses, "What a piece of work is man." Remember, too, that *all* of the zodiac signs—not just the Sun sign you are born under—are represented in your astrological chart, and all have a bearing on a healthy you.

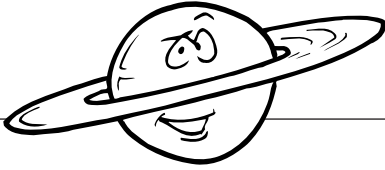
The Signs and Their Associated Parts of the Body

Sign	Associated Body Parts
Aries	Head and Face
Taurus	Neck and Throat
Gemini	Head, Arms, Shoulders, Nervous System, and Lungs
Cancer	Stomach and Breasts
Leo	Back, Spine, and Heart
Virgo	Intestines, Liver, Pancreas, Gall Bladder, and Bowels
Libra	Kidneys, Lower Back, and Adrenal Glands
Scorpio	Genitals, Urinary and Reproductive Organs
Sagittarius	Liver, Hips, and Thighs
Capricorn	Bones, Teeth, Joints, and Knees
Aquarius	Ankles and Circulation
Pisces	Feet, Immune and Hormonal Systems

When we discuss each Sun sign in Chapters 5–8, we'll also discuss what you can do to keep your astrological body parts at their best. Of course, we're not doctors. But if you're in tune with a body/mind approach to health, you'll want to consider looking for a medical doctor (M.D.) who practices integrative medicine—a balance of traditional Western medicine and natural or complementary alternatives, such as massage, meditation, and acupuncture. After all, the human body/mind—the human being—is not a machine, but a universe in microcosm.

Cosmic Investments and Money Management

Did you ever think that what you do with your money reveals a great deal about how you feel about yourself? In some signs, people may equate themselves with what they own, while others may see money as a means to an end. You may be Scrooge,



AstroLingo

Financial astrology studies how and when you can best invest your money, as well as the best way for you to manage your finances.

Rockefeller, or Mother Teresa. As with all astrological possibilities, remember that there's nothing *wrong* with your personal style; for those who truly feel their home reflects themselves, it *does*, just as there are people who simply don't worry about money at all.

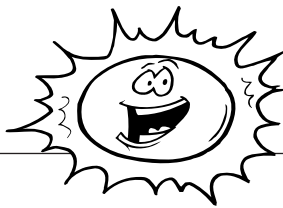
The natives of each sign handle their money in different ways: Cancers, for example, tend to hoard their cash, saving it for an unspecified rainy day; while Sagittarians may spend it freely, enjoying what's happening right this very minute.

But there are other factors at play in cosmic investment, too, and this is where *financial astrology* comes into play. Financial astrologers study the cycles of planets to determine the best available investment strategies. And they study the cycles of companies,

too—so they'll know which ones are on their way up and which ones aren't. Does *your* mutual fund have a financial astrologer on the board?

Companies have charts just like people, based on when they were incorporated or started. When these companies have certain positive astrological connections, then their stock goes up. Financial astrologers specialize in investments and the financial markets; many of them put out newsletters to help their clients become successful in the markets. (Let's get a subscription for Allen Greenspan.)

Astrology also can help determine if you're under good or challenging cycles for financial investments. If you're investing during periods when your financial cycles are challenging, there's a greater likelihood you're going to lose money, or, at best, not make any.



StarFacts

J. Pierpont Morgan, a very wealthy American financier at the turn of the century, used astrology for business timing purposes. He financed such companies as U.S. Steel Corporation and the Great Northern & Pacific Railroad, as well as other ventures—like the Boer War in South Africa. His use of astrology for business investments made him a billionaire, back in the early part of this century when even a *million* dollars was a vast fortune.

Home Is Where Your Hat Is

Another branch of astrology can actually determine what kinds of experiences you will have in a particular location in the country or world. One type of astrology in this branch is known as relocation astrology, in which your birth chart is done for the same time and day of birth, but for a location other than your birthplace. So, your chart changes to show what your life would be like in *that* location. Hmmm—Australia? Tahiti? Paris?

Then there's AstroCartoGraphy. As you might suspect from its name, this type is basically a map of the world with lines all over it, showing where in the world your planets were rising and setting at the moment of your birth. (If I was born in New Jersey, then why am I strangely drawn to India?)

In the place where you now are, you may feel insecure and rarely voice your feelings, but if you moved to a different location, you might be very different; your personality might blossom, and you might be positive and direct instead.

Relocation astrology can help you determine in advance what types of experiences you might tend to have in particular places. And, depending on the location, you might have very good career circumstances, a wonderful home life, or transformational experiences that totally change your identity—or you could have more challenges than you ever dreamed of.

Horoscope Junkies

Do you read your horoscope? (And do you remember it, if you do?) Millions of people in the United States don't leave home without it—without reading it, that is. Are they "horoscope junkies"?

A daily horoscope for a Sun sign may read: "A good day for fishing. And we don't just mean for fish! Pay attention to possible catches, but throw back the little stuff." A horoscope junkie who pays attention to this forecast will pay attention to *anything* that they "catch" that day, from fish to advice—and probably for good reason.

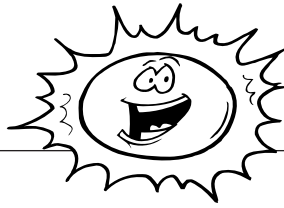
What about the rest of us, who read our horoscopes sometimes or never? Are we heading for possible ruination, or worse? Of course not. But it might not hurt us to check our horoscopes a little more often. After all, you listen to the weather report before you go outside, don't you? C'mon, we know you do.

A sample daily horoscope.

Aries Pace yourself at work today. An issue between home and work life may arise. Consider your future with your mate or partner. Try to balance personal relationships with career.

Taurus Today is great for learning, to get a new insight on life, your situation, or to study a new subject. Read, surf the Internet, encourage meetings with people who have different interests from yours.

Gemini Think about money, resources, material possessions, and values today. But don't get too lost in thought; please remember to come up for air! Have a meeting of the minds on joint resources.



StarFacts

Who writes horoscopes, anyway? The answer is, usually, astrologers do. Astrologers are people who have spent many years studying what the planets in the signs and houses reveal about daily life. When they write daily Sun sign forecasts, they look at aspects for that day for each sign. Between research and writing, creating daily horoscopes for each sign can be a full-time job.

Free Will Versus Your Daily Forecast

As you may have already come to suspect, astrology connects your outer world to your inner world in order to reveal your potentials. And free will is there, too, available to you—if you seek to really understand yourself and become conscious of your unconscious behavior.

In Chapter 9, “Ascendants: The Mask You Wear for the World,” we’ll be talking about how your ascendant can reveal the lessons that you need to learn in your life. You

may need to realize, for example, when you let others pull your strings and why, and then seek to reclaim that part of yourself. Or, if your soul has come to have a certain type of experience or learn a particular lesson, there's nothing that's going to prevent it (except, maybe death), even if your conscious self is completely unaware of it.

Fate and free will are actually two very different things. It's possible to predict, for example, that you're going to have major changes to your home life in a certain time period, based on your present cycles.

Now you could take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and decide you're going to make that move you've been wanting to make for a long time during that period, or you could remodel or make some other changes to your home. Or, you could wait to get evicted, or for the house to get hit by a tree or by lightning!

In the first example, you have choices and you make them: This is *free will*. In the second, if you choose to wait for an eviction or catastrophe, it could be called *fate*.

To put it another way, whatever you need to learn, you *are going to learn*—whether your conscious self wants to or not. This also could be called fate.

So in the areas where you have lessons to learn, you really don't have a choice, except whether you're going to cooperate and make it easy on yourself—or *not* cooperate and make it hard on yourself. In other words, you *do* have choices—free will—but they're not about whether you can avoid learning your lessons; that's called fate.

Can You Believe Everything You Read in the Papers?

The daily forecasts in the newspapers are *Sun sign horoscopes* only. Your Sun sign may be a dominant feature of your chart, but it's certainly not the only one. The Sun, in fact, is just one out of at least 40 different elements shown in your chart. Yes, a Sun sign reading applies to everyone with that Sun sign, in the same way that every person needs to eat a balanced diet. But each person's individual diet needs are different because of the infinite ways you can mix and match these 40 elements.

Sun sign forecasts are very general. You can be undergoing severe stress and difficulties because your own personal cycles are at a very challenging point, even though your Sun sign forecast is all cheery and nice for that day. On that same day, however, someone may say something nice to you. Now, it's not going to be enough to overcome the larger crisis—but it *can* make a difference.

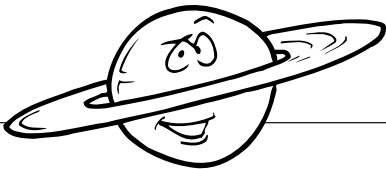
So, can you believe everything you read in the papers? If your Sun sign forecast is written by a reputable astrologer, *absolutely*. These forecasts are rather general, but astrologers are looking at more than just your Sun sign to make them—they're looking at the planets and their cycles, and the relationship of the planets to your Sun sign. All of this added together *can* color a day in a certain way.

Of course, we can't answer the larger question about believing *everything* you read in the papers: You might want to take some of the things *other* than your daily forecast with a grain of salt.

Hot Lines: The Best Advice or Costly Rip-Offs?

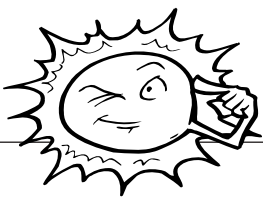
Ah—hot lines. These are the toll phone numbers you can dial to get your astrological reading for the day. What can we say? Well, for starters, the rates for these hot lines can be very high, usually *well* over what you would pay a *certified astrologer* for a session—as much as 200 percent over that amount, in fact. Many hot lines charge \$3 per minute—and that’s an hourly rate of \$180.

Now there aren’t many astrologers who charge *that* much—and if they do, it’s often because they’re highly experienced and highly skilled, with tremendous knowledge. Hot lines, on the other hand, are often staffed with people who may know *some* astrology, but usually not enough to be actual astrologers.



AstroLingo

A **certified astrologer** is someone who has not only studied astrology, but who also has taken professional tests to become certified. These tests are *tough*. They usually last at least eight hours, and sometimes go for days.



Heaven Knows

Before you decide to spend your money on a hot line, check with your local certified astrologers first (see “Getting Your Chart Done for You” in Part 4). You could save yourself a whole lot of money—and end up with far better advice.

Many of these so-called “astrologers” are purported to be working out of their homes—the phone calls are passed through to them when a caller comes through. There may not be anything wrong with this set-up, but it’s also not clear what kind of equipment and skills they’re using. Whether the hot-line person is actually doing the client’s chart while they’re on the phone with the client, for example, is unknown. Some of these people may not even have the software and computer to do the charts, and instead may simply look up the client’s birth date information in a book, and then answer questions based on that. It may be better than nothing, but this sort of treatment would certainly provide incomplete information.

If, on the other hand, you went to an actual astrologer, not only would you pay far less and get more accurate and better information, the astrologer would prepare and study your chart and current cycles *before* meeting with you, in order to get oriented to your needs, challenges, and path.

Because every chart is quite different, there is literally a mystery in every chart just waiting to be unlocked and revealed. No telephone hot-line person is going to be prepared enough, either in training or adequate analysis time, to evaluate and unlock these important aspects for you.

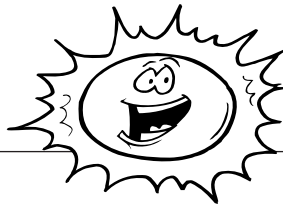
To be fair, though, hot lines are convenient and don’t require appointments. But it *can* be expensive—and may yield wrong, or inadequate, information.

So we say *caveat emptor*. That’s Latin for “let the buyer beware.”

Astrology Is Everywhere: Going Beyond the Stars

Once you realize the connection between you and the rest of the world, you also realize that astrology is everywhere. First of all, it's about *you*—and about everyone else. It's about your relationships, and health, and jobs, and money—and it's about why you (and everyone else) behave the way you do. In addition, astrology is about your evolutionary purpose and what your soul came to learn and experience.

Astrology is also about the sky; in fact, some astrologers call the study of natal astrology “the inner sky.” When you stand outside at night, beneath a sky filled with stars, planets, comets, and meteorites (and satellites and airplanes and maybe a UFO or two), you're reliving the human-sky connection where astrology began.



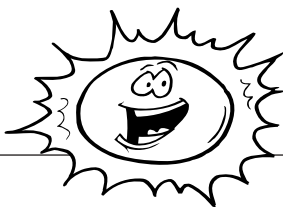
StarFacts

Five thousand years ago, Egyptian astrologers saw a comet in the sky, and soon after, the building of the pyramids was begun. When that comet returned to Earth's view recently, we named it Hale-Bopp. Yes—the same comet that helped inspire the pyramids was the one you saw back in the spring of 1997. Small world, isn't it?

Astrology connects *you* with *everything*. Remember Sunday School, where you learned that “God is in everything”? Remember those physicists, discussing the inner order and the outer order? Both of those concepts are about the same thing—that astrology goes beyond the stars, to the place of each individual in the universe, and the place of the universe in each individual.

We don't yet know for certain what's “out there” beyond the stars, but just the fact that our imaginations take us there again and again should be enough evidence that we are connected with whatever may be there. *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Star Man*, or *Stargate*—perhaps we intuitively know more than we realize.

When Sigmund Freud first unveiled his theories of the unconscious, they were called revolutionary—by everyone except astrologers, that is. Astrologers had been studying the effects of the hidden self on the visible self for thousands of years; they just didn't call it the unconscious.



StarFacts

Twenty years after the release of the first *Star Wars* film, a new trilogy began with the release of *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. Film producers, sociologists, mythologists, and philosophers alike have all explored the popularity of these films. Part of it is the mythic structure of the story itself. But the main thing everyone who studied the *Star Wars* phenomenon found was the universal appeal of The Force. Indeed, *The Force is with us*.

Just as therapy may reveal your childhood, your dreams, and your hidden hostilities, astrology can reveal things about yourself you may not be aware of. By looking at your birth chart, you could discover that you have a tendency toward secretiveness and why, or what the placement of Saturn or Pluto in your chart reveals about your power struggles with your father and other authority figures.

Astrologically speaking, your unconscious is not really hidden. Rather, you might say, it is “written.” All *you* have to do is “read” what’s there.

The Least You Need to Know

- Relationship astrology reveals who you get along with and who you don’t.
- Vocational astrology helps you find the right job or path.
- Medical astrology connects your birth chart to your health.
- Financial astrology helps you manage your money.
- Relocation astrology explores where you live and its relationship to your behavior.
- Astrology is everywhere and connects *you* with *everything*.



Astrology Basics for Your Personal Forecast

In This Chapter

- ▶ What is your astrological chart?
- ▶ Your chart shows the position of the heavens at your birth
- ▶ Energies, qualities, and elements
- ▶ Your Sun sign and you
- ▶ No one else is exactly like you

What Is an Astrological Chart?

It looks like a wheel, or a pie, or yet another odd distribution of your taxes by Uncle Sam. But no—it's your astrological chart, a metaphor for *you*, designed for the day and the time and place that you were born.

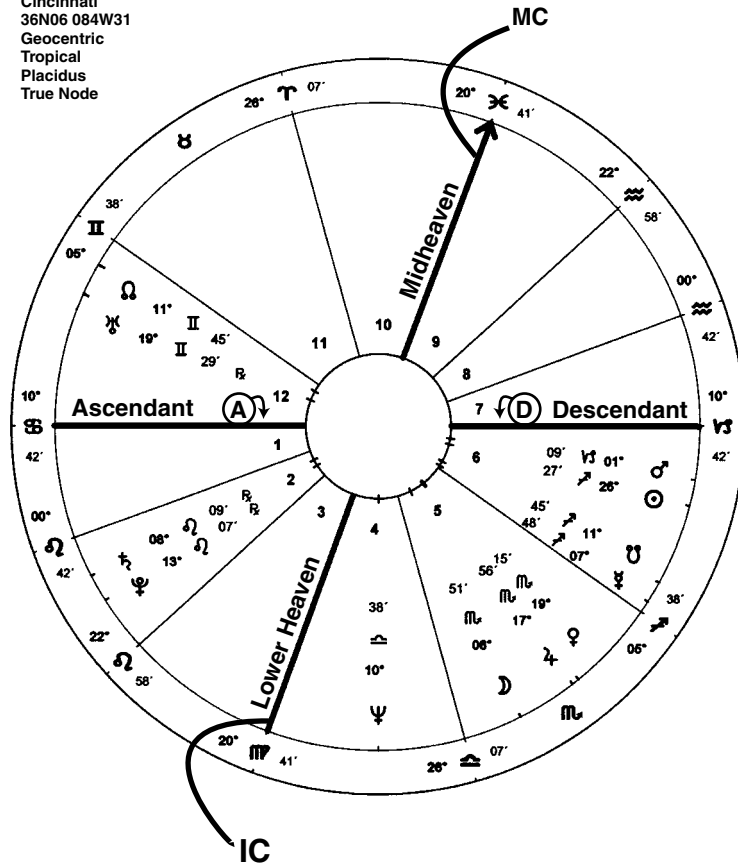
To take it a step further, an *astrological chart* (also called a *birth chart* or *natal chart*) is a map of the heavens for the location, date, and time you were born, and its symbols represent the locations of the planets on that map.

The sample chart is for film director Steven Spielberg. Each of the 12 sections of the circle is called a house, and the mysterious symbols represent the signs and the planets. Soon, this chapter will unlock the mysteries of these symbols for you. As they're unlocked, the chapter returns to Steven Spielberg's chart and unlocks some of *his* secrets as well.

Steven Spielberg's birth chart with ascendant, descendant, midheaven, and lower heaven indicated.

Steven Spielberg

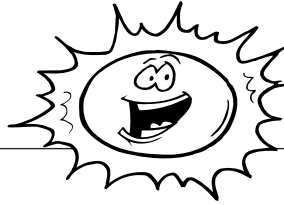
Natal Chart
18 Dec 1946
6:16 PM EST +5:00
Cincinnati
36N06 084W31
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



Your Chart Shows the Position of the Heavens at Your Birth

Now take a look at Steven Spielberg's birth chart. First, notice the information in the top left-hand corner: It shows Spielberg's birth date, birth time, and birthplace: 18 Dec. 1946, 6:16 P.M. EST, Cincinnati, OH, and Spielberg's chart is calculated for this date, time, and location. Had he been born at another time, place, or date, the chart would be different from what's shown here.

The symbols in Spielberg's chart represent the location of the planets, and the signs they were in, at the time, date, and place of his birth. Think of the center of the chart as the position of the earth—and the placement of the planets as what's in the sky all around it.



StarFacts

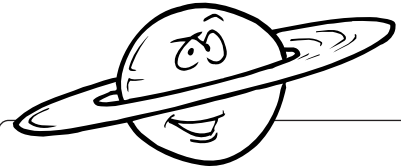
The heavy, horizontal line through the center of the chart is called the horizon, and the sign that was rising in the east over the horizon at your time of birth is called the ascendant. Everything above it was in the visible portion of the sky at the moment you were born, while everything below it wasn't visible. The *left* end of this line is the *east*, not the west, as it is on maps. It helps to visualize this if you imagine yourself standing on top of the world, facing south, at the moment of your birth: east is on your left, right?

Now, the highest point of this chart (the upper, heavy vertical line on Spielberg's chart, marked with an "M.C.") represents the highest point that the Sun reached on the day of his birth. Note, too, the horizon line; this is the heavy horizontal line across Spielberg's chart. Its left is the east horizon, and its right is where the Sun sets in the west.

Your ascendant, or rising sign—the mask you wear for the world—is the sign at the easternmost end of this line (marked with an "A" on Spielberg's chart). The lowest point in the chart (the lower, heavy vertical line marked with an "IC") would be the exact opposite side of the earth from the *M.C.*, or the *midheaven*.

Your descendant represents how you relate to others through partnerships and relationships. It's the sign next to the horizon (center line) on the right side of the chart and is marked with a "D" on Spielberg's chart.

The following tables show you which signs and planets are represented by which symbols. Each *planet* represents your different energies, and parts of yourself. Each *sign* manifests those energies in different ways, and all of these things combine to make you who you are.



AstroLingo

Your **midheaven**, or **M.C.**, represents your ambition, career, or social role and public image. It's the highest point that the Sun reached on the day of your birth. Your **I.C.** is the point on your birth chart that represents your life's foundations and psychological roots. It's found on the exact opposite side of the earth from the midheaven.

The Signs and Their Symbols

Sign	Symbol
Aries	♈
Taurus	♉
Gemini	♊
Cancer	♋
Leo	♌
Virgo	♍
Libra	♎
Scorpio	♏
Sagittarius	♐
Capricorn	♑
Aquarius	♒
Pisces	♓

The Planets and Their Symbols

Planet	Symbol
Sun	☉
Moon	☾
Mercury	☿
Venus	♀
Mars	♂
Jupiter	♃
Saturn	♄
Uranus	♅
Neptune	♆
Pluto	♇
North Node	♊
South Node	♋

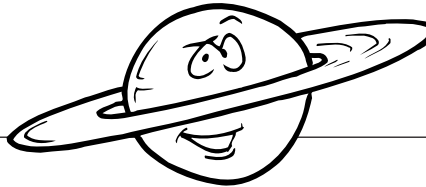
Soon, you'll learn that there's more to your chart than what you see here. For now, all you need to remember is that your chart shows the position of the heavens at *your* birth—just as Spielberg's shows *his* universe.

Energies, Qualities, and Elements (You Thought This Was Gonna Be Easy?)

Each of the twelve *Sun signs* is categorized in a number of ways. First of all, there are two *energies*, or genders, and each sign is either one or the other. Then there are three *quadruplicities*, called *qualities*, each of which appears in four signs. Lastly, there are four *triplicities*, each of which appears in *three* signs; these are called *elements*. Let's take all that a little more slowly.

People born in signs with the same energy, quality, or element will have certain things in common. For example, people born in signs with a *cardinal* (or first) quality are likely to be leaders; and people in signs with an *air* element may always seem to be thinking or communicating.

Now, each *combination* of energy, quality, and element appears in only one sign. Aries, for example, has a *yang* energy, a *cardinal* quality, and the element of *fire*. Once you understand what each of these characteristics represents, you also can begin to understand certain aspects of an Aries personality.



AstroLingo

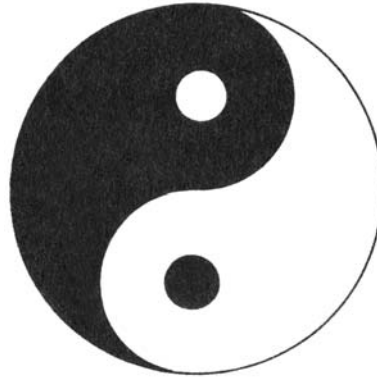
A **Sun sign** represents the position of the Sun in the heavens at the moment of your birth. The **energies** represent whether the energy manifested by a Sun sign is *yang*/direct and externally oriented or *yin*/indirect and internally oriented. **Qualities** represent different *types of activities* and are related to where in a season a sign falls. **Cardinal** signs begin each season, so they like to begin things; **fixed** signs, in the middle of each season, are preservers, keeping things as they are; and **mutable** signs occur as the season is changing, and so are associated with transitions. The four **elements** describe the basic nature of the signs and of life: fire, earth, air, and water, each representing very distinct temperamental characteristics.

Energies: Two for the Show

Every sign is either direct or indirect, male or female. You'll see the energies called "feminine" and "masculine" in some books, but we prefer to call them *yang* (direct/masculine) and *yin* (indirect/feminine), which avoids all that gender-based

nonsense. All fire and air signs are *yang*, while all earth and water signs are *yin*. Each *energy* has certain characteristics that, coupled with the qualities and elements, create a unique picture for each sign.

The ancient symbol for the union of yin and yang energies evokes a heavenly sphere of celestial balance.



The Signs and Their Energies

Yang	Yin
Aries ♈	Taurus ♉
Gemini ♊	Cancer ♋
Leo ♌	Virgo ♍
Libra ♎	Scorpio ♏
Sagittarius ♐	Capricorn ♑
Aquarius ♒	Pisces ♓

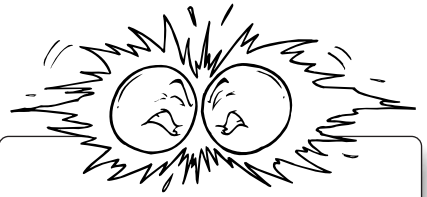
Yang signs tend toward direct action rather than waiting for things to come to them, like the bee that pollinates the flower. *Yang* represents the outgoing, the positive electrical charge, an external orientation, and the direct, “male” side of things.

Yin represents the indirect forces and actions, those that understand what is needed to attract and create the desired outcome, like the flower that blooms in order to attract the bee. *Yin* is also called the receptive, the negative electrical charge, an internal orientation, and the “female” side of things.

Qualities: Three to Get Ready

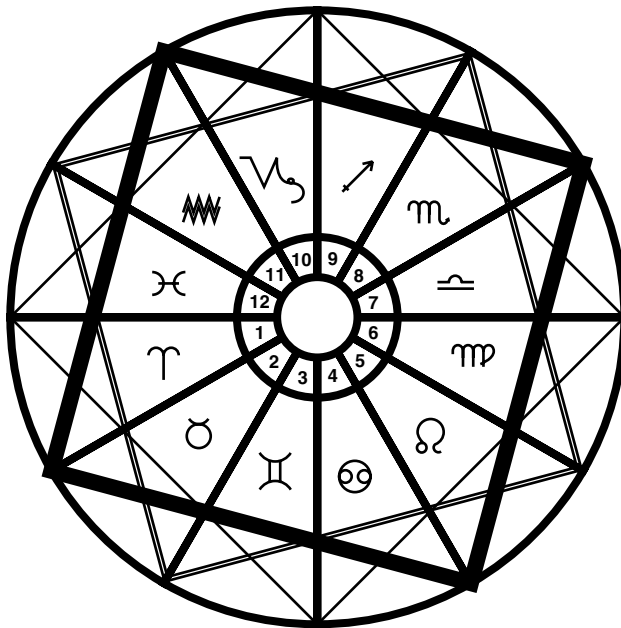
The qualities represent different types of activity. Think of the way a season progresses, from its forceful beginning, its fixed middle, and its transitional ending. This is what the *qualities* represent: each season, as it moves through its paces—and its three signs.

You'll notice on the following figure that the qualities in each of the signs form a square; that's one of the reasons they're called the quadruplicities (the other reason is that there are four signs for each quality). Signs that share a quality share certain characteristics as well.



Star-Crossed

If you are a male in a *yin* sign, or a female in a *yang* sign, it doesn't mean you need to research hormone therapy. It simply means your sign has an energy that is one-half of the natural life force of everything that lives. Black/white. Positive/negative. Up/down. Internal/external. Two halves of the same whole. That's all there is to it.



— Cardinal
 ■ Fixed
 - - - Mutable

The qualities form a square.

The Signs and Their Qualities

Cardinal	Fixed	Mutable
Aries ♈	Taurus ♉	Gemini ♊
Cancer ♋	Leo ♌	Virgo ♍
Libra ♎	Scorpio ♏	Sagittarius ♐
Capricorn ♑	Aquarius ♒	Pisces ♓

The first quality, for the first sign in each season (Aries in spring, Cancer in summer, Libra in autumn, and Capricorn in winter), is called *cardinal*. People with cardinal quality signs are independent; they seek to move ahead, to start new things, and they can be proactive and enterprising. They also can be impatient if others don't move as quickly as they do, but they're independent, too—the signs of beginnings. In addition, once they get something started and established, cardinal people tend to lose interest in the project—instead, they're off to start something else. Remember, it's a certain type of person who likes to start things, and if you've got heavy cardinal influences in your chart, you're just that kind of person.

In the midst of each season, we have what is called the *fixed* quality. People with fixed quality signs (Taurus in spring, Leo in summer, Scorpio in autumn, and Aquarius in winter) are consistent, reliable, determined, and persistent. They often have great reserves of power, but they also can become stubborn, or set in their ways—these are, after all, characteristics needed to preserve what has already been started. Remember, though, that people with fixed quality signs are the ones who, once cardinal people have started things, take over from there.

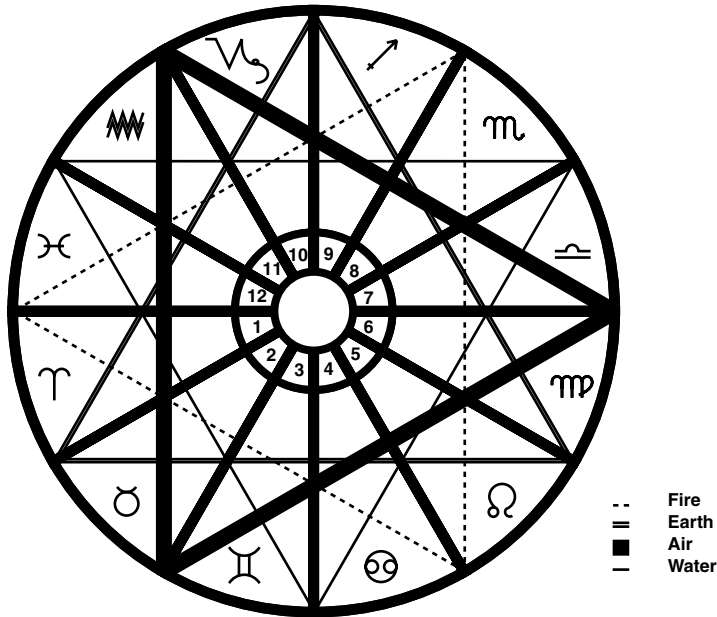
The end of each season signifies a time of change, and so the signs in this placement are called *mutable*. People with mutable quality signs (Gemini in spring, Virgo in summer, Sagittarius in autumn, and Pisces in winter) adapt easily, are flexible and resourceful, are quick to learn, and can see issues from more than one angle. They also can lack perseverance, but this is precisely because they're adaptable and flexible. That's what's needed to make transitions—after all, they've already seen the beginning and the middle of the process.

Elements: Four to Go

Think of the *elements* as tendencies of the temperament: *fire, earth, air, water*. Everything that exists is composed of these characteristics, and every astrological sign manifests one of them as well. In addition, all fire and air signs are *yang*, and all earth and water signs are *yin*.

You'll notice in the above figure that the elements in each of the signs form a triangle; that's one of the reasons they're called the triplicities (the other reason is that there are three signs for each element). And signs that share an element share certain characteristics, depending on what that element is.

The elements form a triangle.



The Signs and Their Elements

Fire	Earth	Air	Water
Aries ♈	Taurus ♉	Gemini ♊	Cancer ♋
Leo ♌	Virgo ♍	Libra ♎	Scorpio ♏
Sagittarius ♐	Capricorn ♑	Aquarius ♒	Pisces ♓

The first element is *fire*. Fire signs (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius) are energetic, idealistic, self-assertive, courageous, and often visionary. If you remember that *fire is first*, it may help you to remember that fire signs are very active, stimulating creative expression, and always passionate. People with lots of fire planets are often known as “fireballs.”

The second element is *earth*. Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) are practical and skillful, good at managing physical assets, financial matters—or any form of matter. Think of earth signs as *down to earth* and you also will remember their characteristics. People with lots of earth planets are sometimes called “dirtballs or mudheads.”

The third element is *air*. Air signs (Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius) represent social and intellectual abilities—ideas, communications, thinking, and social interrelationships. People with air signs operate on a mental plane, through *air*, so to speak, which may help you to remember what air signs are like. People with lots of air planets are often known as “airheads” or just plain “spacey.”

The fourth element is *water*. Water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces) are sensitive and emotional; they think with their feelings, intuitively, and are often romantic.

Cancer represents the lake, Scorpio represents the river, and Pisces represents the ocean. If you think of water as emotion, you will remember the characteristics of water signs. People with lots of water planets are often known as “water babies” or “crybabies.”

Let the Sun Shine

Just as the Sun is the strongest light in our solar system, *your* Sun sign is the strongest representation of who *you* are. It's not the only one, but it's what you'll notice the most, because it's like the fuel you burn. Symbolically, the Sun represents your self, your willpower, and your creativity. And mythologically, the Sun represents the Source, the unlimited resources of God. Remember that the Sun's symbol ☉ is a perfect circle, an endless whole—and many believe that God, people, and people's creativity are interconnected. Man, so the story goes, was made in God's image, right?

When you look at Steven Spielberg's chart, you will see that his birth date is December 18, 1946. This means that Spielberg's Sun is in Sagittarius. Now we already know that Sagittarius has a *yang* energy, a *mutable* quality, and *fire* as its element. Just for fun, let's try translating this into the beginning of a chart reading for Spielberg.

People with *yang* energy signs tend to take charge of things, right? And Sagittarius, with fire and *yang*, is energetic and visionary as well. Add in Sagittarius's mutable quality, and you find people who are not only comfortable with change, but welcome it.

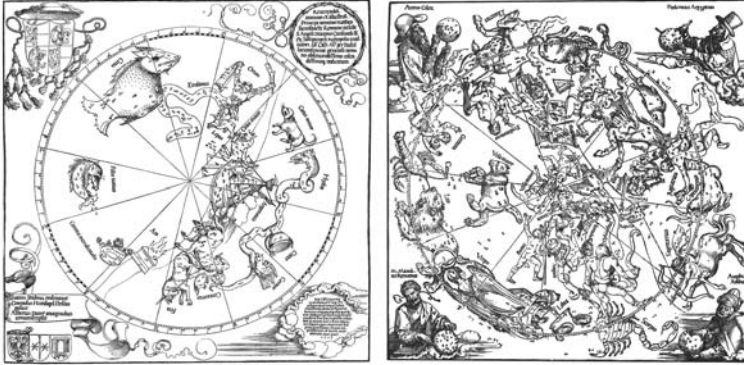
Steven Spielberg is a director—a person who *takes charge*. And a person who makes at least one film per year must have boundless energy as well.

But it's in Spielberg's films that you really begin to see his chart revealed. There's that “visionary” aspect, for example. Spielberg's list of film credits includes *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *E.T.*, and *Jurassic Park*, and, on a very different note, *Sugarland Express*, *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, and *Saving Private Ryan*, movies that took an enormous amount of courage to make. All of these films show a singular and forward-looking vision, a vision that also is shown in this very small glimpse of Spielberg's chart. Add to that a person who welcomes change, and you begin to see that Spielberg's chart is *more* than just a metaphor for him.

What Is a Sun Sign?

Most people know their Sun sign, but not everybody knows just what that means. As we've explained, your Sun sign is probably the strongest representation of who you are. But who decided just where the Sun signs begin and end, and why they are the way they are?

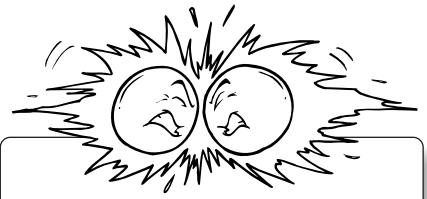
Remember those ancient astronomers, watching the apparent movement of the sky over Earth? Well, they're back! Part of their sky-mapping determined that the Sun went through certain constellations at certain times of the year—and that people born at that time of year seemed to share certain characteristics.



Albrecht Dürer, a contemporary of the mystic Nostradamus, depicted the skies of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in 1515, illustrating the blending of science, astronomy, and astrology at this time in human history.

Now this isn't really so mysterious: There's some scientific evidence to suggest that people born at night may be night-owls, for example, and that people born in the summer may love warm weather. But if you know anything about astronomy, you also know that the constellations are *not* overhead at the times of year the zodiac indicates. So what's going on here?

A very long time ago, the constellations of the signs *were* in the area of the sky that was named for them. But due to the earth's wobble, and the fact that the earth shifts a tiny bit in space over a long period of time, the constellations have shifted out of those positions. So Western astrology uses the seasons, which don't change over time, as its basis for Sun signs, and has kept the names the same.



Star-Crossed

If you were born at the beginning or end of a sign, you may need to have your horoscope calculated to determine which Sun sign you have.

Top Five Reasons You Should Know Your Sun Sign

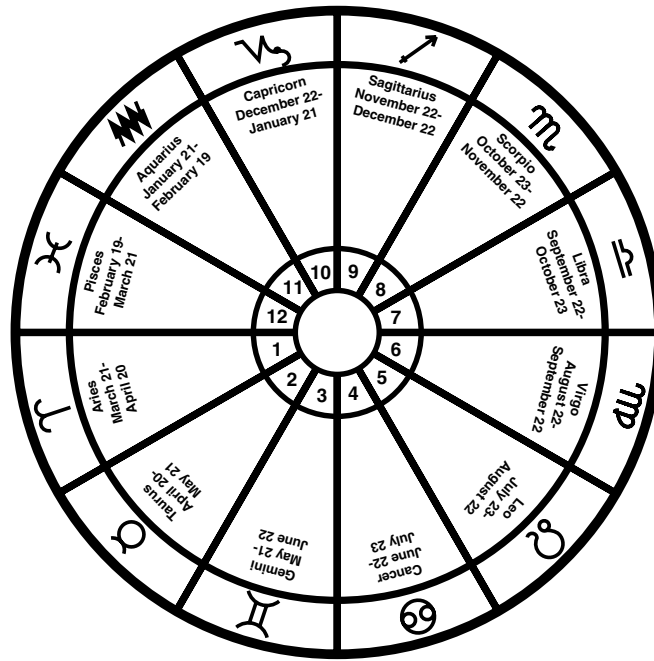
Knowing your Sun sign means you can ...

5. Reveal whether the love of your life is a perfect match or a stupendous dud.
4. Always have something to talk about at parties.
3. Make excuses for your inexcusable behavior.
2. Have the best pick-up line ever.

And ...

1. Have the best tattoo ideas.

The zodiac: finding your Sun sign.



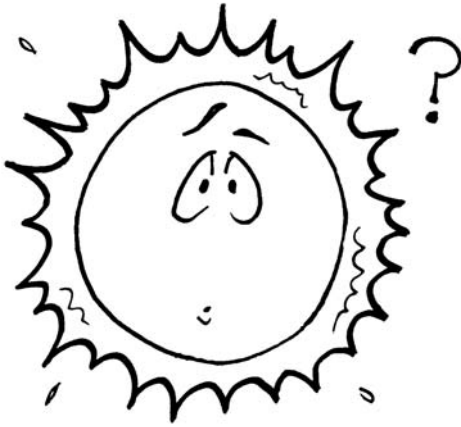
You Are Unique

No one has the same birth chart as you: The odds of that happening are astronomically small. We've seen those odds calculated as high as 10^{312} , a number that would take up this whole book if you wrote it down.

Now this number reveals something of the complexity of astrology—and the complexity of people—something no other model about people is able to do, except maybe DNA. No other models can come up with so many different combinations. Translation: You are unique!

The Least You Need to Know

- Your astrological chart shows the position of the heavens at your birth.
- A sign is one of two energies: *yin* or *yang*.
- A sign is one of three qualities: cardinal, fixed, or mutable.
- A sign is one of four elements: fire, earth, air, or water.
- Your Sun sign is the position of the Sun at the time of your birth.
- No one else has the same birth chart as you.



There's More to You Than Just Your Sun Sign

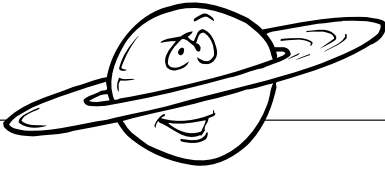
In This Chapter

- ▶ Ascendants, or rising signs, are the “you” the world sees
- ▶ Your rising sign indicates the lessons you’ll be learning during your life
- ▶ Planet power: Where do you put your energy?
- ▶ Each house is an area of your life

Sun signs are just the beginning of astrology; remember, every one of the signs appears somewhere on your birth chart, and every sign is a part of who you are in some way. In this chapter, we’ll look in more detail at ascendants, planets, and houses, because there’s a whole lot more to you than just your Sun sign.

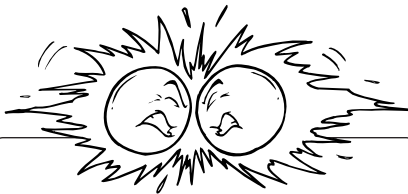
Ascendants

Your *ascendant*, or rising sign, is the sign that was rising over the horizon at the moment of your birth. This sign is your outward manifestation—the “you” that the outside world perceives. At the same time, though, your ascendant also is the way you express yourself (which is probably why the outside world perceives you that way). Usually, your Sun sign and ascendant are different, which is why your ascendant is perceived as a “mask”—most of the time, hiding your true self, your Sun sign.



AstroLingo

Your **ascendant** is your rising sign, the sign that was rising over the horizon at the moment of your birth. Your rising sign represents the “you” that the outside world perceives, as well as personality traits and needs, and your physical characteristics.



Star-Crossed

You shouldn't think of your ascendant as an “excuse”; just because you've got Aries rising, for example, doesn't give you a reason to run over everyone in your path. Your ascendant represents a “specialty” training you're here to take, and the sooner you master it, the easier life will be for you.

Each of the 12 signs rises over the horizon during a 24-hour period, so in rough terms, each ascendant rises over the horizon for two hours (more or less, depending on how quickly a particular sign rises) every day. In addition, whichever sign the Sun is in will be the sign rising at sunrise that day. In the early spring, for example, Aries is rising at sunrise, while at sunrise in the middle of summer, Leo is rising. This means that if you were born at sunrise, both your Sun and ascendant would be in the same sign—and so others would see you behaving like your Sun sign. Or, to put it another way, rather than wearing a different mask, you'd behave like your Sun sign.

We'd like to add another dimension to your consideration of your ascendant, too: Think of it as “training” for the person you are becoming. In other words, your rising sign indicates the skills and traits you're learning to develop during your lifetime. If you're born with a Scorpio ascendant, for example, much of what you do may be connected with learning about control, both self-control and a need to control others.

Your ascendant also may also be revealed in the clothes you wear, your hairstyle, or any of the other ways you “show” yourself to the world. Your ascendant is as much a part of you as your Sun sign—but it's often more obvious to others.

In Chapter 9, “Ascendants: The Mask You Wear for the World,” we'll show you a simple way to find your ascendant. Then we'll explore what the “mask” of your ascendant reveals about you.

The Sun, the Moon, the Planets, and the Nodes

As your self, your willpower, and your creativity, your Sun is the strongest representation of who you really

are. For simplicity, the Sun and the Moon are called planets, too, because from Earth's vantage point they move across the sky just as the planets do.

Planets represent different energies within ourselves and our society, and are divided into personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars), social planets (Jupiter and Saturn), and transpersonal planets (Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto).

In addition, every planet has a symbolic representation, which is used as a sort of abbreviation when it's placed on a birth chart.

The following table introduces each planet's symbol, and the energies of each planet.

The Planets

Planet	Symbol	Energies
<i>The Personal Planets</i>		
Sun	☉	Self, essence, life spirit, creativity, willpower
Moon	☾	Emotions, instincts, unconscious, past memories
Mercury	☿	Mental activities, communication, intelligence
Venus	♀	Love, art, beauty, social graces, harmony, money, resources, possessions
Mars	♂	Physical energy, boldness, warrior ways, action, desires, anger, courage, ego
<i>The Social Planets</i>		
Jupiter	♃	Luck, abundance, wisdom, higher education, philosophy or beliefs, exploration, growth
Saturn	♄	Responsibilities, self-discipline, perseverance, limitations, structure
<i>The Transpersonal Planets</i>		
Uranus	♅	Sudden or unexpected change, originality, liberation, radicalness, intuition, authenticity
Neptune	♆	Idealism, subconscious, spirituality, intuition, clairvoyance
Pluto	♇	Power, regeneration, destruction, rebirth, transformation

Every Heavenly Body Tells a Story

Planets are the “what” of astrology. As you've read, they represent the various energies of a person, including things like mental and emotional nature, desires, vitality, soul, will, consciousness, and subconscious, as well as the people in a person's life.

Every planet, in other words, tells a story. And many of these stories you already know. Remember Icarus, the silly boy who flew so close to the Sun that his wax wings melted? Remember the Roman gods: Mercury, god of communication and transportation; Venus, goddess of love and beauty; Jupiter, god of the heavens, lightning, and thunder; wrathful Neptune, god of the sea; and Pluto, god of the underworld; to name a few?



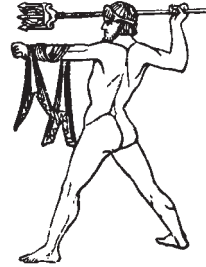
Mercury



Venus



Jupiter



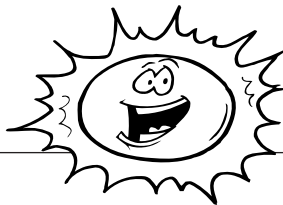
Neptune



Pluto

Some of the Roman gods who inspired the names of the planets.

We think that each planet's stories are connected to the way that planet seems to behave, and so, in turn, they are stories about *you*. These stories are based on a number of things, such as what sign a planet is in and where it is in your chart, as well as which planets it associates with—and how well they get along with each other.



StarFacts

Mythology is more than just stories about those Greek and Roman guys. Every culture, from Native American to African to Armenian, has its own stories, and what's interesting is how often these stories are alike. Every culture seems to have an origin myth, a flood myth, a sacrifice myth, and a trickster myth, for example—and these similarities are only the beginning.

Astrology is complex, just like the planets, and so we'll be telling you some of these stories when we tell you more about each planet. Humans, after all, are storytellers, and for good reason—stories help us understand who we are, why we're here, and

what we're here for. And because astrology has a similar purpose, it's natural the two should hook up in this book.

In Part 3, "Good Heavens: Heavenly Bodies, Houses, and Your Astrological Chart," we'll explore the planets in more depth. We'll also show you how each planet's energy change from sign to sign—and what this reveals about you.

Nodes? What Are Nodes, Anyway?

While the *Nodes* of the Moon are not heavenly bodies, they nonetheless add some essential information to your birth chart. Exactly opposite each other, these points are often called your past and your future. Let's look at them a little more closely.

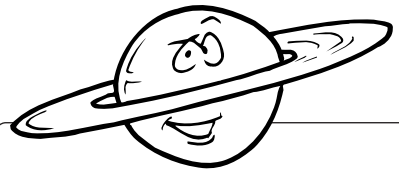
The *South Node* ♄ can represent your heredity or your past, and some call the South Node the "point of letting go." This means that you have already learned these lessons and mastered these skills; if you continue along this path, it will be the "easy way out." In other words, because you know how to do these things extremely well, there is no growth, no challenge, and no learning gained from doing them.

The *North Node* ♅, exactly opposite the South Node in its placement, represents your possibilities, your area of greatest growth, and where your future lies. If you follow the path of your North Node, you can gain new confidence as you learn new ideas. This is the path to developing new skills, abilities, and growth. Of course, it's also the path that is less comfortable for you.

Your "comfort zone" is your South Node—but being comfortable isn't necessarily your best path.

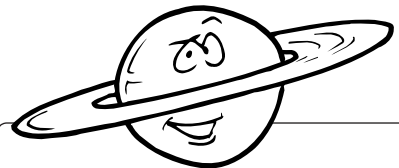
Planetary Rulers

Every planet naturally "rules" one or more of the signs, and so, also naturally, certain planets and certain signs share certain characteristics. *Planetary rulership* means that a planet is "in charge" of a sign. For instance, no matter what sign Mars or the Sun is in, they are still in charge of Aries and Leo, respectively. And Leo, like the Sun, is bright and optimistic, while Aries, like Mars, is energetic and on-the-move. Following are the planets and the signs they rule:



AstroLingo

The **Nodes** physically represent moving points that relate to the Moon's orbit around the Earth. Astrologically, the **South Node** ♄ represents your heredity or your past, and the **North Node** ♅ represents your possibilities for growth and where your future lies.



AstroLingo

Planetary **rulers** are in charge of certain signs, and so these planets and signs share certain characteristics.

Planetary Rulers

Planet	Sign(s) Ruled
Sun ☉	Leo ♌
Moon ☾	Cancer ♋
Mercury ☿	Gemini ♊, Virgo ♍
Venus ♀	Taurus ♉, Libra ♎
Mars ♂	Aries ♈, co-ruler of Scorpio ♏
Jupiter ♃	Sagittarius ♏, co-ruler of Pisces ♉
Saturn ♄	Capricorn ♐, co-ruler of Aquarius ♒
Uranus ♅	Aquarius ♒
Neptune ♆	Pisces ♉
Pluto ♇	Scorpio ♏, co-ruler of Aries ♈

Planet Power: Where Do You Put Your Energy?

Which signs your planets are in can help you see why you behave the way you do. If your Mercury is in Gemini, for example, it may indicate that you're a person who's quick-thinking.

Some people have several planets aside from their Sun in the same sign—but in a sign *other than* their Sun sign. This means they'll exhibit strong characteristics of that different sign. Similarly, some people may have lots of planets in a particular *area* of their chart, and so they may spend a lot of energy in that area of their life.

In Part 3, we'll be showing you just what each planet in each sign reveals in more detail. For now, just remember that whatever signs *your* planets are in describe how you use their particular energies or functions in your life. For example, a Leo Moon means you will seem sunny and optimistic, while with an Aquarian Moon, you'll seem aloof and detached.

Houses

Now, looking at the graphic on the following page, it's time to discuss what those pie slices *really* represent: They're the houses, the places where everything in your life occurs. Each of the 12 houses encompasses a specific arena of life, the stage where the drama of the planets unfolds. *Everything* in your life happens in one of these houses—from where you brush your teeth to where you keep your secrets. When you look at a chart, the first house is always the pie-slice just below the eastern horizon, and the other houses follow, counterclockwise, around the chart.

It may help you to think of each house as representing the horizon at the time of your birth: Half the sky was visible, and half of it was not. Below the horizon are the six houses of *personal* development—invisible, but oh-so-important. This includes

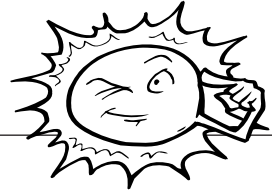
areas such as your personality, personal resources, knowledge, home, creativity, health, and responsibilities.

Above the horizon are the six houses of your development in the larger world—those that are visible, in other words. These houses include areas such as your relationships, joint or shared resources, social concerns, career, goals, and the subconscious.

Each House Is an Area of Your Life

Bear in mind that the chart shown below is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what's in each house. We've tried to give you word associations that you'll be able to remember. Planets *in* signs appear *in* houses, or, in other words, show *how* you do *what* you do in certain *areas* of your life.

Which house and sign a planet are in is where the story of you *really* begins. This is where the particular mathematics of astrology come into play: Planets + Signs + Houses = YOU. If you've got Mars in Aries in your first house, for example, you're always going to put yourself first!



Heaven Knows

Are you starting to wonder how you're going to keep this all straight? It may help if you remember that planets are the "what," signs are the "how," and houses are the "where."



The houses.

There's nothing arbitrary about these divisions: Astrologers have been studying what's going on in each house for thousands of years—and these correlations are borne out again and again in the way we all behave.

So, are you ready to learn what's in all these houses? In Chapters 15 through 18, you'll learn more about each house, and you'll *really* get to see behind those doors.

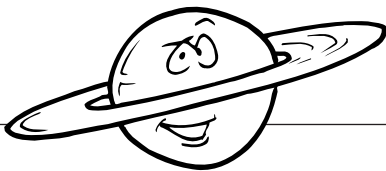
Knock, Knock, Who's There? Heavenly Bodies in Your Houses

In addition to being connected to each other through rulerships, signs and planets also are associated with certain houses.

What we're going to show here is which planets and signs are *naturally* associated with each house. Remember, though, where *your* planets are depends on *your* chart. In addition, don't forget that if you have more than one planet in a particular house, that's going to indicate an *emphasis* in that area of your life, and just what that emphasis is depends on *which* planets are in *which* house. Whew!

Also, just as certain planets naturally rule certain signs, they also rule certain houses. And which planet rules which house is determined by which planet *naturally* rules the sign on the *cusp* of the house.

(If we've lost you, don't worry—we'll be going over this more slowly in Chapters 15 through 18.)



AstroLingo

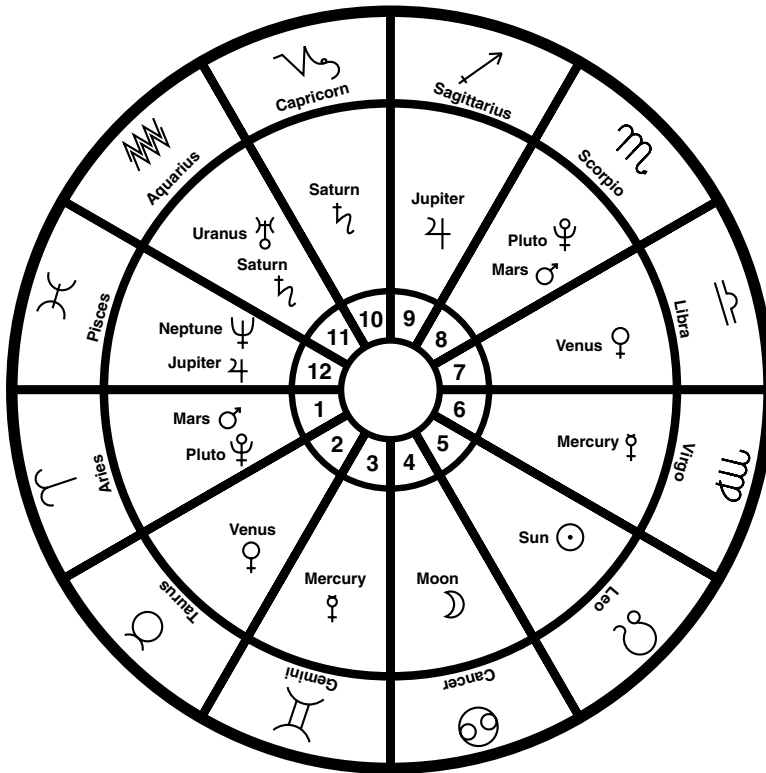
Cusps are the *beginning* of each house. The ascendant, for example, is the beginning of the First House, the house of self, and the next cusp is the beginning of the Second House, and so on. The cusps also separate the houses from each other.

Now, in Steven Spielberg's chart, the Seventh House appears to be "empty." But look at that house's cusp sign: It's Capricorn, which is ruled by Saturn. Now the Seventh House's *natural* ruling sign is Libra, and its natural ruling planet is Venus, so the Seventh House is the area where your primary relationships happen.

For Spielberg, with no planets emphasized here, it may initially seem to you that this would not be a major arena of his life. But notice that Saturn, the ruler of *his* Seventh House, is in his Second House near Pluto, a very powerful planet. This indicates that Spielberg has very important and powerful relationships, and that these people are also part of his personal resources. In Chapter 21, "All About Me: Interpreting Your Astrological Chart," we'll discuss interhouse connections, called *aspects*, and show you how important *they* are in individual charts.

The following figure shows you which signs and which rulers and co-rulers appear *naturally* in each house. These associations relate directly to what we just mentioned in Spielberg's chart—and they'll have an impact on *your* chart as well.

Natural planets and natural signs in their houses.



The Least You Need to Know

- Your ascendant is the mask you wear for the world.
- The planets represent different parts of you, the “what” of you and your life.
- Every planet rules at least one sign.
- The Moon’s Nodes represent your past and your future.
- Houses represent the areas of your life.
- Each sign and its corresponding ruler are associated with one of the houses in the natural charts.

Part 2

Touring the Zodiac: Sun Signs and Ascendants

“Hi. What’s your sign?” You may know the answer to that question, but that’s only the beginning! Now you’ll move beyond the basics to what your Sun sign and ascendant can tell you about yourself.

In the chapters that follow, you’ll discover the best and worst of people in each sign, as well as how they behave in love, at home, at work, and with money. Then, you’ll take a closer look at each ascendant, or rising sign—which is something quite separate from your Sun sign—and get more answers to the mystery that is you.





Signs of Spring

In This Chapter

- ▶ Aries ♈, Taurus ♉, and Gemini ♊ are the signs of spring
- ▶ Aries ♈, the Ram: butting your way in
- ▶ Taurus ♉, the Bull: holding down the fort
- ▶ Gemini ♊, the Twins: keep on truckin'

The first three zodiac signs, Aries ♈, Taurus ♉, and Gemini ♊, have little in common: Aries likes to get things going; Taurus likes to keep them as they are; and Gemini likes to talk about them! But they do have *one* thing in common: They're all signs of spring.

Aries, the Ram: Butting Your Way In

The First Zodiac Sign

Aries, the Ram ♈	March 21st–April 20th
Element:	Fire
Quality:	Cardinal
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Rulers:	Mars and Pluto
Color:	Red
Gem:	Diamond

The First Zodiac Sign (continued)

Aries, the Ram ♈	March 21st–April 20th
Anatomy:	Head and face
Keywords:	Pioneering, leading, new beginnings
Mythological Archetypes:	Luke Skywalker, the Virgin Amazon, the cowboy of the American West
Celeb Rams:	Marlon Brando, Tennessee Williams, Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, Mariah Carey, Reese Witherspoon, Russell Crowe

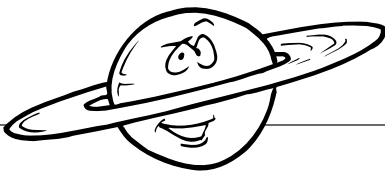
The Ramifications of Being Aries

How many Aries does it take to screw in a light bulb?

One, but you better get the hell out of the way.

It's no accident that Aries is the first sign; if it hadn't been, it would have rearranged the zodiac to get there! Aries is the sign of the pioneer, of the daredevil, of the person who just won't say "No." In legend, the Ram often came to the rescue, and, in fact, that's how Aries ended up as a constellation—as a reward from Jupiter for trying to save some children from the machinations of their wicked stepmother.

Nothing can stop the Ram; as the first of the cardinal signs, no one has a stronger will. Rams want to be where the action is and will do anything to make sure they get there first. Don't stand in a Ram's way—you're likely to get run down by this Butthead of the zodiac!



AstroLingo

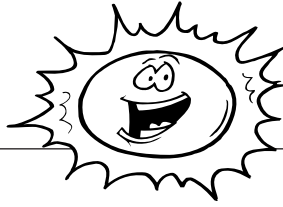
Qualities represent different types of activities and are related to where in a season a sign falls.

Cardinal signs—Aries, Cancer, Capricorn, and Cancer—start each season and are signs of beginnings.

Rams are the only fire sign with a cardinal quality, which means they like to start things, but may not want to finish them. Because they're also a fire sign, they're enthusiastic and impulsively go off to start something without giving it much thought beforehand. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread, true, but rushing in takes great courage, and Rams have plenty of that!

The Best and Worst of Ram

Rams are assertive, direct, and straightforward, but this also means that they can be aggressive, blunt, or impatient. Strong-willed Rams can be remarkably single-minded once they have a goal in sight, but this single-mindedness can make them tactless, blind to side issues, or just plain irritating.

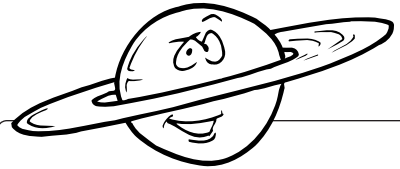


StarFacts

The symbol for Aries, ♈, could be interpreted to represent the eyebrows and the nose—the face, in other words, the part of the body that’s under Ram’s rulership. Or it could be interpreted as a sign of the emergence of self, of beginnings. It also represents the constellation Aries, which can be found in the sky standing erect, its head facing toward Mars.

Rams like challenges and are often wonderful leaders. Their courage can inspire others to follow their lead, and their confidence and enthusiasm get everybody where they’re going.

But anyone who likes a challenge also likes a good fight, and Rams can be argumentative. At their worst, they’re steamrollers, running over anything that stands in their way. But at their best, Rams are idea people who can inspire others to help those ideas see the light of day.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Aries, the Ram:



Rams in Love

Rams in love won’t take “No” for an answer; they’ll pursue their beloved to the ends of the world—and beyond, if necessary. Rams have the happiest love matches with other fire signs: other Aries, or Leos, or Sagittarians; signs who, like Ram, crave excitement and passion.

In fact, if those fires don’t keep burning, don’t expect Rams to stick around. They like relationships that can contain the fire, and may seek lovers who are dependent on them for love but independent in other ways.

Rams can be jealous; they expect their love to give them the same fiery attention that they’re giving. But Rams also enjoy sharing everything with a lover they trust, and their ambition for those they love, like their ambition for themselves, knows no bounds.

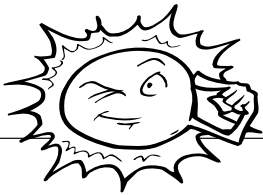
Rams and all air signs do well together: Ram’s opposite, Libra, for example, can provide some air to keep the fire burning, but Ram may get tired of Libra’s standards. The other air signs, Gemini and Aquarius, can also feed Ram’s fire. But Ram is not a

“householder” sign and that’s one reason why it doesn’t do well with Cancer and Capricorn. Love requires compromise and meeting the needs of others, and this is very hard for Rams to do!

From a mythic point of view, Aries is the cowboy of the American West, the Rugged Individualist, the Virgin Amazon, Wild Woman, or even the goddess Diana or Artemis. None of these types are high on settling down to build a nest, especially when they’re young. These are adventurers, and they don’t care much about dirty dishes or sniveling kids.

The Healthy Ram

Aries rules the head and face and also represents the eyes and the brain. With this influence, it’s easy to see why Rams are the quick thinkers of the zodiac, and therefore prone to injuries because they sometimes leap before they look. At the same time, because they’re quick to anger at both real and imagined slights, Rams may be susceptible to headaches and nervousness. The best health advice Rams could get would be to slow down—but don’t expect them to listen!



Heaven Knows

One of the most important lessons Rams can learn is cooperation. If they learn that the help of others can only further their own creativity and desires, they can move beyond their Ram-centeredness and make enormous marks on the world.

Mars, Aries’ ruler, represents the blood and iron, and so Rams need to get enough iron to keep them oxygenated, to keep their hemoglobin up. They also need vitamin B₁₂, which is required for the formation of red blood cells and metabolism, and potassium, which is necessary for maintaining their muscles and heart rate.

Rams at Home

There’s never a dull moment with a Ram at home. Like adolescents, Rams see all the world has to offer—and want to experience it all, too. But, also like adolescents, Rams may see that world from a self-centered point-of-view, and that can make life with a Ram a challenge. One thing’s for sure—don’t expect to find Rams snoozing next to the fire. They’re the ones throwing more logs on, just to see what happens!

Rams at Work

Rams need work that holds their interest, things that totally involve them and allow them the freedom to express themselves. They don’t like to take orders, and they’ll always try to climb to the top themselves. Their love of competition means that they won’t let setbacks stand in their way, and their eagerness for new experience means they’ll jump whenever they see a new opportunity.

Rams are often found in positions that need “idea people”; they’re project leaders—as long as there’s someone else around to handle the details. Rams also do well in creative fields, where their fiery independence can find self-expression.

Some Aries like to work outdoors—like the archetypal cowboy of the American West, for example, or in construction, which is even more common—and many prefer work that enables them to maintain their independence. This can include areas like outside sales, consulting, or contract work.

Rams and Their Money

Impulsive Rams sometimes spend first and think later—or don’t even bother to think later! Money for a Ram is one more way of getting ahead, and getting ahead is Ram’s credo. Rams can be—and often are—generous, especially when it comes to pursuing something or someone they want. With money, though, Rams might do well to turn their cash over to an earth sign; someone who won’t burn it quite so quickly. They’ll often be the ones to see ways to make money, but it may just as often be others who take advantage of Ram’s moneymaking ideas.

Taurus, the Bull: Holding Down the Fort

The Second Zodiac Sign

Taurus, the Bull ♉	April 20th–May 21st
Element:	Earth
Quality:	Fixed
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Ruler:	Venus
Color:	Green
Gem:	Emerald
Anatomy:	Neck and throat
Keywords:	Ownership, dependability, sensuality
Mythological Archetypes:	Aphrodite, Osiris
Celeb Bulls:	Jack Nicholson, Michelle Pfeiffer, Harry Truman, George Clooney, Cher, Andie MacDowell, George Lucas

The Bull on the Bull

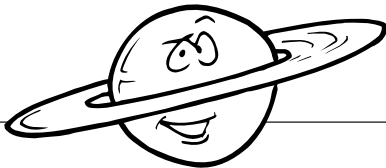
How many Tauruses does it take to screw in a light bulb?

One, but she’ll do it when she’s good and ready.

No one is more down to earth than the passive, fixed, earth sign, Taurus. All of Bull's feet are planted firmly on the ground, and Bull's calm and dependability make a Bull a friend you can count on. Hand in hand with that dependability, Bulls can be conservative and cautious, so they're usually perfectly happy with the way things are.

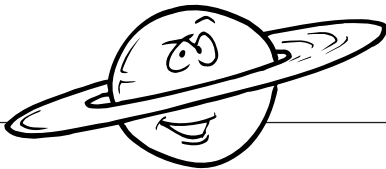
At the same time, their connection with the earth means they're often materially wealthy, but Bulls' wealth can also be found in the cozy homes they create: Bulls like to sit calmly in their favorite chair, maybe smoking their favorite pipe or reading their favorite paper, perfectly content if nothing ever changes.

But this desire for harmony goes beyond the self: Bulls also seek a harmony with everything on earth. You're likely to find Bulls living in the country, but even if they live in the city, you'll find them surrounded by plants or working in their garden. Bulls crave silence, too, the silence that comes with inner serenity, and they are often people of few words. Bulls are the most physical of the signs—everything they know, they know through the body. This is because they're ruled by Venus, the ruler of the senses.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Taurus, the Bull:



AstroLingo

Opposite signs, or a **polarity**, are signs that appear directly across from each other in the zodiac. Taurus and Scorpio are opposites.

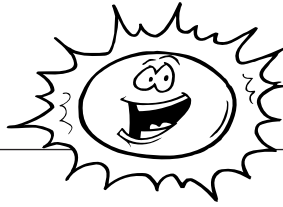
The Best and Worst of Bull

At their best, Bulls create a calm in the midst of storms all around them. They're connected solidly to their bodies and to their homes, have good jobs, good friends, good marriages, and good children. They're the people everyone else turns to: They're who you call if you have a flat tire at 2 A.M., and, though they may be reluctant to get out of bed, they'll be the ones you know you can rely on.

But in their complacency, Bulls may be resistant to change, and can become dogmatic or even preachy. Bulls can't understand what all the excitement's about, and they may be the first to tell you all this New Age stuff is a lot of bunk. Bulls can be lazy as well—too comfortable to get out of that chair, or they can get so caught up in their earthly possessions that life itself passes them by.

Bulls in Love

Security and stability—a Bull in love stays in love. Romance and love are one and the same to sensuous, earthbound Bulls, and they're nothing if not patient when it comes to making sure that the love they find is the right one. A Bull will always be there for you—and expects the same in return.



StarFacts

In ancient Egypt, Osiris, the God of the Dead and the Underworld, was represented as a man with a bull's head. Living manifestations of Osiris were selected by the priests and revered. Osiris remains with us today—look on the back of a one-dollar bill: there's an eye (the symbol of Osiris) above a pyramid!

Aphrodite also represented Taurus—after all, Taurus is ruled by Venus—and she represented the qualities of deep intimacy, as well as beauty. She was beautiful not to attract men, but to celebrate herself and her high standards. She was intimate only with those men who met her high standards for honor and love!

Bulls don't like change, so they may show some jealousy if the stability they create seems threatened in some way. A Taurean partner is one you can always depend on, though, and, although it may seem dull at times, you can rest assured they're with you for the long haul.

Bulls are attracted to water signs, especially Cancer and Pisces. But many Bulls or Rising Bulls find their mate in a Scorpio, Bull's opposite. Bulls get along well with householder Cancer, as Bulls like their comfort. Remember—earth and water go well together, creating beautiful lakes.

Taureans are often attracted to the more lively signs like Aries, Gemini, or Sagittarius, but quickly become annoyed when all these signs want to do is go out and play. They're most comfortable with other earth signs, whose reliability and need for established routine matches their own. Don't expect many fireworks here, though—just everything in its place, as it should be!

The Healthy Bull

The Bull rules the neck and throat and so the entire metabolic system. The thyroid gland in particular can be a problem for Bulls: They may not properly convert what they eat into energy and so can be prone to gain weight. Their love of inaction feeds this tendency as well. But the throat is also where singing comes from, and many Bulls are well-known singers—Barbra Streisand, Bing Crosby, and Ella Fitzgerald, to name just a few.

Iodine is necessary for the development and functioning of the thyroid gland, which is ruled by Taurus. Other vitamins and minerals that are important to Taurus are

selenium, bioflavenoids, and vitamin E, which work together to maintain beauty and promote normal body growth, fertility, and metabolic action. With Venus being Bulls' ruler, getting enough of these nutrients is even more important than usual!

Bulls at Home

Home is where Bulls thrive: They collect, they arrange, they make it into a womb where they—and those they love—can comfortably relax. Bulls may be collectors, too: With their Venus ruler, they have an appreciation for beauty. Their homes may be filled with music and books as well as paintings and sculpture.

Bulls crave comfort, security, and calm, and their homes reflect that desire. A Bull's home is always a good place to show up at dinnertime. Not only will there be something wonderful cooking, but you're sure to be invited to stay!

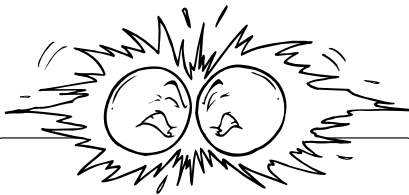
Bulls at Work

No one knows a good opportunity like a Bull, especially an opportunity that promises long-term stability. Even Merrill Lynch knows this: They're "bullish on America," remember? Connected to the earth, Bulls can do well with real estate or land deals. But Bulls don't want to build the homes and buildings so much—Aries does that—as they want to *own* the land, home, or building as an investment. Their connection to the earth makes them practical in nature. They aren't going to set off on an impulsive whim. They may be interested in finance, for example, or banking, or the things they can build with money and resources.

Bulls make wonderful employees, too: They're the ones who show up even on snow days, the ones who get the proposal in on time. Because Venus is their ruler, many Bulls are talented folks who sing, write, or perform music, sculpt, or enjoy other creative endeavors. Many Bulls use their voices for voiceovers or are radio announcers or disc jockeys.

Bulls and Their Money

Bulls are wonderful providers and may acquire a great deal of money and many possessions. But they also need to be careful not to cross the line into materialism, wealth for its own sake, or extravagance. Bulls can be greedy, too, hoarding their money or hiding it away where it will be "safe." But as the ultimate Taurean desire is for earthly harmony, they are far more likely to use their wealth to share their desire for comfort with those they love.



Star-Crossed

There's nothing wrong with a little security, but Bulls need to beware of taking it to extremes. If Bulls' love of possessions crosses the line from comfort to acquisition, they may lose sight of enjoying things in the here and now. Great planners for the future that they are, Bulls need to beware of becoming so prepared that there's nothing to enjoy now.

Gemini, the Twins: Keep on Truckin’

The Third Zodiac Sign

Gemini, the Twins ♊	May 21st–June 22nd
Element:	Air
Quality:	Mutable
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Ruler:	Mercury
Color:	Yellow
Gem:	Agate
Anatomy:	Hands, arms, shoulders, lungs
Keywords:	Mentality, communication, versatility
Mythological Archetypes:	Castor and Pollux, Coyote the Trickster
Celeb Twins:	George Bush, Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, Elizabeth Hurley, Rupert Everett, Mike Myers, Joseph Fiennes

Twin Tales

How many Geminis does it take to screw in a light bulb?

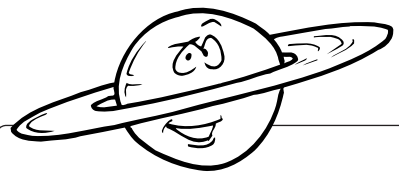
Two.

Twins never miss a thing; their goal is to see everything. Gemini is a mutable sign, which signifies change; a *yang* sign, which signifies motion; and an air sign, which signifies the mind. In their quest for knowledge, Twins are always in motion, always alert, trying to live not just two, but as many lives as they can, all at one time. Often called a dualistic sign, Twins are really deceptively simple: It’s all based on avid curiosity, on finding things out and then quickly moving on to something else.

Twins have been called the Great Communicators, too, and with Mercury as their ruler, it’s easy to see why. But sometimes words can mask meaning, and that’s another paradox of Twins: Meaning is not really what they’re after—it’s the ideas themselves.

The Best and Worst of Twins

Twins can be amusing, witty, quick, and flexible—and they can be glib, sarcastic, fickle, and devious.

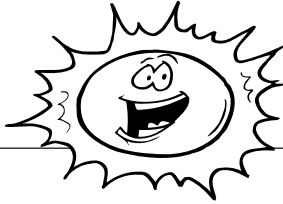


AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Gemini, the Twins:



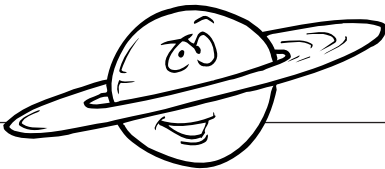
Two sides of the same coin, and all too easy for a Twin to flip back and forth between them. At their best, Twins are masters of invention, clever and adaptable, never afraid to try something new. But this same eagerness to try everything can lead them to be scatterbrained or restless, even unreliable or ungrateful.



StarFacts

The symbol for Gemini, ♊ , may be merely the Roman numeral II, but it also may represent the parts of the body ruled by this third sign: the hands, arms, shoulders, and lungs. Taking it still one step further, this symbol could represent the dual sides of human nature: mind and soul. On the other hand, maybe it is just a pair of twins!

At their weakest, Twins can run themselves to emotional exhaustion, or feel that nothing matters. At their strongest, their wide variety of interests brings them many friends and experiences, and their quick mind enables them to take it all in. You can always count on a Twin to be the life of the party!



AstroLingo

Mutable signs, such as Gemini, occur as the season is changing and so are associated with transitions. Other mutable signs are Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces.

Twins' flexibility and adaptability arise because this is a *mutable sign*—and mutability means changeability. They also are very resourceful because they've seen so much, and that's part of their mutability too—the more you're willing to change, after all, the more you're going to see.

Twins in Love

The Twins of the Gemini myth, Castor and Pollux, chose to be united forever in the sky rather than separated for even a moment—and so Gemini is obviously a sign of relationships. Translated to love, though, Twins have so many relationships that they can all seem a little too casual. This is because Gemini's a mu-

table sign, and it's not that a Twin won't give you all the attention you want, it's that a Twin can't—there's too much else going on!

Here's where Twins' fickleness can come into play: Someone who seemed fascinating last week is a known quantity this week and so is no longer interesting. But Twins

also can be the ideal partners: They're charming, witty, generous, and genuinely interested in you—it's keeping that interest that's the hard part. Meet them on their own ground—wit and imagination—and let them know they can trust you by trusting them.

Other air signs—other Geminis, Librans, and Aquarians—are always a good bet for Twins; air signs are lighthearted and understand each other's need for mental stimulation. At the same time, though, two air signs may never come down from the clouds—and if they do, they may find there's no place to land.

Because air feeds fire, Twins can do well with Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. Down-to-earth Virgo is a good match, too: With the same quality and ruler as Gemini, Twins and Virgos can challenge each other, and learn a lot from each other as well!

Healthy Twins

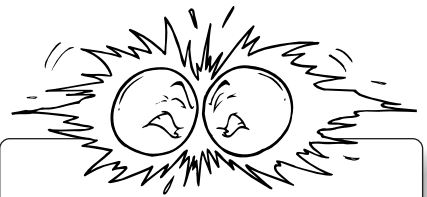
No other sign can benefit quite so much from learning to breathe, learning to relax, and to take deep breaths and then let them out. Twins are always on the move, moving their arms like wings much of the time, and all this rushing around can mean they don't stop and smell the roses like they should. Gemini rules the hands, arms, shoulders, and lungs, and this grouping reflects yet another of Twins' dualities—the need to flit about and the need to breathe deeply and relax. If Twins don't learn to relax, all that flying around can lead to emotional exhaustion.

Twins need strong amounts of vitamin B-complex every day in order for their nervous systems to function properly, to keep them thinking, and to keep their metabolisms going. This includes all the B vitamins, and when Twins are under stress they need more than the normal dosage, because they'll use it up quickly. In addition, sugar and alcohol chemically deplete the B vitamins in the body, so it's best for Twins not to binge on those!

Twins at Home

Twins at home—now, there's a phrase that's hard to interpret: Twins don't often stay put long enough to let them see where home is. But maybe that's exactly it: Twins are at home wherever they happen to be. Twins are seldom content to sit still and watch the world go by; they'd rather be on that world and going by with it!

Don't forget that Twins are great communicators, so if they *are* at home, you're likely to find them on the phone or gathering new information from reading or watching TV.



Star-Crossed

No sign is more prone to the dangers of running in circles. Twins are so fond of motion that they may not notice that their motion isn't leading them anywhere. Overstimulation can lead to jumpiness, insomnia, or, as already mentioned, emotional exhaustion. Twins need stoplights or they'll never stop!

Twins at Work

Twins need mental challenges to keep them stimulated on the job, and it can't be the same challenge over and over again. Careers like advertising, writing, broadcasting, and public relations appeal to Twins because they're always presenting new challenges to Twins' inquiring minds. Don't rule out technical fields, though; the right opportunity might offer Twins just the mental somersaults they need.

Twins are often found in sales positions or in other jobs where there is a lot of contact with other people. They can be "silver-tongued" with their wit and communication abilities, so they're excellent at persuading or influencing others. This literally translates to selling products or services, or selling ideas to others, whether as a manager or a writer.

Twins and Their Money

Twins like to spend their money on information, computers, travel, and cars—things that will feed their need for new ideas, communication, movement, and action. Twins don't worry much about spending, either, and are apt to max their credit cards and then sign up for another. It's not money that concerns Twins; it's information—and any way they can get it, they will, including buying it.

In the next chapter, we'll be taking a look at Cancer, Leo, and Virgo—the signs of summer.

The Least You Need to Know

- The signs of spring are Aries, Taurus, and Gemini.
- Cardinal Aries likes to lead and pioneer.
- Fixed Taurus is dependable and sensual.
- Mutable Gemini is a versatile quick thinker.



Signs of Summer

In This Chapter

- ▶ Cancer ♋, Leo ♌, and Virgo ♍ are the signs of summer
- ▶ Cancer ♋, the Crab: come to Mama (or Papa)
- ▶ Leo ♌, the Lion: the Lion's roar
- ▶ Virgo ♍, the Virgin: Virgin values

The signs of summer, Cancer ♋, Leo ♌, and Virgo ♍, may share a season, but each is otherwise unique. Emotional Cancer is a nurturer; bright, sunny Leo seeks the spotlight; and meticulous Virgo improves herself by helping others learn about sacred patterns.

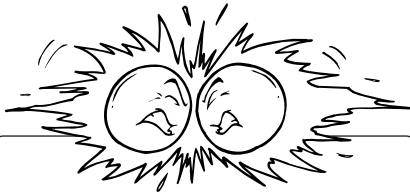
Cancer, the Crab: Come to Mama (or Papa)

The Fourth Zodiac Sign

Cancer, the Crab ♋	June 22nd–July 23rd
Element:	Water
Quality:	Cardinal
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Ruler:	Moon
Color:	Silver

The Fourth Zodiac Sign (continued)

Cancer, the Crab ♋	June 22nd–July 23rd
Gem:	Pearl
Anatomy:	Stomach and breasts
Keywords:	Feeling, sensitivity, nurturing
Mythological Archetypes:	The Turtle, The Crab, Ceres
Celeb Crabs:	Ernest Hemingway, Tom Cruise, Princess Di, Harrison Ford, Meryl Streep, Liv Tyler, Tom Hanks, the Dalai Lama



Star-Crossed

Wound Crabs, and they'll never forget it; Crabs will carry grudges for life. Befriend Crabs, and they'll never forget either; Crabs are famous for keeping in touch with old friends, old loves, and old times. And what a memory! Need to know who was wearing what at that party back in '65? Ask any Crab—chances are they'll remember the menu as well!

Crucial Crab-iness

How many Cancers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

One, but his therapist has to talk him into it.

Touchy, touchy, touchy: No one else feels like a Crab. And no one retreats like a Crab, either: Quick to hurt, they're also quick to crawl into their shells. But remember, these shells are also their houses. Crabs are nurturers, too: The Mamas and the Papas of the zodiac.

Others look to Crabs for warmth and understanding, and Crabs always lend a sympathetic ear, lap, or shoulder. But these Moon-ruled Moon Children won't look to get the same from you. They may be the most sensitive sign of the zodiac, but they're also the least likely to let you know what they're feeling. Crabs hide their emotions behind what they believe is an impenetrable shell.

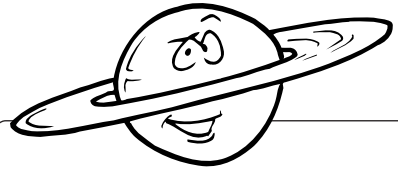
For Crabs, it's all about security; in fact, that's the major point of Cancer. Crabs are learning about emotional and physical security, as well as responsible nurturing. After the primal instincts of Ram, the building of Bull, and the thinking and mental development of Twins, there's the emotional foundation of Crabs, which can take many forms, like a house—or a shell.

The Best and Worst of Crabs

At their best, Crabs are dependable, loving, adaptable, and self-sacrificing, which means at their worst, they're clinging, over-sensitive, moody, and smothering. Want a

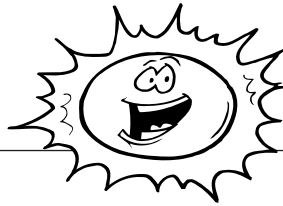
money manager? Let a Crab handle it. Need an advance? Better have those numbers ready! Late for dinner? Tell Crab your sob story. Didn't show up at all? Better move to another town!

Because one of us is a Crab, we know how easily Crabs are distracted, and how anything can set Crabs' imaginations running—in another direction. Crabs are always off on tangents. Picture a crab on the beach, always moving sideways rather than forward. They *do* get where they're going, often without the rest of us realizing they've done it. Sneaky? Yes, Crabs can be sneaky. Clever? Yes, they're that, too. Don't ever take a Crab for granted, that's for sure. They'll leave you standing in the sand, wondering which way they've gone!



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Cancer, the Crab:



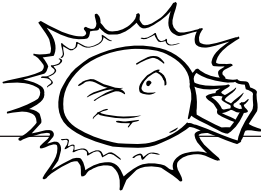
StarFacts

Many of Cancer's myths involve turtles or tortoises. In ancient Egypt, the constellation was called *Stars of the Water*, and its symbol was two turtles. In Roman mythology, the Crab also assisted Jupiter's wife, Juno, in trying to slow down one of the many labors of Heracles (Hercules in Greek mythology). The unfortunate Crab got caught underfoot, though, so all Juno could do to reward it was place it in the heavens!

Crabs in Love

No one sends more confusing messages than a Crab; just when you think they might be interested, off they go into their shells! Crabs are so afraid of being hurt that they may *never* let you know they're interested, but on the other hand, if they decide they've got a chance with you, look out! Crabs can hang on very tightly.

Crabs who didn't feel coddled as children may seem cold and distant as adults. But in their indirect Crab way, they're really dying for attention. Crabs have a natural fear of revealing themselves—those soft insides are very vulnerable—so they're never going to approach you directly. You know those conversations that go, "What's the matter?" "Nothing"? Chances are they're with a Crab!



Heaven Knows

As a water sign, Crabs require trust in a relationship and are very cautious about giving their hearts away. The things they need most are love and security, and even if you and a Crab later part, the Crab will stay in touch and remember your birthday. Deep down, Crabs really do believe love makes the world go 'round, and if you love a Crab, you can go along for the ride!

Water signs—other Cancers, Scorpios, or Pisces—understand things the same way Crabs do, and Pisces in particular may inspire Crabs to use their intuition. But Crabs are good with earth signs—Taurus, Virgo, and their opposite, Capricorn—keeping them watered and fertile. Gemini can be fun, but may feel smothered, and Leo may love the attention, but not return it.

The Healthy Crab

Nurturing Crabs rule the stomach and the breasts, sources of food and nourishment. So naturally, sensitive Crabs are prone to stomach troubles and, with their love of creating comfort through food, can also be prone to overweight.

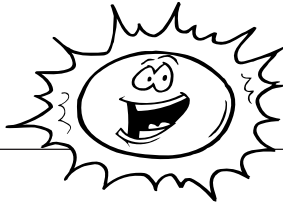
No sign is as sensitive to touch, and Crabs are always reaching out and touching. But they're sensitive to hot and cold, too: You'll see Crabs wearing socks in July, or, if it's very hot, scuttling into the shade or the water to cool off. Remember that Crabs' ruler is the Moon, and the Moon has no light source of its own. Crabs reflect everything around them, and their emotions swing with the tides.

Vitamin A and beta carotene are especially helpful for growth and maintenance of all mucous membranes, including the stomach and digestive tract, which is very important to a Crab. They also help build strong bones and teeth (ruled by Capricorn, the opposite sign). Crabs also may have allergies, which are often aggravated by dairy products, so if digestion becomes a problem, it's best to monitor what they eat in relation to how they feel.

Crabs at Home

Crabs' homes are their safe havens—even if they do carry their houses on their backs! It may be the pillows tossed about for comfort, or it could be those good smells coming from the kitchen, but you'll always feel like a Crab's home is a place where you can relax and unwind.

Within that cozy home, though, there's a place that's Crab's alone. It may just be a corner on a couch, but in that corner will be Crab's favorite book or blanket, and maybe a picture or two. Chances are Crab's dog or cat will snuggle up there, too, whether or not Crab's there at the moment. But rest assured there *will* be a dog or cat, or maybe more than one. Crabs nurture any creature that comes their way.



StarFacts

According to Greek (and Roman) mythology, Demeter (Ceres), goddess of the Earth, was responsible for agriculture and growth. When Demeter found out that Pluto (or Hades back then) had stolen her daughter, Persephone, and taken her to the Underworld, Demeter grieved and forbade anything on Earth to grow. Zeus (Jupiter) had Hermes (Mercury) go to the Underworld to strike a deal with Pluto.

Because Persephone had eaten seven pomegranate seeds and had toured the Underworld, however, Pluto insisted that she be returned to him each year for three months (our winter months). So, Demeter is associated with Cancer, the sign of motherhood and responsible nurturing.

Crabs at Work

While it may seem that Crabs can be too dreamy or unfocused to do well in business, it often happens that the opposite turns out to be true. Intuitive and sensitive to change, Crabs can often sense future trends and be on the cutting edge.

Crabs are often found in creative areas like writing, too, because writing involves the part of motherhood that requires gestation, creating something new and unknown, and then birthing it. In addition, Crabs' empathy for others, as well as their prodigious memories, come into play with the creative arts, helping them generate works that connect with everyone.

Alternative ways that mothering may come out at work can be birthing new products, projects, or companies, taking care of others by feeding them, or nurturing their emotional selves via teaching.

Crabs and Their Money

Tenacious Crabs hoard their money just like they do everything; in fact, no matter how much they accumulate, they may never feel entirely secure. Crabs don't differentiate between things and security, and because of their nature (hard on the outside, soft on the inside), they hold onto everything with a tenacious grip.

Sometimes this hoarding tendency can move into selfishness, not because Crabs don't want to help, but because they're so afraid of being hurt from the outside that they'll do anything they can to protect themselves—including keeping all their assets to themselves.

You won't often find Crabs broke—they're far too concerned with security. And, because they want this security for those they love as well, they'll make sure to create a safe haven for them, too.

Leo, the Lion: King of the Jungle

The Fifth Zodiac Sign

Leo, the Lion ♌	July 23rd–August 22nd
Element:	Fire
Quality:	Fixed
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Ruler:	Sun
Color:	Gold
Gem:	Ruby
Anatomy:	Back, spine, and heart
Keywords:	Willpower, creativity, expressing the heart
Mythological Archetypes:	Kings, The Lion King, Hercules
Celeb Lions:	Lucille Ball, 42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton, Robert DeNiro, Mick Jagger, Madonna, Lisa Kudrow, Sandra Bullock, Ben Affleck, Woody Harrelson

The Lion's Roar

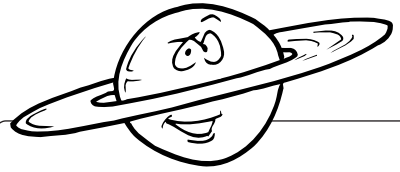
How many Leos does it take to screw in a light bulb?

One, and a hallelujah chorus while she does it.

Talk about self-confidence, Lions invented it! Ruled by the Sun, Lions bask in the spotlight. They're dramatic, they're bold, they're creative, and they're strong; no other sign can grab and hold the spotlight the way a Lion can.

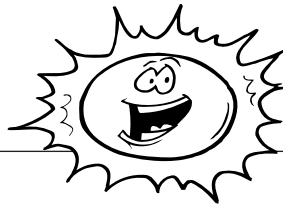
Lions are great fun to be around, too: Their exuberance is contagious, and when they get to the party, everyone knows it's really begun. Not only *can* Leos lead, they *will* lead: Lions expect to be at the head of the line—and of the pride.

Lions don't give up, as anyone who has watched a lion chase and catch its prey can attest to. The point of being Lions is to be at one with the creative principle, and to learn how their willpower affects what they create in their lives. Self-expression and creativity are everything to Lions—eventually they learn to follow more than just their own will, aligning themselves with the higher Self and the creative principles of the Universe.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Leo, the Lion:



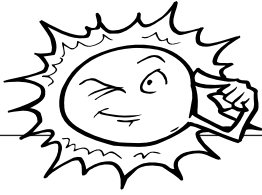
StarFacts

Why do so many Leos go by one name? Because they can! With the Sun as their planet, Lions live in and for the spotlight, and with that kind of lighting, they can go by any name they choose. Jackie, Lucy, Mick, Madonna, and Napoleon are just a few Leos we recognize from singular names. Others include Fidel, Tipper, and Lawrence (of Arabia).

The Best and Worst of Lions

Because Leo is a fixed sign, Lions can be determined, stubborn, or even habit-bound, but confident Lions are born to lead, and they're proud, courageous, and self-assured to a fault. Lions can be generous, commanding, ambitious, and proud, and this means they can also be intolerant, demanding, self-righteous, and vain. Lions can lead others to tremendous victories, but they can be ruthless with their enemies, though their memories are short and they also are quick to forgive.

Because Lions are always leading, they are often surrounded by yes-men and sycophants. This, in turn, can lead to gullibility, because Lions are easily flattered and can forget that not all may love them. And, as much fun as they can be, they also can become overbearing or self-centered if things aren't going their way.



Heaven Knows

It takes creativity to generate excitement, but Lions are among the most creative signs of the zodiac. The Sun, after all, provides *illumination*, and it is through that light that Lions truly shine.

Because Leo is a fixed sign, Lions are exceptionally loyal, and so expect loyalty in return as well. They are very up-front about their needs and expectations, and this lack of guile can also be their undoing; Lions might do well to trust a little less, but they expect adulation, and others can't help but give it to them.

Lions in Love

Generous Lions expect generosity in return: they love being in love—and the drama being in love provides. Lions are loyal too, which can actually make it difficult to end a relationship with them.

Lions expect adoration, but they'll give it as well. Like kings, they'll graciously give their loyal subjects all they can. A fire sign, they'll usually do best with other

fire signs—other Leos, Sagittarians, or Arians—but Lions also can be caught up in the intensity of Scorpios or the refinement of Libras.

Airy Geminis, and Aquarians (Lions' opposite), are also a good match; remember that opposites attract. Lions learn a lot in particular from the detached Aquarian, who can provide them with perspective and give them balance.

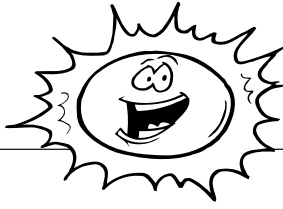
The Healthy Lion

No one is healthier than Lions; the ailments that touch the rest of us seem to pass them by. This strength is due in no small part to Leo's rulership of the back, spine, and heart: Even the words suggest Lions' strength.

But Lions can be less strong emotionally. When they fail to get the adoration and respect they deserve, they can become physically ill. And Lions, like all cats, can be lazy, too; the only evidence of life in them may be the continual twitching of their long tails.

Because Leo rules the spine and heart, these areas also can cause them trouble when things don't go well. They may make a trip to the chiropractor or a cardiologist to get them back on track, but it's also important for them to deal with the underlying emotions that set off the problems to begin with.

Lions need plenty of magnesium and calcium on a 1:1 ratio to protect their hearts (a muscle) and circulatory systems. And Lions need to pay more attention to their potassium and salt balance than other people, because that balance is very important for their hearts. Coenzyme Q₁₀, an enzyme that strengthens the heart, may also provide them with additional energy when they get older.



StarFacts

The only way Hercules could slay the Lion of myth was in hand-to-paw combat, and even then, the Lion managed to bite off one of Hercules's fingers! So awed was he by his opponent's strength, Hercules used Lion's pelt for a breastplate and his jaw for a helmet, both of which helped him in his further labors.

Lions at Home

Lions call their homes their "castles," and they love to show off their castles almost as much as they love to show off themselves. Lions give great parties and won't hesitate to keep the food and wine coming.

Home is another place where Lions' generosity is evidenced: There's always a place for everyone to sleep, and friends are welcome to stay as long as they please.

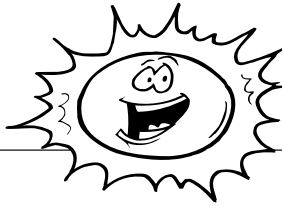
If they're not entertaining, you may find Lions roaring when they're upset, but you may also hear them purring like kittens when everything is in order and they get the attention they need.

Lions at Work

No one leads like a Leo, and Lions will naturally gravitate toward careers that allow them to shine. They may be generals or presidents, but Lions may be teachers as well, firing up their students' enthusiasm with their own.

And Lions can often be found in the performing arts, shining with the brightness of the Sun. In the public eye, a Lion is charismatic and magnetic, but even in less visible fields, a Lion always shines.

Above all, Lions need an audience (what good is it to be king without subjects?) and often choose jobs where they can get one. These fields include sales, teaching, consulting, tour guiding, management, and, of course, performing.



StarFacts

Lions are kings, and kings are Lions. The Lion of Judah and Richard the Lionhearted are just two examples, but don't forget the Queen of Sheba, daughter of the Sun (ruler of Leo) who married Solomon: According to legend, all their children, the Ethiopians, were destined to be kings. There's just something regal about the noble Lions, and it's got a lot to do with the way they carry themselves: These people look and act like royalty, even when they're not. Some American Lions? Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Norman Schwarzkopf, and Bill Clinton. See what we mean?

Lions and Their Money

Image matters a lot to Lions, so if the checking account balance and Lions' needs are saying different things, it's the needs that are going to win out. Big night out with the gang? Count on Leo, broke or not, to pick up the tab.

Nothing's too good for a Lion, so they're not likely to notice what something costs. In fact, Lions seldom think to bargain; when they see something they want, they get it. Living the good life, according to Lions, has nothing to do with what things cost, and this makes them most generous—nearly royal in their magnanimity!

Virgo, the Virgin: Service with a Smile

The Sixth Zodiac Sign

Virgo, the Virgin ♍	August 22nd–September 22nd
Element:	Earth
Quality:	Mutable
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Ruler:	Mercury
Color:	Blue
Gem:	Sapphire
Anatomy:	Intestines and colon
Keywords:	Service, self-improvement, sacred patterns

Virgo, the Virgin ♍	August 22nd–September 22nd
Mythological Archetypes:	Chiron, Mary, Astraea
Celeb Virgins:	Sean Connery, Greta Garbo, Stephen King, Sophia Loren, Cameron Diaz, River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves, Salma Hayek

Virgin Values

How many Virgos does it take to screw in a light bulb?

At least four. One to take out the light bulb, one to check the wiring, one to put the new light bulb in, and one to clean up the mess.

Purity. Perfection. Practicality. These are the Virgin values. But what does this translate to? Virgins, more than any other sign, are identified with analyzing, with examining everything in great detail in order to improve not just themselves, but the world. And improving the world means serving more than one's self: It means serving the greater good. Virgins are very responsible people.

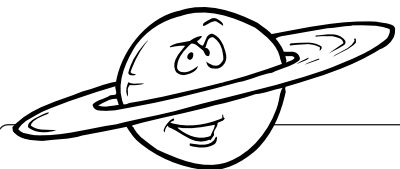
But Virgins are about connection, too: They see things very clearly, and they see each part of a whole in a way that few other signs can. One of us is a Virgo, and she is forever finding the little errors her co-author didn't bother to reread for—and then, the next time through, she finds still more! This pleases her messy co-author to no end, but it pleases Virgo as well: Virgins really *like* to clean these messes up! Constant refinement means no discord, and Virgo does whatever's necessary to achieve perfection.

There's a lot of misinformation about the use of the word "virgin." A virgin is a woman whole unto herself—not just someone who has never had sex. Virgins are about finding the patterns, especially sacred patterns, and in past eras, these were the people who were the sacred priests and priestesses. They also worked in agriculture, taking care to read the natural cycles and patterns correctly so there would be enough food to feed everyone.

In Native American tribes, Virgo is represented by the spider, which weaves the sacred patterns in its web. And Virgins aren't very comfortable in our present society because the sacred patterns have largely been lost or forgotten.

The Best and Worst of Virgins

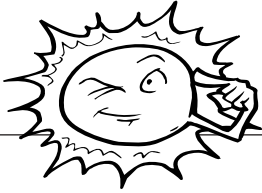
Calm-on-the-outside Virgins will fool you like no other sign—on the inside they're all restless energy, constantly seeking, constantly improving, constantly *fixing* whatever needs to be fixed. Here



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Virgo, the Virgin:





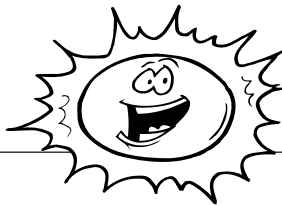
Heaven Knows

Because Virgo is an earth sign, Virgins are very practical, and because their quality is mutable, they're very resourceful. That same mutability also can translate into flexibility, and so Virgins can be chameleon-like, too. They may agree with you when they sense you're not going to change your mind (practical and flexible), but privately they won't change their minds either, unless it suits their purposes!

is one of the zodiac's liveliest minds, a consummate problem-solver, a model of methodical efficiency, bent on beauty and perfection.

But yes, Virgins can think too much. They can find fault wherever they look—even where there's none to be found. They can be inflexible, and they can worry too much along with all that thinking. But at the same time, because Virgins measure their self-esteem by weighing what they accomplish in a given day, they can increase their self-esteem by giving up this narrow view of what they're good for. Then they'll see themselves as whole people, with love, feelings, and other important things to offer others.

No one is more organized than a Virgin. While the rest of the world is collapsing around them, Virgins are calmly making lists of what's left. No one's more committed, either, or more willing to make sure it goes smoothly for everybody. If there's someone in the kitchen cleaning up after dinner while everyone else has gone on to another party, it's most likely a Virgin, who's probably perfectly happy to be there. Virgins *like* to work, and they do it very well.



StarFacts

Virgins have long been known as healers and those who serve, and the mythological archetypes here are no exception. Chiron was the wounded healer who couldn't heal himself but nonetheless healed others, and Astraea was a healer as well. And Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was chosen for that role because of her service to God and her purity.

Virgins in Love

There's no denying that Virgins are seeking the perfect mate, but they also enjoy the pleasures of intimacy, especially when those pleasures can lead to personal growth. In her constellation in the sky, Virgo appears to be dancing, and, in fact, one of her greatest joys is the fruit of consummated love.

Because Virgins like to serve, they will do whatever they can to take care of those they care about. Sometimes they can go too far, leaving the beloved with nothing to do, but often they anticipate the needs of others with prescient clarity.

As seekers of order, it's natural that Virgins seek out other earth signs—other Virgos, Taurus, and Capricorns—but it may be the fixed intensity of Scorpio or the mutable water of Pisces that really plants the seeds of contentment for this mutable sign. Watery Cancer, too, can make for strong emotional connections. But Virgins shouldn't necessarily settle for complacency just because it's tidy; they may find far more compatibility with the excitement of Gemini or Sagittarius!

The Healthy Virgin

Virgins are concerned with health and its application. Their ruler, Mercury, in an earth sign like Virgo, is very practical and interested in practical applications of knowledge. Virgins will often know about vitamins or about aromatherapy; they'll know which herbs cure which ills and why your antibiotic isn't working on your pesky cold. Virgins' interest in health is largely because they're interested in practical knowledge and in sacred patterns (and what's more sacred than healing?), as well as in keeping themselves healthy.

Virgo rules the intestines and colon, and it is in these areas that problems often arise for them. Busy Virgins need to stop what they're doing periodically to eat, and they need to relax while they eat, not rush through—or worse, work through—their meals. Virgins need to remember to serve themselves as well as they serve everyone else!

In addition, Virgins are most likely to get sick when they have problems at work (especially if they *dislike* going to work) largely because of their dedication to any given project. Workaholic Virgins need to balance work with relaxation and pleasure.

Virgins need a lot of B-complex vitamins to help control their anxiety. In addition, they need PABA (Para-aminobenzoic acid), which is important for maintaining the health of the intestines and breaking down and using proteins.

Virgins at Home

Here again, Virgins' love of service shows itself clearly. The Virgo home is tidy, efficient, and organized, but that just makes it easier to take care of all those who enter. You won't find Virgins sitting down to eat until everyone else has enough on their plates, and even then, Virgins may hover rather than sit down and join in.

Virgins are great lovers of beauty, and coupled with their understanding of botany, this can mean homes surrounded by lovely gardens and filled with thriving plants and herbs. Virgins are likely to have aloe vera growing over their sinks—and even more likely to snap off a leaf to rub on your wound!

It can be interesting, living with Virgins, and with all those “sacred” patterns they find with their family members.

Virgins at Work

Count yourself fortunate to have a Virgin on your work team—with their love of challenge and constant need for self-improvement, they'll bring a strong dose of clarity to any project.

Virgins can be good planners, good organizers, and good finishers, but the same knack for details can also make them very strong in any field where they use their hands. Best of all, no matter what they do, Virgins are always reliable, whether they're the boss or an employee. And with their desire to serve, they'll see the job gets done in a fine way.

The two largest job categories for Virgo are in the health field and any jobs that require analysis, including marketing, systems analysis, and computers. Virgins love details and excel at jobs that require them.

Virgins and Their Money

Detail-oriented, organized Virgins always have their checkbooks balanced and often know exactly how much money they've got in their pocket as well. Here's an area where Virgins, with their eye for every detail, can tend to be highly critical of their own abilities, but they are in reality not only able money managers, but also clever ones, staying within their budgets, never frivolous. In fact, you may often find that the folks we call "bean counters" are Virgins.

In the next chapter, we'll be looking at Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius, the signs of fall.

The Least You Need to Know

- The signs of summer are Cancer, Leo, and Virgo.
- Cardinal Cancer is a sensitive nurturer.
- Fixed Leo is creative and big-hearted.
- Mutable Virgo is concerned with service and self-improvement.



Signs of Fall

In This Chapter

- ▶ Libra ♎, Scorpio ♏, and Sagittarius ♐ are the signs of fall
- ▶ Libra ♎, the Scales: judge and juror
- ▶ Scorpio ♏, the Scorpion: getting to the root of things
- ▶ Sagittarius ♐, the Archer: shooting for the truth

The signs of spring and summer represent personal development, and with the start of fall, we move into the signs of external development—Libra ♎, the seeker of harmony; Scorpio ♏, the transformer; and Sagittarius ♐, the explorer.

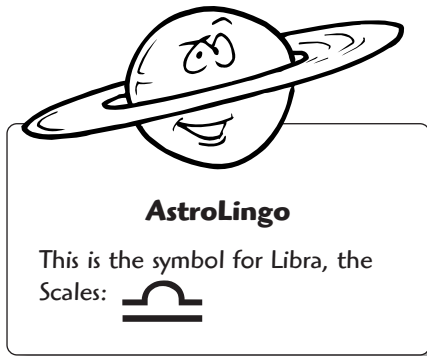
Libra, the Scales: Judge and Juror

The Seventh Zodiac Sign

Libra, the Scales ♎	September 22nd–October 23rd
Element:	Air
Quality:	Cardinal
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Ruler:	Venus
Color:	Blue
Gem:	Opal

The Seventh Zodiac Sign (continued)

Libra, the Scales ♎	September 22nd–October 23rd
Anatomy:	Kidneys, lower back, adrenal glands
Keywords:	Balance, harmony, justice
Mythological Archetypes:	Blindfolded Justice, Pallas Athene, Juno
Celeb Scales:	John Lennon, Eleanor Roosevelt, Barbara Walters, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie, Nicole Kidman, Matt Damon



Scaling Heights

How many Libras does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Maybe one to do it and one not to do it.

Harmony. Balance. No one wants to even things out like a Libra. Libra begins at the autumnal equinox, a time when the length of the day equals the length of the night, and Scales strive for such balance in all they do.

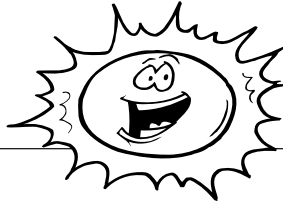
Libras are charming, and their charm is primarily due to the rulership of Venus. Scales see *everything* from both sides and have a great appreciation for art and beauty. As a *yang*, cardinal sign, they generate a great deal of activity as well, especially in starting things, like diplomatic relations with others.

But Libra is an air sign as well and, like all air signs, has an active mind. In Scales' case, this takes the form of looking at one side and then the other, weighing everything over and over again. Like other cardinal signs, Libra seems constantly in motion, moving around and enjoying life.

The Best and Worst of Scales

Scales are social creatures, ready to share their experience with others, and quick to form partnerships. Friendly, popular, and attractive, they often are idealistic as well, eager to talk about their high principles and lofty ideas with any who will listen.

But Scales can seem affected or insincere, too eager to compromise, or worse, indecisive. Scales are often so busy weighing each side of an issue that they can never come to a conclusion or decision. Also, in their need to please others, they may forget to please themselves. Scales need to be aware of their own needs and meet them, too, not just those of other people.



StarFacts

Libra is the sign of justice and so is represented by a blindfolded Venus, who holds the scales of Libra in one hand and the sword of Mars/Aries (its opposite) in the other. The goal for Libra is the attainment of inner harmony and a reconciliation of opposites. Not an easy task, but if anyone can do it, Libra can!

At their best, though, Scales understand that their strength lies in creating and maintaining relationships. Scales seek to find their perfect complement, their other half, to complete the balance. They also want to find balance in other things, not just relationships.

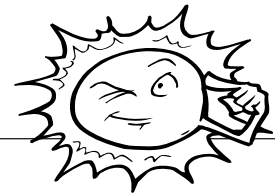
Scales in Love

Scales love to be loved and admired, and they give much in return as well. Constantly testing their powers of attraction, they may seem flirtatious and flighty, but all the while Scales are seeking their other half. Scales are romantics, too, and they love to “set the mood” for romance by creating an atmosphere of beauty to match their feelings.

Air signs—Gemini, Aquarians, other Librans—with their easy talk and quick minds, are an obvious match for Scales, but there are interesting possibilities with Scales’ opposite, Aries, as well—though each sign may believe the other too selfish. Scales can thrive with Leo’s generosity, or they may find the balance they seek through an adventure with Sagittarius.

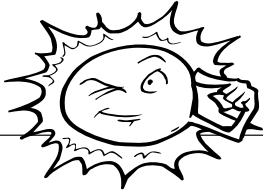
Healthy Scales

Graceful Scales should pay attention to inner fitness as well as outer fitness; their tendency toward lower back or kidney problems is a direct result of keeping things inside to avoid creating discord. As in love, healthy Scales need to bring their ideals down to an earthly scale!



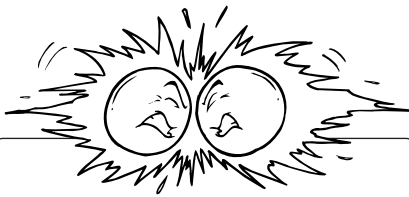
Heaven Knows

The prime purpose of Scales is to create relationships with others. Libra is the opposite of Aries, where people are concerned with themselves. Here we see the concern for others and the incorporation of both perspectives, “mine” and “theirs.”



Heaven Knows

Scales are at their strongest with other people, and yet their focus in a relationship is on themselves. Scales' self-concept is a reflective one, seen through others' eyes rather than their own. At the same time, though, Scales may hide their own feelings in order to give an appearance of balance. Scales would do well to remember that making a decision is not always a tipping of the scales!



Star-Crossed

Signs ruled by Venus are the most romantic of the zodiac, and Libra is no exception. But this same romanticism is often a search for an ideal mate as well, and Librans should beware of the disappointment that can occur when such high expectations are brought down to Earth. Another danger is that Scales may refuse to acknowledge the beloved's true self and instead keep their ideal of their partner up on a pedestal.

Scales also can benefit from holistic aids like aromatherapy, and the lovely scents and properties of rose oil or jasmine can help create the inner harmony Scales seek. As a sign ruled by Venus, after all, Scales are very sensitive to smells all around them.

For Scales, extra potassium may be needed to balance the water level in the body and stimulate the kidneys to eliminate wastes. Vitamin E, selenium, and vitamin P (or bioflavenoids) are very helpful for preserving the beauty of Libra.

Scales at Home

Scales' homes are lovely places, filled with objets d'art, reflections of the beauty of Librans themselves. True to their need for others, Scales are among the great hosts of the zodiac, filling their homes with other people as well as those people's conversations, ideas, and, often, their music.

Scales also enjoy the comforts of life and will not hesitate to make certain that their home reflects them. Because Scales seek harmony and balance above all, this is what you will find in their homes.

But all that waffling we've mentioned can make life with Scales rough going at times. Their constant weighing of things can make decision time difficult, and their ideals can mean they seek a harmony impossible to find here on Earth. Still, this reflects in a home that is singularly lovely, as befits the home of a Venus-ruled sign!

Scales at Work

Social Libras shine at work: They are often leaders, showing others the way, but with their need for balance and harmony, they are often partners, too, using their knack for balance and harmony with others to achieve great things.

Scales' charm comes into play at work, too: They often have a knack for public relations or sales. Or Scales' love of beauty may translate into a career in the arts, or in fashion or interior design.

You might expect Scales to be judges and lawyers, but though they often are found in these fields, their tendency to vacillate rather than come to a final decision can sometimes hamper them.

But these same qualities can make Scales fine counselors, where their ability to hear two sides of an issue rather than take sides is a decided asset. And for the same reason, they can be remarkable teachers, translating a broad array of ideas into a range of possibilities.

Scales and Their Money

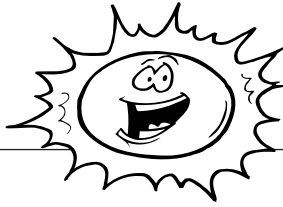
Money for Scales is a means to an end, and that end is beauty and harmony. Scales need to be aware, though, that things and their appearance cannot give or replace inner security and harmony, and in fact, they may find that hanging on to a little “mad money” could bring them much closer to such balance than they would have thought possible.

Scales are more likely to invest in things and people than in long-term securities, because they like to see an immediate return on their investment—in the form of beauty and harmony. The inward reflects the outward here as in no other sign: To Scales, appearances really *do* matter.

Scorpio, the Scorpion: Getting to the Root of Things

The Eighth Zodiac Sign

Scorpio, the Scorpion ♏	October 23rd–November 22nd
Element:	Water
Quality:	Fixed
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Rulers:	Pluto and Mars
Colors:	Burgundy, Black
Gem:	Topaz
Anatomy:	Genitals, urinary and reproductive systems
Keywords:	Desire, transformation, power
Mythological Archetypes:	The Phoenix, Persephone, The Scorpion, Grandmother Spider
Celeb Scorps:	Bill Gates, Georgia O’Keeffe, Dan Rather, Winona Ryder, Hillary Clinton, Calista Flockhart, Jodie Foster, Leonardo diCaprio



StarFacts

According to Navajo myth, Grandmother Spider is the Grandmother of all the people (the Dineh, as the Navajo call themselves). Whenever the people seem lost or confused, it is Grandmother Spider who will speak to them from her ever-evolving web, to remind them that they already know the way—and that they must simply look inside themselves!

The Scorpion's Score

How many Scorpios does it take to screw in a light bulb?

None. They like it in the dark.

Scorps are intense. They're dealing, after all, with life and death—and, by extension, with birth and sex. Scorpios are all about mystery, about how that poison stinger can so quickly change life into death, and Scorps can be both penetrating and incisive. Scorpio is one of the signs that has two rulers, Pluto and Mars. That's why this sign can be quite a warrior, and very powerful. Combined with their fixed nature, these people never give up!

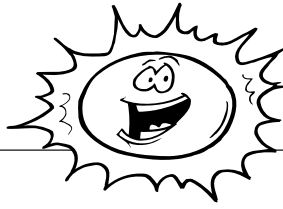
Like all water signs, Scorps are more concerned with feelings than appearances, but as a fixed sign, they're often resistant to change as well. Scorps' ability to see through others' facades can serve them well, and they can wait forever for the right moment to get even or make their move.

Scorps are constantly probing beneath the obvious face of things, seeking what lies beneath. One of their rulers is Pluto, the invisible planet that rules beginnings and ends, both of which, like Pluto itself, occur out of natural sight.

Scorpios' intensity and probing may make them sound humorless and frightening, but these same characteristics create both passion and excitement as well. You may feel as if a Scorpion is looking right through you, but the feeling may be an invigorating one!

The Best and Worst of Scorpios

Scorps use what many astrologers call Scorpionic power to achieve their ends. But maybe we should just look at that power itself, because Scorpio is the zodiac's most powerful sign.



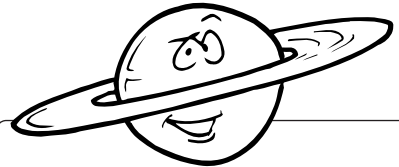
StarFacts

Scorpio's symbol, ♏, is a pictorial representation of a scorpion's stinger connected to the human reproduction organs, and in ancient times it also represented the mythical phoenix, a bird that continually regenerated from its own ashes. Scorpio also is said to represent the serpent in Adam and Eve, and an eagle. One thing's clear: No other sign of the zodiac is so concerned with the cycles of life.

In pop astrology, you'll often find this power called sex, and yes, Scorpios *do* have a strongly developed sexuality. Sometimes, though, they may disguise this even from themselves, in which case they may constantly be seeking something they can't quite name.

Sometimes Scorps sublimate this energy into other projects, and they may be very aware of doing it. At their worst, they may choose to use their magnetism to coerce others in fanatical ways, like Scorpio Charles Manson!

At their best, Scorpios are magnetic leaders, like Billy Graham: shrewd, faith-inspiring, compassionate, and brave. At their worst, they're manipulative, vengeful, or even cruel. Like the nuclear energy that shares Pluto's rule, they can use their power for good or evil, and Scorps would do well to use their tremendous energy and power in positive ways, such as healing and learning control.



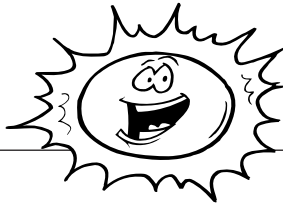
AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Scorpio, the Scorpion:



Scorp in Love

While Scorps may know everyone else's heart of hearts, they'll seldom reveal their own. When they do, though, they'll also be sharing a depth of passion no other sign can. Like their relatives the spiders, Scorps will weave a web of romance, attracting partners with their intricacy and magnetism. But they're also quick to retreat if they feel threatened—and once Scorps have hidden, it may be hard to get them to reveal themselves again. You'd also do well not to injure a Scorp in love; their vengeance has a long memory and a fierce sting!



StarFacts

Scorpio appears in the zodiac at a time when the earth seems to be dying: Leaves fall from the trees; hibernating animals retreat to their caves; even humans go inside their houses and sit by their fires. But this retreat is in reality a regeneration, a rebirth, and this is the true source of Scorpio's power. In Scorpio's case, still waters really *do* run deep!

Don't forget that Scorpio is a water sign—sometimes emotional, sometimes moody, always slow to commit but very loyal once they do. Other water signs may be the most comfortable match for Scorp romance—Scorp may see other signs' approaches to love with too much clarity for romance.

Earth signs, like Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn—fed by water—can do very well with Scorps. And Taurus is Scorps' opposite, as well, very sensuous and pleasure-loving, an interesting match for Scorpio's intensity.

The Healthy Scorp

Retentive Scorps may be prone to urinary tract infections or constipation, so reluctant are they to let anything out in the open. But they also have the potential to be great healers, not just of themselves but of others, because of their strong regenerative and transformative powers.

Healthy Scorps pay attention to their dreams, for both their informative and their imaginative power, and they should pay attention to what they eat and drink as well: Scorps' intake can truly make a big difference in how they feel. Any relaxation techniques that help Scorps get rid of old resentments and anger could also help them feel their best. But Scorps' most important health lesson is to let go—of repressed jealousy, anger, and resentment.

Scorps need to get adequate amounts of zinc or zinc supplements in their diets. This is essential for the growth, development, and functioning of the reproductive organs and prostate gland, as well as the general healing process, both important for Scorps.

Scorp at Home

Because Scorps require power and control, life at home can be full of struggles—power struggles! Or it can be a place where Scorps keep “everyone in line” until they

get married and have children. Then it may not be so easy! But no matter what the kids or spouse do, Scorps are ready to defend them with their lives and stingers if necessary. Loyalty is very important to them.

When Scorps are unhappy, though, they head off to be alone—and heaven help you if you disturb them! Scorps usually need and want time alone regularly, to process their intense feelings. Without time alone, it can become very hard for Scorps to maintain their sense of control. For this reason, Scorps need their own hiding place at home, where no one else will bother them. This isn't just a corner in a room, either, but an entire room just for them—their space.

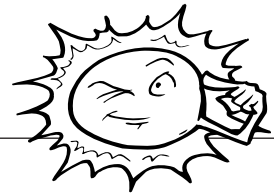
When Scorps *are* able to control themselves instead of others, they are very loving, loyal, and can give a great deal of themselves to their families and mates.

Scorp at Work

Scorps thrive on change, and a career that requires any renovation or strategy works very well for them. They may find creative outlets for their transformative energies, or they may be in the healing arts as doctors or counselors. Scorps also can do very well in fields like research or science—anything requiring that penetrating, probing eye will benefit from a Scorp touch.

Scorps also are often involved in cleaning up waste or reviving the environment in some way. Scorpio is involved in eliminating toxins and regeneration, and that's why they excel at these jobs.

As the most powerful zodiac sign, Scorps also do well in any position where they can wield that power, be it management, finance, or directing. But that power also means that any field Scorps choose will benefit from their influence: Even the seemingly meaningless is transformed once a Scorp is in charge.



Heaven Knows

Scorps are focused on regeneration and rebirth: You can't have new life without those things! Thousands of years ago, this sign was associated with sorcery and the study of mysteries that increased personal energy, like tantric energy. This sign isn't always entirely comfortable in our present society, where feelings and emotions are often disowned and disliked.

Scorps and Their Money

Here again Scorps' retentive ways come to the forefront, and a Scorp and his money are not soon parted. Scorps also understand the dynamics of power and money, and their conservative approach pays off here as well.

Scorps will amass cash quietly in the background and then use it to achieve their ends. Outward appearances mean little to Scorps; to them, it's all about control and transformation, and they'll apply their money only where they feel it's necessary.

Sagittarius, the Archer: Shooting for the Truth

The Ninth Zodiac Sign

Sagittarius, the Archer ♐	November 22nd–December 22nd
Element:	Fire
Quality:	Mutable
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Ruler:	Jupiter
Color:	Purple
Gem:	Turquoise
Anatomy:	Liver, hips, and thighs
Keywords:	Understanding, enthusiasm, exploration
Mythological Archetypes:	Diana the Hunter, The Centaur
Celeb Archers:	Woody Allen, Kim Basinger, Walt Disney, Brad Pitt, Ben Stiller, Lucy Liu, Britney Spears

The Archer's Point

How many Sagittariuses does it take to screw in a light bulb?

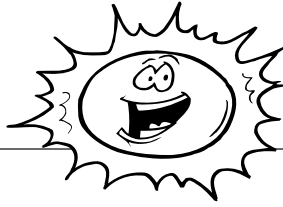
One, and eleven other signs to revolve around him.

The Archer's arrow searches for meaning, and Sagittarius can be thought of as the gypsy, the student, and the philosopher, all rolled into one. No other sign is so focused on finding life's basic truth. Archers burn with this need to understand, and, as a mutable sign, they thrive on the changes this search can provide.

Archers are a *yang* sign, too, so they're always moving toward more and more experience. This is a party sign, and the party is marked by the fire sign's enthusiasm, high spirits, and a whole lot of fun. Archers' optimism is contagious, and their honesty and directness can be a breath of fresh air.

The Best and Worst of Archers

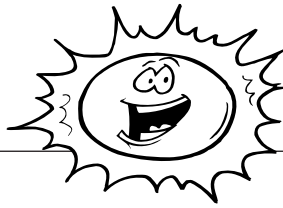
Archers thrive on independence and freedom, and they never tire of a change of scenery. Sure, they may forget your date or miss that important deadline, but they're always the life of the party, and just plain *fun!*



StarFacts

In Greek mythology, the best and bravest hunter was a woman—and her name was Diana (also Artemis). Protector of the wild animals, Diana was the guardian of all women as well, and whenever a woman died quickly and painlessly, she was said to have been slain by one of Diana's arrows.

Archers' enthusiasm is bound to be contagious, but their lack of commitment can annoy other more responsible signs. Their generosity may spill into excessiveness; their optimism may make them blind to details; and their honesty can make their remarks sound blunt or inconsiderate. But the carefree adventurousness of Sagittarius can be a welcome change.

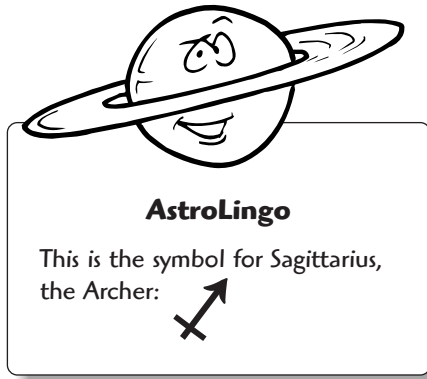


StarFacts

Archers are ruled by Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods, and the planet of good fortune, optimism, expansion, and abundance. (The word "jovial" is a derivative of the Latin form of Jupiter.) Jupiter is a fortunate ruler, and Archers tend to be freedom-loving, energetic people.

Another Archer myth is that of the Centaur, half human, half beast. You may remember them in living color, prancing and galloping around during Beethoven's 6th Symphony in *Fantasia*—and that's not a bad picture of Centaur life: one big party! But remember that half of the Centaur is human, and hence thinking and searching for meaning and truth, like an Archer!

Most dangerous to Archers can be their tendency toward dogma. Because they're seeking a universal truth rather than an individual one, they may mistake a trend for that truth and then become rather preachy about its powers. But Archers truly do wish to



unite all people under one idea, and if they believe they've found it, they're eager to share it with all.

Still, for Archers, it's the getting there that's more than half the fun: Archers love travel, new places, and seeking. Go along for the ride if you dare—and if you're an Archer yourself, you won't think twice!

Archers in Love

Commitment? Sure. Just don't expect it to go on too long! Mutable Archers are always on the move, and if they do find their true love, they may have left a bevy of admirers behind, trying in vain to find their tracks.

Love is fun! Romance is a gas! Passion is excitement! See how Sagittarius breeds exclamation points? Those who require loyalty and longevity in love might do well to look elsewhere, but if you're looking for a good time, call 1-800-ARCHER.

Archers aren't just looking for a good time, although that's part of it: They want a trail-mate for their journey. They're here to seek, and householders aren't particularly interested in living a life on the trail. It takes a special person to want to adventure off with a Sag; the future is so open to possibilities, but also so unsettled. This isn't the person you want if you're after a mate to "settle down" with. But for another adventurer, a Sag is a great journeyer.

Archers aren't concerned with details, which means they can drive more detail-oriented signs like Virgo to distraction. And Archers expect that everyone will want to have as much fun as they do, which tends to leave Scorpio and Taurus back in the dust, too. Archers will do best with other fire signs, where the romance can be both fiery and adventurous. Just don't forget that air feeds fire, too: Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius may have just the kind of surprises that Archers love!

The Healthy Archer

Energetic Archers can sometimes forget to slow down. And while they're galloping along, they may be gathering more and more new projects before they've finished any they've already started. All this running can make them prone to nervous exhaustion or just plain confusion. Sometimes it's necessary for racing-ahead Archers to STOP.

Sagittarius rules the hips, thighs, and liver, all of which can be severely harmed by overindulgence. Archers would do well to work on exercises that help them stay centered physically, and this, in turn, will help them not to lose sight of the big picture they envision.

Archers need to be aware of the problems of excess sugar, fat, or even alcohol; all can harm their livers. Too much overindulgence in these foods can really slow them down and make them sick. Archers need adequate amounts of vitamin K, inositol, manganese, and molybdenum to maintain normal liver function and metabolize fats. Detoxifying their liver around mid-life also can prevent major health problems later.

Archers at Home

Archers are great entertainers, and everyone loves a party at Archer's house. Yes, they may forget to serve—or to make—a main course, but all will be having too much fun to care.

You won't often find children at Archer's house, though. This adventurous sign doesn't want to be tied down. Archers like to feel free to set out for the next adventure, and home can just as easily be a tent in the Serengeti or on Mt. Denali, as a bachelor pad in the French Quarter or on Beale Street.

But wherever Archer's tent is pitched, you can be sure that's where you'll find the action.

Archers at Work

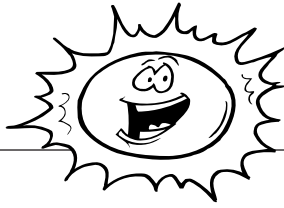
Because Archers tend to lose interest before a project is completed, it's best to have them on your idea team. Archers do well, though, in all areas of communications, or anywhere a sense of humor and excitement are needed—and they may be clowns, tricksters, or even court jesters! They'll also do well as *National Geographic* photographers—or any kind of photographer.

Archers also can be found in positions that require risk, from the stock market to test piloting. They may be gamblers—Archers believe in their luck, and that optimism really does make them lucky.

Archers are often found in education, medicine, the legal system, foreign relations, the travel industry, or traveling for business, such as importers/exporters, or in sales. Archers tend to be highly educated and very well read; Sagittarius often produces philosophers, preachers, or anyone associated with inspiring others.

Archers and Their Money

Overconfident Archers may tend to overextend themselves—and their resources—for the sake of a good time. But here again, their luck comes into play: Archers will put their last \$100 on that fifty-to-one shot—and it'll come in. You can bet that Archers, if they can hang in the game long enough, will go for the million on Regis Philbin's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*—whether or not they've got a lifeline or two or three intact. A good time to count on that Archer luck!



StarFacts

One of the best-known Archers at work was Gene Roddenberry, the creator of *Star Trek*. Deep in the heart of the '60s, when Americans were still scared of "Commies," and women and African-Americans were pressured to stay "in their place," Roddenberry created a crew that included an African-American woman, a Russian, an Asian, and an alien! Old *Star Treks* may look dated now, but back then, Roddenberry's vision was truly revolutionary—and very Archer-like!

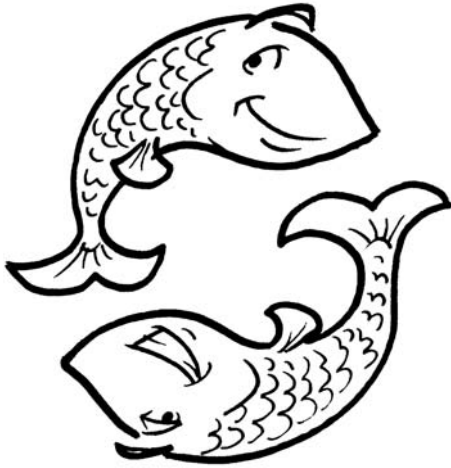
Because they're more interested in the big picture than the little details, Archers may forget that they borrowed that \$20 from you as soon as they've got it in their hand. And their irresponsibility with money may irk their more dependable friends to no end. But those same dependable friends will always come through for Archers—and, because Archers know it, they don't sweat it.

As a mutable sign, Archers can be very resourceful, so they're able to scrape something together, even if they're broke. Of course, that could lead back to borrowing from others. Very resourceful of them!

In the next chapter, we'll be looking at Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces, the signs of winter.

The Least You Need to Know

- The signs of fall are Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius.
- Cardinal Libra seeks balance and harmony.
- Fixed Scorpio desires transformation and power.
- Mutable Sagittarius is an enthusiastic explorer.



Signs of Winter

In This Chapter

- ▶ Capricorn ♄, Aquarius ♒, and Pisces ♛ are the signs of winter
- ▶ Capricorn ♄, the Goat: climb every mountain
- ▶ Aquarius ♒, the Water Bearer: gotta be me
- ▶ Pisces ♛, the Fishes: going with the flow

Perhaps no three signs are more different than the signs of winter: Capricorn ♄, Aquarius ♒, and Pisces ♛. Capricorn is the organized, goal-setting achiever; Aquarius is the inventive, humanitarian revolutionary; and Pisces is the compassionate, all-understanding healer.

Capricorn, the Goat: Climb Every Mountain

The Tenth Zodiac Sign

Capricorn, the Goat ♄	December 22nd–January 21st
Element:	Earth
Quality:	Cardinal
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Ruler:	Saturn
Color:	Brown

The Tenth Zodiac Sign (continued)

Capricorn, the Goat ♄	December 22nd–January 21st
Gem:	Garnet
Anatomy:	Bones, joints, and knees
Keywords:	Achievement, structure, organization
Mythological Archetype:	Father Time, Cronus
Celeb Goats:	Muhammad Ali, Joan of Arc, Martin Luther King Jr., Mel Gibson, Cuba Gooding Jr., Ricky Martin, Tracey Ullman, Kate Moss

Goat Tales

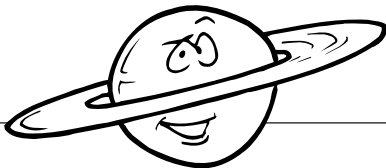
How many Capricorns does it take to screw in a light bulb?

One, but it has to be her idea.

No sign's public persona is closer to its values than a Goat's, and no sign is more directed toward its goals. Intense and practical, Goats will bide their time, waiting for the right moment to climb that peak, because once they do, they intend to stay there.

Self-control, of both will and emotion, helps Goats achieve their aims. As the cardinal earth sign, Goat is decidedly down to earth in its efforts, and, with its *yin* energy, a Goat uses the mind rather than physical force to reach its goals.

But Capricorn isn't just any goat; it's a sea-goat, and, as a creature that's half fish, it also can use water's deeper powers to its advantage. Ultimately, though, Goats' goals are always down-to-earth, so, no matter what their means to get there, their ends are always practical and constructive.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Capricorn, the Goat:



Capricorn is society's "elder." Goats are here to accept responsibilities for helping others and building a society that meets the needs of the people. They also want to build something stable and enduring—after all, this sign is ruled by Saturn, also known as Father Time.

Goats are meant to create a balance between responsible nurturing and meeting the responsibilities of being the elders. People don't become elders when they're young, though, so Goats understand the patience required to learn what's important.

The Best and Worst of Goats

It can be lonely at the top, but if Goats want to be there, they'll have to learn to live with solitude. At their best, Goats are ambitious, organized, efficient, and responsible, but Goats also can be cold, calculating, suspicious, and rigid.

In their effort to achieve security, Goats may step on anything, or anyone, that stands in their way. But they can be surprisingly kind, too, especially to those who have done them favors or kindnesses. Goats are motivated by pride; they don't like to be beholden, and they'll repay favors generously.

Goats' practicality can be a welcome asset in the cold of winter: The logs will be stacked ready next to the door, and the cupboard will be filled with all that's needed to get through the cold months. And Goats will surprise you, too, with their quiet, dry wit helping to pass the winter nights.

Goats in Love

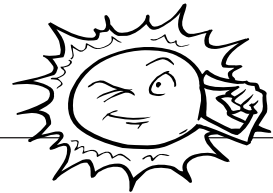
Goats seek their approval from the world-at-large, which may make personal relationships seem secondary to them, but once you discover Goats' dry sense of humor, you'll find a way to their hearts as well.

When you penetrate that icy reserve, in fact, you'll find the possibilities for deep love and strong loyalty. With their deepest feelings buried beneath the surface, Goats protect those they care for, and they'll stick around when the going gets tough.

Stability matters more to Goats than to any other sign, so when it comes to romance, they'll seek comfort over pleasure, and longevity over romance. Goats do well with other earth signs, but it can be with water signs that the best connections may occur: a nurturing Cancer, passionate Scorpio, or sympathetic Pisces may help a Goat grow in new ways.

The Healthy Goat

Goats can be pessimistic, and they need to beware of the melancholy that pessimism can bring. But cautious Goats often live long, long lives: Helena Rubinstein, Albert Schweitzer, and Carl Sandburg lived well into their 90s, for example. What seems to shorten Goats' lives most often is their potential power: both Joan of Arc and Martin Luther King Jr. were Goats, after all.



Heaven Knows

It's cold at the start of winter, and Capricorn's a cold sign—cold and calculating. Unlike another climber, the Ram, the Goats' steps are slow and sure: Goats want to make sure they get where they're going, so they're careful to take their time. With their energy turned inward, toward self-control, Goats quietly and steadily work toward their goals. And ruled by practical Saturn, they're bound to get there, too.

Many Goat afflictions are due to too much rigidity in their thinking or behavior: The difficulty of representing tradition is getting too rigid about it! Eventually this can translate into arthritis or rheumatism.

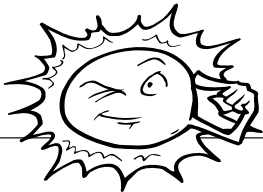
As for vitamins, what else? Goats need calcium to build those bones and teeth, as well as to keep their nerves under control. Goats also need plenty of vitamin C, which is necessary for forming skin, ligaments, bones, healthy teeth, and gums. And they need to get enough vitamin D and magnesium for utilizing the calcium to build their bones.

Capricorn rules the skeleton, bones, and teeth—all the *structural* aspects of the body that Goats are associated with. For this reason, alternative therapies that deal with the structure of the body, such as chiropractic or Feldenkrais, a form of structural and physical therapy, are very appropriate for Goats.

Goats at Home

Our favorite Goats seem to understand the importance of a place of their own, a quiet, private retreat from all the trappings that can come with power. Here they'll have their favorite music playing, their favorite pictures on the walls, and their favorite books stacked up next to their favorite chair.

Like all earth signs, Goats appreciate the comforts of home, but they're more likely to use it as a getaway than a base of operations. Goats know the importance of strong foundations, and their home will be warm and secure, a haven from those cold winter storms.



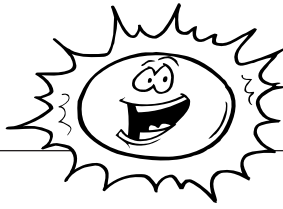
Heaven Knows

More Presidents of the United States have been born with their Sun or Moon in Capricorn than any other sign. Why? Because Goats' ambitions, shrewdness, and slow, steady movement toward their goals are just what are required for executive positions. Goats aspire to the top spot, and they get there, too!

Goats at Work

Goats like to be in charge, and if they don't start there, it's usually where they'll end up. Rags-to-riches Goats abound, such as Howard Hughes and Aristotle Onassis, as well as powerful Goats, such as Mao Tse-tung and Joseph Stalin.

The older Goats get, the more rewarding their lives are likely to become. Once they've achieved the power they've sought, they can relax with the wisdom they've gained and the lessons they can share with others. Many Goats live long lives as writers or artists, including J. R. R. Tolkien, Alfred Stieglitz, and Anton Chekhov. And Goats are found in business, where there are a lot of mountains to climb. As Goats are very achievement-oriented, they reach the top of many fields!



StarFacts

Have you heard the one about Cronus (another name for Saturn, Capricorn's ruler), who ate his children, because he was certain one of them was going to overthrow him? Talk about being rigid and sticking to tradition! Fortunately, his wife substituted a rock for one of the kids, who just happened to be Zeus, also known as Jupiter. Jupiter later went on to lead his brothers and sisters, who were freed (alive) from their father's stomach, in what seems to be justified revolt against their father!

Goats and Their Money

Goats understand the power that can come with money, and, as a cardinal sign, they're likely to do things with it in order to turn it into even more money—buying, selling, and making deals. Goats use their money to attain and maintain power: money means control to a Goat, and control and power are Goats' driving forces. They also are generous with their money once they have it, but the generosity is tied to their power and prestige: Goats truly understand the phrase "Money talks."

Aquarius, the Water Bearer: I Gotta Be Me

The Eleventh Zodiac Sign

Aquarius, the Water Bearer ≈	January 21st–February 19th
Element:	Air
Quality:	Fixed
Energy:	<i>Yang</i>
Rulers:	Uranus and Saturn
Color:	Violet
Gem:	Amethyst
Anatomy:	Ankles and circulation
Keywords:	Humanitarian, unique, revolutionary
Mythological Archetypes:	Deucalion and Pyrrha, Noah's Ark
Celeb W-Bs:	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Virginia Woolf, Paul Newman, Christina Ricci, Heather Graham, Edward Burns, Oprah Winfrey, Chris Rock

Water-Bearer Wonders

How many Aquarians does it take to screw in a light bulb?

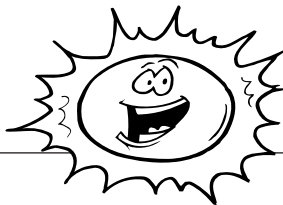
One, and he has to use the latest technology to do it.

Aquarius is where you'll find the zodiac's eccentric individualists and crazy inventors. Anything out of the ordinary interests this independent sign, and Water Bearers are often trendspotters and trendsetters.

Water Bearers' fixed air represents persistent development of the intellect through communication, and their planetary influence, Uranus, means they'll be committed to innovation and change. Aquarians will often be progressive and open-minded, but that fixed quality means they'll often be fixed in their opinions as well.

Most W-Bs find Earth to be a very dense place! Most of them are 50 years or more ahead of their time, and talking to the rest of us can seem like a difficult and laborious process. Aquarians often feel like they're visiting from another planet, because their ideas are so advanced. Trouble is, sometimes they forget their missions once they get here and find out how dense this place really is!

So why is it that Aquarius, the Water Bearer, is an air sign, not a water sign? Good question. But look at this sign's symbol, ♒, to find your answer. This water is in the form of waves, which are caused by wind: the motion of air on water. These wavy lines also represent the serpents of knowledge; the parts of the body ruled by Aquarius, the ankles and the circulatory system; and lightning that cleans air and leaves that "ozone buzz." Remember that this name doesn't refer to the water itself but to its carrier: Aquarius is the "water bearer," the most human of the signs.



StarFacts

Water Bearers will do anything to avoid boredom, and they care little for what others think, especially once they've determined their own particular cause. Their ambition is for humankind rather than just themselves, and you'll find some of the great progressive thinkers here: Charles Darwin, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Edison, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for example.

The Best and Worst of W-B

Idealistic, inventive, and original, W-Bs can all-too-easily seem aloof, detached, or just plain cranky. In fact, W-Bs' tendency to go against the grain can separate them from other people, even the more abstract "humanity" they are trying to help.

More than any other sign, W-Bs have a human connection, and they seek to bring all humans together without regard for any of the imaginary divisions humans themselves have created. This same disregard for human difference, though, may leave W-Bs without any close relationships of their own.

W-Bs' strongest trait is their intellectual independence, their refusal to be pigeonholed. W-Bs really do hear a "different drummer," and it may even be they who are playing those drums! W-Bs can be radicals, renegades, or bohemians too, but depending on other factors in the chart, this may not be obvious. They can look perfectly normal yet have very different ideas. So even though they may pass for one of us, they don't *feel* like us.

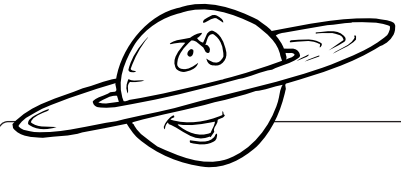
It's almost as though they're aliens from another star system, living in human bodies. W-Bs often experiment with or observe friends, mates, or partners, just to see what they will do under a particular set of circumstances, and they can be very detached about this process—although the results may be enough to keep them interested in a person!

W-Bs in Love

Independent W-Bs need partners who understand that independence and who won't feel threatened by it, and in return they'll offer their partners the same kind of freedom. With the right partner, W-Bs will be constant and true: Remember, this is a fixed sign, reluctant to change once it's established what it considers the right path.

Some W-Bs may sacrifice personal relationships to pursue a greater good, and some may seem aloof even in the best of relationships. Sometimes W-Bs' relationships themselves will become laboratories for their creativity, as they did in the cases of James Joyce, Federico Fellini, Gertrude Stein, and W. Somerset Maugham. W-Bs are always seeking what's best for humankind, and they may sometimes lose sight of individual humans in the process.

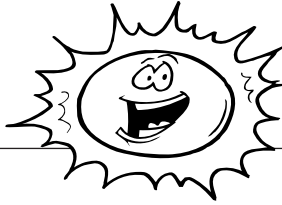
Air signs—Gemini, Libra, other Aquarians—will naturally combine well with Aquarius, but pay attention to the fire-feeding capabilities of air, too: The innovation of a W-B may be just what Aries, Leo, or Sag needs for some mutual excitement.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Aquarius,
the Water Bearer:





StarFacts

There's a lot of disagreement about just when the Age of Aquarius will or did begin. But what *is* agreed on is just what the Age of Aquarius means, and you'll see a lot of those same traits in an Aquarian person: tolerance, independence, progressiveness, and altruism.

The Aquarian Age heralds important leaps in science and technology, logical progressions, and greater global connections. Does this sound familiar? It should—many believe the Age of Aquarius has already begun!

The Healthy W-B

The ankles and the circulatory system are ruled by Aquarius: the ankles supporting our ability to stand, and circulation the movement of our very lifeblood through our bodies. W-Bs are the very essence of human existence, and it's important that in their tendency to think and see globally, they don't lose sight of these areas closer to home.

Vitamins and, of course, eating right can keep W-Bs at their fittest. W-Bs need magnesium—and plenty of it—in their diets to keep their circulation and heart (Leo is their opposite) in good shape. Magnesium also is needed for the electrical charges that move nutrients in and out of cells, as well as for absorbing and using vitamins and minerals.

W-Bs may heal well with acupuncture or chiropractic, because Saturn is their co-ruler and these healing techniques deal with the nervous system and their energy. Exercise also plays an important role; with their heads in the clouds, W-Bs may forget that they have a body to take care of as well!

W-Bs hold the mind and spirit in high esteem, but they need to pay attention to what connects them to the rest of humanity, too, and to keep their lifeblood circulating freely.

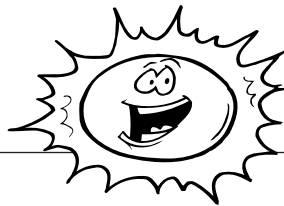
W-Bs at Home

W-Bs' home is the world, and they populate that world with a variety of people, especially the unusual, the eccentric, and those who are just plain different. "Live and let live" is a W-B motto, and they'll open their doors to anyone who needs their shelter. W-Bs believe that they can change people's lives just by being a part of them, and if their homes sometimes resemble Noah's Arks of humanity, it's no coincidence.

Even though they may seem aloof, W-B's individual goals are always based on a greater good. This holds true at home, too: Altruistic and giving, W-Bs share their homes with all.

W-Bs at Work

Clever, original W-Bs can excel in any profession in which creativity is a plus. This isn't limited just to the arts, either, but can extend to scientific innovation and invention, to public service or civil rights reform, even to owning a business of their own or marketing someone else's unique ideas. Many also work in broadcast media.



StarFacts

Among the myths associated with the sign of Aquarius are the great deluge myths: Noah's Ark in the Judeo-Christian tradition and Deucalion and Pyrrha in the Greek tradition. After surviving the Greek deluge by building a wooden box to float in, Deucalion and Pyrrha created a new race of people by throwing rocks over their shoulders: The rocks that Deucalion threw became men, and the rocks that Pyrrha threw became women.

W-Bs understand that the future is where innovation lies, and their careers may often lead others toward that future. Charles Lindbergh was a W-B, for example, and so is Ronald Reagan. W-Bs also may be geniuses within their chosen field, like golfer Jack Nicklaus or dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov.

W-Bs can be revolutionaries, sometimes associated with actual government revolutions, like Boris Yeltsin and Angela Davis, and often associated with ideas, causes, or inventions that eventually revolutionize the world.

But no matter where they work, you can count on W-Bs to be the ones at the cutting edge, the ones with ideas, the ones with creative solutions to the problems everyone else thought insoluble.

W-Bs and Their Money

W-Bs are givers rather than keepers, and, with their vision focused on the future, they're not likely to concern themselves with the here and now. This can translate into a disregard for money, including a tendency to go beyond their budgets or overextend themselves in other ways.

With their vision for the future, though, W-Bs can potentially do well in speculative ventures, especially in areas that will be using new technology. Well-selected investments in these areas now can protect W-Bs moving into their more uncertain futures.

Pisces, the Fishes: With the Flow

The Twelfth Zodiac Sign

Pisces, the Fishes ♃	February 19th–March 21st
Element:	Water
Quality:	Mutable
Energy:	<i>Yin</i>
Rulers:	Neptune and Jupiter
Color:	Sea-green
Gem:	Aquamarine
Anatomy:	Feet, immune system, hormonal system
Keywords:	Compassion, universality, inclusiveness
Mythological Archetype:	The Healer, Christ
Celeb Fishes:	Billy Crystal, Mikhail Gorbachev, Liza Minnelli, Ralph Nader, Elizabeth Taylor, Thora Birch, Drew Barrymore, Bruce Willis, Queen Latifah

Fish Facts

How many Pisces does it take to screw in a light bulb?

The light went out?

Mutable water: from solid (ice) to liquid to gas (vapor). This is the character of Pisces, changing according to outside conditions. And yet Fishes live largely in the world of the imagination, the realm of dreams, where objects and events seem to have no connection to outer reality. What's going on here?

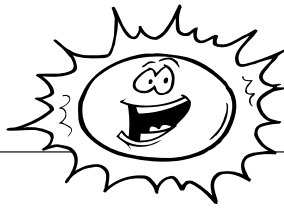
This last sign creates the possibility to move beyond self into transcendence, represented to humans as the world of dreams and faith. But this also can be a world of sheer escapism, where dreaming is done for its own sake. Fishes, we could say, can either sink or swim.

Put another way, Fishes know which way the river is running and may swim with it or against it. Swimming against it can mean they may find a way to another stream ("hooked" Fishes can channel their addictions, for example), while swimming with it may mean, quite literally, "going with the flow," and living intuitively.

Fishes are highly intuitive, in fact, and Pisces is the sign that merges with others so easily that these people don't always know what's theirs and what belongs to someone else. Fishes are frequently so sensitive to the vibrations of others that they can go into work and instantly feel how others are doing. Unfortunately, they also may unconsciously take responsibility for how others are doing, or wonder why they feel so bad—especially when they woke up feeling so good!

For this reason, fishes can have a hard time maintaining their boundaries and knowing what *they're* feeling, as opposed to what others are feeling. The reason for this boundary stuff goes back to the main point of Pisces, which is to merge with others—and eventually the Source or God. Fishes are in a highly spiritual sign, living in a very nonspiritual world. For this reason it's easy for them to get off-track by merging with the wrong people and to get away from their true spiritual focus.

Above all, Fishes are here to give, not just to those like themselves, but to anyone who needs their help, love, attention, or whatever. Have you ever watched *The X-Files*? Mulder is probably a Pisces, or else he has a strong Neptune! After all, his poster reads: "I want to believe."



StarFacts

True to the Piscean paradox, here's a symbol ☿ with multiple meanings. It represents two fishes tied together; a picture of the human feet, which Pisces rules; or two crescent moons, connected by a straight line—emotion and higher consciousness tied down to the material world. No wonder Fishes so often feel misunderstood and yet have so many possibilities—even their symbol is all-encompassing!

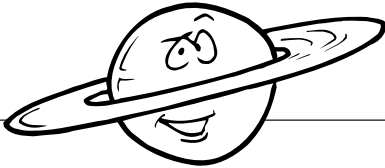
Pisces is associated with baptism, spiritual cleansing, and renewal, and Venus is "exalted" here, which means that the love and beauty she rules are of a universal rather than a personal nature. Fishes are a symbol of divine purity; in fact, the birth of Christ is associated with the beginning of the Age of Pisces.

The Best and Worst of Fishes

Compassionate Fishes can see deep into the human psyche, probe the depths of emotions, lend a sympathetic ear, or play an intuitive hunch. But they can also be oh-so-sad, shy, timid, or just plain impractical. Fishes can seem both lazy and overtalkative, the talk seeming to go on and on about any number of unlikely possibilities.

But Fishes can change too, and change can be good: It can mean adaptability. Because of their extraordinary sensitivity, Fishes are often creative artistically, and their understanding of people sometimes seems limitless (though the understanding doesn't always extend to themselves).

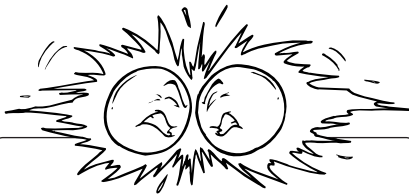
Pisces is the sign that represents spirituality—not religion, like Sagittarius—but a true need to have a relationship with a higher power. When these spiritual needs aren't fulfilled, Fishes become involved in the negative side of this energy, which is escapism. That's where the drugs, alcohol, or sugar addictions come in, as well as the wrong kinds of people.



AstroLingo

This is the symbol for Pisces, the

Fishes: 



Star-Crossed

Impressionable Fishes can fall for just about any hard-luck story; dreamers themselves, they can easily get caught up in the dreams of others as well. Fishes can tend toward addiction, too, whether in food, alcohol, drugs, or simply the wrong kinds of people. Sometimes, in fact, their lives can seem filled with trouble.

Fishes need to learn to live by faith and intuition: Once they do this, they're on the right track. Physicist Albert Einstein was a Pisces, and his theories were "impractical," but correct. Does the universe need dreamers and people who can transcend the boundaries of normal reality? And does that make them impractical? Or just different from the rest of us?

Fishes in Love

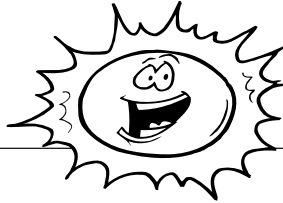
Kind, perceptive, sensitive Fishes look at the inner soul of others, at the essence rather than the surface. Fishes are truly seeking their soulmates, the most profound love possible and so may be disappointed when real people fail to live up to their idealistic expectations.

Fishes in love can create an enchanting place where love happens, a space separate from the rest of the world for Fishes and their loved ones alone. Fishes feel, and they can translate that feeling, too: You'll always know when you're the object of Fishes' affection.

Water, water, water: Of course Fishes will do well with Cancers, Scorpios, and other Pisces. But here's a sign where empathy can go far—if Fishes are careful. More flighty signs like Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius may leave Fishes swimming in their wake—or raise them to new heights of awareness. Fishes can do especially well with nurturing earth signs, and earth signs' practicality can also keep Fishes' tendency toward flights of fancy a little more rooted. As in all areas, though, Fishes need to beware of those who would take advantage of them: They're quick to trust, and all too easily hurt.

Healthy Fishes

Fishes can tend to overindulge, and need to be careful to limit their intake of everything from bread to wine. Fishes may be overweight or have a tendency to retain water. In addition, Pisces rules the feet, and Fishes should take particular care to avoid sprains, or even breaks, to that sensitive area.



StarFacts

Fishes often channel their imagination and creativity into the arts: The great Italian Renaissance artist Michelangelo Buonarroti was a Pisces, and so were French Impressionist painter Auguste Renoir and Polish Romantic composer Frederic Chopin. Fishes do best when they believe in themselves and their dreams the same way they believe in others' dreams—but this isn't always an easy task!

Fishes don't always take care of themselves as well as they do others, but one way to start would be through a holistic fitness regimen that takes into account both body and soul. One vitamin that can help Fishes feel their best is pantothenic acid, which helps stimulate their adrenal glands and increase their immune systems. Because Pisces appear to rule the immune system, all aids to this system—like astragalus or echinacea herbs—are helpful for Fishes.

Pisces also seems to be in charge of hormones, so keeping them in balance may be very important. Fishes are very sensitive to foods and poisons in their environment, and may need to be detoxified more frequently than any other sign. Alcohol and drugs are very difficult for them to process. Even prescription drugs can wreak havoc on their systems, so it's very important for Fishes to watch their intake and notice the changes in their bodies.

Fishes at Home

Fishes use their homes as places for spiritual renewal—or spiritual abuse. Just as they may swim with or against the current, they may use their homes as refuges or dens of iniquity, and the choice they make will spill over into other areas of their life as well.

If Fishes find true love, they're more likely to create a home as refuge, and Fishes would do well to create their own hidden cave, a place to renew themselves, to meditate, and to be introspective—retreat can bring healthy renewal.

Fishes at Work

Because Fishes love to combine their real life with their imaginary one, they can often be found in the world of theater or film, or in any of the arts. But they also can do quite well in business or even politics, where their sensitivity can give them powerful insights less intuitive signs might miss.

Fishes like to work behind the scenes or alone: Fame and recognition aren't what drive them. Because of this, Fishes can be great manipulators or builders. Or they may be photographers—beautifully capturing others' spirits on film.

Fishes are often found, too, in areas where their capabilities for the spiritual can be used: They may be astrologers or monks, religious leaders or healers. Fishes are known for their ability to sacrifice themselves for others.

Pisces also deals with images, so these people are gifted at leading others through visualization experiences and meditations and bringing people to a higher level of awareness and consciousness. Above all, Fishes are here to help the rest of us transcend our normal ruts, beliefs, and boundaries, and see the illusions we live under.

Fishes and Their Money

Here again, Fishes need to be wary of others' stories: They're all too easily convinced to hand over their life savings to help a friend (or anyone) they think is in need. Money can swim in and out of Fishes' lives as mysteriously as everything and everyone else does, and impractical Fishes don't always understand why.

Because they're not really prone to money-making enterprises themselves, Fishes' money may come from outside sources, and it may go back outside, too. Many Fishes work in the service sector, so they may not get the kind of money that business enterprises pay. But what Fishes *are* good at are the dreams where all good ideas—including potential money-making ones—begin. Here's a sign whose intuitive hunches are always worth pursuing.

The Least You Need to Know

- The signs of winter are Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces.
- Cardinal Capricorns seek structure and achievement.
- Fixed Aquarians are innovative and humanitarian.
- Mutable Pisces are compassionate to all.



Ascendants: The Mask You Wear for the World

In This Chapter

- ▶ The costume you selected at your birth
- ▶ Finding your ascendant
- ▶ What your ascendant reveals about you
- ▶ Ascendants, sign by sign

Remember choosing who you wanted to “be” for Halloween? Your parents may have laughed at your insistence that you “had to” be Batman, or the Little Mermaid, or Luke Skywalker, or Hopalong Cassidy (we’re probably dating ourselves here ...).

Your ascendant is the daily costume you selected at the moment you were born: It’s the mask you wear every day, the “you” everybody else sees. And it may be connected to the character you wanted to be for Halloween, too.

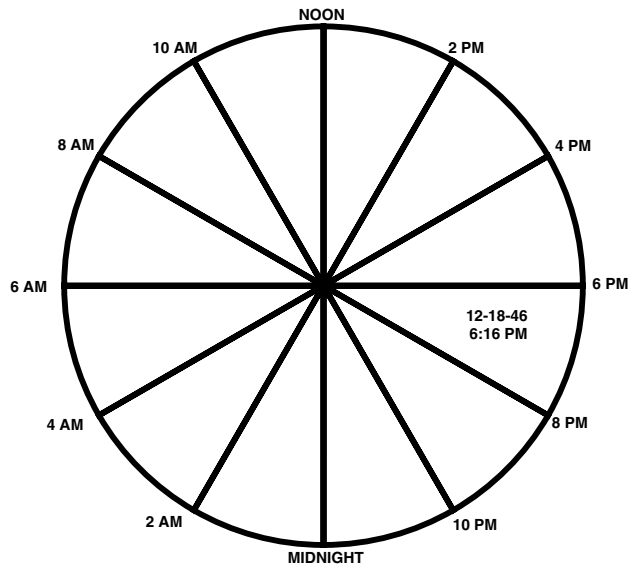
What’s Rising?

Let’s start by finding your ascendant. The most idiot-proof way is to have a computer with the appropriate software find it for you, but there are some simplified methods that you can use. All you need to know is the time and date of your birth. This method isn’t foolproof, but it works much of the time. Got those numbers? Now, just follow these step-by-step instructions:

1. Using the blank chart below, write your birth date and time in the appropriate “slice” for the time of day you were born. (We’re using Steven Spielberg’s birth

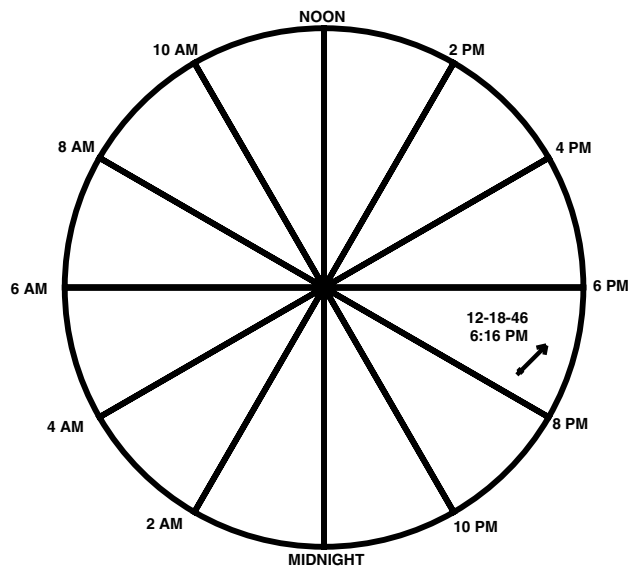
date and time—6:16 P.M. on December 18, 1946—in our example. You can go back to Spielberg's birth chart in Chapter 3, "Astrology Basics for Your Personal Forecast.")

Write your birth date and time in the appropriate slice. We've filled in Steven Spielberg's stats in this example.

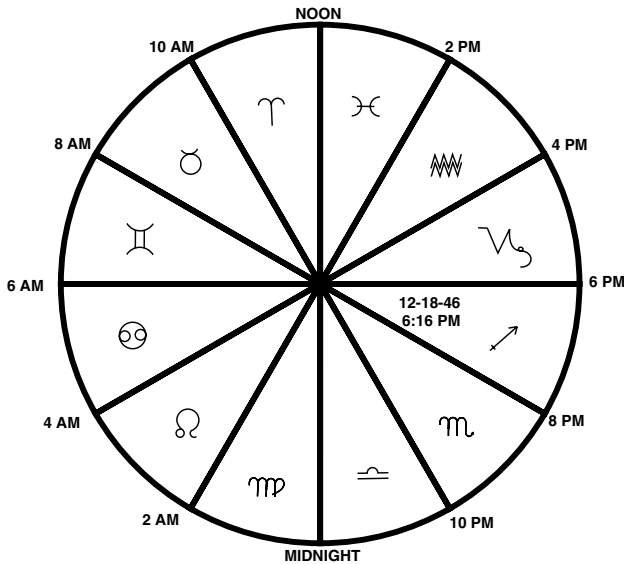


2. Using the zodiac on the tear-out reference card at the beginning of this book, find your Sun sign.
3. Draw your Sun sign in the same "slice" in which you wrote your birth date.

Draw your Sun sign in the appropriate slice. We filled in Spielberg's Sun sign: Sagittarius.

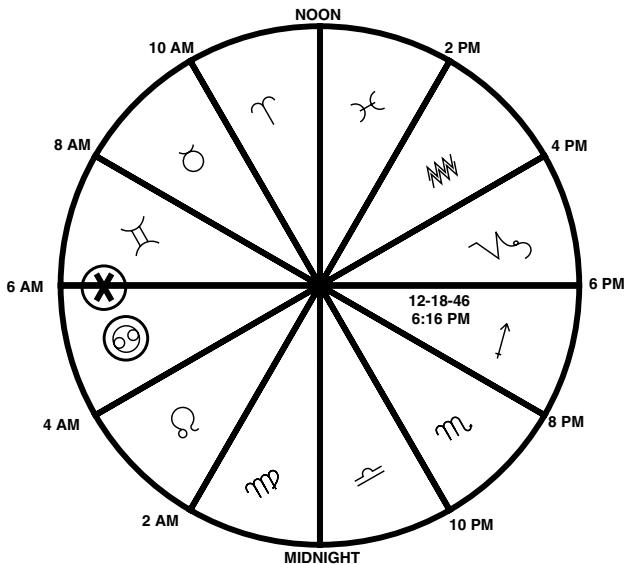


4. Now, going in a *counterclockwise* direction, draw the rest of the signs, in order, in each “slice.” If you drew Aries in your slice, for example, you should follow with Taurus, Gemini, and so on.



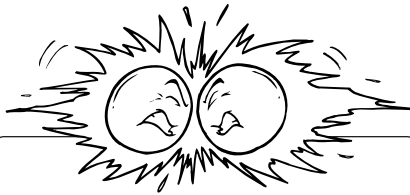
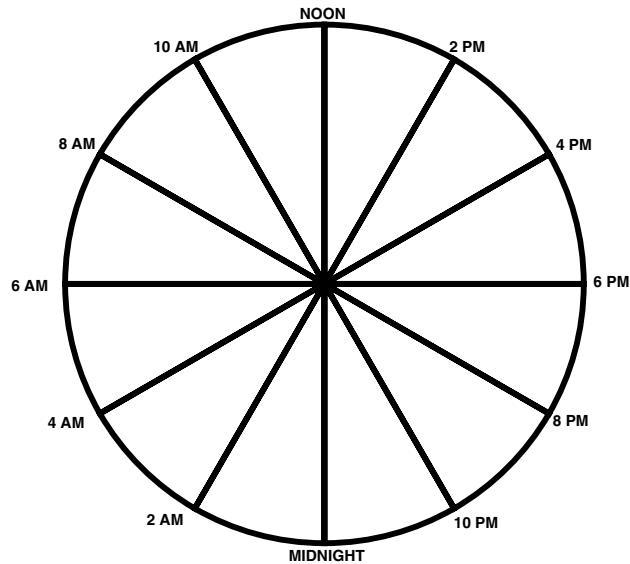
Draw the signs counterclockwise on the chart. We've done this on Steven Spielberg's behalf.

5. Now look to see which sign is shown at the “eastern horizon” of your chart. Remember, on an astrological chart, the “east” is on the left. “X” marks the spot.



“X” marks the spot. Note that the symbol for Cancer, in the house just below the eastern horizon, is circled—this sign is the ascendant for Steven Spielberg.

Use this blank chart with ascendant times to figure out what your ascendant is. Follow the same procedures we just used to figure out Steven Spielberg's ascendant.



Star-Crossed

When you read the information for the ascendant you found using our quick method, if it seems all “wrong,” read the information for the ascendants immediately before and after it as well. This method is approximate, not exact, and so it is possible that you may get a “wrong” reading from it—but it will be close.

Got your ascendant, or rising sign, figured out? Read on to find out what your rising sign reveals about you.

Rising Signs

As you recall from Chapter 4, “There’s More to You Than Just Your Sun Sign,” your ascendant reveals a great deal about the way you express yourself. In addition, unless your Sun sign and ascendant are the same (which means you were born at sunrise), the true you is hiding behind the mask of your rising sign.

We’d like to add another dimension to your consideration of your ascendant, too: Think of it as “training” for the person you are becoming. In other words, your rising sign indicates the skills and traits you’re learning to develop during your lifetime. If you’re born with a Scorpio ascendant, for example, much of what you do may be connected with learning about control, both self-control and a need to control others.

Rising Signs of Spring

As you’ll recall from the Sun sign chapters, the signs of Spring have little in common other than their season. The same holds true for these signs when they’re rising: An

Aries ascendant is learning about independence; a Taurus ascendant is learning to appreciate the finer things in life; and a Gemini ascendant is learning, well, about learning.

Ram Rising: The Aries Υ Ascendant

- Keynote: striving forward
- Training for independence

Ram Rising is like taking the “Aries training.” This is someone who’s learning to develop a strong, individuated self, learning how to play, and to become independent, spontaneous, and free of restrictions. It’s also important for them to learn qualities of courage, trust—especially in themselves!—and even innocence.

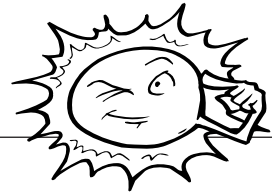
Ram ascendants are really ascending, always pushing themselves forward, always striving for the next peak. Those with a Ram ascendant are often the ones making the decisions, and they’ve got strong likes and dislikes to back up those decisions. But Ram ascendants may mistake impulsiveness for action and may not stop long enough to see what they really want. Rising Rams may appear pushy or rude, but remember, an ascendant is a mask, and what appears to be arrogance may be covering up something else entirely.

Bull Rising: The Taurus $\♉$ Ascendant

- Keynote: seeking identity through substance
- Training for aesthetic appreciation

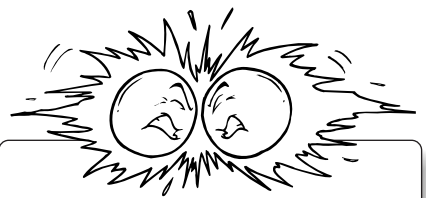
Rising Bulls seem placid and easygoing, have charming manners, and never impose their opinions on others. They don’t want to upset the applecart: They like it the way it is, full of apples!

You could think of Bull Rising as a “training” to learn about beauty: Rising Bulls’ lesson is to understand the nature of physical experience, aesthetics, and the nature of intimacy. As shamanic astrologer Daniel Giamarro says, the enlightened path for



Heaven Knows

As you discovered in the last four chapters, each sign has its own unique characteristics, so when these characteristics are your ascendant, or outward manifestation, you’re going to put on that sign’s face.



Star-Crossed

Like those with a Taurean Sun sign, Rising Bulls need to remember to love things for their own sake rather than for what they may represent. For Rising Bulls, possessions are merely a mask.

one with this training “is the Garden of Eden, to bring spirit into matter all the way, so one can totally enjoy it.” This training helps Bulls learn to be fully present in life and increase their life force energy.

Bull ascendants seek their identity through substance, whether it be possessions, connections, or creation. Rising Bulls always seek to “keep a handle” on things, but their love of food, drink, and yes, sex, can make them momentarily forget that stability is their main pull.

Twins Rising: The Gemini* ♊ *Ascendant

- Keynote: emotion in motion
- Training for truthful communication

Motion. That’s what you’re going to see in a Rising Twin. Restlessness is the hallmark of this ascendant, and Rising Twins find their identity by making as many contacts as possible. Rising Twins are often the life of the party and, in fact, are often *giving* the party!

At the same time, Rising Twins are learning to be the eternal youth, free spirit, entertainer, artist, or comedian. They can also be the troubadour minstrel, the court jester, the trickster, or clown, or the coyote that leaves a surprise. Remember that the court jester was the only one who could tell the King the truth and not be killed for it (another form of messenger). Rising Twins are learning these abilities, as well as how to communicate truthfully without getting creamed for it!

A Gemini ascendant will appear excitable and quick—and also prone to upset. At the same time, there’s an aloofness here: Twins’ connections are made on a mental field, which can often leave the emotional out in the cold.

Rising Twins’ motion may mask many things, but remember, an ascendant is just that—a mask. And if anyone knows how to wear a mask, it’s a Rising Twin!

The Rising Signs of Summer

They may all be signs of Summer, but that’s where the resemblance between these three rising signs ends. A Cancer ascendant is learning about emotion; a Leo ascendant is learning to trust him or herself; and a Virgo ascendant is learning his or her own particular sacred work.

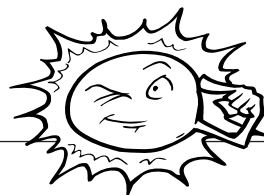
Crabs Rising: The Cancer* ♋ *Ascendant

- Keynote: learning responsible love and nurturing
- Training for family foundations

Rising Crabs are talkative, especially about feelings, but also are moody and changeable, because their ruler, the Moon, changes signs every few days. Rising Crabs also are compassionate and receptive. They know what's happening with everyone around them, because they're sensitive to others. Family and traditions are important to them. But they can be crabby and irritable at times, too!

Rising Crabs are learning about the nature of family, home, and roots, as well as how to love and nurture so that their children will have a safe foundation and a concern for the welfare of generations to come. They also are learning how to responsibly nurture, love, and support their offspring or creative projects until they reach maturity—this is a “training” that teaches them how to redefine “family,” while providing support and nurturing in an appropriate way.

Rising Crabs may be indirect in their approach to things and may be quick to take things personally. Above all, they seem to react to all things emotionally—feeling rather than thinking. In the case of Crab Rising, there are two shells: the ascendant mask and the Crab shell itself!



Heaven Knows

It can seem deceptively easy to get to know a Rising Crab: They seem so soft and personal. But like those with Crab Sun signs, Rising Crabs wear a hard, tough shell that may sometimes get in the way.

Lion Rising: The Leo $\text{\textcircled{L}}$ Ascendant

- Keynote: developing self-confidence
- Training for self-approval before the approval of others

Rising Lions present the world with a bright, sunny, confident exterior, a flair for the dramatic. How much has this got to do with the inner being beneath the show? That depends on you.

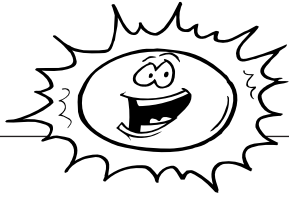
One of the primary lessons of being a Rising Lion is to learn to give up needing other people's approval, respect, and admiration. This usually doesn't happen until the person is able to choose self-approval and self-respect over that of other people. When it does happen, though, Rising Lions suddenly gain more respect and admiration from others than they had when they were trying to please others. Self-approval is the key to a Rising Lion.

An ascendant Lion may help to develop self-confidence, because the outer person will be projecting self-confidence as a matter of course. After a while, this can become second nature, helping those less confident to overcome a lack of faith in themselves.

No other sign can mask quite so well as Leo, and no other mask can fit so well that you forget it's a mask. But beneath all the roar may be a real pussycat!

Virgin Rising: The Virgo ♍ Ascendant

- Keynote: a process of self-improvement and refinement
- Training for finding the sacred patterns of the universe



StarFacts

Rising Virgins often find one area of their lives to act as a place of purity, a way to keep some part of themselves apart from the contamination of everyday life. They seek their identities through a constant process of self-improvement and refinement, and while they give an appearance of ruthless efficiency, they are often masking something else entirely.

When you meet Rising Virgins, the first thing you notice may be that they're refined and soft-spoken. A man with Virgin Rising may look like a quintessential British gentleman. They may not say much until they've adequately sized you and the situation up. Because these people are analytical, they'll probably ask you several questions, rather than assume anything. Rising Virgins also can be very witty people, because they're Mercury-ruled.

Rising Virgins are learning to develop a new understanding of how they can contribute to our present culture and the nature of sacred work in today's world. Once they understand what their sacred work is, they can learn to co-create with the patterns of the Universe.

Rising Virgins may be learning to put things in perspective, or they may have a tendency to let small details take on meanings far beyond their actual importance. Work will matter a great deal to Rising Virgos and may well be their most effective mask.

The Rising Signs of Fall

They may all be signs of Fall, but that's where the resemblance between these three rising signs ends. With a Libra ascendant, you're learning to find equilibrium in all things; with a Scorpio ascendant, you're learning about your own personal power; and with a Sagittarius ascendant, you're learning to seek out new adventures.

Scales Rising: The Libra ♎ Ascendant

- Keynote: creating conscious, equal relationships and partnerships
- Training for balance and justice

Rising Scales often have refined and delicate features, a certain beauty and charm, and a manner of dressing that is always clean, neat, and in good taste—with a strong sense of style and color. They also may have a well-developed sense of diplomacy and refined social graces. Rising Scales are very personable and charming as well.

Rising Libras are learning about consciousness, equal relationships, and partnerships. This is not about defining who you are by whom you're with, though, but actually learning—through constant interaction—about relationships as a spiritual path. In addition, this “training” is about refining one's awareness.

Rising Scales' need for companionship or partnership is balanced by their desire for fair play, peace, balance, and harmony, and once their need for love is satisfied, their desire for social justice will kick in.

Scorp Rising: The Scorpio ♏ Ascendant

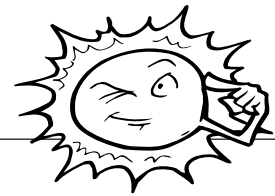
- Keynote: the life force as a path to God, the Universe, or the Source
- Training for personal magnetism

There's nothing halfway about a Rising Scorp; they put the whole force of their personality behind everything they do. Rising Scorps are often very magnetic and attract others very easily: Their magnetism is one of the reasons it's so easy for these people to gain power—others give it to them. Another aspect of their personalities is their intensity. Someone once described this personality as similar to a holocaust survivor at a cocktail party! They aren't really interested in discussing the weather or other chit-chat, and their intensity may scare others.

Rising Scorps are learning about the life force as a path to God, the Universe, or the Source. As part of this “training,” Rising Scorps may experience powerful and intense feelings, which they will then learn to master in order to fully understand their experiences.

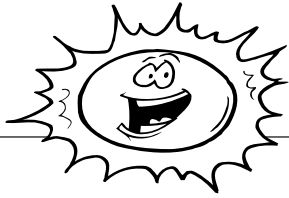
Scorp Rising is a strong indicator that these people are born with a need to control, because that's when things feel safest to them. There may have been major difficulties in the early environment and home life that encouraged them to take control so they would feel safe—and remember that people don't worry about feeling safe unless they feel very vulnerable. Rising Scorps' greatest challenge is to learn how to control themselves, and to stop controlling others.

The mask of Scorpio is secrecy; Scorpio Rising can act as a double disguise. Rising Scorps may use manipulation or deception to rise to power, and they may move quietly in the wings until their rise has been completed.



Heaven Knows

Many of the 20th century's most influential leaders have had Rising Scorps: Gandhi, Mussolini, and Stalin. So while it's clear that Rising Scorps' quest for power is separate from questions of good and evil, it's equally clear that it is a given.



StarFacts

With their strong philosophical outlook and/or strong religious nature, Rising Archers believe that something better is just around the corner, even when things go wrong. And Rising Archers always seem to be shooting their arrows in order to have new challenges and goals—having to do the same things over and over again drives them crazy.

Archer Rising: The Sagittarius ⏏ Ascendant

- Keynote: seeking adventure, new horizons, and spiritual growth
- Training “to boldly go where no one has gone before”

The world of Rising Archers is filled with possibilities, and these people are unusually optimistic. Rising Archers are explorers—they need to see new territory—so goals and challenges are very important to them.

Rising Archers often have long thin faces, with high foreheads, rather like horses, in fact, and they may shake their heads, just as horses toss their manes. Rising Archers tend to hide their problems and troubles behind humor, and they don’t want others to be worried about them. Part of this is because they can’t stand to worry about themselves, so they don’t want others to do so either.

With Jupiter as the ruler of their ascendant, Rising Archers are often jovial, happy-go-lucky, enthusiastic, and optimistic, seeking always to find the truth, and they will approach the world as if it’s their own oyster, filled with possibilities. Rising Archers are like trainees on a Star Fleet spaceship, learning “to boldly go where no one has gone before.” They are learning about the meaning of life and expanding their inner selves to the furthest horizons possible. Adventure and spiritual growth go hand in hand with Archer Rising.

The Rising Signs of Winter

They may all be signs of Winter, but these three rising signs have little in common beyond that: A Capricorn ascendant is learning about responsibility; an Aquarius ascendant is learning about the bigger picture; and a Pisces ascendant is learning about empathy and giving.

Goat Rising: The Capricorn ♑ Ascendant

- Keynote: being responsible for yourself and others
- Training to take care of business—and everything else, too

Rising Goats are learning about what it means to be responsible for not just themselves, but others, too. Part of this “training” is learning the rules, and part is being available to help others, but the tough side is that Rising Goats may begin to believe that they are responsible for *all* the problems around them (rather like a scapegoat!) and that they must carry the burden for others. Rising Goats would better help themselves by learning how to oversee their territory, as well as learning new ways to create family and community.

Rising Goats may be worriers: They’ll worry about what’s going wrong in their youth, what can go wrong in their middle age, and about death in their old age. And they can tend to be quiet and reserved, though this often masks an active mind and tremendous willpower.

It’s often hard for Rising Goats to show their feelings; their mask of reserve may be doubly thick because Capricorn is a naturally quiet sign. What you’ll find on the surface with a Rising Goat is a need for order, a constant checking of the details to make sure everything is going smoothly—and a sometimes obsessive certainty that it’s not. It’s all part of learning about responsibility.

Rising Goats may remind other, less practical signs that they need to attend to what matters, and so they sometimes seem to be “wet blankets.” But underneath all this careful planning, you may find someone who’s a whole lot of fun.

W-B Rising: The Aquarius ♊ Ascendant

- ▶ Keynote: progressive forward-thinkers
- ▶ Training for cosmic consciousness

Rising W-Bs appear to be forward-thinking and progressive, friendly, and open to new ideas, but they also may be intolerant of others’ shortcomings and quite sarcastic.

In fact, Rising W-Bs are full of contradictions: They love to travel, and they love to stay at home; they’re friendly and outgoing, and they’re moody and aloof. Mind-wise, they can be both scientific and artistic, and they may be involved in two very separate areas of work.

Rising W-Bs are magnetic—and associated with electricity—so people with this rising sign appear unusual in some way and attract many people to them. This is often the ascendant of celebrities or people who work in broadcasting. Rising W-Bs are taking the “training” of achieving cosmic consciousness. They’re here to learn how to detach from the physical and emotional planes so they can focus on spirit and the higher planes.

Always, though, W-B Rising goes forth with a spirit of adventure. They may forsake human connections for ideas, but no matter what, they are always on the cutting edge. Take Carl Jung, for example—he had an Aquarius rising!

Fishes Rising: The Pisces ♃ Ascendant

- Keynote: learning how to give in a healthy way
- Training for giving, without giving all

Rising Fishes want the world to appear ideal, and if it doesn't, they'll ignore anything that doesn't color the picture the way they want. They'll show endless goodwill toward others, often to the detriment of themselves, and will often get caught up in pipe dreams and get-rich-quick schemes, both their own and others'.

Rising Fishes need to learn about giving in a healthy way, including giving unconditional love to everyone—not just family, clan, tribe, or race—as other signs do. This “training” teaches them to be there for others and to merge themselves and their energy with others, in order to help anyone who needs it. Rising Fishes also are learning how to be in the flow of life, instead of trying to control things. This is a “giver training,” but Rising Fishes also learn to offer help to anyone—not just those who look, think, and act like them.

Quick to be sentimental, Rising Fishes will cry over anyone's spilled milk. Their bodies are basically one big antenna, catching all the pain and pleasure the world has to offer, and their moods will change as often as the tides—or even more often. Rising Fishes' eyes may be watery-looking, and have an ethereal look to them.

The mask here is feeling, a curious mask, because feeling would seem to be an internal sense. But the Rising Fishes' seemingly quick emotions may be covering something else entirely—or they could just be the tip of the iceberg.

The Least You Need to Know

- Your ascendant is the mask you wear for the world.
- You can usually find your ascendant using the pie charts we provide in this chapter.
- Your ascendant reveals your mode of self-expression.
- You can think of your rising sign as a kind of lifelong “training” for the lesson you most need to learn.

Part 3

Good Heavens: Heavenly Bodies, Houses, and Your Astrological Chart

It's time to move beyond the Sun signs to planets in the signs and houses. Here is where it will be a good idea to have your birth chart in hand before you begin—but even if you don't, you may be able to figure out which planets you have in which signs and houses by the descriptions we provide.

The planets in the signs and houses represent your psychological needs. It's worth noting that Noel Tyl, a world-famous astrologer who holds a psychology degree from Harvard, pioneered the connection between psychological needs theory and astrology.

You'll also learn about planetary retrogrades, where the motion of a given planet appears, for a time, to be moving backward from Earth's perspective. You'll learn the difference between personal retrogrades and transiting retrogrades, and discover why knowing when planets are retrograde can help you chart your own course.

By the end of Part 3, you'll have a good, solid psychological profile—provided by your birth chart. Not bad for the money, huh?





When the Moon Is in the Seventh House

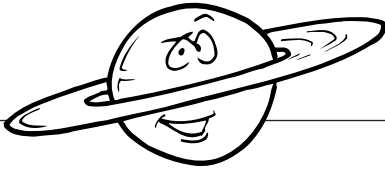
In This Chapter

- ▶ Lessons in housekeeping
- ▶ A house is more than a home
- ▶ The planets as landlords
- ▶ Retrograde planets
- ▶ Why Neptune and Pluto are special

Houses are the stages where the drama of your planets in their signs unfolds, the places where *who you are* is made visible by *what you do*. Just as the various places where you live your external life—your home, your office, your bed—are the locations for your life, so are your houses. Some of them may be places you'd rather avoid, and some of them may be places you'd love to never leave, but each of them is very much a part of you.

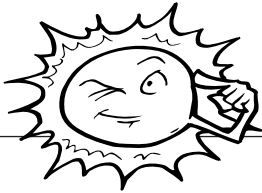
Lessons in Housekeeping

You will recall that each of the 12 houses encompasses a specific arena of life. The First House is the pie slice just below your eastern horizon, and the other houses follow, counterclockwise, around your chart. The dividing lines between the houses are called *cusps*. Each of these cusps begins a new house; think of them as doors into the houses.



AstroLingo

Cusps are the dividing lines between the houses and are the beginning of each house as well. The cusps of the houses determine which house a planet is in.



Heaven Knows

Among the 12 houses are all the areas of experience any human will encounter, and so *everything* in your life shows up in one of your houses—everything from early childhood to sex, death, and taxes!

Remember, too, to think of each house as representing the space above and below the horizon of your birth chart: Half the sky is visible and half of it isn't. Below the horizon are the six houses of *personal* development, which include areas such as your personality, knowledge, possessions, home, creativity, responsibilities, health, and the way you help serve others.

Above the horizon are the six houses of your development in the larger world, which include areas such as your relationships, shared resources, social concerns, career, goals, and your unconscious.

A House Is More Than a Home

Houses reveal *where* in our lives we have lessons to learn. If, for example, you seem to have a pattern of picking the wrong type of friend or lover, you probably have a lesson related to your Seventh House that you haven't quite mastered yet. Or, if every time it seems you've finally settled down "for good," you suddenly up and move again, maybe you haven't quite resolved a home issue that would make your Fourth House feel comfortable or stable.

Your First House is also called your *ascendant* house, so it is where we find the you that the world sees: your personality and your physical self. In addition, each house, just like each sign, also has a *quality*.

The First House, for example, also is one of four *angular* houses (which correlate to the *cardinal* signs). The angular houses represent your strongest influences:

The First House is your "identity project"; the Fourth House, your "foundation or home project"; the Seventh House, your "relationship project"; and the Tenth House your "social role or career project."

The Angular Houses

The First House	Your physical self and personality
The Fourth House	Your home and the foundation of your life
The Seventh House	Your primary relationships
The Tenth House	Your reputation and career

The second set of houses, called the *succedent* houses, corresponds to the natural fixed signs and represents the areas of your life concerned with resources: what you own, how you earn money, your creative capabilities, your shared resources, and the friends and groups that help you achieve your goals.

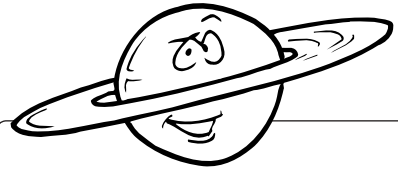
The Succedent Houses

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| The Second House | Your possessions, self-esteem, and earning abilities |
| The Fifth House | Your creativity, children, risk-taking, romance |
| The Eighth House | Your shared resources, taxes, insurance, intimate relationships, transformation |
| The Eleventh House | The groups you work with to achieve your goals and desires |

The last set of houses corresponds to the mutable signs; these are called the *cadent* houses. These houses are concerned with your human relationships and transitions; notice how each of these houses encompasses a much *wider* scope of activities than the angular and succedent houses do.

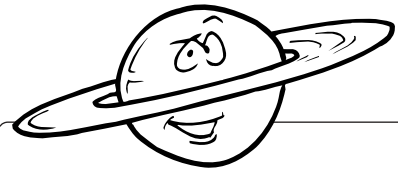
The Cadent Houses

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| The Third House | Your knowledge, short trips, siblings, local environment, and neighbors |
| The Sixth House | Your daily responsibilities, health, service to others, and co-workers |
| The Ninth House | Your social areas: higher education, philosophy, religion, law, travel, foreign concerns |
| The Twelfth House | Your subconscious, the unknown |



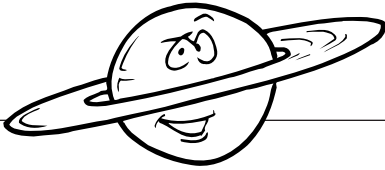
AstroLingo

The **angular** houses are houses with the potential for dynamic action. The First, Fourth, Seventh, and Tenth Houses are angular. They correspond to the natural cardinal signs, which are Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn.



AstroLingo

The **succedent** houses, which correspond to the natural fixed signs, are houses that give us stability and purpose. They're the Second, Fifth, Eighth, and Eleventh Houses.



AstroLingo

The **cadent** houses, which correspond to the mutable signs, are the most adaptable group. The Third, Sixth, Ninth, and Twelfth Houses are cadent and are primarily concerned with relationships and transitional states.

What's Behind Those Doors?

In addition to being divided by quality, houses are also divided similarly to the *elements*. The following chart shows these divisions and their meanings.

Houses by Element

Fire: Houses of Personal Life

First House: body

Fifth House: soul

Ninth House: spirit, mind

Earth: Houses of Substance

Second House: possessions and earning abilities

Sixth House: occupation and daily work

Tenth House: reputation and social role

Air: Houses of Relationships

Third House: relationships we don't choose (siblings, neighbors)

Seventh House: relationships we do choose (lovers, partners, friends)

Eleventh House: relationships of shared interests

Water: Houses of Endings

Fourth House: the end of the physical body

Eighth House: liberation of the soul, death

Twelfth House: the results of the life we choose

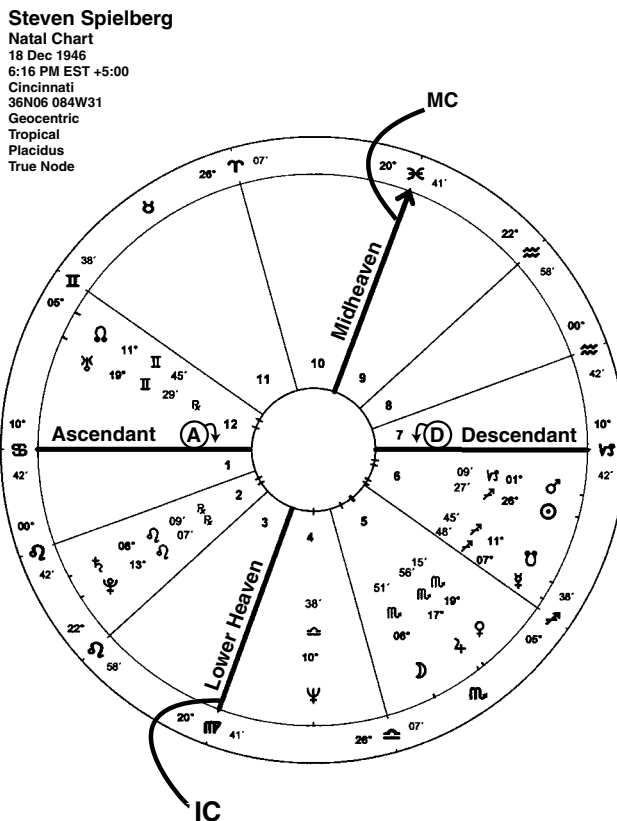
Remembering these divisions also will help you to learn which area each house represents. Yes, we know—there's a *lot* to learn. Think of it as home schooling!

Star Gazing: Heavenly Bodies in Your Astrological Chart

Knowing which planets appear in which signs and in which houses begins to reveal the story of you! It helps to think of signs—the *way* you do certain things—as “how”; planets—your *energies*—as “what”; and houses—the *arenas* of life—as “where.” In other words, if you have Venus in Libra in your second house, what you own will be very attractive. You'll also count your ability to create harmonious relationships as one of your important talents.

Where Are the Heavenly Bodies?

It's time to go back to Steven Spielberg's chart for another look. Using your list of planet symbols, find which houses each of Spielberg's planets are in. You can certainly cheat and write them next to their symbols—that's a good way to start learning them, and we're not going to slap you with a ruler if you do!



Okay, just in case you want to check your work, we've provided a list of Spielberg's planets in their signs and houses.

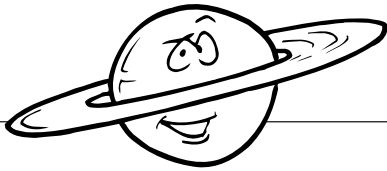
Steven Spielberg's Planets in Their Signs and Houses

Planet	Symbol	Sign	Symbol	House
Sun	☉	Sagittarius	♐	Sixth
Moon	☾	Scorpio	♏	Fifth
Mercury	☿	Sagittarius	♐	Sixth
Venus	♀	Scorpio	♏	Fifth

continues

Steven Spielberg's Planets in Their Signs and Houses (continued)

Planet	Symbol	Sign	Symbol	House
Mars	♂	Capricorn	♄	Sixth
Jupiter	♃	Scorpio	♏	Fifth
Saturn	♄	Leo	♌	Second
Uranus	♅	Gemini	♊	Twelfth
Neptune	♆	Libra	♎	Fourth
Pluto	♇	Leo	♌	Second
South Node	♁	Sagittarius	♐	Sixth
North Node	♂	Gemini	♊	Twelfth



AstroLingo

The planetary **ruler** of a sign is the “landlord” of the house with that sign on its door—or cusp. As such, that planet is “in charge” of what occurs in that area of life.

The Planets as Landlords

In Chapter 4, “There’s More to You Than Just Your Sun Sign,” you read about rulerships. Now, as *rulers* of particular signs, planets are the “landlords of the houses with their signs on them. You could think of these planets as the ones that are collecting the rent, making sure the toilets flush and the lawn gets mowed.

Landlord planets “own” the houses they’re in charge of, so they have the final say about what’s happening in that area of your life. In other words, no matter which planets are “renting,” or “in” a house, the landlord’s the one calling the shots.

Here’s where we need to review the rulership of signs in order to determine the ruler of each house in your chart. Once again, we’ll use Steven Spielberg’s chart to show you what we mean. And we’ve also provided you with a list of planetary rulers.

Natural Planetary Rulers

Planet	Sign(s) Ruled
Sun ☉	Leo ♌
Moon ☾	Cancer ♋
Mercury ☿	Gemini ♊, Virgo ♍
Venus ♀	Taurus ♉, Libra ♎
Mars ♂	Aries ♈, co-ruler of Scorpio ♏

Planet	Sign(s) Ruled
Jupiter ♃	Sagittarius ♐, co-ruler of Pisces ♛
Saturn ♄	Capricorn ♑, co-ruler of Aquarius ♒
Uranus ♅	Aquarius ♒
Neptune ♆	Pisces ♛
Pluto ♇	Scorpio ♏, co-ruler of Aries ♈

Spielberg's Landlords

House	Sign on Cusp	Landlord or Ruler
First	Cancer ♋	Moon ☾
Second	Leo ♌	Sun ☉
Third	Leo ♌	Sun ☉
Fourth	Virgo ♍	Mercury ☿
Fifth	Libra ♎	Venus ♀
Sixth	Sagittarius ♐	Jupiter ♃
Seventh	Capricorn ♑	Saturn ♄
Eighth	Aquarius ♒	Uranus ♅ and Saturn ♄
Ninth	Aquarius ♒	Uranus ♅ and Saturn ♄
Tenth	Pisces ♛	Neptune ♆ and Jupiter ♃
Eleventh	Aries ♈	Mars ♂ and Pluto ♇
Twelfth	Gemini ♊	Mercury ☿

Even if a house appears “empty” on a birth chart, it nonetheless has a landlord. The planets in any house are sort of “renting” the area, but, once again, the landlord has the final say about what goes on in that area of life. The exception to this is when a landlord actually occupies the house it rules; in that case, it’s not a renter, but an in-residence landlord—so it’s going to be keeping a particularly close eye on what goes on in that house.

No matter where the landlord “lives,” though, if it’s not in the house it rules, whatever is happening to it affects the house it owns as well—we could say that the house is “owned” by an absentee landlord.

Let’s use Spielberg’s Aries on the eleventh-house cusp as an example. Mars would be the landlord here. Now, whatever sign the landlord is in will change the way it acts—its style, in other words. On Spielberg’s chart, his Mars is in Capricorn in the Sixth House, indicating that he’s hardworking, ambitious, and that his energies are well controlled. Additionally, Mars is next to his Sun in Sagittarius, providing plenty of energy to fulfill his dreams, hopes, and wishes (the area of the Eleventh House).

This shows that the groups (eleventh house) that Spielberg works with are pioneering (Aries) in some way and have a vision of the future or are seeking the truth (Sun in Sagittarius next to Mars the ruler). Because Mars is in the Sixth House, we can also see that he works with the groups that help him achieve his goals on a daily basis.

This brief example begins to show you just how interconnected all the areas of your life are. You probably already knew that—but astrology maps it out for you.

When Planets Seem Backward: Retrogrades

When planets are *retrograde*, they appear to be moving backward! It's like when you pass a car going in the same direction you are, and there is a moment when that car appears to be going backward. Well, there are times when this same thing happens to our Earthly view of other planets—because each planet travels its orbit around the Sun at a different speed.

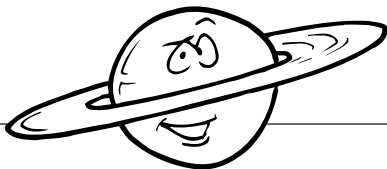
When you have retrograde planets in your chart, you'll be paying special attention to those planets' energies. Chapter 14, "Retrogrades: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back," is devoted entirely to this concept, and we'll return to Spielberg's chart there and examine his personal retrograde planets. Stay tuned!

Why Neptune and Pluto Are Special

Poky Neptune and Pluto are such slow planets that they're called "generational" planets. A whole generation may have these planets in the same sign. Right now Pluto is on the "fast" part of its cycle—it's "only" taking about eleven years to get through a sign! When it's slow, it takes about 30 years (speed is relative, after all)!

This helps explain why time seems speeded up now, doesn't it? Now, Neptune takes fourteen years to go through one sign, so it's a generational planet, too.

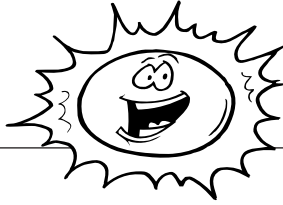
Both of these planets are "late" discoveries. In fact, three planets were discovered relatively recently: Uranus was first noted in 1781, Neptune in 1846, and Pluto in 1930. Naturally, modern astrologers have had to study these new discoveries to find how they fit into the larger scheme and how they correspond to other developments in our evolution. In so doing, they've learned that Uranus is associated with scientific invention and innovative ideas, as well as revolutions; Neptune is connected to film, psychic abilities, and psychology; and Pluto is aligned with both atomic energy and the collective unconscious.



AstroLingo

When planets are **retrograde**, their motion, seen from an Earthly perspective, appears to be in reverse (but this is not actually so; planets can only move in one direction along their orbits).

Because Neptune and Pluto move so slowly, we're only going to look at each of them in the signs for people who are (or soon will be) alive now—approximately a 100-year span. If you don't fit into this time span, call us right away—you belong in the *Guinness Book of World Records!*

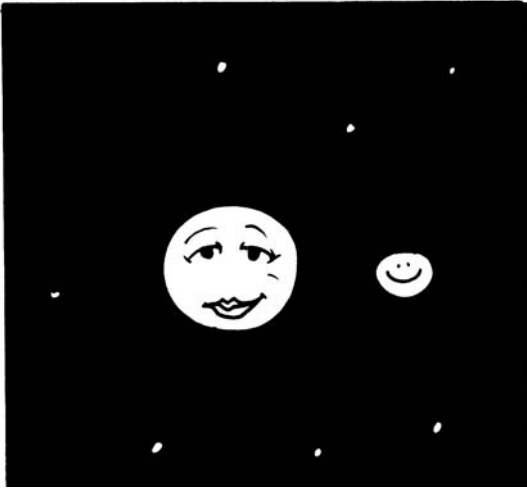


StarFacts

Interestingly, there's a correlation between a planet's discovery and concurrent scientific discoveries connected with that planet's energies. For example, there was no psychology at all until Neptune was discovered in 1846—and *then* Freud unlocked the subconscious. And we had to wait for Pluto's "discovery" in 1930 to unlock the secrets of nuclear power. Who knows what's next.

The Least You Need to Know

- The 12 houses are the areas of human experience.
- Houses are described by quality and in a way that's similar to the elements.
- All houses have a "landlord," which is the planet that's in charge of the sign on its cusp.
- The landlord planet has final say about what's happening in that area of life.
- Every planet rules at least one sign.
- Retrograde planets seem to reverse their energies.
- Neptune and Pluto are "generational" planets—a whole generation may have these planets in the same sign, and they apply to the collective.



The Inner Planets: WHO Are YOU?

In This Chapter

- ▶ The Sun ☉: Mr. BIG
- ▶ The Moon ☾: bewitched, bothered, and bewildered
- ▶ Mercury ☿: hey, hey, Mr. Postman
- ▶ Venus ♀: beauty and the beast
- ▶ Mars ♂: war and peace

Originally, we had planned to put abbreviated planet tables in the appendix for you, but it turned out that even abbreviated tables would have run over 100 pages! So instead, we recommend that you get your chart done at a nearby metaphysical bookstore—or check out the page in the back of the book to get your chart by mail.

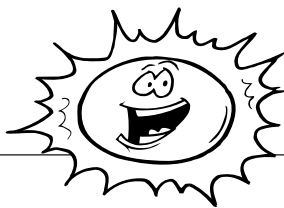
For the mathematically inclined, you can learn how a chart is calculated in Chapters 19, “Getting Started,” and 20, “Lost in Space: How a Computer Calculates a Birth Chart.”

No matter which option you choose, you’ll need to have your chart in hand so you’ll know exactly where your planets are located before you read these next chapters.

In this chapter, we’ll look at the *personal* planets, which reveal the behavior and characteristics that make you unique.

The Sun ☉: Mr. BIG

As the central, life-giving force of our solar system, the Sun naturally plays an important role in what you are like, describing the nature of your individual approach to life itself. When you ask someone what their sign is, the answer will be their Sun sign. But as you probably can see by now, your Sun sign is only the beginning. It characterizes your sense of purpose, creativity, willpower, and how you develop consciousness, as well as begins to answer the question, “Who am I?” But there’s a whole lot more to you than your senses of self and purpose, right?



StarFacts

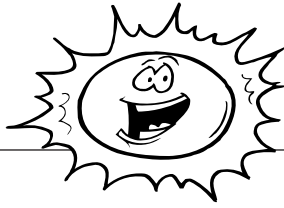
According to Cheyenne myth, it was Grandmother Spider who brought the light of the Sun to the people, carrying just enough in a bowl she made of clay to light the sky slowly from east to west. Even today, the spider’s web looks just like the Sun and its rays, and the spider rises to spin her web early in the morning, before the Sun is fully up.

For more information about the specific possibilities of the Sun in each sign, you should refer back to the detailed Sun sign profiles in Chapters 5–8. But for information on other dimensions of yourself and that “whole lot more,” keep reading.

The Moon ☾: Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered

The Moon is the third part of what could be called the most important triangle of astrology: the combination of Sun sign, ascendant, and Moon sign. Mother Moon, the body closest to Earth in the sky, represents what could be called your feminine side, and in fact, the Moon has four primary phases, each one representing a different aspect of the feminine nature. The Moon’s phases consist of the new Moon, waxing Moon (first quarter), full Moon, and waning Moon (third quarter). But there are also dark moons and blue moons to consider!

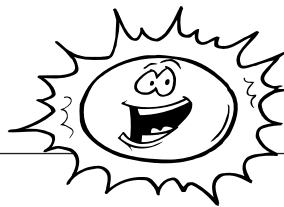
- The early crescent or new Moon is the young maiden—also represented by Taurus—and its corresponding myth is Diana the Hunter with her bow. This Moon enjoys all the possibilities before her.



StarFacts

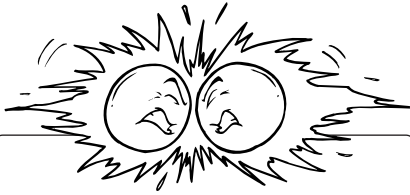
In ancient times the Moon was regarded as the Mansion of the Fathers, where the souls of the dead were waiting to return for rebirth. In Greek tradition, the Moon, who was called Selene, fell so in love with a beautiful young man named Endymion that she chose him to lie beside her for eternity. The legend goes that Endymion sleeps, forever unconscious—the stuff of dreams and the natural territory of the Moon.

- The waxing, first-quarter Moon represents a young woman just ready to flower, including the mythical Persephone, who's spirited away by Hades at the height of her beauty because he can't resist it.
- Then there's the Full Moon, the mother pregnant and full with her baby, who gives birth. This Moon is associated with Cancer and the fertility goddesses.
- Next, there's the waning last- or third-quarter Moon, associated with Virgo, the earth Goddess, who is responsible for the harvest. This Moon represents the mature woman who must release her child (like Demeter and her daughter, Persephone, or Mary and Christ) so the child can fulfill his destiny.
- The dark Moon is associated with the old crone, the wise woman. This is also Scorpio, or Hecate, who has knowledge of healing and other ancient wisdom and who mourns for the loss of her child.



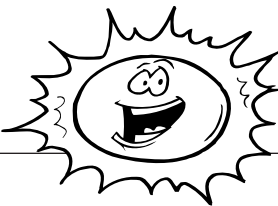
StarFacts

What's a Blue Moon? And why do things only happen "once in a Blue Moon"? Well, there are usually 13 Full Moons each year, and, while the lunar cycle is about 29½ days, months are anywhere from 28 to 31 days. Once in a Blue Moon, there are two Full Moons during one month, and that second Full Moon is called the "Blue Moon."



Star-Crossed

Base instincts, huh? Many believe that all sorts of odd human behavior are due to the Full Moon, and many legends (think of werewolves, for example) have grown from that belief. Hospitals have long noted an increase in emergency room visits during Full Moons, and civil unrest is more likely to occur during these periods as well.



StarFacts

In the past, people knew their Moon sign instead of their Sun sign, because it was considered more important. But since our western society prefers to emphasize the more “masculine” characteristics of individuality, achievement, and goals, the Sun sign is now considered more important.

The Moon’s light is not its own, but is reflected from the Sun, and the emotions the Moon rules can change as quickly as that light. Your Moon, in other words, shows how you feel.

Moonshine: The Moon in Each Zodiac Sign

Because the Moon moves very fast (about 12 degrees per day), on the days when the Moon changes signs, your Moon could either be in the sign the Moon was in on the

previous day or in the new sign. Your professionally done chart will show the correct placement, of course, but if your birth time is off even a little, your Moon's placement may be incorrect.

Moon in Aries ♈

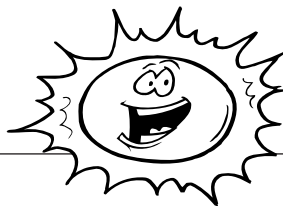
An Aries Moon indicates directness and spontaneity, an emotional nature that is energetic and sometimes excitable, a person who is both daring and independent. People with Aries Moons won't be long on patience as a rule, but they will have a knack for getting others to do what they want. Self-confident in love, they'll have little use for shrinking violets or those who seem to hesitate. Life for a person with an Aries Moon may hide a sense of insecurity, but it's also one that is always moving forward. More than any other sign, Aries feels with its *head*.

Moon in Taurus ♉

In the stable sign of Taurus, the Moon is at its best: Its emotional nature is trustworthy, warm, and affectionate. It may take a Taurus Moon a while to make up its mind, but once it does, nothing will make it change, and people with Taurus Moons marry for life. Taurus's Venus ruler is manifested here as a love of beauty, and people with Taurus Moons are artistic, romantic, and have a great love of creature comforts. The downside is that a Taurus Moon can be rigid or obstinate (remember, Taurus is a bull), because above all it needs to feel stable, safe, and secure. But Taurus feels with its *senses*, making this overall a steady and reliable Moon sign.

Moon in Gemini ♊

Mutable Gemini makes for a restless and erratic Moon, but this Moon sign also is marked by a lively, inquisitive emotional nature, quick to laugh and make others laugh, and just as quick to flip-flop to a darker mood. A Gemini Moon is curious, too, needing constant stimulation, and talkative Gemini makes this Moon quick to let others know its feelings as well. Gemini Moons also spend a lot of time trying to analyze their feelings themselves, because Gemini is a thinking sign. A Moon in Gemini, in fact, feels with its *mind*, a most unusual combination.



StarFacts

Want an example of a Moon in Gemini, feeling with his mind, and then analyzing his feelings? How about Sigmund Freud? We rest our case.

Moon in Cancer ☾ ♋

The Moon is at home in Cancer, the sign that it naturally rules. Cancer Moons have an emotional nature that is both receptive and retentive—storing away impressions, reactions, information, and yes, feelings, until they need them, and this often makes them writers or actors (or both). With a Moon in Cancer, a person is likely to be both imaginative and creative, while underneath feeling vulnerable, touchy, moody, and easily hurt. All of this, though, is hidden under Cancer's hard shell. But because a Moon in Cancer feels with its *feelings*, it is also a warmhearted and romantic combination.

Moon in Leo ☽ ♌

Exuberant Moon in Leo has strong emotions and refuses to be limited by what it feels are narrow-minded or limiting ideas: It likes its heart to be in whatever it's doing. Moons in Leo have an emotional nature that is usually both affectionate and outgoing, and often charismatic as well, but they can easily be hurt if they feel they're not being appreciated, which can be any time the spotlight's not shining on them. A natural performer and a hearty lover, Moon in Leo feels with its *heart*—strongly, openly, and joyfully.

Moon in Virgo ☽ ♍

Virgo Moons like to see things—and figure them out—for themselves. Intelligent and practical, they spend whatever time is needed to get to the bottom of what they're feeling, to not just take it apart, but to put it together again so that it makes perfect sense—a prospect that delights Virgo to no end. Step by step, Moons in Virgo approach everything they do with logic and efficiency, so they can be frustrated by less methodical minds. Conversely, their precision can sometimes seem too rigid to others, but a Moon in Virgo feels with its *logic*, using its discriminating emotional nature to create a well-ordered emotional life for itself.

Moon in Libra ☽ ♎

Moons in Libra are partnership Moons; they love the way things and people fit together to create harmony, and they seek to create an atmosphere where everything seems to fall naturally into place. The most social of Moons, Moon in Libra can seem superficial or shallow, but in reality its emotional nature cannot help but express its feelings through the way things look and feel. Naturally gracious and the most hospitable of hosts, Moon in Libra feels good when everyone else feels good. To Moon in Libra, the outward appearance reflects the inward; Moon in Libra feels through *others*.

Moon in Scorpio ☽ ♏

A Moon in Scorpio is so intense, it spends a great deal of energy protecting itself from its own emotions. Well aware of how powerful emotions can be—and never satisfied

with superficial answers—Scorpio Moons can be suspicious of others, quick to judge, and hold grudges for a very, very long time. At the same time, they have a desire to understand deep mysteries and get to the bottom of things, which makes Scorpio Moons' emotional nature both intuitive and potent, capable of stronger feeling than any other Moon sign. In fact, Scorpio Moons often seek their soul mates. Above all, Scorpio Moons feel with their *intense emotions*.

Moon in Sagittarius ♎ ↗

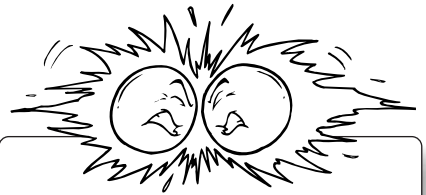
Adaptable Moon in Sagittarius is always out there, with an emotional nature made for making friends and experiencing the new and unexpected. Sagittarius Moons love adventure, excitement, discovery, and a plain old good time. You won't find shrinking violets here, nor will you find moody brooders. In fact, you might not find anyone here: Sagittarius Moons love to be free, and they may be off on yet another adventure! Moon in Sagittarius is eager for the truth and in seeking that truth will feel through its *experiences*.

Moon in Capricorn ♎ ♄

Cold Moon in Capricorn may seem reserved and remote, but what it's really doing is planning its own success. Capricorn Moons thrive on challenges and the successes completing challenges can bring them, and they're not very big on what they view as excessive emotion. With a self-controlled and cautious emotional nature, those with a Capricorn Moon's discipline and determination can achieve tremendous successes in their lives, but there also can be an emotional cost. Capricorn Moons need to be needed, but because they feel through *control*, they may not allow others to get too close.

Moon in Aquarius ♎ ♃

You may find it hard to get close to an independent Moon in Aquarius—being different is as necessary to this Moon as breathing, and anything that furthers Aquarian Moons' uniqueness holds their attention. Intuitively strong, Moons in Aquarius often make new discoveries, but they also may discover that new territories are lonely places. Others adore Moons in Aquarius, but they'll find what really attracts these independent Moons is unattainability. Progressive Aquarian Moons feel through their *individuality*, with an emotional nature that is cool, impartial, and ultimately on its own.



Star-Crossed

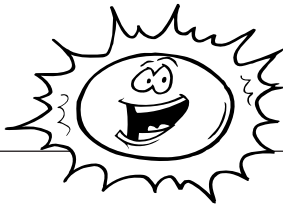
Capricorn Moons often become world leaders, but this may be because they mistake control (external approval) for love (internal approval). Napoleon had a Capricorn Moon, for example, and so did Abraham Lincoln and Indira Gandhi. Capricorn Moons' determination can help them achieve the power they seek, but they also may find that it's lonely at the top.

Moon in Pisces ♃ ☾

Dreamy Moons in Pisces always believe the best about everyone and everything, and so they're constantly setting themselves up for disappointment. With their sensitive and compassionate emotional nature, Pisces Moons forgive just about anything, too, but they're also easily hurt and may sometimes feel sorry for themselves. Moons in Pisces can confuse dream with reality—which makes this a most creative Moon, although when they find they really live in reality, not in a dream, it can be a jarring jolt. Idealistic and romantic, Pisces Moons feel through their *imagination*s.

Mercury ☿: **Hey, Hey, Mr. Postman**

Mercury is in charge of thinking and communications—it's what we know and how we know it. As the planet closest to the Sun, Mercury is fast, it's hot, and it's small—small but mighty, that is. Here is where you'll find all the faculties of the mind: logic and reason, intelligence and education. Mercury's tool is language, and its method is transmittal.



StarFacts

Who was that winged man? In Greek mythology, Mercury was called Hermes and was the messenger for the gods—the UPS guy with wings on his feet, passing notes, with hot-off-the-Mount gossip and godly orders in a pre-PC version of e-mail. And Mercury today loves e-mail, as well as cellular phones, FedEx, and caller ID. It's no coincidence that Mercury's corresponding sign is Gemini—the two are probably passing notes right this minute!

Are you the one strangers on airplanes tell their stories to, or are you reading the paper by the fire—or maybe rewriting the headlines in the newsroom? Reading and writing, talking and listening, watching and thinking: This is your brain on Mercury. Any questions? The sign your Mercury is in describes your mental nature, how you think and communicate.

How You Think: Mercury in Each Zodiac Sign

Mercury in Aries ☿ ♈

Quick, imaginative, and always trying to be first in everything: That's Mercury in Aries. Of course, this can also indicate an impetuous, premature, and headstrong

nature, but no matter which way Mercury goes, it's always spontaneous and immediate. Running ahead before it gets all the facts, Mercury in Aries may jump to conclusions, but it is always an *active* mind.

Mercury in Taurus ♃ ♃

If Mercury is in Taurus, it's always prepared. And it's always sure, too, that its ideas, opinions, and beliefs are the right ones. This can mean that Taurus Mercuries won't always listen—why should they, when they already know the answer? Mercury in Taurus isn't one to jump to conclusions, though; this is Mercury in its easy chair, a *comfortable* mind.

Mercury in Gemini ♊ ♊

Mercury in Gemini is full of unprocessed data and ideas, and it has the words to let others know what it means. Mercury is at home in Gemini, a quick, agile mind that's witty and charming. Well, sometimes this can slip over the line into gossip, but Mercury in Gemini wants to get the message across, you know? Mercury in Gemini is a *communicating* mind, the inquiring mind that wants to know.

Mercury in Cancer ♋ ♋

Mercury in Cancer may be picking up everyone else's signals; Mercury is as much a receiver as a transmitter in this sign. If there's such a thing as an earthly empathy, Mercury in Cancer may be it: These people always seem to intuit what others are thinking without a word being said, and, in fact, Mercury in Cancer is an *intuitive* mind. There's also a good chance that, with their good memory and strong poetic powers, they'll write it all down, too!

Mercury in Leo ♌ ♌

Here's a Mercury with heart, thinking with its heart, in fact. Outspoken and optimistic, Leo Mercuries also are strong in purpose, dramatic, and idealistic, although they may not "sweat the little stuff." This is a Mercury with the charisma to lead and to convince others to follow its lead. Mercury in Leo is a *creative* mind, one that others will willingly follow.

Mercury in Virgo ♍ ♍

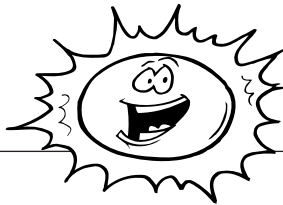
Impartial Mercury in Virgo sorts all those details into their proper files, where its logic and precision can find the heart of the matter. And that's where Mercury in Virgo works its magic, with its fine intelligence systematically clarifying and refining the information, and understanding the patterns. Mercury in Virgo is a *logical* mind, analytical, practical, and a quick learner.

Mercury in Libra ☿ ♎

Rational Mercury in the sign of balance will endlessly weigh both sides of any issue and make comparisons, seeking to find the perfect choice. Of course, there is no perfect choice, but that doesn't mean Mercury in Libra won't keep looking. Diplomatic and charming, this Mercury may do best if someone else can make the final decisions, but they'll make sure to provide information that covers every angle. Mercury in Libra is a *balancing* mind.

Mercury in Scorpio ☿ ♏

Mercury in Scorpio sees right through semantic disguises to the real meaning behind the words. Mercury here can be critical and quick to judge, and it's not going to waste time with frivolity, either. Mercury in Scorpio is a *probing* mind, one that gets to the heart of the matter.



StarFacts

Probing Mercuries in Scorpio include Indian leader Mohandas Ghandi, scientist Marie Curie, and former English Prime Minister Winston Churchill!

Mercury in Sagittarius ☿ ♐

Frank and open-minded, Mercury in Sagittarius may speak before it thinks. Sagittarian Mercuries love to learn and are quick to explore new ideas, but they also may not stick to any one idea for very long. For this reason, lengthy projects are not always Mercury in Sagittarius's forte. But Mercury in Sag is a *seeking* mind, almost childlike in its discovery of whatever it finds.

Mercury in Capricorn ☿ ♑

In Capricorn, Mercury is a hard worker, storing up those facts and figures for future practical use. Cautious and methodical, Mercury in Capricorn knows what it wants and how it plans to get it. Because what matters here is how the mind is used and what it is used for, Mercury in Capricorn is an *organized* mind.

Mercury in Aquarius ☿ ♒

Mercury in Aquarius seldom misses a thing and, in addition, has a knack for grasping abstract ideas. As an observer of people and their motivations, Mercury in Aquarius

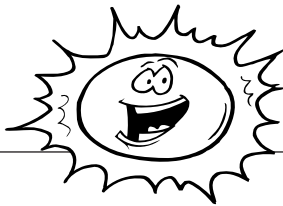
loves to predict human reactions, too. With its open mind and scientific approach, Mercury in Aquarius may be on the forefront of new discoveries. Always original and unorthodox, Mercury in Aquarius is an *inventive* mind.

Mercury in Pisces ♀ ♋

Mercury in Pisces moves to the intuitive side of the mind, which means its conclusions may not be based on logic. It's imagination that is the most finely tuned here, and Mercury in Pisces is often sensitive and receptive. Well tuned, Mercury in Pisces may seem psychic, though at its worst, it can seem pessimistic and confused. No matter which, though, Mercury in Pisces is a *reflective* mind.

Venus ♀: Beauty and the Beast

It's not just Bobby Darin singing that makes us think of Venus as the goddess of beauty; the association is so deeply entrenched that it can make us forget the other areas that the planet closest to us rules. Venus is the goddess of balance and harmony, in charge of how we feel not only about our relationships and social connections, but also about what we possess.

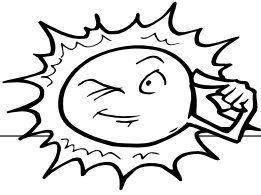


StarFacts

As an archetype, Venus is characterized by many beautiful women. Some Venus myths you may never have thought associated with her are those of Rapunzel, Snow White, and Cinderella. In each of these tales, there are plots afoot to separate Venus from her true love (and so, her fate). True love, of course, always triumphs, because, as we already know, you can't keep someone from her fate—especially a goddess archetype!

Venus's earthy nature is represented in her rulership of Taurus, where she manifests herself as a connection to one's resources and inherent gifts. In Taurus, Venus is sensuous and devoted to comfort and pleasure. Your possessions and your self-esteem are closely connected; without good self-esteem, you might not have many resources. And both of these are tied together through Venus.

Venus's airy nature can be found in her rulership of Libra, which concerns itself with the social graces and with marriage. This is where you'll find romance and the Venus of partnerships.



Heaven Knows

Many believe that if you are male, your Venus will represent the type of woman to whom you will be attracted, while if you are female, your Venus is your ideal feminine self. But Venus also is strongly associated with your creativity and self-esteem, and those are certainly not divided along male/female lines!

A prominent Venus in your birth chart means that how you love and connect to your surroundings is very important to you. Venus in the signs describes your love nature, your ability to attract money and worldly goods, and how you deal with relationships in general. So let's walk Venus through each of the signs and see what they indicate.

How You Love: Venus in Each Zodiac Sign

Venus in Aries ♀ ♈

In impulsive Aries, Venus can fall head-over-heels in love and then may later realize that she was falling in love with someone other than the person she thought! Physical appearance will be what grabs them first, and they don't much go for slob or messes. Demonstrative and enthusiastic, Venus in Aries loves to give gifts

but also can be demanding and selfish. But these people are also quick thinkers, creative and artistic. Most of all, Venus in Aries is an *enthusiastic* love.

Venus in Taurus ♀ ♉

Venus in Taurus is never impulsive—they take their time in love as in everything. And because love can be everything to them, they can become very possessive about those they do love. Venus is in its earth rulership sign here, and so in addition to its stability, it also has a strong aesthetic sense, which often manifests itself in beautiful surroundings. Charming, sensual, and artistic, you could call Venus in Taurus a *steadfast* love.

Venus in Gemini ♀ ♊

Venus in Gemini is both lighthearted and emotionally objective—Venus here likes intellectual stimulation as much as romance. There's a tendency toward lack of commitment: They're far too lighthearted to stay in one place for long and can be quite the flirts. With Venus here, you may find literary talent or, at the very least, a love of language, and sociability is very important as well. Not surprisingly, Venus in Gemini is a *communicating* love.

Venus in Cancer ♀ ♋

In watery Cancer, Venus is both romantic and sensitive; in fact, Venus here can become a little too attached to people and possessions. But security is important to people with Venus in Cancer, too, so they're not likely to rush into anything. Once

they do feel secure, though, they are sensitive and loyal and make everyone feel at home—and, if they don't have a home to take care of, they'll care for the world. For these reasons and more, Venus in Cancer is a *nurturing* love.

Venus in Leo ♀ ♌

Venus in Leo can translate into a love of self-expression and a flair for the dramatic, but this also is a generous and selfless association. Leo Venus seems to attract the love of others without even trying—they're just plain likable! They also love fine things, and when they're in love, they love to share those things, too. Ardent and romantic, above all, Venus in Leo is a *passionate* love.

Venus in Virgo ♀ ♍

Precisely tuned to social, emotional, and artistic values, Venus in Virgo knows what it likes—and what it doesn't! Venus here can be more sincerely affectionate than any other sign, and also can manifest itself in Virgo as someone with a strong business sense, or one who loves to serve others in some way. Sometimes shy or soft-spoken, more than anything, Venus in Virgo is a *discerning* love.

Venus in Libra ♀ ♎

"Falling in Love with Love" could be Venus in Libra's theme song: romantic ideals seem to have been invented here. Because Venus is in its natural air sign in Libra, its ideals may be manifested in strong partnerships or a creative ability to create harmony and beauty in one's environment. Venus in Libra may care so much about the social graces that it may sometimes be seen as superficial or snobbish, but that's not really what's going on. Gracious and appreciative, Venus in Libra is a *romantic* love.

Venus in Scorpio ♀ ♏

In Scorpio, Venus can be an all-consuming passion: This sign is both sensuous and intense, after all. Love has power in Venus in Scorpio, and consequently there's a deep need to find true love and all the passion that true love can bring. Venus in Scorpio cares about security, too, which can translate into partnerships that lead to that security—or a deep-seeded resentment if Scorpio has been hurt. Passionate and intense, Venus in Scorpio is a *powerful* love.

Venus in Sagittarius ♀ ♐

Lighthearted and idealistic, Venus in Sagittarius is all about the adventure and excitement love can bring—so it's not always a love that lasts. Friendships do last here, though, and Venus in Sagittarius always has lots of friends. Venus's aesthetic sense usually manifests itself in a creative lifestyle in Sagittarius, because Venus loves its freedom here. Outgoing and perhaps even flirtatious, Venus in Sagittarius is an *expansive* love.

Venus in Capricorn ♀ ♄

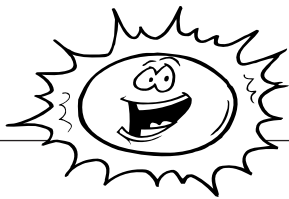
Careful, cautious Venus in Capricorn makes for a steadfast and loyal companion, one who will stand the test of time. Venus here takes personal attachments very seriously and is often attached to its possessions as much as to people. Once love has been proven to Venus in Capricorn, you'll find commitment, honesty, and a lover who is constant and resourceful. Responsible and loyal, Venus in Capricorn is a *dedicated* love.

Venus in Aquarius ♀ ♒

Venus in Aquarius can seem emotionally detached, but there also can be a great originality to the way Venus approaches love here. Helpful, charitable, and giving, Venus in Aquarius not only has many friends, but also often has a variety of friends. Of course, Venus in Aquarius can't stand what it perceives as emotional scenes, and will just walk away from them. Because Venus in Aquarius cares a great deal about freedom and openness, it's not likely to be possessive, and may even be curious about sharing its love with others! Cool, calm, and collected, Venus in Aquarius is a *detached and magnetic* love.

Venus in Pisces ♀ ♓

Compassionate and sympathetic, Venus in Pisces can actually love too much—although we're not sure there really is such a thing! Venus in Pisces is intuitive about love, and with its true empathy for others, relates to art, poetry, nature, and animals. Venus in Pisces is often highly imaginative and creative as well, putting its feelings into writing, acting, or music. Generous Venus in Pisces is often attracted to the underdog and is, above all, an *unconditional* love.



StarFacts

Venus in Pisces celebrities include poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, psychic Edgar Cayce, and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Remember, empathy and compassion are key here!

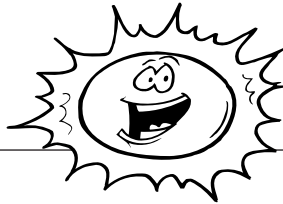
Mars ♂: War and Peace

There's a long-lived tendency to equate Mars with aggression and war, and that's no accident: This is the planet of action and warrior ways, after all. But Mars is about much more than that, of course, and here we will find how we manifest everything from physical energy and desires to our egos and how we deal with (or don't deal with!) our anger.

Mars represents courage and so is bold and courageous in certain signs—but not all of them. You could think of your Mars as your “assertiveness training”: Your Mars can show you how you're going to fight your battles—and how you may have seemingly pointless conflicts.

Because this is how your independence can be found, too, your Mars sign can indicate how you're going to begin to separate your battles from the battles of others, and in the process find your path to personal achievement and success.

Mars in the signs describes how you express your energies, assert yourself, and how you go about meeting your needs and desires.



StarFacts

Fiery Mars is the war god, but that's not all there is to him. The Hebrew word for Mars, in fact, is *M'Adam*, which should look vaguely familiar: It's Adam, the first man. Just as Venus is the archetypal woman, Mars can be thought of as the archetypal man: goal-oriented, physical in his approach, and a protector of those who need protecting. Don't think of him as just a warrior, though; think of him as the one in the lead—like Adam!

How You're Driven: Mars in Each Zodiac Sign

Mars in Aries ♂ ♈

Independent Mars in Aries is both energetic and self-assured, a courageous go-getter who doesn't often let anything stand in its way. Because there's lots of enthusiasm here, you'll often find Mars in Aries leading, and that's fine with them, as they love to get their own way. Mars in Aries can be aggressive and even pushy, but Aries is Mars's natural home, and so is a *courageous and honest* energy.

Mars in Taurus ♂ ♉

Dogged and persistent, Mars in Taurus is not easily deterred from its steady course toward success. Mars in Taurus is a skilled artisan, often very successful in business, and is passionate and sensuous as well. Sometimes Mars in Taurus's patient movement toward its goals can seem more like plodding, and its sensuous nature can become jealous and possessive. But Mars in Taurus is a *determined* energy, methodical and practical.

Mars in Gemini ♂ ♊

Versatile Mars in Gemini is a real go-getter, quick to think, quick to act—and quick to move on. Mars here often has great dexterity, and is incisive, decisive, and resourceful. At the same time, Mars here can seem to jump to conclusions, to manifest in

nervous energy, or to appear restless or even flighty. But Gemini Mars can be magical in its ability to communicate; this is a *lively* energy.

Mars in Cancer ♂ ♋

Mars in Cancer may keep things inside, but this can translate into enormous power of will. Mars goes subtle in Cancer, getting what it wants in often indirect ways, but because Mars is also intuitive and instinctive here, it may know exactly how to get what it wants. Mars in Cancer's protective custody can make it defensive, or even argumentative, but it also knows what it wants. Mars in Cancer is a *protective* energy.

Mars in Leo ♂ ♌

Mars's fire gets accentuated in Leo, and it has no problem putting its big ideas into action. Mars is generous here, too, and its enthusiasm and drama lead others to follow its often magnetic drive. There's also a tendency toward vanity and self-righteousness in Leo Mars, but those can be part of what makes this such a self-confident placement. In Leo, Mars is a *passionate* energy.

Mars in Virgo ♂ ♍

Cool, logical, and precise, Mars in Virgo works very hard to achieve its ambitions—and may even be a workaholic. Mars in Virgo is good at separating its emotions from what needs to be done, bringing both discipline and industry to everything it wants to do. In addition, Mars in Virgo is highly skilled with fine motor skills or hand work, and surgeons and craftsmen often have this placement. Mars here can be strongly passionate, especially for what it sees as the right cause. Mars in Virgo is a *systematic* energy, clever and shrewd.

Mars in Libra ♂ ♎

Charming, generous Mars in Libra has a strong sense of justice but cannot always take one side or the other—the primary need here is for active, equal relationships. Social Libra translates into someone who may be making the introductions and connections to further projects, but it also can mean an aversion to standing alone. Principled, cooperative, and idealistic, Mars in Libra is a *balanced* energy.

Mars in Scorpio ♂ ♏

In Scorpio, Mars manifests itself in self-reliance, self-discipline, and determination. With its powerful desires (which it prefers to keep to itself, since this is a very secretive energy), intense Mars in Scorpio means to get what it wants. Mars here can be courageous or set in its ways and so can also be charismatic or stubborn—or both. Forceful and thorough, Mars in Scorpio is a *highly focused* energy.

Mars in Sagittarius ♂ ♐

Far-sighted Mars in Sagittarius is often at the forefront of adventure—and may be just as quickly off on yet another adventure. Mars here is daring and bold, and also open and honest, but its energies can be scattered, and its openness a little too frank for some. Because Mars in Sagittarius has strong philosophical or religious convictions, it can manifest itself in a cause or patriotism. Above all, Mars in Sagittarius is an *exploring* energy.

Mars in Capricorn ♂ ♑

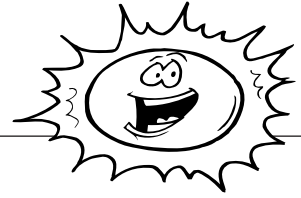
In Capricorn, Mars has everything under control: it's persistent, ordered, disciplined—and authoritative. Mars in Capricorn wants success, and it's willing to work to get there. There's no impulsiveness here; Mars in Capricorn always makes plans, and then follows through on them. Depending on what Mars in Capricorn wants, it can seem disinterested in areas that don't matter to it. Above all, Mars in Capricorn is a *controlled* energy.

Mars in Aquarius ♂ ♒

Mars in Aquarius can be the eccentric's success story: Here is where you'll find Howard Hughes's Mars, and Leonardo da Vinci's. Mars in Aquarius isn't afraid to experiment, and it has high principles and technical expertise to go along with its originality. Mars in Aquarius can be impatient with those who don't share its ideals, and it can seem decidedly detached from the mainstream, but Mars here is a *progressive* energy, looking toward the future as if it were already here.

Mars in Pisces ♂ ♓

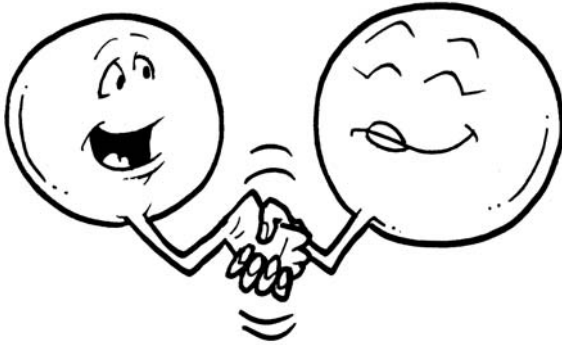
Mars in Pisces has the gifts of imagination, sensitivity, and intuition, which are often manifested in the creative fields. Mars here seeks involvement, whether with a partner, an idea, or a passion, and will often shoulder others' responsibilities without complaint. In fact, Mars can be self-sacrificing here—or it can inspire others in some way. Pisces Mars can be unfocused, too, or even restless, but above all Mars in Pisces is a *subtle* energy.

**StarFacts**

Hey—listen to the music! Mars in Sagittarius folks include drummer Gene Krupa, composers John Philip Sousa and Johann Sebastian Bach, and singer Joan Baez.

The Least You Need to Know

- Your Moon ☾ reveals your emotional nature.
- Your Mercury ☿ reveals your mental nature.
- Your Venus ♀ reveals your love nature.
- Your Mars ♂ reveals how you act.



The Social Planets: You and Your World

In This Chapter

- ▶ The social planets: rewards and limits
- ▶ Jupiter ♃: here comes Santa Claus
- ▶ Saturn ♄: just the facts, ma'am

The *personal planets* that you read about in Chapter 11, “The Inner Planets: WHO Are YOU?” the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars, manifest their energies in the ways you reveal yourself. The *social planets*, Jupiter and Saturn, manifest their energies in your interactions with the world around you.

These two planets are more socially oriented for a number of reasons. First of all, their orbits take longer than those of the personal planets, and so their connections to us are going to manifest in different ways.

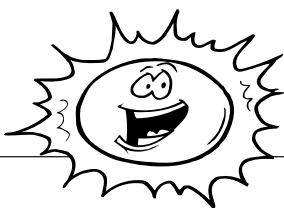
Second, because those orbits take longer, people of a certain age are going to have certain things in common. Jupiter, for example, takes 12 years to complete its cycle around the Sun, so it takes one year to pass through each sign of the zodiac. That means that everyone of a certain age will share Jupiter in the same sign and have common social values.

Last, these planets are associated with our more social aspects. Jupiter represents our philosophy, higher education, and religious beliefs; and Saturn our responsibilities, structures, communities, and organizations.

Jupiter ♃: Here Comes Santa Claus

Jupiter represents your confidence and vitality, and symbolizes growth, optimism, success, and generosity. Astrologers look at your Jupiter to find your opportunities for expansion and success, as well as to see how you may use your higher mind and education, faith, religion, or philosophy to achieve those goals.

Jupiter can be excessive: This is the planet of overweight, overindulgence, and over-extension. But your expansive and optimistic Jupiter will always reveal how you grow and change.

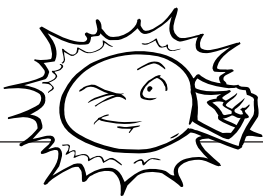


StarFacts

The father of all gods and men, a Jupiter archetype can be found in every type of mythology. Because it's always expansive, generous, and cheerful, it should come as no surprise that the Jupiter archetype most familiar to western cultures is Santa Claus. That's right—jolly old St. Nick!

How You Grow: Jupiter in Each Zodiac Sign

Jupiter in the signs describes how you expand yourself by working with others in society. It also reveals your belief system, your interest in higher education, and how you do things on a large scale. Jupiter in the signs also shows how you may benefit materially, as well as how you may be overconfident.



Heaven Knows

Every 12 years, your Jupiter returns to the sign in which you were born, and every 12-year cycle represents new possibilities for personal growth.

Jupiter in Aries ♈

In Aries, Jupiter has a child's enthusiasm, an independent spirit, and a need to strike out on its own. This also is a very courageous Jupiter, but because it has exceptional courage, it also may be the "fool who rushes in where angels fear to tread." There will be a natural talent for leadership here, and Jupiter in Aries is often innovative as well. Although it can sometimes be rash or naive, Jupiter in Aries grows *enthusiastically*.

Jupiter in Taurus ♃ ♉

Jupiter in Taurus understands the value of life, money, and resources and likes the things that money buys: Taurus is the money sign, and Jupiter brings abundance, so it's a good match. Not only does Jupiter here have an eye for art, it often is artistic itself, and may conduct its career at home. All this stability can make it a tad smug, but Jupiter in Taurus grows *steadily*.

Jupiter in Gemini ♃ ♊

Adventurous Jupiter in Gemini has a knack for getting into advantageous situations and usually does best in intellectual areas. Jupiter here is sociable, popular, and knowledgeable about a wide variety of interests, and can actually become an intellectual snob. Jupiter here may travel a great deal, too. Jupiter in Gemini grows *mentally*.

Jupiter in Cancer ♃ ♋

Generous Jupiter in Cancer is sympathetic toward others, with a good nature, a good sense of humor, and an optimistic disposition. Jupiter in Cancer is good with money too, and in fact, everything that Jupiter in Cancer cares for prospers. These people can become overindulgent, both with themselves and with others, but Jupiter in Cancer grows *emotionally*.

Jupiter in Leo ♃ ♌

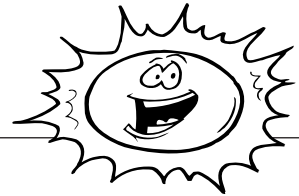
Noble Jupiter in Leo is big-hearted and self-confident and radiates warmth and generosity. Jupiter in Leo thinks big and can inspire others to think big as well. With its flair for drama and its charismatic charm, Jupiter in Leo can sometimes get big-headed, but overall, Jupiter in Leo grows *magnanimously*.

Jupiter in Virgo ♃ ♍

Practical Jupiter in Virgo values work and service to others and can succeed through its smarts and perseverance. Even though many point to a conflict between Jupiter's expansiveness and Virgo's need for precision, these qualities don't need to cancel each other out; Jupiter in Virgo can actually use its methodical approach to growth to great ends. Jupiter in Virgo grows *pragmatically*.

Jupiter in Libra ♃ ♎

Artistic Jupiter in Libra is cooperative and charming and often finds its greatest area of growth through partnership. Morally conventional, Jupiter in Libra has a strong sense of justice and is always honorable in its dealings with others. Because this isn't a sign for the sole practitioner, Jupiter in Libra grows *socially*.

**StarFacts**

Jupiter in Gemini celebrities include actress Ingrid Bergman, actor Steve McQueen, composer Igor Stravinsky, and boxer Muhammad Ali.

Jupiter in Scorpio ♃ ♏

Shrewd Jupiter in Scorpio has great faith in itself and takes itself very seriously. Jupiter in Scorpio indicates a strong need to probe for the truth behind religious doctrine or belief systems. These people are often involved in very large-scale joint or corporate finances, and they can have a strong desire to gain wealth or control over others. Jupiter in Scorpio grows *powerfully*.

Jupiter in Sagittarius ♃ ♐

Farsighted Jupiter in Sagittarius can see its opportunities and act on them, and, with Jupiter in its rulership, the planet's expansiveness and generosity enjoy the spotlight. Optimistic and enthusiastic, Jupiter's enthusiasm pays off here. Jupiter in Sagittarius is heavily interested in philosophy, belief systems, foreign cultures, travel, and higher education. It has a strong tendency to choose a particular set of beliefs and then to try to convert others to it. Jupiter in Sagittarius grows *zealously*.

Jupiter in Capricorn ♃ ♑

Ambitious Jupiter in Capricorn seeks financial and material wealth and is patient and dedicated enough to achieve its goals. Hard work and willpower pay off here, as does fiscal conservatism. Jupiter in Capricorn has high integrity, especially in business ethics and its responsibilities. Although Jupiter in Capricorn is often charitable, it can become miserly. Jupiter in Capricorn grows *expediently*.

Jupiter in Aquarius ♃ ♒

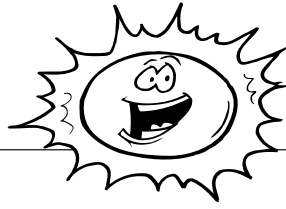
Open-minded Jupiter in Aquarius may find its fortune through the people it meets—it's always open to new ideas and is both intuitive and impartial. Jupiter in Aquarius wants a world without class, race, or religious distinctions and works for a world that's impartial, democratic, and universal. With their tolerance for different values and lifestyles, people with Jupiter in Aquarius are idealistic and humanitarian. Sometimes rebellious, easily bored, Jupiter in Aquarius nonetheless grows *innovatively*.

Jupiter in Pisces ♃ ♓

In one of its home signs, Pisces, Jupiter's strength is its emotional depth, and others find Jupiter in Pisces friendly and unassuming. Jupiter in Pisces can mean you achieve your secret ideal. You're imaginative and creative, often finding great success in the arts. Altruistic and compassionate, Jupiter in Pisces also can be mysterious and reclusive. Jupiter in Pisces grows *imaginatively*.

Saturn ♄: Just the Facts, Ma'am

While Jupiter represents your expansive side, Saturn's all about responsibility, rules, and regulations. Your Saturn is concerned with self-discipline and self-respect, your lessons, duties, and limitations, and also represents the authority figures in your life. Later in life, it also represents your own authority.



StarFacts

Saturn reminds us that to live as social creatures, we must abide by certain laws—both terrestrial and universal ones. In Blackfoot myth, Saturn is called “The Old Man.” In one story, he tells the people he has created, “What is made law must be law. We will undo nothing that we have done.” Not a fun guy to have at parties!

While Saturn’s not going to be telling a whole lot of jokes, he *is* responsible for whatever lasting achievements you earn, especially your triumphs over obstacles. Saturn is your ambitious side and so is well aware of your strengths and weaknesses.

Saturn also is about security and safety, and as such is the teacher of the zodiac, with many lessons to impart—if we pay attention. In other words, if you don’t get your homework for your life lessons done, there won’t be any reward until you do!

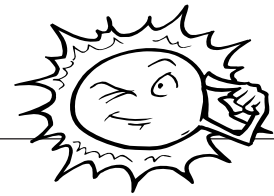
Many refer to Saturn as the policeman of the zodiac, but we think that this is limiting and doesn’t really show all the areas where Saturn’s energy is manifested. After all, your Saturn is reflected in your perseverance, too.

Knowing Your Limits: Saturn in Each Zodiac Sign

Saturn in the signs describes the kinds of responsibilities you will be challenged by as well as the lessons you must learn. It also gives clues about the type of career you will have and how you relate to authority figures.

Saturn in Aries ♈♁

Impetuous Aries is forced to slow down with Saturn placed here, and this may be manifested in a powerful father or authority figure. Saturn in Aries is learning independence, self-reliance, patience, and initiative and can become singularly self-reliant—or headstrong, defiant, and defensive. Saturn in Aries



Heaven Knows

It takes Saturn 29½ years to complete its orbit and return to its placement at your birth. This return point can be thought of as a major life progress report, a point where you can assess your strengths and weaknesses and plan your future accordingly. In fact, this return is what makes people 30 and over different from those in their 20s, and why it’s known as the “first hill.”

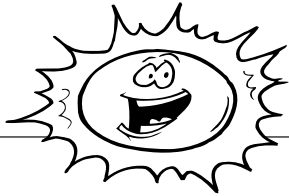
needs to *learn to be independent and self-reliant*, and it also needs to learn to *cooperate* with others in order to be successful.

Saturn in Taurus ♄ ♉

Saturn's great strength, combined with its strong purpose, is mirrored in Taurus, and this placement can be determined and responsible. Saturn in Taurus sticks to its guns—and may make everyone else stick to them, too. Sometimes Saturn in Taurus can seem downright selfish, but that's because the lesson here is to *learn not to place so much emphasis on the material*.

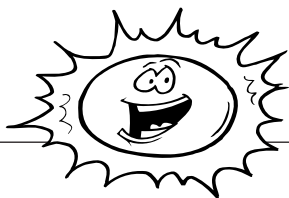
Saturn in Gemini ♄ ♊

Saturn in Gemini can translate into a great capacity for problem-solving, and this placement indicates lifelong learning. Saturn disciplines flighty Gemini, giving Gemini's natural intelligence the patience it needs to succeed. The lesson for Saturn in Gemini is to *learn what one doesn't yet know*.



StarFacts

The charismatic placement of Saturn in Leo includes Adolf Hitler, Charlie Chaplin, Indira Gandhi—and Liberace!



StarFacts

Responsible Saturns in Virgo include former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel—the "Desert Fox" of World War II.

Saturn in Cancer ♄ ♋

Saturn in Cancer is a difficult placement and can indicate problems in early childhood that are not easily resolved. Saturn here seeks approval and security from others but does not always get it. The lesson for Saturn in Cancer is to *learn to self-nurture rather than depend on others*. If this lesson is learned, it will be manifested in a quiet and dignified self-assurance.

Saturn in Leo ♄ ♌

Saturn is tremendously self-assured in Leo and can be downright bombastic if there's nothing to stop it. People with this placement have a need for positions of leadership and power to fulfill their need for recognition and importance. Because the ego is strong here—and the values distorted—Saturn's lesson in Leo is to *learn appropriate values for managing others and for dealing with creativity, children, love, and romance*.

Saturn in Virgo ♄ ♍

Responsible Saturn and practical Virgo work well together: Saturn helps Virgo achieve its goals. At the same time, Saturn in Virgo can be driven, letting nothing stand in its way, especially pleasure. This can

make for a serious nature in this placement, and the lesson for Saturn in Virgo is to *learn that it's possible to enjoy living simply.*

Saturn in Libra ♎

Saturn in Libra is responsible and fair and works very well with others. Saturn adds decisiveness to Libra's good judgment and often heralds great success in public life. This placement understands the need to establish long-lasting relationships with others to effectively build anything of long-term value. The lesson for Saturn in Libra is to *learn cooperation in order to develop long-term relationships.*

Saturn in Scorpio ♏

Saturn in Scorpio understands what makes people tick and uses this knowledge to further its goals. Serious, capable, resourceful, and insightful, Saturn in Scorpio is likely to do well wherever it decides to succeed. Because there's so much power at play here, the lesson for Saturn in Scorpio is to *use its power wisely and appropriately.*

Saturn in Sagittarius ♐

Saturn in Sagittarius can turn ideas into reality through its capacity for intellectual discipline, but it also can meet with drawbacks early in its life. As this placement grows older, it often learns wisdom as it goes, and as it does, it becomes more and more focused. Saturn in Sagittarius needs to *learn patience and perseverance.*

Saturn in Capricorn ♑

Saturn in Capricorn is happily ambitious and persistent and means to succeed—and it probably will, because Saturn rules Capricorn. Saturn here is unswerving in its goals, disciplined, and hardworking—and may be ruthless as well. The lesson for Saturn in Capricorn is that *there is more to life than one's position.*

Saturn in Aquarius ♒

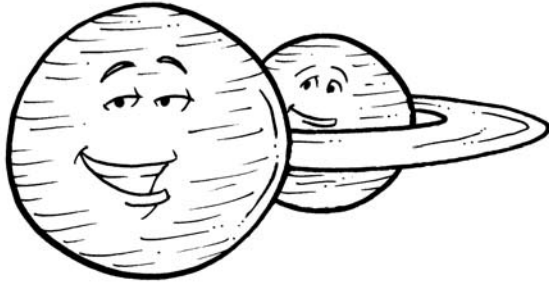
Saturn in one of its home signs, Aquarius, wants to run the whole show—it wants both freedom and order, all in the same package. Saturn can actually manifest quite well in individualistic Aquarius, especially when it is “allowed” to keep its stance of detached observation—or it can fight every step of the way. Saturn in Aquarius needs to find what's inhibiting it and then *learn to set itself free.*

Saturn in Pisces ♓

Saturn in Pisces can be very resourceful, because it refuses to be pigeonholed. Its imagination can lead to creative success, but its sensitivity can mean great disappointments occur with this placement, too. The lesson for Saturn in Pisces is to *learn to trust itself in order to help others trust themselves.*

The Least You Need to Know

- The social planets show you your rewards and limits.
- Your Jupiter ♃ reveals how you grow.
- Your Saturn ♄ reveals your responsibilities and lessons.



The Outer Planets and the Nodes: The Bigger Picture

In This Chapter

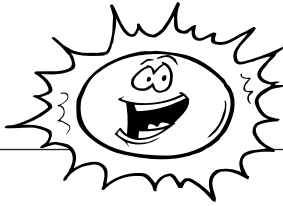
- ▶ Uranus ♅: born to be wild
- ▶ Neptune ♆: dream a little dream
- ▶ Pluto ♇: soul man
- ▶ The North Node ♁ and South Node ♋: back to the future

Uranus ♅, Neptune ♆, and Pluto ♇ are the *transpersonal* planets, concerned with energies beyond the self and universal connections. Uranus, the planet of the unexpected, rules revolution and invention; Neptune is the planet of dreams and hunches—the realms of the unconscious; and Pluto is the planet of change and transformation.

Always paired in opposite signs, the Nodes represent the tensions of your life—the comfort of your past versus the uncertainty of your future. Through your Nodes, you can discover which lessons you've mastered and those you've yet to learn.

Uranus ♅: Born to Be Wild

Uranus is the Ice Man—invention, originality, sudden or unexpected change, and revolution, as well as breakthroughs, radicals, and radical ideas. The first of the three “late discoveries,” Uranus was first found in 1781, so its connection with revolution should not come as a surprise.



StarFacts

In Cherokee myth, one dry summer a great fire burned all across the mountains. The people, concerned, sought out the Ice Man, the only one who could put out such a large fire and who lived very far in the North. "Yes," the Ice Man told them, "I can put out this fire." Then he unplaited his long hair and shook it, releasing first wind, then rain, then sleet, and finally, snow. At first, the wind merely made the fire larger, and then the rain made it steam, but the sleet and the snow finally put it out. In the spring, a lake appeared where the fire had burned a deep pit.

Uranus both questions and challenges authority, and transcends business-as-usual social and cultural ideas to arrive at new solutions. Uranus insists on our freedom, but it also understands that humans need to learn about freedom one step at a time.

Uranus is the planet of intuition and the sixth sense, the ruler of astrologers and inventors, and is also closely associated with electricity, technology, and electronics.

It takes Uranus 84 years to complete its orbit around the Sun and seven years to move from one sign into another. In 1996 it passed out of Capricorn—a tough place for Uranus—into Aquarius, its natural sign. Uranus is the planet of the future, of science, and innovation, and its domain is all that is unusual, different, or unorthodox.

Your Liberator: Uranus in Each Zodiac Sign

The sign Uranus is in reveals how your age group is unusual and shows how it manifests its desire for freedom, authenticity, and individuality. The house your personal Uranus is in describes your own uniqueness and where you need to "break the rules." It also heralds the kinds of historical changes that occur during its seven-year cycles.

Uranus in Aries ♈ ♀ (b. 1928–1934/35)

Uranus in Aries is a pioneer, quick to make a break from the conventional and take off in new, unexplored directions—for both social reform and new breakthroughs in science. The most recent Uranus in Aries generation has a strong desire to do what it wants to do. Bound and determined to stick to their guns, much of their lives were blown up by them too: This generation's lives were heavily torn apart by World War II and the Korean War. As this generation ages, it tends to tell younger ones that they

have no respect for “the good old days,” which, during this last transit, included the heyday of everything from labor unions to bootleggers. Uranus in Aries liberates *impetuously*.

Uranus in Taurus ♅ ♉ (b. 1934/35–1942)

Uranus in Taurus is very strong and signals both willpower and determination. Generationally, Uranus in Taurus’s reform instincts regard attitudes toward money and freedom—this was the time of the worst of the Great Depression and the onset of World War II. Uranus in Taurus can be too materialistic, in fact, but that can be because early needs can fuel desire. Uranus in Taurus liberates *improvisationally*.

Uranus in Gemini ♅ ♊ (b. 1942–1949)

In Gemini, Uranus is both inventive and original, taking creative approaches to everything from literature to electronics, both of which concern communication. Communication of any sort is highlighted here, in fact, and these are the years of great leaps forward in science, technology, metaphysics, and universal education. Uranus in Gemini liberates *mentally*.

Uranus in Cancer ♅ ♋ (b. 1949–1955/56)

Uranus in Cancer is very sensitive to others, with well-developed intuitive powers—and a flair for the eccentric and unpredictable. This is the generation that rebelled against its parents during the Summer of Love and Woodstock, after all. Uranus in Cancer people have nontraditional ideas about home and family, preferring to be friends with their parents instead of relating to them only as traditional authoritarian figures, and they desire emotional freedom and excitement. Uranus in Cancer liberates *emotionally*.

Uranus in Leo ♅ ♌ (b. 1955/56–1962)

Uranus in Leo has boundless determination and is perfectly willing to overthrow anything that doesn’t go along with what it feels works best. New tools and new techniques for using those tools are found here, especially in areas of creative expression: This was the era of the Beat generation, including Kerouac, Burroughs, and Ginsberg, and John F. Kennedy’s “New Frontier.” Uranus in Leo liberates *creatively*.

Uranus in Virgo ♅ ♍ (b. 1962–1968/69)

Uranus in Virgo is concerned with reforming work methods and attitudes toward health, and this is the time when computers were first being used in the workplace. Technical advances are right up Uranus in Virgo’s alley, as is the renewed interest in ecology, natural foods, and environmental concerns that began during this time. Uranus in Virgo liberates *discriminately*.

Uranus in Libra ♃ ♎ (b. 1968/69–1974/75)

Uranus in Libra has a strong social conscience and is interested in bringing about new ways of looking at old social traditions like marriage, partnership, and other social areas. One of the results of this has been “political correctness,” a well-meaning idea gone somewhat amok, but Uranus here often finds unusual solutions—and friends and lovers. Uranus in Libra liberates *socially*.

Uranus in Scorpio ♃ ♏ (b. 1974/75–1981)

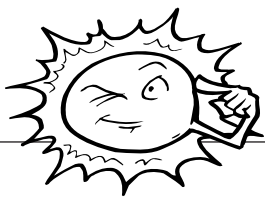
Uranus in Scorpio is a powerful pairing, and during this time, both the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant and the volcano Mount St. Helens had unexpected explosions. Those born with Uranus in Scorpio are just now beginning to discover their power for change and also are discovering what can happen when power and sexuality are misunderstood, as in the case of AIDS. This pairing has the potential to awaken others to what is really happening and liberates *powerfully*.

Uranus in Sagittarius ♃ ♐ (b. 1981–1988)

Uranus in Sagittarius is optimistic and seeks the future, with a liberal and progressive outlook. This generation’s intention is religious, legal, cultural, and academic reform, and all of these institutions underwent a period of public distrust during this era. Individuals born during this time have a strong belief in universal laws—and the freedom to follow their own convictions. Uranus in Sagittarius liberates *progressively*.

Uranus in Capricorn ♃ ♑ (b. 1905–1912, 1988–1995/96)

Uranus in Capricorn works at breaking down old, worn-out structures and organizations in order to create a better future, and in its most recent transit this meant everything from toppling the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union to the American political scandals that seemed to top the news in the mid-90s. Capricious Uranus is channeled into constructive directions in Capricorn and so liberates *constructively*.



Heaven Knows

The marriages and divorces Prince Charles and Princess Diana and Prince Andrew and Fergie both occurred while Uranus was in Capricorn, wreaking havoc with anything that reeked of tradition.

Uranus in Aquarius ♃ ♒ (b. 1912–1919, 1995/96–2003)

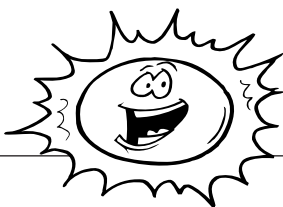
In its own sign, Uranus is radical, inventive, scientific, and universal, with a deep desire to change *everything* for the better. So far, we’ve had a sheep cloned, and the nearly literal explosion of e-mail, the World Wide Web, and global communication. This is the period when everyone from heretics to eccentrics have their day: Uranus in Aquarius likes things to work democratically, impartially, and universally, so anything that’s not working according to those principles is subject to change. Uranus in Aquarius liberates *inventively*—and *democratically*.

Uranus in Pisces ♅ ♋ (b. 1919–1927, 2003–2011)

Uranus in Pisces has an abiding sense of mystery—and of the mysterious. During its last pairing, Uranus in Pisces saw everything from the Russian Revolution to the “anything goes” Roaring Twenties—as well as the great rise of the motion picture as mass entertainment. Uranus in Pisces people are often actors, in fact, or may be known for other creative abilities. Uranus in Pisces liberates *universally*.

Neptune ♆: Dream a Little Dream

A billion miles beyond Uranus, invisible to the naked eye, lies Neptune, the planet that governs the unknown. Neptune was discovered in 1846, shortly before Sigmund Freud was born. The areas a planet represents don’t find their Earthly manifestation, after all, until we on Earth “discover” that planet.

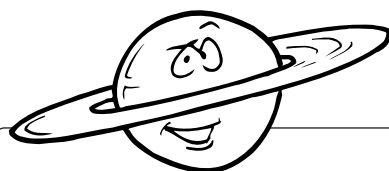


StarFacts

In Greek mythology, the Universe was divided into three realms at creation: the heavens, ruled by Zeus (Jupiter); the underworld, ruled by Hades (Pluto); and the oceans, ruled by Poseidon (Neptune). So Neptune, the Sea God, is the ruler of the waters, the ruler of dreams—the ruler, in other words, of the unknown.

Neptune naturally represents all matters related to water and liquids, to music and movies, to glamour, dreams, and illusion. It also rules spirituality, ideals, hunches, and things we intuitively know. Neptune is the planet of the mystical, of fog and flattery and fragrance, of allusion and addiction, of hypnosis and hypochondria.

It takes Neptune 165 years to orbit the Sun and approximately 14 years to pass through each sign. Like all the generational planets, its influence will be felt on both its times and its *natives*—and its personal importance will be ascertained through its house position as well.



AstroLingo

Planetary **natives** have an astrological commonality, such as a planet in the same sign or house.

How You're Inspired: Neptune in Each Zodiac Sign

Neptune through the signs represents both your generation's spiritual urge and its urge to escape—its dreams and illusions. The house your personal Neptune lies in describes your own dreams, illusions, and spiritual needs. Most of all, Neptune's sign reveals how each generation is inspired.

Neptune moves very slowly and retrogrades about half of each year, so it often takes two years to transition to a new sign.

Neptune in Cancer ♆ ♋ (b. 1901/02–1914/16)

Neptune in Cancer has a deep sentiment for nature and anything having to do with roots or family and is often psychic, spiritual, and idealistic. This placement indicates an abiding faith in “the good old days,” and Neptune's last transit was a period when the world headed toward wars about patriotic nationalism and ethnic issues. Also during that time, President Teddy Roosevelt led a campaign against big business (opposite Capricorn, in other words) to protect the rights of the common people. Freud's work with the subconscious mind became recognized during this time as well. Neptune in Cancer natives are emotionally sensitive and intuitive, and are *sentimentally* inspired.

Neptune in Leo ♆ ♌ (b. 1914/16–1928/29)

Neptune in Leo is romantic, idealistic, and artistic. Just think about the art styles like Cubism and Dadaism that appeared and how the big jazz bands broke through the restrictions on self-expression during this period. The Neptune in Leo generation had a flair for the dramatic—and a sometimes unreal sense of what love and romance are all about. But Leo also rules speculation, and during this period there was a lot of unwise investment and market speculations, which led, as you may recall, to the big stock-market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression that occurred when Neptune moved into Virgo. Either way, though, Neptune in Leo is *creatively* inspired.

Neptune in Virgo ♆ ♍ (b. 1928/29–1942/43)

Neptune in Virgo is the first generation to feel the pull between reason (rational science) and emotion (psychiatry), and also is the generation of both the Great Depression and World War II. Virgo rules employment, and there was a great lack of employment during this period. Remember, Neptune dissolves—and it certainly dissolved the high times in the stock market. During this period, the greed and pleasure of Leo were replaced with a concern for working people and service to society. Neptune in Virgo natives have a careful approach to life, a result of their tough early years, and are concerned with using ideals to achieve practical ends—although they might learn to rely more on their intuition. Neptune in Virgo is *practically* inspired.

Neptune in Libra ♆ ♎ (b. 1942/43–1955/57)

Neptune in romantic Libra emphasizes both idealism and love, and this generation is interested in new ways of looking at relationships and laws. This is the generation that confronted sexual equality, marched for peace, experimented with LSD, and cares deeply about injustice throughout the world. Sometimes this Neptune's intentions can have unfortunate results: the Neptune in Libra period saw the end of World War II—and then the beginning of the Cold War. Neptune in Libra was also when marriages were subject to uncertainty (war time made this difficult) and disillusionment. This period is when the divorce rate began increasing, too. Still, Neptune in Libra is *idealistically* inspired.

Neptune in Scorpio ♆ ♏ (b. 1955/57–1970)

Neptune in Scorpio can be self-destructive—and potently powerful. The purpose of Neptune in Scorpio is to encourage spiritual regeneration. But since most people didn't follow this path during this most recent transit, it degenerated into exploiting sex for commercial purposes. The birth-control pill dissolved fears of getting pregnant, but this, in turn, led to a higher incidence of venereal diseases. This is also the generation of the drug culture and rock music, and advances in civil rights, which were connected to dissolving the established power bases. Neptune in Scorpio natives have an enormous capacity for renewal, especially spiritually, and there also can be an extraordinary capacity for psychic awareness or an interest in the occult. This period saw the beginnings of tremendous change in every facet of life; after all, Neptune in Scorpio is *intensely* inspired.

Neptune in Sagittarius ♆ ♐ (b. 1970–1984)

Neptune in Sagittarius is open, honest, and idealistic, and astrologers put great store by the generations born in this sign, the sign of higher learning, philosophy, and freedom. During its last transit here, we saw Watergate brought out in the open, and Jimmy Carter, an idealistic Washington outsider, elected President. Neptune's last transit also was a period of universal travel, as millions of people began to see the world. New and mystical religions sprang up all over, and music and art were often spiritually oriented. Personal fitness and outdoor sports also became popular. Neptune in Sagittarius natives often feel a need for greater religious and philosophical values and may revise existing laws or ways of thinking to reflect that need. Neptune in Sagittarius is *prophetically* inspired.

Neptune in Capricorn ♆ ♑ (b. 1984–1998)

This has been a time that's been recognized for its dissolving of worn-out governments and economic structures. The USSR dissolved, the Berlin Wall fell, and all around the world there are new countries forming or reforming after years of being swallowed up by others. Communism collapsed, and here in the U.S., we began facing the need for socialized medicine and other necessary reforms. Economic and

political structures—society’s organizations—are associated with Capricorn. Neptune in Capricorn natives have a deep sense of responsibility and self-discipline, and great courage and purpose to achieve their goals. Neptune in Capricorn is *constructively* inspired.

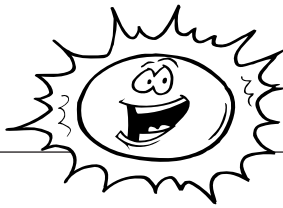
Neptune in Aquarius ♃ ≈(b. 1998–2012)

When Neptune was last in Aquarius, 1834–1847, it was a time of the transcendental literature movement, the first use of anesthetics, and the discovery of uranium. This was a period when many people pursued idealistic causes, campaigned for reforms like the end of slavery, and strove for humanitarian and utopian ideals. Neptune in Aquarius natives have a knack for the abstract, resulting in new approaches to everything from the arts to the sciences—and that will hold true for its next passage as well. This period is expected to herald the beginning of the New Age, insofar as new social reforms to further the brotherhood and sisterhood of mankind are put into effect around the world. New technologies and achievements also are expected, which are predicted to set new trends for many years into the future. Neptune in Aquarius is *inventively* inspired.

Pluto ♇: Soul Man

Planet Pluto is so far from Earth that it wasn’t even discovered until 1930. And it was only after its discovery that scientists learned how to split the atom and about the atomic power that comes with it.

It takes Pluto approximately 248 years to orbit the Sun, and it spends anywhere from 11 to 32 years in each sign, making it the most generational of the transpersonal planets. Learning what your Pluto is about takes time, as its energies are abstract—but they’re also very deep and far-reaching.



StarFacts

We told you in an earlier chapter about the abduction of Persephone from the point of view of her mother, Demeter (Ceres). But let’s look at it from Pluto’s point of view: There he is, stuck in this dark underworld, with no one but the souls of the dead. Who can blame him for kidnapping a pretty girl to keep him company? And the fact that he lets her go for part of each year shows us Pluto’s transformative powers and its capacity for renewal, regeneration, and resurrection.

As the ruler of the underworld, Pluto is naturally associated with death, but death also is about renewal and transformation. Sometimes it takes an enormous setback or challenge to force us onto a new course, and remember, too, that the same force can either be creative or destructive, like atomic energy. It all depends on how that energy gets used.

Pluto's position in your personal chart can show how you're changing and represents both your transforming and destructive urges. Your Pluto truly is both your end and your beginning.

How You're Changing: Pluto in Each Zodiac Sign

On an individual basis, Pluto represents the soul's journey, its evolutionary intent or purpose, and what the soul has chosen to learn throughout the entire life. While astrology leaves the question about belief in past lives up to each individual, there is generally an understanding that each person or soul is evolving during the lifetime. Certain branches of astrology also believe that each person is evolving over many lifetimes until he or she is ready to return to and merge with the Source or God. As the most generational planet, Pluto is personally revealed by its house position rather than its sign. So, to find your soul's evolutionary purpose, see your Pluto's house placement in one of the next four chapters.

Generationally, Pluto through the signs always indicates permanent changes for the world, both regenerative and destructive, in the areas associated with the sign it's in and describes the major global and collective changes occurring at the time. Because Pluto moves so slowly, we're only going to look at it in the signs for people who are alive now (or soon will be).

Pluto in Gemini ♊ ♀ (b. 1882/84–1912/14)

During the last Pluto transit in Gemini, communications and transportation discoveries seemed to be a daily occurrence—everything from the telephone to the airplane was invented during this period. Pluto in Gemini also opened up the avenues of exploring the human mind through psychoanalysis, a manifestation of the way Pluto's personal power interacts with the Gemini mind. Pluto in Gemini natives seek new ways to *communicate and transform their intellects*.

Pluto in Cancer ♋ ♀ (b. 1912/14–1937/39)

Pluto in Cancer means a major upheaval in family life, last witnessed during both World War I and the Great Depression, when millions of families were forced from their homes. Pluto in Cancer also is connected to a patriotic love of country and so is associated with the rise of nationalism during the 1930s in Germany, Italy, and Japan, as well as in the countries of the Allied Powers. Pluto in Cancer natives seek new ways to *achieve emotional security and maturity and often love to break with tradition*.

Pluto in Leo ♀ ♌ (b. 1937/39–1956/58)

Pluto in Leo is all about power—witness World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and McCarthyism. This period saw the first atomic bomb, dictatorships all over the world—and the creation of the state of Israel and the United Nations. Power can be used for either good or evil, and the Pluto in Leo generation, with its natural self-confidence and sense of authority, seeks new ways to *utilize power*—sometimes for good, and sometimes for not-so-good.

Pluto in Virgo ♀ ♍ (b. 1956/58–1971/72)

Tremendous changes in labor and industry resulted during the most recent Pluto in Virgo period: Computers arrived in the workplace; new medical discoveries made enormous strides in both preventing and combating disease; and humans set foot on the Moon—a technological feat unparalleled before or since. Pluto in Virgo natives are analytical, and often perfectionists, and they seek new ways to *solve profound problems*.

Pluto in Libra ♀ ♎ (b. 1971/72–1983/84)

The most recent Pluto in Libra period brought both prison reform (and prison riots) and changes in the arts and international relations. Libra's egalitarianism was manifested here in everything from the end of the war in Vietnam to Nixon's trip to China to the healing of the nation after the storm of Watergate. Pluto in Libra natives *seek harmony and cooperation*, and, as this generation reaches adulthood, we can already see the results of their Plutonian energies in their music and writing.

Pluto in Scorpio ♀ ♏ (b. 1983/84–1995)

Pluto's most recent time in Scorpio saw a resurgence in interest in natural healing, and the rediscovery of "New Age" ideas. The most recent Pluto in Scorpio transit was the beginning of AIDS, and the period when all the "taboos"—rape, incest, sexual abuse, and scandals—came out in the open. The basic theme of this period is "transform or die." Pluto in Scorpio natives (remember, Pluto is Scorpio's ruler) are sensitive to their environment, emotionally intense, intrigued with the mysterious, and seek *spiritual regeneration*, sweeping away anything that stands in the way of their quest.

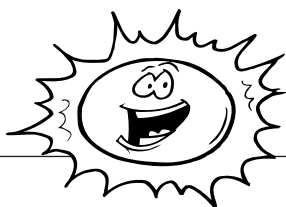
Pluto in Sagittarius ♀ ♐ (b. 1995–2008)

Pluto in Sagittarius signals the transformation of all the major social systems: education, health care, the law, and religion. The latter includes a resurgence in fundamentalism and dogmatism as well as growth in spirituality. It's also interesting that the predictions for the "last Pope" are expected to be fulfilled during this period, which could indicate a major shift in the Catholic religion. This certainly promises to be an era of new values in everything from philosophy and politics to foreign affairs. The Pluto in Sagittarius generation seeks *personal freedom*, but also has a great faith in human nature, and is both philosophical and humane.

The Nodes ♋ ♏: Back to the Future

You could think of the Moon's Nodes as the particular tensions in your life: the pull and comfort of the past versus the fear of and uncertainty of the future. Always exactly opposite each other on your birth chart, your Nodes are the push-me-pull-you energies in your life.

Your South Node indicates lessons and talents that you have already mastered, what could be perceived as the “easy way out.” Your South Node is your past, your history, and who you've been, and is generally believed to represent a composite of your past lives.



StarFacts

Astrology as a whole does not assume a belief in past lives, but certain branches of astrology do. Even if you don't believe in reincarnation, the lessons of the South Node still apply. You can think of them as your genes or family background, your childhood, or your psychological baggage. We'll be talking about lessons and evolutionary paths, but the interpretation is up to you.

Since you've already mastered these skills, talents, and lessons, there's no growth, learning, or challenge when you continue to use them. You also won't get any “kudos” or appreciation for using those skills, even though you do them very well. And when you do use these aspects of yourself, you'll find it depleting to do so. This is the Universe's way of encouraging you to follow the growth path of your North Node.

Your North Node indicates lessons you are here to learn, what could be perceived as “the hard way” —but worth the effort. Your North Node is your future, your greatest opportunities for growth—in short, your development path. This is where you will find fulfillment, increased confidence, and rewards for your efforts, the areas where you'll gain new knowledge, new ideas, and all types of growth, which in turn will lead to fruition.

Coming and Going: The Nodal Pairs in Each Zodiac Sign

Because the Nodes are always exactly opposite each other in your chart, their interpretations are likewise presented in pairs. Simply look for your North Node sign description, and your South Node will be included there, too.

North Node in Aries ♈ ♂ / South Node in Libra ♎ ♀

A North Node in Aries/South Node in Libra is someone who has already learned cooperation and how to work with others, but may be dependent on others too. These people now need to develop independence, initiative, and self-confidence, and learn how to stand on their own. It is an excellent placement for developing leadership abilities and using the relationship skills of the past to create a basis of support.

North Node in Taurus ♉ ♂ / South Node in Scorpio ♏ ♀

A North Node in Taurus/South Node in Scorpio is someone who has already learned about power, the occult, and transformation, but may have had the rug pulled out from under them in the past. These people now need to learn a new set of values to live by, as well as how to stabilize their energies through the wise use of material resources. Once they realize that the Universe provides all that they need, they can create beauty, harmony, and trust.

North Node in Gemini ♊ ♂ / South Node in Sagittarius ♐ ♂

A North Node in Gemini/South Node in Sagittarius is someone who has already become accustomed to freedom, seeking their truth, and may still be on a quest. Now the growth of these people comes from communicating with others and looking at both sides of all issues. This is an excellent opportunity to share their past philosophies and truth with others through the development of new communication skills.

North Node in Cancer ♋ ♀ / South Node in Capricorn ♑ ♂

A North Node in Cancer/South Node in Capricorn is someone who has already learned about responsibilities, accomplishments, and ambition. Now, these people need to learn about being sensitive, sharing their emotions, and responsibly nurturing others. They're here to give of themselves and achieve their best by doing so.

North Node in Leo ♌ ♂ / South Node in Aquarius ♒ ♀

A North Node in Leo/South Node in Aquarius is someone who has already learned about being the detached, ingenious inventor, or an eccentric humanitarian. Now these people need to learn how to share their love and heart with others, through generous and noble leadership. This is an excellent opportunity to share their innovations for humanity through leadership and love.

North Node in Virgo ♍ ♀ / **South Node in Pisces** ♉ ♂

A North Node in Virgo/South Node in Pisces is someone who has already developed compassion, intuition, and strong sensitivity to others. Now these people need to develop discernment and learn how to serve others in practical ways. They will often find opportunities to share their compassion from their past while developing their abilities in medicine, healing, or nutrition.

North Node in Libra ♎ ♀ / **South Node in Aries** ♈ ♂

A North Node in Libra/South Node in Aries is someone who has already developed independence, self-confidence, and initiative and knows how to stand on his or her own. Now these people need to learn about cooperation and harmony and how to work with others. This is an opportunity to grow from loving others, learning objectivity and diplomacy, and balancing their needs with those of others.

North Node in Scorpio ♏ ♀ / **South Node in Taurus** ♉ ♂

A North Node in Scorpio/South Node in Taurus is someone who has already developed a sensuous nature and stability through the accumulation and use of resources. Now these people need to learn about the deeper aspects of life and may go through a rebirth process to do so. This is an opportunity to learn about true power, transformation, and commanding their feelings.

North Node in Sagittarius ♐ ♀ / **South Node in Gemini** ♊ ♂

A North Node in Sagittarius/South Node in Gemini is someone who has already learned how to communicate with others, gather endless data, and see all sides of issues. Now these people are here in search of higher knowledge, truth, and to realize that although there are two sides to every issue, it is still the same coin. With effort, they can turn their knowledge into Divine Understanding.

North Node in Capricorn ♑ ♀ / **South Node in Cancer** ♋ ♀

A North Node in Capricorn/South Node in Cancer is someone who has already developed sensitivity, emotions, and nurturing ways. Now these people need to learn about responsibilities, achievement, and maturity. They now have an opportunity to bring their caring nature from the past into responsible “elder” positions, where they can serve many other people.

North Node in Aquarius ♒ ♀ / **South Node in Leo** ♌ ♂

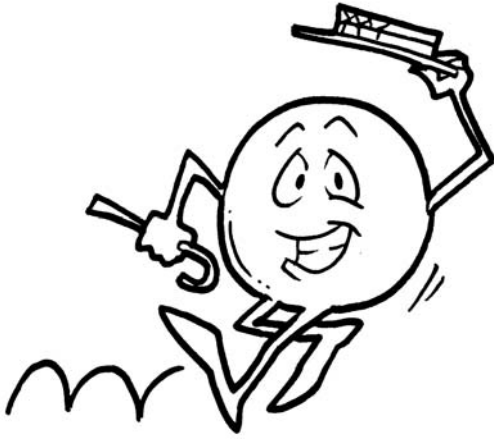
A North Node in Aquarius/South Node in Leo is someone who has already developed a highly creative and loving nature but has generally been focused on his or her personal life. Now this person needs to learn how to develop an impersonal, humanitarian approach to life that serves mankind. This is a chance to use past leadership skills to create universal opportunities for all.

North Node in Pisces ♋ ♉ / **South Node in Virgo** ♍ ♎

A North Node in Pisces/South Node in Virgo is someone who has already learned how to analyze, be practical, and serve others. Now these people need to develop compassion, intuition, and a desire not to judge others. They now have an opportunity to use their past abilities to serve others in new ways by developing universal consciousness, empathy, and understanding.

The Least You Need to Know

- Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are transpersonal planets that affect a generation of people and global developments.
- Uranus reveals the individuality and freedom needs of each generation.
- Neptune reveals how each generation is inspired.
- Pluto reveals how each generation is transforming itself and the world.
- Your South Node shows your past and the lessons you've already mastered.
- Your North Node shows your future development path.



Retrogrades: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back

In This Chapter

- ▶ Retrograde planets: reversed energies
- ▶ Personal retrogrades: special attention
- ▶ Transiting retrogrades: planning ahead
- ▶ A tour of planetary retrogrades

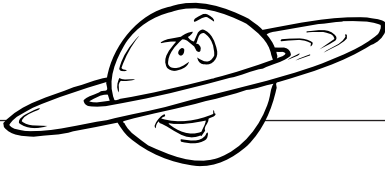
Let's get one thing straight before we begin: Planets don't really move backward! It just looks that way from here on Earth, which is, after all, the astrological vantage point for all heavenly motion.

In this chapter, you'll learn just what it means when we say a planet is retrograde. We'll also explain the difference between a personal retrograde and a transiting one. Then, we'll take you on a tour of the planets—in reverse.

A Brief History of Planetary Motion

When planets are retrograde, their energies seem to be reversed. If you think of planets as energies being expressed, then you can think of retrograde planets as energies turned inward, as if in introspection. Although this is not actually occurring (planets can only move in one direction along their orbits), this is the way it appears to look from Earth. Astrologically, this means their energy will be reversed, reconsidered, or turned inward.

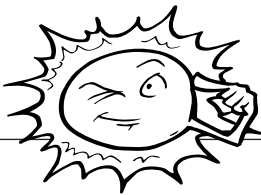
Mercury retrograde, for example, rethinks things over and over to get communications or mental processes right. In such situations there is potential for mental burnout, so to speak. Mars retrograde must learn not to act on aggressive instincts without thinking first. Retrograde Mars must use less impulsive ways to achieve its desires—and learn to reconsider actions before taking them.



AstroLingo

A **personal retrograde** means that a planet was retrograde at the time of your birth and affects only you.

Transiting retrogrades are related to what's happening overhead at a given moment and so affect everybody. They occur as the movements of the planets change, during our daily lives.



Heaven Knows

When a planet is retrograde, it is closer to Earth than usual, and therefore its energies are more intense. For this reason, the strengths of the energies from these planets require more effort to be integrated, and until that happens, there can be difficulties with them.

Understanding Retrograde Planets

Retrograde planets aren't "bad." Just as we humans need to retreat periodically to renew our energies, so do planets. And if you're born with a *personal retrograde*, you will be reconsidering the functions associated with the particular planet. This isn't "bad" at all; in fact, once you understand what you need to do about that particular function, you usually master it and could be "known" for this quality!

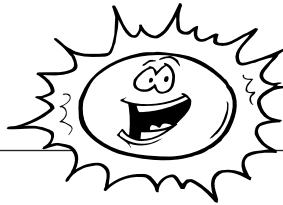
Transiting retrogrades affect everyone, because while the retrograde planet is off on its retreat, the energy we usually feel from it will feel "different," though it's not always something we can pinpoint. During transiting Mercury retrograde, for example, there may be communications breakdowns—or your car may stop running!

Note that the Sun and the Moon are never retrograde. The Sun, unlike the other planets, does not follow an orbit, but is rather the point around which all the other orbits revolve. And the Moon, of course, revolves around the Earth and so does not follow an orbit like our own.

Personal Retrogrades: Self-Expression

For an example of personal retrogrades, take a look at Steven Spielberg's chart in Chapter 9, "Ascendants: The Mask You Wear for the World." Notice his Pluto ♇ and Saturn ♄ in Leo ♌ in the Second House, and his Uranus ♅ in Gemini ♊ in the Twelfth? Each of those (in addition to the degrees, which we haven't yet discussed) is followed by a symbol ♁—the symbol for retrograde. This means that both Spielberg's second-house Pluto and Saturn, *plus* his twelfth-house Uranus, were retrograde at the moment of his birth.

With Pluto and Saturn retrograde, Spielberg is rethinking power, authority, structure, and limitations, while with Uranus retrograde, he is reconsidering rebellion and the urge to reform others. This combination actually makes him more powerful, because when he decides to do something, he is very clear about what he's doing and what the outcomes are likely to be. After all, he's probably reconsidered them more than once.



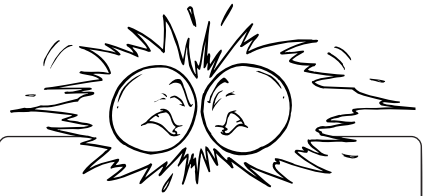
StarFacts

People who have planets retrograde will have a higher level of awareness about the particular functions associated with those planets. So in Spielberg's case, he has much more awareness about power, authority, and making changes—or reform—than people without these retrograde planets. In fact, it's quite likely Spielberg would be very aware of people who abuse their power and authority, and we can see this recurring theme in Spielberg's films—the government “takeover” at Devil's Tower in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*; the men with the jingling keys in *ET*; and, of course, the Nazis in *Schindler's List*, slavers in *Amistad*, and the Army that ordered Private Ryan's rescue in *Saving Private Ryan*.

Transiting Retrogrades: Change Is a Fact of Life

Transiting retrogrades occur because of the movements of the planets during our daily lives and so affect everybody. During transiting Mercury retrograde, for example, we will notice trouble with communications, misunderstandings, missed or rescheduled appointments, and transportation breakdowns. We'll also discover mistakes we made earlier, resulting in schedule delays.

Transiting retrogrades can be thought of as global wake-up calls to rethink a particular planet's energies. Sometimes the energy is reversed, sometimes it's intensified, but no matter what, it's just not quite the same as usual.



Star-Crossed

Astrologers chart when planetary retrogrades will occur for years in advance, to avoid costly errors. Many won't travel by air during Mercury retrograde, for example, and most wouldn't think of starting a new venture during a Mars retrograde, when we should be rethinking action rather than beginning it.

Mercury Retrograde: Crossed Wires ♃ ♀ ♁

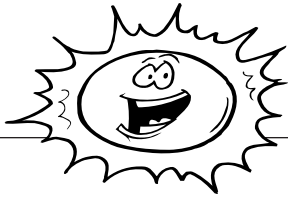
The purpose of Mercury retrograde is to encourage us to back up and catch up, to redo things that didn't get done the first time, or were done incorrectly, instead of constantly pushing forward. But it also can mean that expression becomes difficult, that we have trouble communicating through words, or worse, through other methods of communication—like e-mail or telephones.

During Mercury retrograde, Mercury is at its closest to the Earth—its most intense position, so because this energy is “in our face,” we're forced to deal with things we've glossed over, forgotten, or done wrong.

Personal Mercury Retrograde

You'll recall that a personal retrograde means that a planet was retrograde at the time of your birth. Because a retrograde planet is out of step with its function in the present culture, personal Mercury retrograde indicates people who are learning to think for themselves, especially because their thoughts and ideas will be different from those of society. This can, of course, lead to some very interesting ideas and perspectives that society needs but hasn't thought of yet. And it's Mercury retrograde people who bring these ideas back to the fold.

People with personal Mercury retrograde are likely to have communication problems with others, either jumping ahead or lagging behind. This often occurs when the person is caught up in processing new information and then has questions or responses to what was previously discussed—after everyone else has moved on to the next topic!



StarFacts

People born with Mercury retrograde are sorting through ideas, thoughts, and their own communications with greater intensity than people with Mercury direct. It takes time to get used to this and start understanding how to deal with it, but in the meantime, Mercury retrograde people are sometimes likely to think too much, reprocessing the same thing over and over—and then hitting mental burnout.

Retrograde Mercury is not “bad” or “good”; it's a change in Mercury's energy. Being aware of it can help you avoid costly mistakes or unnecessary misunderstandings.

Transiting Mercury Retrograde

As the ruler of transportation, when Mercury is retrograde, there are more car breakdowns, traffic mess-ups, and airline delays—and travel often has some unexpected and unpleasant surprises. Rental cars may not be ready or available, or hotel reservations may not have been made—or kept. Your baggage may not even show up.

Transiting Mercury retrograde occurs three times every year for about three weeks each time, affecting everyone. This can signal everything from software and

computer problems to packages not arriving. In projects requiring communication, signals may seem “crossed,” or misunderstandings can occur, and there can be missed appointments and schedule delays as well. This book was partially written during a Mercury retrograde, so believe us, we know what we’re talking about here!

Venus Retrograde: What’s Love Got to Do with It? ♀ ♀

Venus’s energies are focused on all things bright and beautiful, and that includes everything from your social life to your love life. This means that during retrograde Venus, you will reconsider and reevaluate everything from who and what you love, to who loves you.

Personal Venus Retrograde

People with a personal Venus retrograde will reconsider relationships and values, especially in terms of societal norms. By comparing their life and values to others, they realize they walk to the “beat of a different drummer” and don’t fit into the mainstream. They may choose to have relationships that are different from the norm, for example, to follow an alternative lifestyle, or to become a hermit.

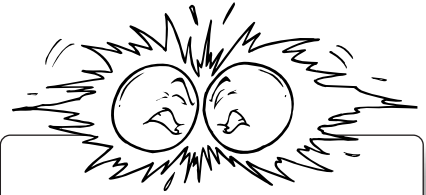
Because their values are outside of the norm, these people also must learn to please and approve of themselves, instead of seeking approval from others. Once they learn this, the social pressure to conform lessens because they no longer depend on others for approval.

If you have social Venus in a personal retrograde, it can lead to feelings of social awkwardness, missed connections, and doubts about one’s worth as a lover or partner. At the same time, though, this retrograde can free you to pursue new or different social values, because Venus’s energies are turned inward.

Transiting Venus Retrograde

During a transiting Venus retrograde, old lovers and friends may resurface, relationship issues come to the forefront, and all types of contracts and partnerships get reconsidered, especially if they are difficult.

This is also when values get reconsidered to see if they still make sense or need adjusting. The purpose of Venus retrograde is to reconsider relationship and acquisition needs, because these change over time for everyone. So it’s important to get in touch



Star-Crossed

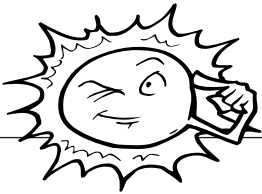
During Mercury retrograde, it’s best not to buy or install new computer equipment or software—it probably won’t work! During these periods, there are frequent computer overloads, which then result in breakdowns. Enormous power outages also have resulted from computer overloads during Mercury retrogrades. So do your preventive maintenance early—and back up everything!

with your present values, wants, and needs, and become clear about what you want to attract.

Venus is retrograde the least amount of time of all the planets: Out of its 584-day cycle, its retrograde is not quite six weeks long.

Mars Retrograde: Inward Action ♂ ♀

Mars is the action planet, so it should come as no surprise that when it's retrograde, inward action is the name of the game. The purpose of Mars retrograde is to evaluate what motivates you and determine if you're on the correct path, doing what you should be doing.



Heaven Knows

Your desires are usually different from the norm in some way if you've got a personal Mars retrograde, and you may not get a big thrill from driving down the road at 90 mph. Instead, you find that what you really want and like to do is different from the people around you.

Personal Mars Retrograde

A personal retrograde Mars means your desires, drive, ambition, and energy are turned inward—and this can result in enormous reserves of power being used to stay the course. With a personal Mars retrograde, you're here to rethink actions, desires, and such.

With a personal Mars retrograde, you will learn to operate in a different manner, to take a different path, and seek to fulfill your desires in new ways. But until you learn to do this, you may overreact or be too forceful in asserting yourself. People with Mars retrograde also tend to compete with themselves instead of with others.

Transiting Mars Retrograde

During a transiting Mars retrograde, it's time to adjust your actions and aggressive instincts to ensure that they accomplish your intent, which can include going back over previous actions and redoing them. Old resentments that haven't been resolved in the past will resurface during these periods, as this is the time to develop new strategies and approaches for dealing with issues, anger, and learning assertiveness.

Mars is retrograde for about 9 to 10 weeks out of its 26-month cycle.

Jupiter Retrograde: Stepping Back ♃ ♀

Because Jupiter is the planet of societal growth and expansion, when it's retrograde, you can expect that energy to turn inward. This means a personal Jupiter retrograde

is someone who will be rethinking society's direction, while during a transiting Jupiter retrograde, we'll all be evaluating the direction we've been going.

Personal Jupiter Retrograde

People with a personal Jupiter retrograde find that society's religions, beliefs, philosophies, and cultural values aren't compatible with their own. They have to step back from the norms and re-think these things in order to develop their own "operating systems."

This process often results in very strong and intense faith, and, in fact, examples of people with personal Jupiter retrograde include Shirley MacLaine, Mark Twain, and Karl Marx. In addition, people with Jupiter retrograde are very intuitive, seeking answers within themselves, and they often find unusual ways to expand their lives.

People with retrograde Jupiter must grow from within first, before they seek growth in the outer world. What the world has to offer may not be what they need.

Transiting Jupiter Retrograde

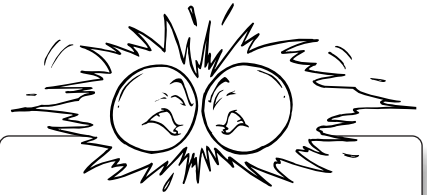
Immediately preceding a transiting or cycling Jupiter retrograde, society, organizations, and individuals will have "gone too far" in their urges to expand and grow. Their actions in this regard will have exceeded positive limits, and Jupiter retrograde means it's time to step back.

A transiting Jupiter retrograde is the time to grow internally and prepare yourself for opportunities that will be available after Jupiter goes direct. It is particularly important to develop more understanding and awareness during these periods, to determine if what's being offered to you is what you really want.

Jupiter goes retrograde for a period of 4 months every 13 months.

Saturn Retrograde: Restructuring ♄ ♁

Saturn is the planet of systems and organizations, and when it's retrograde, it's time to reexamine these things and find ways to improve them. In fact, if you were born with a Saturn retrograde, you already know there are systems that need fixing, and you may well be devoting your life to doing just that.

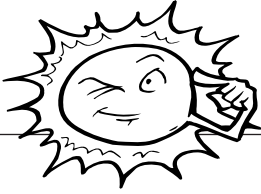


Star-Crossed

Transiting Mars retrograde is *not* the time to make new starts, as this period is for directing your energies inward, determining where you should be headed and how you should get there. So when you try to push forward with new beginnings under this cycle, you often run into one obstacle after another!

Personal Saturn Retrograde

People born with a personal Saturn retrograde were born when systems were being re-organized and restructured to work better. Because they're aware of the deficiencies in most systems or organizations, they want to find ways to make them work.



Heaven Knows

Need an example of someone with personal Saturn retrograde? Look no further than our on-going subject, Steven Spielberg, whose retrograde Saturn is found in Leo in his second house of material things. No wonder his films question everything.

Because Saturn represents limits, people with retrograde Saturn may not have clear or well-defined boundaries with others. This, in turn, can lead to their accepting too many responsibilities for others—or not enough for themselves. In addition, these people will be challenged to find their own definitions of success and their own social roles, because they won't relate to society's standards or norms—or their role models may not have given them the needed guidance.

Transiting Saturn Retrograde

During a transiting or cyclical Saturn retrograde, it's time for all of us to restructure systems, programs, organizations, and rules in order to make them function better. Processes and policies all benefit from reexamination during this period.

On a personal level, transiting Saturn retrograde is the time to become more aware of your own authority and power and whether it fits within society's rules. It's also a time to reconsider where *you* fit within society and whether you're allowing its rules to limit you. The challenge is to objectively analyze society's patterns and expectations.

Saturn retrogrades every 12½ months for a period of 4½ months.

Uranus Retrograde: The Times, They Are a-Changing ☿ R

Uranus is the planet of the unconscious, and even when it's retrograde, this is the area where its energies will be concentrated. The difference during a retrograde is that the energy will be even more pronounced—so people born with Uranus retrograde are often in the forefront when it comes to change.

Personal Uranus Retrograde

Because Uranus is the Awakener or Liberator, it acts primarily on a person's unconscious. When Uranus is retrograde in a person's chart, the desire to reform or rebel is even stronger than when Uranus is direct. For this reason, it's very important for

these people to understand the internal workings of structures and systems before they create reforms. When a person has Uranus retrograde, it's important to become as detached and objective as possible when determining what to change.

Both John F. Kennedy and Adolph Hitler had Uranus retrograde in their charts, but while both of these men were major social reformers, President Kennedy chose to use this energy to champion equal rights and humanitarian changes, and Hitler demonstrated its negative aspects by letting his ego override the welfare of others.

Transiting Uranus Retrograde

In cyclical or transiting Uranus retrogrades, it's time to ask yourself what changes are occurring in the world and how you're contributing to or working against them. It's important to see the connections between your own personal changes and those that are occurring around the world.

Uranus retrogrades for five months every year.

Neptune Retrograde: Not Just Blind Faith ♆ ♁

Faith and dreams: These are the areas of Neptune's energy, and when this planet is retrograde, nothing is accepted as blind faith. Whether it's the personal spiritual quest of a person with retrograde Neptune or the collective quest of society during a transiting Neptune retrograde, this planet's retrograde energy means a reexamination of hopes and beliefs.

Personal Neptune Retrograde

When Neptune is retrograde in a person's chart, there's an even stronger indication that the person needs to question and test all aspects of faith. Instead of blindly accepting faith, they're here to question it and develop objectivity regarding all the intangibles of life, such as truth, fear, hope, and inspiration. Because Neptune is closest to Earth when retrograde, its functions are intensified. For this reason, it's also commonly found in artists, musicians, poets, and those who lead spiritual lives.

Understanding their spiritual path will either be an important part of the lives of retrograde Neptune people, or they may remain confused, disillusioned, or full of illusions. For these people, dreams may be an important method of accessing messages from their unconscious.

If a spiritual quest isn't pursued, retrograde Neptune people may fall into drugs, alcohol, or other escapist behaviors. The point is that because this need is so emphasized in them, they can't ignore it, and must deal with it one way or another. Ideally they question the ideas society accepts about faith, fears, truth, and understanding, to bring this information not only to themselves, but to the rest of the world as well.

Transiting Neptune Retrograde

When Neptune is retrograde cyclically or by transit, it's time for everyone to tune into the collective unconscious and notice how their own fears, illusions, confusion, or spiritual journey are connected to what's happening with humanity. You should determine if you're using your own energies in positive ways to develop faith and spirituality, or pursuing a path of escapism and disappointment.

Neptune retrogrades about five to six months every year.

Pluto Retrograde: Transformation Time ♃ R

When Pluto is retrograde, the one thing you can expect is the unexpected. As the planet of transformation, Pluto's energies equal change, so retrograde Pluto means a reexamination of the changes you (and society) have been making.

Personal Pluto Retrograde

When Pluto is retrograde in a person's chart, this indicates that he or she will be much more intensely focused on personal transformation and rebirth, in order to help transform the world. First these people must be reborn to new ways though, so they can begin to impact the world in positive ways. It's also important for them to connect their own actions, behaviors, and changes to those of humanity and see what role they're playing in it. With today's environmental concerns, these people are aware of how they impact the Earth with their actions and attitudes.

Transiting Pluto Retrograde

As a cyclical or transiting period, Pluto retrograde is our signal that it's time to step back and review how each of us is contributing to the future and evolution of mankind and the Earth, or working to destroy it. These are the periods when it's important to become more conscious of how we impact the Earth and others.

Pluto is retrograde every year for at least five months.

The Least You Need to Know

- When a planet is retrograde, its energies seem to be reversed.
- A personal retrograde means you were born with a planet retrograde. Its energies will be special to you, if this is the case.
- Transiting retrogrades affect us all.
- Each planetary retrograde presents both opportunities and challenges.



Houses in the First Quadrant: Let's Get Personal

In This Chapter

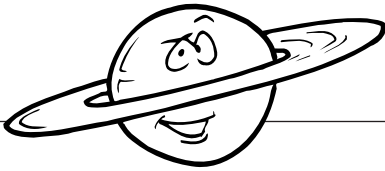
- ▶ The first three houses: the most personal houses
- ▶ The First House: taking care of Number 1
- ▶ The Second House: Are you what you own?
- ▶ The Third House: the street where you live

From the very beginnings of astrology, astrologers divided life into different categories. It was the Babylonian astrologers who named these areas the *houses*—the arenas where the drama of your life unfolds.

Because there are 12 signs and 12 houses, learning the symbolism of the signs is a big step toward learning the symbolism of the houses. Still, they aren't at all the same thing, so let's make sure you understand what the difference is.

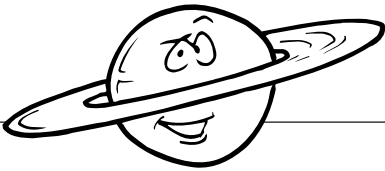
Whereas signs are psychological processes, houses are experiential, or, as astrologer Steven Forrest puts it, “We *are* our signs, and we *do* our houses.”

There are specific meanings to which houses your planets are in, and it's one more step in unlocking the mystery of you. In addition, any house in your chart with more than one planet in it shows an area of your life that is emphasized and strengthened. At the same time, houses without any planets are active as well. It all depends on the house's ruler, and the *aspects* it has to it. A house without planets in it could be just as strong—or stronger—than one with planets visible. Aspects will be covered in more detail in Chapter 21, “All About Me: Interpreting Your Astrological Chart.”



AstroLingo

The **houses** are the “where” of astrology. Each of the 12 houses encompasses a specific area of your life.



AstroLingo

When two planets are **in aspect** to each other, they’re related by one of a set of geometric angles between them, some of which are beneficial or well-aspected, and others that are challenging. For example, two planets that are 180° apart ($\pm 7^\circ$) are said to be opposite. There are five major aspects: conjunctions 0° , sextiles 60° , squares 90° , trines 120° , and oppositions 180° .

Even empty houses have house rulers, which describe what’s happening in that area of your life. It’s not like there’s nothing going on just because there are no planets in a house. Remember, all houses have rulers or landlords, which are ultimately in charge of the house. On the other hand, if one of the planets “living” in a house also is its ruler, then that house has, in effect, a resident landlord. Just like a real landlord, that planet’s going to have a lot of control over what happens in that particular area of life.

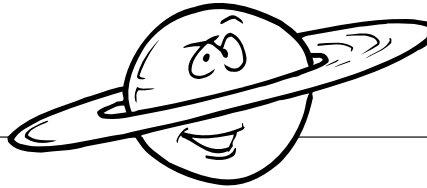
As you read in Chapter 10, “When the Moon Is in the Seventh House,” the houses in your chart appear as 12 pie slices, 6 below the *horizon* and 6 above. Your horizon divides your chart into north and south, and runs from your *ascendant* to your *descendant*. On an astrological chart, south is the upper half, or houses 7 through 12, and north is the lower half, or the first 6 houses.

Your ascendant, or your rising sign, is the same as the sign on the cusp of your first house and represents your self-image and personality, while your descendant is the sign on the cusp of your seventh house and represents how you channel your energies through partnerships and relationships.

In addition to the horizon line, your chart is divided by a *meridian* line, which separates your birth chart into east on the left and west on the right. The lowest point of the meridian is called the *I.C.* and is the same as the cusp, or beginning, of the Fourth House. This symbolizes your life’s foundation, including your home and psychological roots.

The highest point of the meridian is called the *mid-heaven* and is the same as the cusp, or beginning, of the Tenth House. This represents your ambition, career or social role, and public image.

Now, grab your birth chart and let’s tour today’s open houses. We promise, no pushy real-estate agents! We’ll be taking you through the three houses in the first quadrant, three of the subjective houses, which are all about you. Don’t forget to refer back to Chapter 4, “There’s More to You Than Just Your Sun Sign,” if you need to review the natural associations of signs and houses.



AstroLingo

The **horizon** line on your birth chart divides your chart into north, the bottom half, and south, the upper half. It also connects your ascendant, the sign on the beginning of the First House, and your descendant, the sign on the beginning of the Seventh House. The **ascendant** and First House describe you: your physical characteristics, your personality traits, your early childhood, and how you present yourself to the world.

The **descendant** and Seventh House represent your primary relationships, partnerships, and marriage. It even describes the type of person you want to marry. The **meridian** line divides the circle of your chart into eastern and western halves. The line of your meridian connects your **I.C.** and your midheaven. Your I.C. is the cusp of the Fourth House, and is the point on your chart that represents your life's foundations and psychological roots. Your **midheaven** is the cusp of the Tenth House, and represents your ambition, career or social role, and public image.

The First House: Taking Care of Number 1

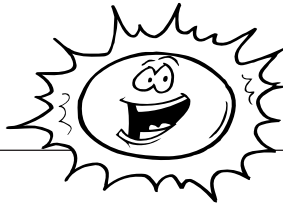
This is the house of self, the place where your ascendant—your personality and self-image—resides. Here is where you will find your own personal style, from your mannerisms to your temperament, from your disposition to your likes and dislikes, as well as a key to why you look the way you do. This house also includes your physical body and your early childhood and is closely tied to your health.

This is the house where your ascendant lives, the place where you will find the mask that best serves your needs. Successfully navigated, the First House shows a sense of control and direction, while less successfully navigated, there will be a lack of self-assurance, which may manifest in a number of different ways.

Because the planet that rules the natural First House is Mars and its corresponding sign is Aries, it's clear that the focus of this house is going to be your identity, or the "I Am" principle.

Heavenly Bodies and Me, Me, Me

Your *first-house sign* describes your self-image and how you express your identity, and its *ruler* describes where and how your identity and self-image are developed. The Aries house (*the corresponding natural sign*) shows another area of life that your identity is tied to, providing you with greater self-awareness.



StarFacts

The first house is sometimes called the house of self-interest because it not only shows what you want, but how you're going to get it. Self-interest has gotten a bad rap lately, don't you think? What's wrong with getting what you want from life, after all?

The Sun ☉ in the First House

If the planet of individuality appears here, in the House of Self, there's a strong sense of self and powerful leadership abilities—and a need for lots of attention. A first-house Sun indicates a “sunny” disposition and an optimistic nature. A first-house Sun *could* mean the ascendant and Sun sign are the same, but it will *always* mean that there's a strong will, tons of energy, a noble manner, and intense self-awareness.

The Moon ☾ in the First House

A first-house Moon indicates imaginative self-expression and a desire to be admired and appreciated. To first-house Moons, everything can depend on how they feel. Their expression is changeable and moody, and they're highly impressionable—which may also indicate psychic abilities. Their personal identity is often strongly influenced by their early childhood, family, and emotional matters, possibly with strong ties to their mothers. Physically, they may have a round “Moon face.”

Mercury ☿ in the First House

Mercury in the First House indicates mental alertness, a person who thrives on intellectual challenges, likes to travel, and enjoys meeting others. Such a person is quite the communicator and can be very eloquent. Mental initiative and higher-than-average intelligence go hand-in-hand with this placement.

Venus ♀ in the First House

First-house Venus indicates beauty, harmony, grace, kindness, friendliness, and charm—all those wonderful Venus characteristics. A Venus in the First House cares a great deal about its appearance—and this placement also shows physical beauty and possible artistic talents. Usually with this placement, a happy childhood leads to a positive outlook on life.

Mars ♂ in the First House

Mars in the First House isn't going to take the advice of others; this placement indicates independence—and impulsiveness. A first-house Mars has plenty of energy and confidence, especially when tackling new projects, but may be impatient with others who don't move as quickly—or may even disregard the rights of others. This placement also indicates physical robustness and strength and people who may love sports or other forms of physical exercise.

Jupiter ♃ in the First House

Generous Jupiter in the First House is honest, enthusiastic, and benevolent—although with challenging aspects, Jupiter in the First House can manifest itself as self-indulgence and an inflated sense of self-importance. With positive aspects, the person is likely to be a social, educational, or religious leader or work in some type of leadership position. These people usually have strong religious beliefs or moral ethics.

Saturn ♄ in the First House

Self-disciplined, organized and persistent, Saturn in the First House can be quite successful. These people can be very serious and hard-working, too, and may have had limitations placed on them as children. A first-house Saturn person will be sensible and orderly, and, with other good factors, may be very successful in real estate. These people either readily accept major responsibilities, or they may feel like they are burdened with them. They also may have several obstacles to overcome in order to become independent and free, including potential hardships or physical handicaps.

Uranus ♅ in the First House

Uranus in the First House indicates both eccentricity and inventiveness, a person whose life seems filled with the unexpected—and who usually takes it all in stride. Uranus here can indicate people who are ahead of their time, and they may be geniuses or have very high intelligence. Intuition is usually strong, and they often have scientific or advanced talents. Physically these people may appear unusual in some way and may have magnetic personalities.

Neptune ♆ in the First House

First-house Neptune can be very sensitive, intuitive, and may be mystical or clairvoyant, too. They are so sensitive that they feel everything around them, even things at a subliminal level. They also are often very artistic and may have musical talents. In addition, they need to be very careful about using alcohol or drugs, because not only can alcohol and drugs leave them open to negative psychic influences, they also can be dangerous to their health. Physically, these people may appear to have a dreamy or other-worldly look to them.

Pluto ♃ in the First House

If Pluto is in your first house, your soul has a special evolutionary destiny to fulfill. To pursue this, you need plenty of independence and freedom so you can *find out on your own* who you are and become yourself. On the other hand, you may be too afraid or insecure to evolve beyond who you are at any point, and so you may go through periodic identity crises that force you to become involved with others. Then you can find out who you are and what your special destiny is. Your soul's intent here is to learn to develop equal relationships with others and to balance your freedom and independence needs with the needs of others. First-house Plutos are often self-centered or even narcissistic in early life, but this is part of their evolutionary development. They're strong-willed, intense individuals.

North Node ♁ in the First House / South Node ♎ in the Seventh House

If your North Node is in the First House, you are here to learn how to establish self-identity and become a leader. Up until now, you've submerged your identity in the affairs of others and have allowed others' opinions to influence your sense of who you are. Now it's time to *become yourself* and learn to balance your own needs with those of others.

The Second House: Are You What You Own?

Your second house is where you'll find not only your money and what you own that can be easily moved (so not a home and real estate, which are part of the Fourth House) but what you *will* own and value, including your income and those things you'll come to treasure. It also reveals how you feel about your possessions and will show, as well, the best ways for you to earn your living.

The Second House also represents your self-esteem, earning abilities, and personal resources, which are interconnected, making this the house of productivity.

The natural second-house cusp is ruled by Taurus, the sign of self-assuredness and possessions. And the natural planet in charge is Venus, whose associations are beauty, charm, values, and harmony—and the things you own.

What Do I Have in the House?

Your second house is where you develop your values, resources, and self-esteem, and so the sign on your second-house cusp will describe their characteristics. Your second-house ruler describes where and how you develop them. The house where the corresponding natural sign of Taurus is shows what area your values, resources, and self-esteem are tied to and where you use them to achieve the results you want. The planets in the Second House give clues to all of these things: values, resources, and self-esteem.

The Sun ☉ in the Second House

A second-house Sun indicates that while one will attract money, it may come and go quickly, because of a love of luxuries. The purpose of a second-house Sun is to learn the correct use of material resources in ways that are beneficial to others as well as to oneself. There is a strong desire to become financially independent or at least earn a lot of money, because stability and security are very important. These people may earn money from creative talents.

The Moon ☾ in the Second House

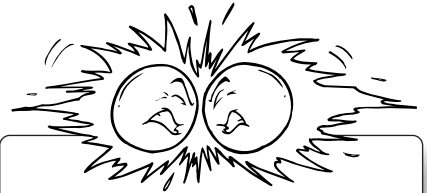
The most important thing for a second-house Moon is its strong need for emotional security, which is often tied to possessions. Establishing a strong set of values also is important. This placement indicates an ability to earn money from businesses associated with food, homes, and real estate, although one's finances may go through phases, like the Moon. This placement also can indicate gain through one's mother or spouse, or through business contacts with women.

Mercury ☿ in the Second House

Mercury in the Second House means the mind and/or communication will be at work for one's earning capacity, and a second-house Mercury may spend that money on travel, education, information, and time-saving gadgets. People with Mercury in the Second House like to translate ideas into financial gain, and with their quick minds, may be economists, corporate planners, salespeople, writers, teachers, broadcasters, or publishers.

Venus ♀ in the Second House

A second-house Venus may find financial rewards through partnership or connections and likes to spend its earnings on clothes and pleasures. People with Venus in the Second House are honest and fair in their financial dealings and may pursue careers in areas that promote beauty in some way, such as the arts or interior design. Because this is one of Venus's natural residences, people with this placement are often very generous; they also may seek wealth as a means of attaining social status.



Star-Crossed

Poor self-esteem may lead you to try to substitute material things for a feeling of self-worth. If there are challenging factors related to the Second House, you may believe that material possessions can be substituted for inner self-worth. Or, you may not feel worthy of having sufficient or plenty of money, and so manage to prevent that from happening. For that reason, it's important to truly *value yourself*. You aren't what you own!

Mars ♂ in the Second House

Mars in the Second House gains through its own effort and competitive spirit. Money matters, and a second-house Mars will go after it. When it comes to spending, though, people with this placement are often impulsive. This placement is a good one for engineers, mechanics, career military people, government workers, those with strong initiative in business, and people who prefer to work for themselves.

Jupiter ♃ in the Second House

Lucky Jupiter has no trouble with making money in this house, but while people with Jupiter in the Second House can make a great deal of money, they also may overspend it freely. This placement may be found in the travel business, or in banking, stocks, import/export, or insurance. Other fields for a second-house Jupiter include real estate, food, education, the legal system, fundraising, and publishing. This position indicates someone with a great deal of business acumen—and expansiveness—so others are attracted to second-house Jupiter's expansive ways and often benefit from this placement, too.

Saturn ♄ in the Second House

Saturn's ambition pays out in the Second House, where its long-range financial planning can lead to material comfort and success. Saturn here wants to work hard to achieve financial security and may, in fact, have a deep fear of poverty. Shrewd and cautious, the gain will be slow but steady. Second-house Saturn may worry about money, too, even if it doesn't need to, but can do quite well with real-estate investments, government and business contracts, management, and construction—any work, in short, made for the long haul.

Uranus ♅ in the Second House

Second-house Uranus may make its money in unusual ways, and its opportunities may seem to literally pop up out of nowhere. There may be wild fluctuations in net worth here, which Uranus may be able to ride out. This can be anything from boom to bust, depending on the aspects and general conditions of the house. This placement indicates people who may do better with their own business and who may not “buy into” the value systems accepted by others.

Neptune ♆ in the Second House

Second-house Neptune approaches making money with both intuition and imagination and may surround itself with objects valued more for their aesthetic than their material value. Second-house Neptunes can be quite resourceful—or may experience financial difficulties as their finances dissolve. They have an idealistic sense about money and how to use their resources, but there may be unforeseen expenses or circumstances that make it difficult to hold onto. They may need to develop faith and a sense of flow where their resources are concerned.

Pluto ♃ in the Second House

With a second-house Pluto, you have a strong survival instinct and need to develop self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Your primary identity may be focused on either 1) your sense of values, including power and possessions, or 2) your abilities, talents, and resources for earning an income. In all cases, your soul's evolutionary intent is to grow beyond the limitations of the way you've identified your self-sustenance by merging your resources, talents, or possessions with others. For example, if you've been equating material gain with self-worth or self-sustainment, you'll need to re-assess this and learn about the deeper aspects of life. If, on the other hand, you're focused on your talents, earning abilities, or spiritual values, then you'll need to learn how to tie them to a social need in order to support yourself. You can be stubborn, defensive, or even lazy, but you also possess stability and inner strength, which you can use to promote self-reliance in others.

North Node ♁ in the Second House / South Node ♁ in the Eighth House

A second-house North Node/eighth-house South Node indicates that you've already learned how to take on the values of others in order to share in their possessions and resources. You know all about secrets, and you may be so busy keeping them that you neglect your present lessons about where your values really lie. You need to discover and establish that which is truly meaningful to you and understand that you can't keep what you haven't acquired honestly. You can develop a completely new and meaningful life for yourself by establishing your own values—and living by them.

The Third House: The Street Where You Live

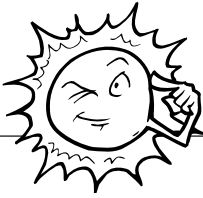
The Third House is often called the house of communication, but this term can disguise the many areas of your life that actually reside there. Because this house contains your capacities for information gathering and sharing, its areas include your knowledge, short journeys, your brothers and sisters, and your immediate environment.

You could think of your Third House as where you think, as it covers logic, memory, and manual skills. It's also about your early education—how and from whom you learned what you know.

The natural third house is ruled by Mercury, of course, and its associated sign is Gemini. Communication, remember, is not just about talking; it's also about listening and our perceptions—and all the many other ways we communicate as well.

Heavenly Bodies in Your 'Hood

Because your third house accommodates the nature of your communications, perceptions, knowledge and education, and your local environment, the sign on the third house describes the traits of these areas. The landlord planet or ruler of your third-house sign describes where and how you develop your ideas, communicate them to



Heaven Knows

Part of your local environment is the people you haven't "chosen"—everyone from your siblings to your neighbors, in other words. The Third House is the place where all these connections reside, so understanding what's in your third house can help you see why you seem to be stuck with people who drive you crazy—or why you're blessed with people you adore.

others, and how knowledge from your local environment is used. The house with Gemini on its cusp shows where you seek new knowledge and information and make mental connections with others.

The Sun ☉ in the Third House

An active, creative Sun in the Third House wants to communicate ideas and may be a leader in its field. There may be a desire to explore oneself in intellectual ways or even a driving need for intellectual distinction, as well as a knack for being in the right place at the right time. A third-house Sun is a good communicator and may be active in local affairs.

The Moon ☾ in the Third House

A third-house Moon cares a great deal about family and also is involved in education and travel. There's curiosity and a strong imagination here, with a primary tendency to think emotionally. This placement can be restless, because it doesn't much care for routine, but it's also a good listener with a remarkable memory for what it hears.

Mercury ☿ in the Third House

Because this is where Mercury naturally lives, this placement makes for a lively, inquisitive mind and a versatility in handling both people and projects. Mercury in the Third House has a quick wit and a good sense of humor and is always eager to learn more. It indicates pretty smart people. Third-house Mercury also can mean restlessness, and a profession that keeps this placement on the move can work very well. These people may also be writers, speakers, reporters, or editors.

Venus ♀ in the Third House

Venus in the Third House is a compromiser, always seeking harmony through communication. Charming and gentle, this placement makes communication seem effortless, and there is both charm and tact in third-house Venus people. It also can indicate artistic creativity, a love of literature or poetry, and travel for pleasure.

Mars ♂ in the Third House

Third-house Mars will usually speak its mind and, with its determination, often gets what it wants through its persuasive or aggressive ways with words. These people also are quick thinkers—especially in emergencies—and they have to be careful about

jumping to conclusions. Often, people who deal with transportation or communication equipment will have this placement, and it also is seen in reporters or people in the political arena.

Jupiter ♃ in the Third House

Third-house Jupiter often has a variety of intellectual interests and may achieve success through education, writing, or communication. Witty and optimistic, this placement is mentally expansive and philosophical as well and is well liked by others. This placement also can indicate a great deal of travel, and, because these people are usually very interested in social trends and causes, many writers with this placement pursue topics of this nature.

Saturn ♄ in the Third House

Saturn in the Third House wants to learn things in order to put them to good use. This is a practical placement and can indicate a good student, as well as a strong scientific or mathematical ability. These people may work in printing, publishing, or the communications industry, and they're also good accountants, teachers, researchers, or librarians. There's a possibility that people with this placement may have had relationship difficulties with neighbors or siblings, or education problems in their early years, but they also have excellent powers of concentration and are conscientious.

Uranus ♅ in the Third House

Third-house Uranus is independent and inventive and, with its unusual and intuitive mind, follows its own different drummer wherever it beats. This placement may indicate genius and a keen and alert mind coupled with a love of new ideas. People with Uranus in the Third House may work in communications or broadcasting. There may be unpredictable behavior with this placement or unexpected separation from brothers and sisters.

Neptune ♆ in the Third House

Third-house Neptune is a daydreamer and may need to learn how to concentrate but often has strong psychic abilities and a deep need to learn about the unexplained. This placement describes highly developed visualization abilities and a strong interest in learning or writing about mystical or occult subjects. When challenged, this placement can indicate learning difficulties, as well as confusion in communications, contracts, and traveling.

Pluto ♇ in the Third House

If Pluto's in your third house, you have strong intellectual curiosity, and your emotional security is attached to your need to understand the world within a larger framework. However, your desire to constantly take in more information leads to a

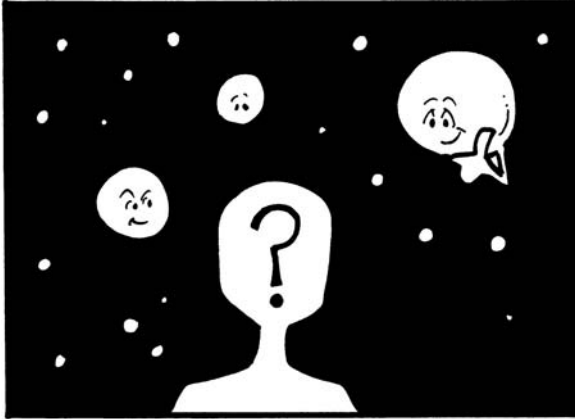
quest for a deeper meaning that unifies all of this data. More facts, though, are never able to tie everything together. Your soul's evolutionary intent is to develop your intuition and understand the metaphysical significance behind the information. When this is accomplished, you must finally realize that your version of the truth is only one version. Then you can do everything from inspire and motivate to transform the mental patterns of others with your communication skills. You're intelligent, curious, and have a deep, penetrating mind.

**North Node ♋ in the Third House /
South Node ♏ in the Ninth House**

If your North Node is in the Third House and your South Node in the Ninth House, you've already worked heavily to gain wisdom and understanding and now need to pay attention to communicating and disseminating information to others, and to your relationships. With this placement you must work to develop clear communications better relationships with others, and to resist the urge to sever ties whenever the going gets rough (often leaving loose ends). You're here to translate what you've already learned for society.

The Least You Need to Know

- The first three houses are the personal houses.
- Your first house represents your physical self and personality.
- Your second house symbolizes your possessions, earning abilities, self-esteem, and values.
- Your third house represents your knowledge, communications, short journeys, siblings, neighbors, and immediate surroundings.



Houses in the Second Quadrant: Establishing Yourself

In This Chapter

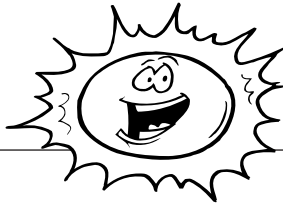
- ▶ The second-quadrant: home, creativity, and daily work
- ▶ The Fourth House: it's a family affair
- ▶ The Fifth House: do what you wanna do
- ▶ The Sixth House: 9 to 5

The second-quadrant houses are the areas where you connect with your immediate surroundings. Your fourth house is where you'll find your home and family; your fifth house, your pleasure and creativity; and your sixth house, your work and responsibilities. These are the houses where you'll be establishing yourself.

The Fourth House: It's a Family Affair

The Fourth House is your home, the place where a house is a home, or a home is a house. But what is a home? In addition to being your domestic life, it's the place where you feel you can be yourself, with all your unconscious habits or patterns and your emotional underpinnings.

Your home is related to your insecurities or need for emotional security, so when there are lots of disruptions, renovations, or major modifications there, these needs are undergoing major changes as well.



StarFacts

Your home is also where you came from—your roots and family; where you are now—your domicile and those you live with; and where you’re going—the security of your old age. With the I.C. as its cusp, your fourth house also indicates the point of your beginnings and psychological roots.

The natural Fourth House is ruled by Cancer, and so there is a natural association with the Moon: the Fourth House is both your seclusion and your self-protection, the place you can retreat to and depend on, and the foundation of your life.

Who’s Nesting in This House?

The sign on your fourth house describes the characteristics of your roots, inner foundations, security, and home, and its ruler shows where and how you seek to develop these things. The house where Cancer, the Fourth House’s natural sign, appears on your chart describes where you search for security and disclose your emotions externally.

The Sun ☉ in the Fourth House

A fourth-house Sun indicates pride in the home, one or both parents strongly influencing the early life, and a strong need to establish and maintain roots. The Sun here means that the creative self will be expressed through the home, which translates to a strong attachment to family and generally, a happy home life.

The Moon ☾ in the Fourth House

With the Moon in its natural house, there may be an over-dependence on the home, but this placement can indicate both protection of and devotion to those one loves. This placement also can indicate a strong parental attachment and a person who identifies emotionally with both family and home, especially with the mother.

Mercury ☿ in the Fourth House

Fourth-house Mercury may work at home, and parents and early home life often encourage this placement’s curiosity to learn. There is a strong need for personal

security, but people with fourth-house Mercury may change residence often. In any event, their houses are places with lots of communication going on, and they may work or write in their homes.

Venus ♀ in the Fourth House

Venus in the Fourth House translates to a beautiful place to live. There also will be happy memories of childhood and a strong attachment to the parents. Venus here is financially secure as well, and optimistic and warm. Unless challenged, these are very pleasant people, comfortable and harmonious, who also love land, flowers, and gardening and decorate their homes as beautifully as possible.

Mars ♂ in the Fourth House

A fourth-house Mars indicates a desire for independence within the home life. Because of some conflicts—especially if Mars is challenged by aspects—with the parents early in one's life, there may be questions of dominance with this placement, and Mars in the Fourth House often settles far from its original home. This placement also shows strong efforts to improve the home conditions, and many of these people are “do-it-yourselfers” who fix up their homes.

Jupiter ♃ in the Fourth House

Fourth-house Jupiter is generally happy and comfortable at home and takes pride in its family. There's usually a happy childhood, and there should be material comfort in later life as well. Fourth-house Jupiter loves wide, open spaces and a large home, too. This is a warm and compassionate placement, which indicates people who may have many social and educational opportunities. Usually, they come from a large family circle that is financially secure, and they generally have had a strong religious or ethical upbringing as well. People with this placement may have a home in a foreign country.

Saturn ♄ in the Fourth House

Saturn in the Fourth House is strongly devoted to family and may have had to assume responsibilities at an early age, perhaps because of an early loss of the father. This placement plans carefully for a more secure old age and feels very strongly about both its family and carrying on family traditions. These people often need more love and self-esteem than others. If challenged by aspects, there may be difficulties in the relationship with the parents.

Uranus ♅ in the Fourth House

Fourth-house Uranus is independent and unusual—and may have had an unusual home or childhood as well. This person's life may take a sudden turn in later years, and what may happen then may not yet have been envisioned. In fact, there may be

sudden and drastic changes in the home arena throughout life. This placement also indicates a person who may be very independent or different from his or her family, social class, or ethnic group, and the home may be used for group meetings of an occult or humanitarian nature.

Neptune ♃ in the Fourth House

Fourth-house Neptune people may have an idealized picture of what a home life should be like, but if challenged by aspects, the conditions of theirs may be unsettled, uncertain, confused, or chaotic. The problems might involve anything from an alcoholic parent to frequent moves. This placement also could indicate skeletons or mysteries in the family closet. This placement shows karmic or unconscious emotional ties to the family and home life, imaginative parenting, and also may indicate some self-sacrifice connected to the home. Meditation or spiritual practices may be important, too.

Pluto ♇ in the Fourth House

With a fourth-house Pluto, your soul is learning how to create internal emotional security without the need for others. You may have had emotional shocks early in your family life that forced you to learn the value of internal security or many experiences in which your emotional needs were not met. Your evolutionary intent is to learn to become responsible for your own well-being, develop your own authority or individuality, find the right career or work, and become emotionally mature. Once you do this, you can help others understand their emotional needs and blockages. Fourth-house Pluto people can be emotionally manipulative and even vindictive if they feel they've been wounded, but they also can be sympathetic and nurturing, as well as intensely loyal to those they care about.

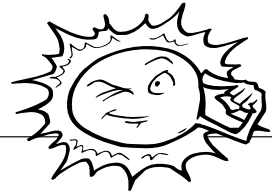
North Node ♁ in the Fourth House / South Node ♁ in the Tenth House

With a fourth-house North Node/tenth-house South Node, you may have unconscious memories of having an authoritative position and now want to achieve it again. But this time, you're here to learn that it is very important to build the foundation of your life first, and until you do so, there may be constant conflicts between your home and career. In addition, you will learn to seek achievement for the deeds you accomplish and not for having an automatic audience as an authority figure.

The Fifth House: Do What You Wanna Do

The traditional name for the Fifth House is the House of Creativity, and so it is only natural that this house would also encompass children, risk-taking, and romance—all creative (and risky!) endeavors. It's also the house of investments, another risky area.

The natural house ruler here, of course, is Leo, and the associated planet is the Sun. People who wonder if they'll ever find the right creative outlet would do well to study their fifth house: It's possible the answer is right through Door Number 5.



Heaven Knows

The Fifth House is where you find your pleasure, fun, parties, vacations, self-indulgences—and your self-expression, and it includes everything from gambling to holidays, fun to romance, and creativity to pranks. You also could think of it as the house of joy and the heart.

Getting Creative

Your fifth-house sign describes the nature of your creativity and self-expression, and its ruler indicates how and where you develop your abilities to express yourself. The house where Leo, its corresponding natural sign, lies shows where your creativity and purpose are released and what area of your life will provide your creative potential.

The Sun ☉ in the Fifth House

Here at home, a fifth-house Sun is energetic, powerfully creative, and loves living the good life.

There's an interest in art, a desire to be with people, and a free hand with money. This placement loves a good time, and it loves children and others too. Self-expression can be found through acting, teaching, art, sports, or other creative and artistic pursuits. People with the Sun in the Fifth House also are loyal, ardent lovers. Highly competitive, they often project themselves with drama or a sense of style.

The ☾ Moon in the Fifth House

A fifth-house Moon seeks out pleasure and is both romantic and imaginatively creative. Associations with others are often intimate in some way, and there is a great desire for children. Creative, self-expressive, and romantic urges are heavily influenced by emotional needs. People with this placement may develop emotional dependencies on romantic partners—or their feelings for lovers may be very changeable.

Mercury ☿ in the Fifth House

Fifth-house Mercury loves change and new people and must be intellectually stimulated to keep the good times rolling. There's a need here to give everything a personal spin, and this placement is capable of dramatic self-expression, especially in speech and writing, or can indicate a teacher, especially of the primary grades, a writer, playwright, or art critic, as well as a stock market analyst or active investor. Tricksters, the ones who like pulling pranks, are also found with this placement—and these people are often attracted to intellectual or mentally stimulating romantic partners.

Venus ♀ in the Fifth House

Fifth-house Venus loves the social spotlight and seems to attract romance like a moth to a flame. These people take enormous pleasure in creative work and have a flair for acting, writing, and all types of artistic pursuits. This placement is affectionate and sociable and loves to find pleasure and passion. If beneficially aspected, there can be gain through investments and speculation as well.

Mars ♂ in the Fifth House

Impulsive fifth-house Mars can be impatient in love but has a personal magnetism that draws others. This Mars placement can be very competitive in sports, because these people have natural athletic skill. They also can become very impatient and jealous in romantic matters, or their strong sexual drive may lead to an urgent need for a romantic partner! When well-aspected, Mars here can work very well with children, especially as coaches or physical-education teachers, and these people know the right way to discipline, too. This placement is often found in athletes and in artists who work with tools, such as sculptors.

Jupiter ♃ in the Fifth House

Jupiter in the Fifth House loves any kind of recreation, whether it's a sporting event, the theater, or another great party—and they love adventure, too. This placement indicates a tendency to take risks—and those risks often pay off. Fifth-house Jupiter does just about everything in a big way and is often found in teaching, publishing, sales, arts, the entertainment business, and in businesses related to the stock market or investments. This placement is very creative in the arts, sports, education, or anything related to children. It often inspires teachers, counselors, or advisors, especially to young people.

Saturn ♄ in the Fifth House

Disciplined fifth-house Saturn needs to learn how to relax and have a good time, and for this serious, responsible planet, that's not always easy. Because of its seriousness, Saturn's fifth-house creativity is often channeled into scientific discovery: This is the placement of Marie Curie, for example. But this is not the only way it manifests. People with Saturn in the Fifth House also show structure and organization in art and music and an ability to be creative in politics and business management. They may work in a business associated with investments, speculation, education, places of entertainment, or the arts. It also can manifest as ambition for leadership or power in artistic areas. Usually, there are serious responsibilities concerning one's children—or the person may not be able to have children. These people are often romantically attracted to those who are older or more mature.

Uranus ♃ in the Fifth House

Fifth-house Uranus takes an inventive approach to creative expression and may make sudden changes in its direction. There's a need for self-expression and romance, but Uranus here also can be reckless, taking a few too many chances. Unusual circumstances may arise with one's children here, who may be very gifted and talented. It's also a wild ride for speculations and investments, and for sudden or unusual romantic attractions, which may break off as suddenly as they started. These people are often attracted to others who are unique, different, nomadic, or geniuses, and they like to work for themselves, due to their strong independence and need for freedom.

Neptune ♆ in the Fifth House

Fifth-house Neptune loves pleasure and luxury, and is drawn to anything that involves an element of fantasy. This is especially true of the movies, and Neptune's fifth-house creativity is often found in this field. When challenged by aspect, this placement can indicate a childlike or naive approach to love or risks, and this, in turn, can mean people may take advantage of them. This placement also indicates idealistic and visionary potentials, and these people may create intuitively or spiritually inspired art or music. They need to be appreciated for their creative talents.

Pluto ♇ in the Fifth House

With a fifth-house Pluto, you feel as though you have a special destiny to fulfill, and you'll be able to project your special abilities and creativity in any manner in which you wish to focus them. However, your soul's evolutionary purpose is to learn how to link your abilities and special destiny with the needs of others or society as a whole, and until you do, your creativity may be blocked in some way. It's not enough to just focus on yourself and your talents. Children with this placement need an insatiable amount of attention, and everyone with it can be self-centered and self-focused. You have enormous strength of will, tremendous creativity, a major need for attention, and you also can be loving, giving, and magnetic.

North Node ♁ in the Fifth House / South Node ♋ in the Eleventh House

With a fifth-house North Node/eleventh-house South Node, you're learning about creativity, and you're often a dreamer, apart from the crowd, watching everyone else. With this placement, you need to learn the importance of hopes or wishes and then use them to create your own destiny. Your need for friendships may dissipate your creative energies, and you must learn the self-discipline necessary to avoid this. Instead, constructively apply your hopes to creating reality.

The Sixth House: 9 to 5

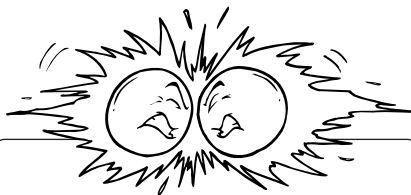
Often called the House of Service, the Sixth House is concerned with both service and health. This is the area of your daily responsibilities and is the house of your co-workers, too. You could think of your sixth house as the work you've got to do.

The Sixth House is naturally ruled by Virgo, and its corresponding planet is Mercury. This translates into gaining fulfillment through skills that are of value to others: If we don't develop our own special competence at doing something meaningful to us that also helps others, then we end up working at meaningless jobs.

But your sixth house is also about your responsibilities, how you help and are of service to the world. What planets reside in your sixth house can indicate whether you're an optimist or pessimist in your daily work, and the health problems you may be prone to. When people aren't fulfilled by their work, after all, they have a strong tendency to get sick.

Heavenly Bodies at Work

Your sixth house is where you will find your desire to be competent. You can be good at many things, but it's in your sixth house that you'll find meaningful responsibility—how the things that you're good at matter to other people, and especially to you. Your sixth-house sign describes your daily responsibilities and how you prefer to be of service to others. The ruler of your sixth house shows where and how you will meet your regular obligations. The house with Virgo on its cusp, the Sixth House's natural sign, describes where you apply discrimination and analysis to your duties, to get the results you desire.



Star-Crossed

Not entirely comfortable in your job? You may be good at it, but if you're not finding the meaningful responsibility of your sixth house, it's never going to fit quite right!

The Sun ☉ in the Sixth House

A sixth-house Sun takes pride in its work and is a good organizer—with a need for appreciation. If it doesn't get it, in fact, it'll often leave for a different job! This placement also requires a lot of attention to diet and personal routines in order to maintain good health. People with sixth-house Suns are good problem solvers, and, especially if the Sun is reinforced by aspect, there can be a strong interest in health or healing careers or an intense desire to establish oneself through service to others.

The Moon ☾ in the Sixth House

The Moon in the Sixth House can indicate frequent changes in jobs (unless the Moon is in a fixed sign, as discussed in Chapter 3, "Astrology Basics for Your

Personal Forecast”) along with great consideration for others, including co-workers. This placement also indicates that these people’s health and productivity at work tend to fluctuate with their emotions. The diet is also very important to them, and they may work in restaurants, nutrition, food preparation, or other businesses associated with food. These people like to serve others by working closely with the public. Like the Moon, their health may go through phases.

Mercury ♿ in the Sixth House

Mercury in the Sixth House can be a perfectionist, but that’s because this placement understands the importance of details. This natural placement of Mercury has a strong interest in matters of health and well-being as well. There can be a tendency toward unnecessary worry, but that goes with the detail-oriented territory. This placement also indicates very high intelligence and people who acquire specialized skills and knowledge for their work. Normally very systematic and efficient in their work, they also have a strong desire to keep up with the latest research or new techniques. This is a very favorable placement for people working in healing, medicine, science, or engineering—and they’ll need lots of vitamin B-complex to combat their nervousness.

Venus ♀ in the Sixth House

Venus in the Sixth House wants harmony and good relationships on the job. This is a good placement for counselors, arbitrators, and health-care workers, or these people may prefer to work in jobs associated with artistic pursuits or in areas that are very social. It’s also found in people who work with or for women. There may be social connections—and a marriage partner—from meeting people through work. This placement indicates good health in general, but there can be a tendency to overindulge in the good stuff; these people should especially avoid sugar.

Mars ♂ in the Sixth House

Sixth-house Mars wants to accomplish things, and, because it drives itself hard, expects everyone else to do the same. This placement can indicate mechanical ability but also can find it difficult to get along with coworkers. Sixth-house Mars needs to beware of accidents. These people commonly use tools (especially sharp ones) and/or machinery in their work and are often mechanics, machinists, mechanical engineers, steelworkers, surgeons, or equipment operators. Their work is normally very skilled or precise, and their identity is usually tied to their work and how well they do it.

Jupiter ♃ in the Sixth House

Jupiter in the Sixth House does well at work and gets along with co-workers, too. People with this placement can be very successful because of their optimism and creativity, but they need to be careful not to overindulge, as they have a tendency

toward weight and liver problems. These people have a strong interest in and understanding about how the mind and emotions are connected to healing. They may pursue natural healing work, which connects with their interest in serving others in a practical way.

Saturn ♄ in the Sixth House

Sixth-house Saturn is a conscientious and reliable worker, good at taking on responsibility and getting the job done, which often requires specialized skills and knowledge. Sometimes this placement can push itself too hard, resulting in chronic illness. When challenged by aspects, this placement has a tendency to do all of the work without asking for any reward, which can lead to internal problems. These people tend to work in medicine, science, engineering, food processing or nutrition, or other areas that require specialized capabilities. Worry and anxiety tend to cause health problems here.

Uranus ♃ in the Sixth House

Those with Uranus in the Sixth House bring new ideas to work, but also can be erratic or impatient; they're often people who work well alone. Because sixth-house Uranus doesn't much go for routine, it may find its health difficulties are not run-of-the-mill, either. This placement also indicates that unusual or advanced methods may be employed at work, and there may be strong interest in spiritual or alternative healing practices or diets. These people may have ingenious scientific or mathematical ideas that lead to important inventions or new understandings, especially ones that have practical applications. Employment may be terminated suddenly or without notice, and illness is normally due to nervousness or irritability.

Neptune ♆ in the Sixth House

With a sixth-house Neptune, people tend to be idealistic about their work and sensitive to both their surroundings and their co-workers. This placement can be highly resourceful, but these people often prefer to work alone or behind the scenes. Health problems can be difficult to pin down or may be emotionally related. These people are usually learning to view work as a means of serving others in a spiritual way, and there can be many sacrifices asked of them. They also may have an intuitive understanding regarding the most effective work methods and processes and may be interested in spiritual healing or other natural forms of healing. When ill, these people have difficulties with drugs and prescription medications and benefit from natural foods or remedies.

Pluto ♇ in the Sixth House

With Pluto in the Sixth House, you're learning lessons about service to others, self-improvement, and humility. There's a powerful mind at work here, leading to cycles of introspection and self-analysis and adjustments in any aspect of yourself that's not

appropriate for your evolutionary intent. Your soul's evolutionary purpose is to learn appropriate relationships between yourself and others, to develop faith, and to find a sense of connection to a higher power or force. In doing so, lessons in discrimination, tolerance, and respect for human imperfections and mistakes will be learned. Sixth-house Pluto people are self-effacing, with keen critical minds. They also may be critical or forgiving, depending on circumstances, and are sometimes crisis-prone.

**North Node ♋ in the Sixth House /
South Node ♏ in the Twelfth House**

With a sixth-house North Node and a twelfth-house South Node, you're someone who spends a lot of time deep in thought. Your tendency to live your life based on fears and imagination can undermine your confidence, and those close to you may think you avoid what's real. You are here to live a life of sacrifice and service to others, so what you really need to do is learn about responsibility and trust, and develop faith in the Universe. Once you do this, you will serve others with your past compassion and take great pleasure in helping them.

The Least You Need to Know

- The second-quadrant houses are the areas of your home, creativity, and daily work.
- Your fourth house represents your home, emotional security, and inner foundations for your life.
- Your fifth house symbolizes your creativity, joy, children, risk-taking, and romance.
- Your sixth house contains your responsibilities, health, and meaningful service to others, including your co-workers.



Houses in the Third Quadrant: Out in the World

In This Chapter

- ▶ The third-quadrant houses: connecting to your Outer World
- ▶ The Seventh House: forever yours
- ▶ The Eighth House: sex, money ... and other, equally important matters
- ▶ The Ninth House: don't know much about history ...

In the third-quadrant houses, you move from your personal world into the larger one. The Seventh House is concerned with your relationships and connections with others; the Eighth House with your ways of coping with everything from money to death; and the Ninth House is the area of your social and moral belief systems. These houses, in other words, are the areas where your tools for navigating your world come into play.

The Seventh House: Forever Yours

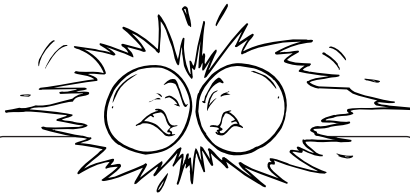
The Seventh House is traditionally called the House of Partnership and Marriage and is ruled by the sign that appears on your *descendant*. Its natural sign (naturally enough) is Libra, and its associated planet is Venus.

Your seventh house is the place where you learn to put your own interests aside for the sake of your primary relationships. It can indicate what kind of mate—and marriage—you'll have, but it also indicates other kinds of partnerships, too: important friends and associates, your business partnerships, and your legal affairs and agreements.

Successful navigation of your seventh house means that you understand shared goals and commitment. This is the house of your primary relationships, after all, and that can include everything from your soul mate to the way relationships change. Most of all, your seventh house is the place *where you cooperate and share with others*.

Heavenly Connections

Your seventh-house sign describes your relationships and how you connect with others, while the ruler of your seventh house describes where and how your relationships are developed. The house where Libra, the corresponding natural sign, is shows where you learn to relate to others and share your values.



Star-Crossed

Your seventh house also can house your adversaries—the people or things that stand between you and your shared goals, your open enemies. Enemies in this house are people you know are your enemies—but that doesn't make it any easier to deal with them!

And don't forget: If there are no planets in a house, the ruler and its association with other planets show what's happening in that area of your life.

The Sun ☉ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Sun expresses its creative power through relationships, for better or worse. These people's self-expression and willpower are heavily expressed through their major relationships. If challenged by aspect, they need to learn to respect the rights of others and cooperate. This placement also indicates people who work best with others—but they also must learn to value their partner's needs and goals as much as their own. A seventh-house Sun is all about the use of social ties for self-expression.

The Moon ☾ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Moon is concerned with emotional and domestic security in both marriage and relationships, and this placement can indicate marriage to a parent-figure. A seventh-house Moon is usually popular with others, largely because these people are very sensitive and responsive to the needs of others. They may marry early in life, and their marriage or business partners may be moody, sensitive, or emotionally changeable. Like the Moon, their relationships may go through phases.

Mercury ☿ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Mercury seeks intellectual compatibility in both marriage and partnerships, and loves a lot of verbal give-and-take. In particular, law, literary, or communications partnerships can benefit from this placement, as may salespeople and public relations experts, counselors, arbitrators, or mediators. This placement is a very sociable one, but when challenged by aspect, a seventh-house Mercury can have

relationship problems because of misunderstandings or unfulfilled agreements. These people tend to marry highly intellectual and well-educated people, because they want mental companionship from others.

Venus ♀ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Venus seeks harmony and fulfillment in its primary relationships and is able to create the harmonious environment to achieve these goals. This placement can be very successful in legal matters and, with its refined social graces, gets along well with everyone. In fact, seventh-house Venus *needs* to be socially active. This placement also shows good ability to deal with the public and works well in sales, psychology, any of the performing arts, or public relations.

Mars ♂ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Mars remains highly independent, even in its relationships, and it is usually the one to impulsively—and aggressively—begin those relationships. This placement, when challenged, may indicate more than one marriage or more than one business partnership. Seventh-house Mars can be quarrelsome, largely because it likes to have its own way, or its marriage or business partners may be very aggressive or impulsive, because this energy can come out through the partners as well. When Mars is well-aspected in this house, there can be a great deal of cooperative spirit and energy put into major relationships, and these people may do very well in sales or working with the public.

Jupiter ♃ in the Seventh House

Jupiter in the Seventh House usually indicates success in both marriage and partnerships, although it also can indicate that one will marry more than once and/or benefit philosophically from it. This placement can mean that one's enemies will later become one's associates or, at the very least, that one will have a fortuitous partnership of some sort. Jupiter in the Seventh House indicates a very affectionate and optimistic spouse, too. This placement shows someone honest and fair in dealings with others, who expects the same in return. If challenged by aspect, though, they may expect too much from others.

Saturn ♄ in the Seventh House

Saturn in the Seventh House is cautious about all its relationships, but it also shows a strong sense of responsibility and fairness in its dealings with others. This is a good placement for working in the legal system or business management. Unless challenged by aspect, these people keep their agreements and improve their lives by working with others, and will often delay involvement until they're absolutely certain of the other's commitment. Seventh-house Saturn people take relationships very seriously; there may be an age difference with their spouses. There can be difficulties relating to others with this placement, but this is largely because of their caution.

Uranus ♃ in the Seventh House

A seventh-house Uranus may find sudden marriage or partnership and is often drawn to unusual people. In fact, a seventh-house Uranus and his or her spouse may draw others' attention because they are both so unusual. On the other hand, there may be sudden divorce and remarriage—there's a certain lack of permanence in relationships here. The main characteristic of this placement is that these people need a lot of independence and freedom in their relationships.

Neptune ♆ in the Seventh House

Seventh-house Neptune seeks others with common goals, dreams, and/or visions and will have a sensitive, intuitive, and responsive partner. This placement also can indicate a love of foreigners and foreign travel, as well as a capacity for helping those less fortunate. This placement can be truly giving—or quite deceptive and confused. These people may have karmic ties to their major relationships, and they may have to make a lot of sacrifices for their relationships. Ideally, they're seeking their spiritual mate. If challenged by aspect, they could be misled by or deceive others.

Pluto ♇ in the Seventh House

If you have a seventh-house Pluto, you're learning how to participate in relationships. Your soul is now ready to relate with others on an equal basis so that neither person in the relationship *needs or controls* the other. The evolutionary intent for your soul is to learn how to launch your own life changes and make your own decisions, without depending on others for advice, approval, or their opinions. You need to minimize your dependence on others, learn how to trust yourself, and likewise respect the decisions and paths of others.

North Node ♁ in the Seventh House / South Node ♎ in the First House

With a seventh-house North Node and a first-house South Node, you're learning about cooperation with others, because you've already developed yourself as a strong individual. Now you will learn to give and sacrifice for the sake of relationships, develop consideration for others, and ultimately detach from the self and the ego-centered ideas that governed you in the past. This life is an opportunity to share your strength with others by helping others see their own self-worth.

The Eighth House: Sex, Money—and Other, Equally Important Matters

The Eighth House is the second of the three so-called “mystical” houses, or houses of endings (the others are the fourth and the twelfth). For starters, your eighth house is about shared resources—everything from taxes, insurance, and business mergers to

inheritances and marrying for money. It's also been called the House of Death and Regeneration, because this house is related to transformation *and* physical death and because it deals with transforming physical things back into energy.

Regeneration is about more than death, too: It's also about all types of transformation for all aspects of a person—emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual—and, for that reason, the Eighth House includes the life forces concerned with sex, birth, and the afterlife, as well as death. Here is where you'll find your instinctive desire to reproduce, as well as how you cope with and understand the “mysteries” of life. It's also where marriage is consummated—and all forms of intimacy are found!

Your eighth house also seems to unveil a bit of the mystery surrounding your death (although when it will occur can never be found in your chart, at least not by Western astrologers), and it also is the house of psychic powers, occult mysteries, and occult knowledge.

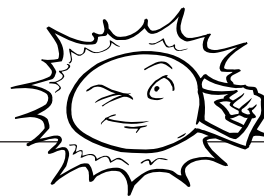
The Eighth House is naturally ruled by Scorpio, and its associated planets are Mars and Pluto, so it's also associated with all forms of subtle energies—part of those mysteries you know. For this reason, it's related to higher mathematics, atomic energy, and sciences that deal with subtle or complex energies, like physics. In addition, the Eighth House is the area of corporate or political resources and some people with strong eighth houses deal heavily in either of these areas.

Who's in the Bedroom?

Your eighth-house sign describes how you make your life changes, and what attitudes or areas you need to transform. And your eighth-house ruler describes where and how you encounter areas of your life that need to be transformed. The house where Scorpio, the corresponding natural sign, lies reveals what areas of your life need to be regenerated and where you need to merge your energies with others.

The Sun ☉ in the Eighth House

People with an eighth-house Sun constantly seek self-improvement, or regeneration, and they do so by applying their willpower. Because these people are both intensely interested in deep mysteries and magnetic, they can often attract the support of others to their causes. This placement also can indicate an inheritance, or the managing of other people's money, and, while there may have been early life difficulties, there may be late fame or



Heaven Knows

Part of understanding the mystery of one's life is one's intense experiences—whether they be the survival of consciousness after death, merging with another person via sex (orgasm is called *petit mort*—“the little death”—by the French), merging with God (or the Source), or birth. The way you cope with the mysteries of life and death can be found in your eighth house—and all those mysteries or secrets you unearth can be found there, too.

fortune as well—possibly even after the person's death! People with the Sun in the Eighth House are primarily concerned with the need to transform and regenerate, with deep mysteries of life, as well as mysteries in general. Vocationally, they may deal with matters of the dead, such as insurance or funerals, or they may be psychologists or sex therapists.

The Moon ♃ in the Eighth House

An eighth-house Moon has a deep-seated need for security and is very interested in questions about death and the afterlife. There may be a psychic ability here, and an inheritance—especially through the mother. This placement also indicates an instinctive understanding of others' needs and wants, and these people often have changeable circumstances involving intimate relationships and shared resources.

Mercury ☿ in the Eighth House

With its penetrating mind, eighth-house Mercury has a talent for research and analysis. There's an attraction to the occult with this placement, too, and people with eighth-house Mercury may be intuitive, secretive, and psychic as well. This placement also may indicate the death of someone very close, a neighbor, or co-worker, or these people may get money from someone else, or both. In addition, they have penetrating insight into sciences that deal with energy, occult mysteries, and life in general. These people are likely to understand the true motivations of others and so are able to ferret out secrets. They may work in corporate finance, taxes, insurance, research, or write about mysteries or occult topics. They shouldn't smoke if a long life is desired (but, then, who should?).

Venus ♀ in the Eighth House

Venus in the Eighth House looks for and finds sexual fulfillment, often inherits money from a loved one, and is generally promised a peaceful death (we'd probably all like to move here). The sexual and creative potential of this placement can be helpful to other people as well. When challenged by aspect, this placement may show either an overemphasis on sex, or the possibility of marrying for money. It may also indicate intense emotions, jealousy, or possessiveness.

Mars ♂ in the Eighth House

Eighth-house Mars, because of its natural placement, is passionate about life and sex and is attracted to medicine and the healing arts, as well as to research in a variety of areas. There's a possibility of family conflict over inheritances or shared resources here, and it's also possible that an eighth-house Mars may have a sudden death or come into contact with death through war or violence. This placement shows intense energy, persistence, and strong desires, especially when it comes to meeting goals and wants through the use of corporate or shared resources. These people also can be very interested in psychic or occult forces.

Jupiter ♃ in the Eighth House

Jupiter in the Eighth House indicates an optimistic and healthy attitude toward life and death and sex, and this placement can inspire others as well. Eighth-house Jupiter indicates financial gain through inheritance or marriage and an ability to handle money well. Like magicians, these people also are talented in creating and re-generating their deepest realities. The conditions at death will likely be easy and peaceful—after a long and healthy life. This placement also can show a strong sex drive or even an overemphasis on sex, and if challenged by aspect, these people may overspend their shared resources.

Saturn ♄ in the Eighth House

Eighth-house Saturn often takes responsibility for the affairs of others and is prudent about putting money away for loved ones, too. People with this placement either have or need to develop appropriate stewardship for material resources, because they are often accountable for other people's money or taxes. This placement can indicate sexual inhibition of some kind, or difficulty in expressing oneself emotionally. When well-aspected, eighth-house Saturns usually live to a ripe old age.

Uranus ♅ in the Eighth House

Uranus in the Eighth House is interested in unusual ideas about life, sex, and death and is unconventional in its approach to any or all of them. They may have sudden financial gain from unexpected sources, unreciprocated love, and/or prescient dreams. Eighth-house Uranus is often highly psychic and intuitive. These people also are very interested in occult topics, telepathy, or the survival of consciousness after death. Sudden death is a possibility here, and it may come from an accident, so it's best for these people not to drive or work with dangerous equipment when they're angry.

Neptune ♆ in the Eighth House

Neptune in the Eighth House can be visionary and charismatic, with strongly developed ESP and psychic abilities, as well as an idealistic desire to help others. There may be a partner whose extravagance leads to financial difficulties. This placement can indicate confusion, difficulties, or deception concerning the partner's money, taxes, or insurance. Strong interests in spiritualism also may lead to an ability to contact the dead. Eighth-house Neptune may indicate a death while asleep.

Pluto ♇ in the Eighth House

With Pluto in the Eighth House, you come face-to-face with the limits and parameters of who you are—as opposed to whom or what you are not. You have a strong need to not only eliminate, but also to transform, all your limitations. To do so, you may be intensely drawn to “taboo” experiences, sex, money, relationships, rituals, God, Satan, status, magic, meditation, or in-depth knowledge as ways of overcoming your limitations. By merging with the person or symbol, you become whatever you were

seeking, and you may gain power by doing so. But the evolutionary intent of your soul is to learn self-reliance and how to identify internal values and resources in order to sustain yourself. What you are *really* searching for is *within yourself*.

North Node ♁ in the Eighth House / South Node ♁ in the Second House

With an eighth-house North Node and a second-house South Node, you're learning to overcome possessiveness and learn about self-control in terms of money and possessions. It's time to move beyond self-values and what you have to a point where you integrate with the values of others. You may have a symbolic rebirth after pushing yourself beyond your limits from excessive behaviors. This is a particularly difficult lesson, because you may seem to be starting over again, but the main lesson here is about faith—and about not looking back at your old ways.

The Ninth House: Don't Know Much About History

Your ninth house is where everything from higher education to philosophy and religion, from law to travel and foreign concerns reside. It also includes the medical system and politics, and all areas of collective thought structures. In addition, it's the area involved in the development of a social conscience.

This is the house of mental exploration and long-distance travel, and its traditional name is The House of Long Journeys Over Water. We love the sound of that—and seeing new cultures and more of the world is one way to gain a new perspective of the world in general.

Your ninth house also is the place where you'll find your patterns of behavior—and how you break them. This is where you'll confront the tendency of your life to become routine—and where you'll encounter the unpredictable that may break up that routine, primarily because it's our beliefs, religion, and philosophical systems that are behind everything we do.

You could think of your ninth house as your mental “model of the universe” —but remember, *your* model is but one of many. Unsuccessfully navigated, your ninth house can become a place where you mistake that model for the real world. Successfully navigated, it's the place where you'll make room in your life for miracles.

In addition to being where your cultural customs and beliefs exist, this house also is where you'll find how you publicly convey your ideas and beliefs. And the Ninth House also is considered the house of publishing and teaching.

Naturally associated with Sagittarius on its cusp, the Ninth House is the house of the higher mind and exploration, especially of philosophical subjects. The planet that naturally rules the Ninth House is Jupiter, the planet of abundance—or, when overdone, misfortune.

What's Behind Your Beliefs?

Your ninth-house sign describes your beliefs, philosophies, and how you seek opportunities for expansion. And your ninth-house ruler describes where and how you expand your mind and experiences and develop your understanding of life. The house where Sagittarius, the corresponding natural sign, is shows what areas of your life can provide you with growth experiences, which lead to a greater understanding of life.

The Sun ☉ in the Ninth House

A ninth-house Sun pursues philosophical or religious ideas through one of the areas described by this house—higher education, publishing, or foreign affairs, for example. There's a need for truth here and so, of course, a tendency to stick to one's word. These people are very philosophical and full of optimism—mainly due to their great faith or strong moral convictions. This placement could indicate a great deal of foreign travel, as well as the pursuit of higher education, and ninth-house Suns are often successful in law, travel, medicine, publishing, or religion. If this placement is challenged, though, there can be dogmatic tendencies, as well as an inclination to force their ideas and beliefs on others.

The Moon ☾ in the Ninth House

The primary factor for a ninth-house Moon is that the person's religious and philosophical beliefs and views of reality are emotionally tied to the past and early home or parental conditioning. Great happiness can come from traveling, and journeys or broadening experiences can create further development in their beliefs and views of reality. This placement has an imaginative and receptive mind, and there's a high consciousness of the supernatural. These people can be natural teachers, putting their imaginative tendencies to practical use. They also tend to learn in a holistic way.

Mercury ☿ in the Ninth House

Mercury in the Ninth House is both adaptable and exploratory, eager to gain further knowledge and meet new people. There can be a great deal of travel with this placement, as well as interest in everything from higher education to foreign cultures. Ninth-house Mercury can be intuitive and philosophical. This placement often wants to understand the development of social ideas and attitudes over time, since attitudes determine how and what facts people will integrate. If challenged by aspects, there may be intellectual snobbery or dogmatic beliefs.

Venus ♀ in the Ninth House

Venus in the Ninth House has high ideals and an appreciation for high culture. There will be a great understanding of foreign people and places—in fact, this placement indicates one may marry a foreigner or spend much of one's life abroad. People with

Venus here also may marry someone they meet at an educational institution or church, and there could be some benefits from in-laws. They may be very well-educated in artistic or cultural subjects, or religious music and art.

Mars ♂ in the Ninth House

A ninth-house Mars indicates beliefs translated into action and an active enjoyment of travel and adventure. This placement seeks out new experiences and often finds gain through higher education. There also can be fervent religiosity in this placement (this is the placement of a crusader for religious, philosophical, social, legal, or educational causes)—or a great restlessness that requires constant travel, sports, or outdoor activities. When challenged by aspects, this placement can lead to impatience and intolerance concerning the views of others.

Jupiter ♃ in the Ninth House

In its natural home here, Jupiter is adventurous and optimistic, and travel and education promise great rewards. The primary distinguishing trait of this placement is the meaningful pursuit of philosophy, religion, or higher education, and many of these people pursue careers as teachers or find their calling in religious occupations. They may have a flair for foreign languages, and foreigners may contribute to a ninth-house Jupiter's success. This placement can indicate success in writing or publishing as well, or if in business, people who lecture or travel.

Saturn ♄ in the Ninth House

With Saturn in the Ninth House, a person has a great desire to learn and carefully explores philosophy or religion. There's an inherent distrust of new ideas, because these people are interested in social stability, but there's also a desire to know about everything. There can be a tendency toward fanaticism here, but ninth-house Saturns often mellow with age, when wisdom develops. These people often seek positions of authority or status in education, religious institutions, or in businesses that deal with publishing, law, politics, or international affairs. They also may be university professors or public officials.

Uranus ♅ in the Ninth House

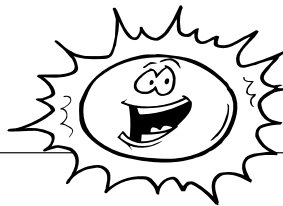
Ninth-house Uranus always seeks to expand its intellectual horizons and can often be found traveling—at the drop of a hat. This placement may have unusual experiences during its travels and also may have a unique approach to religion, philosophy, or their beliefs. In fact, people with Uranus here can be unusually gifted in their understanding of religious or metaphysical ideas, with advanced ideas in philosophy, religion, or education. If they teach, they use technological tools, such as computers or audio/visual equipment, to create stimulating classes. They often study unusual systems of thought, such as astrology, reincarnation, or occult subjects. When challenged by aspect, this placement may become fanatical about religious cults, politics, or social issues.

Neptune ♆ in the Ninth House

Neptune in the Ninth House is both imaginative and insightful (and may be prophetically visionary) and is often drawn to philosophical questions that are not easily answered. This placement, in fact, is often associated with mystical forms of religion, meditation, cults, or yoga. With their capacity for tolerance and love of travel, people with Neptune here relate well to foreigners. They're also interested in social reform. They have very strongly intuitive minds. But if challenged by aspect, there can be problems from following misguided spiritual leaders or neglecting to pursue higher education.

Pluto ♇ in the Ninth House

With Pluto in the Ninth House, you want to understand life in its broadest possible sense and to explain its connection to the universe as well. Because your emotional security is based on your beliefs, you want to get in touch with larger forces and even tell others about your beliefs. You may try to convert others to your ideas because this reinforces your sense of security and the feeling that you're right. However, the evolutionary intent of your soul is to learn that truth is relative—and that the path to truth is ultimately an individual one. Ninth-house Pluto people are intuitive, conceptual thinkers and are above all concerned with truth.



StarFacts

Ninth-house Plutos who sought greater truths include poet Kahlil Gibran, prophet Nostradamus, artist Michelangelo, former President John F. Kennedy, and, quite possibly, Jesus.

North Node ♁ in the Ninth House / South Node ♁ in the Third House

With a ninth-house North Node and a third-house South Node, you are constantly getting entangled with others on the road to freedom. You like to listen to other people's problems and to give them advice, but you need to learn that truth is much larger than these day-to-day issues and the stored knowledge in your head. Your greatest growth will occur when you make the transition from lower to higher mind and open your eyes to the broader horizons before you. You're here to develop faith, intuition, and live a life of spiritual growth.

The Least You Need to Know

- Your third-quadrant houses connect you to your world.
- Your seventh house is where you'll find your partnerships and relationships.
- In your eighth house you'll find your shared resources, intimate relationships, the deeper aspects of life, and transformation.
- Your ninth house contains your higher education, philosophies, and beliefs.



Houses in the Fourth Quadrant: Wishin' and Hopin'

In This Chapter

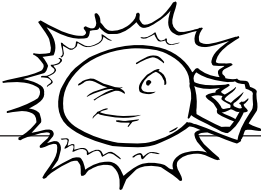
- ▶ The fourth-quadrant houses are where you'll make your mark
- ▶ The Tenth House: they say the neon lights are bright
- ▶ The Eleventh House: when you wish upon a star
- ▶ The Twelfth House: secret agent man

The last three houses are the stuff of dreams—and of ambitions, reputations, interests, and goals. There are secrets here, too—but if you unlock the doors they're behind, you may find greater fulfillment. The Tenth House is the area of your reputation and career; the Eleventh House, your long-term dreams and goals; and the Twelfth House is where you'll find your secrets—including those you're keeping from yourself!

The Tenth House: They Say the Neon Lights Are Bright

Your tenth house is the house of your reputation and your career—your Broadway, in other words. Just as the Fourth House is where you'll find your home, the Tenth, its opposite, is where you'll find everything outside your home—your profession, your community standing, social role, and what others think of you.

Some call this the House of Ambition, Aspiration, and Attainment, and so it's interesting to note that it's also the house where you'll find your dominant parent. Still, this house is where you'll achieve success through your own efforts. It's a reflection of



Heaven Knows

Your tenth house is your public identity, and at its best, it will match your needs and desires and reflect who you are as a person. Developing your social identity, after all, should be based on who you are, but accepting a role someone else gives you is what can happen when you don't get the Tenth House right.

your image and achievements—shown by the rewards that you receive for your position in life.

Just as your fourth-house cusp is your I.C., your tenth-house cusp is your midheaven. This means that this house contains things so obvious about you that they can be seen from a distance. Successfully navigated, your tenth house will give you a sense of fulfilling your destiny—and an enormous sense of personal satisfaction as well.

Your tenth house is naturally associated with goal-oriented Capricorn on its cusp, and its planetary ruler is serious, responsible Saturn, so naturally, the Tenth House also represents positions of power and authority, and especially high government posts.

Your Supporting Cast

Your tenth-house sign describes your ambitions and how you express yourself socially through your profession and community standing. Your tenth-house ruler describes where and how you build your social reputation and position. The location of Capricorn, the corresponding natural sign in your chart, shows what areas of your life give you your greatest responsibilities and a need for respect from others.

The Sun ☉ in the Tenth House

A tenth-house Sun indicates a strong sense of self and a will to succeed. Tenth-house Suns couple ambition with power, and this is a good placement for someone interested in politics. There's both drive and leadership here, as well as the desire for social position. Although this placement needs power, there may not be the ability to handle it appropriately. If challenged by aspects, these people may use unethical methods to gain their power or position (this may sound familiar when you think of some politicians). In general, these people usually come from good homes, and if aspects are well-placed, they are careful not to taint their respectability or dignity.

The Moon ☾ in the Tenth House

A tenth-house Moon indicates that women will be connected to one's work in some way, and this is a good placement for "lunar" occupations, such as marketing, commodities, or shipping by water. Reputation matters to tenth-house Moons, and there can be a tendency to sacrifice one's private life for the attainment of success. These people also are favored by the public and are often successful in politics or other careers that deal with the public. Usually, the mother has a strong career or reputation and sets the stage for this person's drive for achievement. Their feelings may be strongly linked to their desire for success, and until their success becomes linked to the welfare of the public, their career may go through "phases."

Mercury ♿ in the Tenth House

Mercury in the Tenth House has no trouble communicating ideas to others and can often do so in a variety of ways. These people have intellectually stimulating careers and may be found in writing or communications. They tend to get an education so they can achieve significant social positions. They also can be associated with high-level political leaders and may become speech writers or political strategists. Politicians with this placement become known for their intelligent ideas. There may be travel involved in the career—or there may be more than one job.

Venus ♀ in the Tenth House

Tenth-house Venus may have a career involved in the arts or in cultural work and is likely to enjoy social success and prosperity from the career. There's a natural diplomacy at work here, as well as an ability to use one's social charisma and magnetism to achieve public success. Counseling, negotiating, or diplomatic relations also may be indicated as possible careers, and these people could marry others with wealth and status.

Mars ♂ in the Tenth House

Mars in the Tenth House has intense energy, initiative, and drive in its career, and will want to be the one in charge. This is a very competitive placement, but there's self-reliance, too, which means these people do very well in any executive position. They also can do well in the military or in engineering, and they make effective political leaders, too. This placement also can indicate some problem with the father, especially when challenged by aspects.

Jupiter ♃ in the Tenth House

Tenth-house Jupiter works very well with others and has a natural ability to lead and inspire. There's a strong sense of justice here, and this placement can do well in law or politics, as well as business. Tenth-house Jupiter has high moral standards, broad vision, and with its ambition and pride will achieve a good reputation. In the latter part of a tenth-house Jupiter's life, there's likely to be renown or high standing in the profession. This also is an excellent position for a career in medicine, healing, religion, or social reform.

Saturn ♄ in the Tenth House

Saturn in its home, the Tenth House, is determined, disciplined, self-reliant, and very likely to achieve success, because most of all, these people have extremely strong career ambitions and drive. This placement likes and needs responsibility and so is excellent in business and politics. When well-aspected, this position leads to authority, high position, and high pay. But when this placement is challenged by aspect, there can be a fall from position after compromising values to achieve goals. It's important

for these people to focus their ambition on serving others, instead of just seeking personal gain. There may have been early problems with the father, too, but this can translate into a strong sense of responsibility toward one's own family.

Uranus ♃ in the Tenth House

Tenth-house Uranus needs its freedom and will find its career success in unusual ways. This placement is found in engineers, scientists, social reformers, astrologers, broadcasters, people in electronics or mathematics, or in those who work in humanitarian fields. But it's also an excellent placement for changing the old ways; the originality, insight, and altruism here can make tenth-house Uranus a visionary leader. There may also be difficulty getting along with authority figures, so these people may prefer to work for themselves. When this placement is challenged, there can be sudden changes in career, or career disappointments.

Neptune ♆ in the Tenth House

Tenth-house Neptune translates into a career that involves creativity, intuition, and imagination, and these people also may serve humanity in some way—and perhaps have an unusual career, too. This placement is often found in actors, artists, musicians, and television personalities, and the world sees these people as glamorous and exciting. They achieve their success on their own, without much help from at least one of their parents (the other parent may compensate for this). This placement also is good for ministers, astrologers, psychics, psychologists, psychiatrists, or people who work in institutions, medical missions, humanitarian efforts, or who serve God. It also can indicate confusion, changing career goals, or a lack of ambition.

Pluto ♇ in the Tenth House

With a tenth-house Pluto, your soul is learning the lesson of how to establish your individuality and authority within your culture. This is all about laws and customs—and you need to learn how to integrate your own identity into the larger framework of the social order. There is a primary need for discipline and sustained effort to achieve a major commitment or goal. Your soul's evolutionary intent here, though, is to develop internal security, personal fulfillment, and to see one's self *without* the trappings of the social role. You may be forced into a deep self-examination of your inner emotions in order to make this transformation, but this process will ultimately provide a real sense of internal security.

North Node ♁ in the Tenth House / South Node ♁ in the Fourth House

With a tenth-house North Node and fourth-house South Node, you're learning about the demands of family and the conflict between doing what you want to do for yourself and your career versus what you must do for your loved ones. The lesson here is to learn how to mature and rise above family problems to arrive at your own self-dignity. Once you learn this lesson, you will move away from self-interest to sharing

with others joyously. This placement is all about leaving behind emotional immaturity, developing responsibility, and, in the process, reaping the benefits of sharing.

The Eleventh House: When You Wish Upon a Star

Living in your eleventh house are the groups who will help you achieve your goals and your group involvements. This is traditionally called The House of Friends, Hopes, and Wishes, and it is concerned with long-term dreams and goals, as well as with the people who share your interests and objectives. It's where you'll find your sense of future direction and purpose, your plans and goals, your hopes and dreams—and the people that can help you get there.

Your eleventh house also is the house of your idealism and vision, because it's where your ideas and intellectual growth for collective good reside. This house is naturally ruled by Aquarius on its cusp, and its associated planet is Uranus, with Saturn as its co-ruler.

Your eleventh house identifies you with other people and with the goals of those people that parallel and assist your own. Unlike your seventh-house primary relationships, these are the friends whose goals and desires parallel your desires, so it's a place where you give and take in your journey toward your future.

Social goals, or reform, and the need to contribute to larger goals take a front seat here: This house is associated with social contributions and accomplishments, after all. Successfully navigated, your eleventh house can provide you with strategy and direction. Unsuccessfully navigated, you'll seem to drift through your life, with no purpose, unable to make commitments or decisions, and perhaps, lonely as well.

Reaching for the Stars

Your eleventh-house sign describes your group involvements and goals and how you express your sense of direction for the future. Your eleventh-house ruler describes where and how your hopes and dreams are developed, along with your group contributions. The house where Aquarius, the corresponding natural sign, is shows what your group involvements are tied to, and where you share your unique ideas for the benefit of groups or social goals.

The Sun ☉ in the Eleventh House

Often socially popular and active, an eleventh-house Sun indicates someone who needs to integrate personal goals, creativity, and willpower into the larger collective or social order. For this reason there is a strong desire to accomplish something important that will benefit others. These people are often helped by friends and associates in positions of power or influence. They often have humanitarian goals, and/or they seek to achieve distinction by accomplishing unique or innovative goals. The Sun in the Eleventh House may be a leader or inspire others in some new field, especially one that encompasses both idealism and innovation.

The Moon ☾ in the Eleventh House

The Moon in the Eleventh House is emotionally intuitive when it comes to people, and its charm can attract many admirers. These people may use their home for group meetings or activities, and often join up with a variety of causes, which may change over time. These are primarily people who need to develop their goals and future through a constantly growing and changing social sphere. There is also an emotional need for friendships or an association with others. These people may have many female friends and associates, or they may meet other people primarily through their family members.

Mercury ☿ in the Eleventh House

Eleventh-house Mercury has a wide variety of friends, often based on intellectual connections, and is socially minded as well. This placement is very good at thinking of the best ways to achieve goals and is idealistic and original, bringing a lively mind to group enterprises. People with Mercury in the Eleventh House are interested in communications or open exchanges of information with others. They're often dedicated to or interested in sciences, humanitarian causes, astrology, or occult subjects. They also may need to develop persistence in attaining their goals.

Venus ♀ in the Eleventh House

Venus in the Eleventh House has lots of friends and benefits from its associations with people, both socially and financially. This placement indicates an idealism and interest in social values, which can lead to involvement with philanthropy or other charitable causes. People with Venus in the Eleventh House may have musicians or artists as friends, or they may be involved in artistic associations. Their cooperative spirit makes them excellent team players.

Mars ♂ in the Eleventh House

An eleventh-house Mars is often the leader in its circle of friends and actively pursues its well-defined goals. There's energy to spare with this placement, and eleventh-house Mars makes friends quickly—although it may also lose them quickly by pushing them to keep up. People with an eleventh-house Mars have friends or are aligned with groups that may be aggressive or masculine, and they often achieve their personal goals through such people. If heavily challenged by aspects, they can become dissatisfied with the present social order and may have revolutionary tendencies. (So what do you think—are these all those guys in the militias?)

Jupiter ♃ in the Eleventh House

Jupiter in the Eleventh House is popular and successful through groups and friends, and often benefits and grows from its associations with others. This placement does particularly well in large organizations and, if well aspected, has good judgment and intuition. People with Jupiter in the Eleventh House are usually successful in very

large projects, which may be associated with humanitarian, religious, educational, or charity efforts. In business pursuits, group activities are often related to the sciences, engineering, new inventions, or organizational pursuits. Eleventh-house Jupiters also may benefit through travel.

Saturn ♄ in the Eleventh House

An eleventh-house Saturn has a few strong and meaningful friendships and, in fact, avoids any superficial relationships. There are high hopes here, but there can be delays and obstacles before one achieves them, and, while there may be inner insecurities, there is also strong loyalty to friends and family. Older people are often very helpful to these people. This placement can add structure to ideas and ideals, turning them into practical inventions, uses, or applications. There also can be strong organizational ability, because this is one of Saturn's "home" houses.

Uranus ♃ in the Eleventh House

Eleventh-house Uranus people are often associated with humanitarian, astrological, scientific, broadcast, electronics, or technical groups. Remember, this is Uranus's home house, so it's very happy here. These people will have unusual goals and generally aren't concerned with approval or traditions. This placement often gives strong intuition and the ability to perceive universal laws or principles. For this reason, people with this placement often develop strong interests in humanitarian concerns, the occult, or astrology, as well as new inventions or the natural sciences. These people also may change their goals unexpectedly, sometimes more than once during their life, before finding their path. They also may have more than one set of friends—one set of eccentrics and another set of "normals"—because both Uranus and Saturn are associated with this house.

Neptune ♆ in the Eleventh House

Neptune in the Eleventh House is drawn to artistic, spiritual, or humanitarian people and often shares common goals with them. This placement indicates people who join organizations with idealistic, mystical, secret, spiritual, or visionary aims, because they're so sensitive to the needs of mankind. If well aspected, these people may receive intuitive or spiritual advice from others that benefits them. If challenged by aspect, though, they may be misled by friends or unreliable associates. It's important for people with eleventh-house Neptune to exercise care in choosing friends and to avoid unrealistic expectations about them.

Pluto ♇ in the Eleventh House

If you have an eleventh-house Pluto, your evolutionary purpose is to move away from old ideas about self-definition into new, uncharted areas. You don't like to be defined by situations, others, or anything external—you want to define yourself outside the mainstream, and outside of any cultural identity. The evolutionary intent of

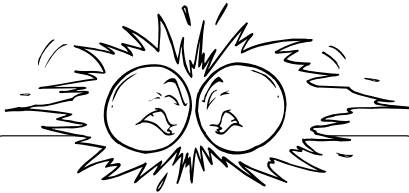
your soul is to take your ideas about yourself and use them to visualize and plan your future—and then, most important, to act on them. It's vital that you learn not to wait for approval or support from others before pursuing your life directions and goals. You are here to be an innovative and creative agent for change in whatever area of life is most appropriate for you. Your power here lies in understanding that it's okay to be different.

North Node ♁ in the Eleventh House / South Node ♁ in the Fifth House

With an eleventh-house North Node and a fifth-house South Node, you're learning to move beyond being a sole creator in order to create for a more global community. You need to trust your big dreams and learn the value of friendship and the greater good. In the process, you need to let go of pride and self-consciousness and become a part of the collective ego. Your past creativity and love are needed for larger purposes in this lifetime, and once you develop objectivity, you'll be able to achieve them.

The Twelfth House: Secret Agent Man

The Twelfth House gets a bad rap in many astrology books, particularly the older ones. Sometimes it's called the House of Secrets; others call it the House of Self-Undoing, or the House of Sorrows. Because one of us has five planets in her twelfth house, we know there's more to it than all these bad vibes. But let's take a moment to look at where this bad reputation came from.



Star-Crossed

Among the many things lurking in the closet of your twelfth house are your secret enemies. These are the people who smile to your face, then stab you in the back! Look more closely, though, and you may discover these are your own energies—projected onto someone else. Be aware of what you're hiding from yourself in your twelfth house, and you'll get your enemies out of your closet.

The Twelfth House is certainly the most mystical of the houses—it's where you'll find your subconscious and the unknown, after all. Like most fields, though, astrology until recently had a patriarchal bend, which meant that “feminine” signs like Cancer and Pisces were called “emotional” and “weepy,” and the mystical houses like the fourth, eighth, and twelfth were called “disappointing” or “irrational.”

Well, it can be scary for some guys to get in touch with things like intuition and secrets and dreams: They operate in what they want to be a rational, ordered world. Except that we all know the world isn't always as rational or ordered as we'd like; there's even a theory for this lack of rationality now, and it's called “chaos theory.”

Astrologer Steven Forrest calls the Twelfth House the House of Troubles, but also makes it clear that it's consciousness itself that resides here. This is the point at which self meets soul, where ego can merge into spirit.

Successfully navigate your twelfth house and you'll transcend your everyday worries. Planets in this house also can help you to learn lessons that free you from past destructive patterns. Unsuccessfully navigate it, and your self-image will be blurry. You may self-destruct through alcohol, drugs, or the wrong people or seem to have chronic "bad luck."

Your twelfth house can be self-transcendence, moving beyond the ego to what's beyond the self, your higher consciousness, your unconscious, and what you don't yet know. Or, it can be your undoing. How you navigate your twelfth house is up to you. Its ruler is Pisces, and its associated planets are Neptune and Jupiter: Neptune, the mystical, and Jupiter, the fortunate, or when overdone, the unfortunate.

Skeletons in Your Closet

Your twelfth-house sign describes your past, the types of social services you may perform, and how you express (or don't express) your unconscious. Your twelfth-house ruler describes where and how you can develop beyond your self and serve the larger collective. The house where Pisces, the corresponding natural sign, is shows where you need to be of service to others and in what areas of your life you have great potential to develop your unconscious.

The Sun ☉ in the Twelfth House

A twelfth-house Sun has a strong desire for solitude, peace, and quiet and may be close to only a few carefully chosen people. There may be success later in life, and deep spiritual understanding. This placement also can be both resourceful and self-expressive. The essence of this placement is a person who works behind the scenes, instead of in the public eye. These people are here to serve others, instead of themselves. Often they have very in-depth and profound inner lives. Many can be found working for large companies or institutions, such as hospitals and prisons or places of spiritual retreat. This is a good position for medical researchers, doctors, or people who work with the disabled or disadvantaged.

The Moon ☾ in the Twelfth House

The Moon in the Twelfth House is sensitive, receptive, and intuitive, almost as if it's got radar, but it also can be easily hurt and may hide its true feelings. There will be a need for alone time or seclusion to process these feelings, meditate, or pursue spiritual teachings. If they don't get this, these people may feel pressured and will need to escape, either by "zoning out," or through fantasy. They also have a creative imagination, and so this placement is commonly found in writers. These people also make good counselors because they're so sensitive to the feelings of others. This placement primarily indicates people whose feelings and emotional responses are heavily tied to their subconscious or past lives, and for this reason they may not understand why they feel the way they do.

Mercury ♿ in the Twelfth House

Twelfth-house Mercury is contemplative, and these people work things out for themselves; they may also be very reluctant to share what they think. Mercury here is subtle but good at analyzing other people's problems and may base its decisions on feelings rather than reason. This is because their thinking is heavily influenced by past experiences, unconscious memories, or the subconscious. Close to the ascendant, this Mercury may behave more like a first-house Mercury and be more communicative. If Mercury is well aspected, and especially if it's aspected to any of the outer three planets, these people may gain important knowledge through their intuitive or psychic abilities.

Venus ♀ in the Twelfth House

Venus in the Twelfth House is both artistic and creative and prefers a private, secluded life. This also is a compassionate and sympathetic placement, because Venus is extremely happy here and has a great desire to serve others in some way. People with Venus in the Twelfth House also like to look at life's deeper meanings and may find a good outlet through their devotion to God or an ideal. Worldly success is not as important to them as what they can contribute to help others. For this reason, they may also pursue a spiritual life. Often noted for secretive love affairs or personal contacts, this position is primarily distinguished by its artistic and strong emotional ties to the subconscious, which can result in deeply inspired art.

Mars ♂ in the Twelfth House

Twelfth-house Mars people have strong feelings but prefer to keep them secret from everyone else because their desires, anger, or feelings are connected to past experiences or their subconscious, so they may not understand them. People with Mars in the Twelfth House have an active imagination, and this placement may fight for those less fortunate. These people can be good strategists, planning things behind the scenes. This placement is also very self-motivated and able to work independently without supervision. Primarily they need *not* to be discouraged by others, which is why they may unconsciously decide to work behind the scenes to accomplish their purposes. They may appear to be mild-mannered, but when pushed to their limits and forced to release their suppressed anger, they will fight back like a caged tiger and make formidable foes! Like Batman, Spider-Man, or Superman, these people also may have a partially hidden identity that is not shared with others.

Jupiter ♃ in the Twelfth House

Jupiter in the Twelfth House is kind, compassionate, and charitable and is often found helping others in some way. These people have a strong religious or philosophical faith or are likely to pursue an inner spiritual path. In fact, some have called a twelfth-house Jupiter "an angel on your shoulder." This is because people with this placement are often benefited by others anonymously, just as they often help people

in need the same way. It's a reward for "good behavior." This is one of Jupiter's home houses, because it co-rules Pisces, so it's very happy here, and these people are often very intuitive. If challenged by aspects, however, they may fall into impractical idealism, overindulgence, or neglect to develop their creative abilities to help others.

Saturn ♄ in the Twelfth House

Twelfth-house Saturn is reserved and cautious, preferring to work alone. This placement can be lonely or afraid, especially because these people won't share their feelings with others for fear they'll be used against them. But this also can be a very good placement for those who require seclusion for their work. This placement may have unconscious, or what seem to be unfounded, fears about their own worth or about the structures of their world dissolving before them. Normally these people are either imaginary or linked to past life memories. It's often wise for these people to develop practical ways to help others, which they are talented at doing and which help them get past focusing on their fears and insecurities. This placement is often found in people who work in large companies, institutions, or for the government. They also may work for charitable foundations or in psychology.

Uranus ♁ in the Twelfth House

A twelfth-house Uranus indicates compassion and intuition, and while people with this placement want to free themselves from society's constraints, they are the ones who hold themselves back due to their fears. They have a particular enchantment with the mysterious and romantic, but this also is an intellectual placement, with people who not only want to work in unusual ways, but who will. This placement is good for researchers or those who work behind the scenes alone. People with Uranus here may also be loners, feeling too different to make strong connections with others. Although they're very intuitive, they may not listen to their higher Self—and so may ignore information.

Neptune ♆ in the Twelfth House

Neptune in the Twelfth House prefers to work in a quiet place that allows its creativity to flow. This placement can indicate an almost other-worldly type of person, who is also very helpful to others and finely tuned to his or her own subconscious. Because this is Neptune's home house and it's very happy here, this placement can be a strong source of wisdom. These people are highly intuitive and may be in touch with the collective mind, which could be thought of as a pool of ideas we're all plugged into. If Neptune's well aspected, they also may be artistic, musical, or poetic and could have a strong talent for psychology, psychic abilities, or healing. Their search for an inner spiritual path is important, and until they find it, their lives can be "in a fog" or isolated. Their strong ability to absorb other people's feelings and energies makes it difficult for them to be around negative people.

Pluto ♃ in the Twelfth House

If you have Pluto in the Twelfth House, you have the potential to spiritualize all aspects of your life, and your unconscious intention is to merge or identify with the Source, God—or a higher power. To do this, you are trying to dissolve any and all blockages you have to this, whether emotional, mental, physical, or spiritual. This is naturally a frightening prospect for anyone used to a concept of “self” (and that’s all of us humans), and avoidance behaviors, such as living out dreams and illusions, or compulsive actions may manifest because of this. The lesson here is faith, and what you’re willing to take on faith, to find the ultimate meaning of life. The evolutionary intent of your soul is to develop specific, useful methods for learning to analyze yourself and hone transcendental meditation techniques that allow you to experience the Source so that you find your blockages and eliminate them. In addition, you need to perform some type of “right work,” which helps or serves others. You need to learn to believe in your own intuitive abilities, develop faith, and, in the process, let go of the idea of self. This is particularly hard for people from western civilizations to do!

North Node ♁ in the Twelfth House / South Node ♁ in the Sixth House

With a twelfth-house North Node and a sixth-house South Node, you’re learning to move beyond yourself—but it’s a tough lesson, and you may spend far too much time either wallowing in self-pity or criticizing everyone else. You need to learn to see yourself as not only part of a larger whole, but to see that the whole universe is also contained in you. When you learn this, you’ll see the greater harmony and synchronicity of all things. This is an opportunity to find all the answers you need within yourself, serve others, and become part of a higher cause or purpose.

The Least You Need to Know

- The fourth-quadrant houses your dreams and ambitions.
- It’s your tenth house that holds your reputation, social role, and career.
- Your eleventh house is where you’ll find the groups that help you achieve your goals and desires.
- Look in your twelfth house for your subconscious, your past, and the unknown.

Part 4

Getting and Interpreting Your Astrological Chart

Don't skip this section: Besides seeing how a computer calculates your chart, you're going to learn some other very useful chart basics, such as aspects, transits, and progressions. You'll also find out how to interpret your astrological signature, and determine if you're reaping or sowing in this lifetime.

Did you know that you can use astrology as a personal map to make informed choices about your life decisions? Indeed you can. In the pages that follow you'll see just how to make the most of both the opportunities and challenges that await you.

Plus ... there's more to relationships than your Sun sign. Learn how to use your and your partner's Moon signs, ascendants, the signs and planets in your houses, and aspects to find out if your relationship is a match made in the heavens!





Getting Started

In This Chapter

- ▶ How easy is it to do your own chart? (it's not)
- ▶ Your vital statistics
- ▶ Supplies you'll need (and where to get them)
- ▶ Getting your chart done for you

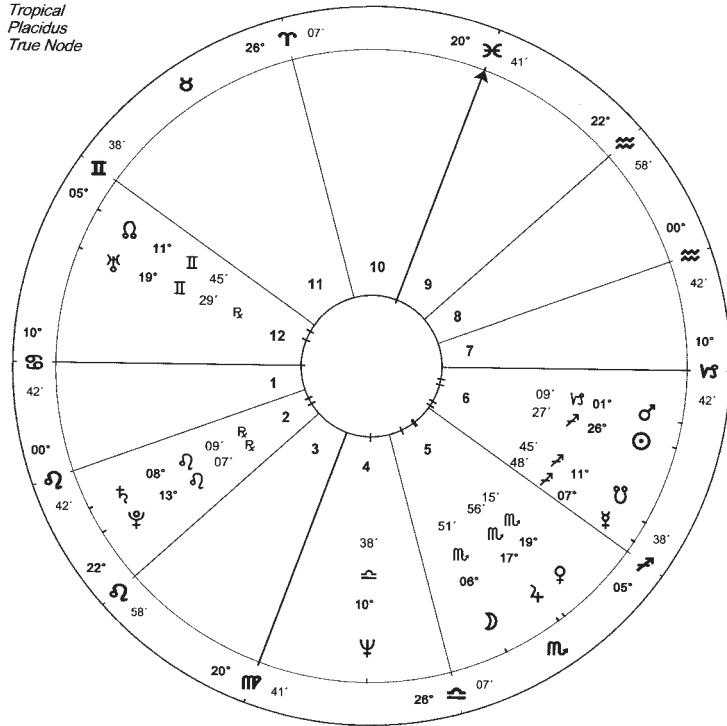
How Easy Is It to Do Your Own Chart? (It's Not)

Lucky for Steven Spielberg, Madeline ran his chart with her computer program. Otherwise, he'd be spending a lot of his time and money to do his own chart, which would be a waste of both. And it would be for you, too, if you chose to calculate your chart manually.

Instead of wasting your time and ours discussing manual calculations nobody uses any more, in this chapter we're going to walk you through the steps a computer program takes when it calculates your chart. We'll be referring to some of the books used to do it "the old-fashioned way," but we know you're no idiot—and will have your chart done in the most efficient manner.

Steven Spielberg's birth chart.

Steven Spielberg
Natal Chart
 18 Dec 1946
 6:16 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



What we're going to do here is learn something about how charts are done and what's behind those calculations. And then we'll show you some of the science and math behind astrology in Chapter 20, "Lost in Space: How a Computer Calculates a Birth Chart." If you're saying, "Yeah!" these two chapters are for you.

Your Vital Statistics

The first things you need for creating your birth chart are probably the easiest—plus, they're probably free (there's exceptions, but we'll get to that). What are they? They are three numbers: your date of birth, your time of birth, and your place of birth.

Now this sounds pretty easy, right? We all know the stories of our births ("Oh, I was in labor for two days with you, and I thought you'd never come out"), and we all, of course, know our birthdays (although, depending on our ages, we may be trying to forget them). But it may be a little harder to find out your birth time.

Okay, go ask your mother. She'll say, "Let's see, we'd just fallen asleep, and I woke up and said to Daddy, 'Something feels funny, Honey,' and next thing I knew, we were off to the hospital, and then you were born." "What time, Ma?" you ask. "Oh, it must have been around three or four. Somewhere in the middle of the night. I'm just not really sure."

Not even your own mother remembers! And, while you *were* there, you didn't know how to tell time yet.

Obviously, you could check your birth certificate. But not all birth certificates have times, at least not until more recently. And you may have been born somewhere other than the United States, so getting your birth certificate could take a lot of time and expense.

Well, isn't "around three or four" good enough? The answer is, it's not. And in a moment, we'll tell you why.

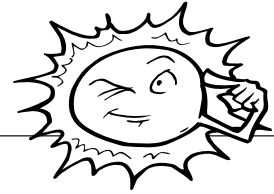
Your Most Important Day

Happy birthday! As you already know, our birthday determines your Sun sign. But it's also the first number you need to start your birth chart, the number that would tell you which pages of the reference books would be used to find the numbers to calculate your chart—if you were doing manual calculation—or the first number you'll punch into the computer for your personal chart calculation.

So let's do that: Either write it down, or enter it into your computer program at the prompt: Month-Day-Year. There! You've taken the first step toward doing your own chart.

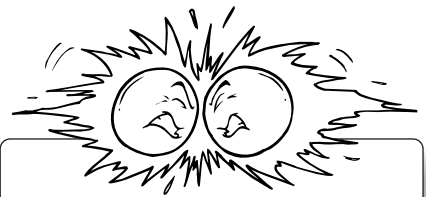
The Time of Your Life

As we've already mentioned, the time you were born can be harder to find. Lots of people know that they were born "around 10 A.M." But the minute astrologers see a rounded number like that, they begin to think it's approximate rather than



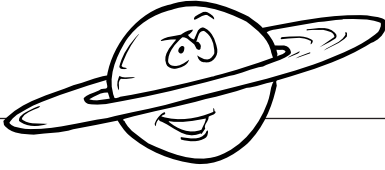
Heaven Knows

With the advent of computers, even astrologers don't calculate charts—because they don't have to! After all, it can be easy to perform the calculations incorrectly—and so end up with the wrong chart. Besides, you would spend a lot more money on just the books to calculate it than it would cost you to purchase your own chart at a metaphysical bookstore—or from the mail-in order form at the back of this book.



Star-Crossed

Your midheaven changes degrees at least every four minutes, and, depending on your chart, it could be even more often! Because the interpretation of a chart can't be more accurate than the information used to calculate it, it's worth doing some research to get your birth time right—such as sending away for your birth certificate. Otherwise, you may end up with a birth chart that's not entirely accurate.



AstroLingo

If you don't know your birth time, **rectification** is a method used by astrologers to determine it, based on things that have happened in your life.

exact. And even a few minutes can mean the difference between a planet appearing in one sign or another, or in one house or another. Or your ascendant or midheaven could change as well. As we've already discovered, these are *important* differences.

But the big question remains: If your mother can't remember, and it's not on your birth certificate, how do you determine your birth time? Astrologers, for a fee, will do a *rectification* for your birth time. This is a consultation where you will tell the astrologer about important things that have happened in your life and how you behave in various situations, much as you might tell a therapist. The astrologer will then determine your birth time by using this information. It's kind of like finding your birth time by doing your chart, instead of the other way around.

Well, let's write down or enter this number, too, if you know it: time of birth. And that takes care of step two.

Where Did You Come From?

The last number you need comes from a place: where you were born. Every place on the planet Earth can be translated into its latitude and longitude, which are written in degrees.

Latitude measures the distance north or south of the equator. 00 degrees *is* the equator, and places to the north are shown in degrees and minutes as 00N00, while places to the south are shown in degrees and minutes as 00S00.

Longitude is the distance east or west of the Greenwich Meridian. Places east of the Greenwich Meridian are shown as 00E00, and places west are shown as 00W00.

To give you an example, Aspen, Colorado has a latitude of 39N11 and a longitude of 106W49. This means that Aspen is 39 degrees, 11 minutes north of the Equator, and 106 degrees, 49 minutes west of the Greenwich Meridian.

It's pretty unlikely that you'll know the latitude and the longitude for the place that you were born. But never fear! The computer program calculating your chart does all the dirty work for you!

Resources Your Computer's Replaced (Just to Give You an Idea)

Even though the computer's doing the dirty work, we thought you might be interested in knowing just how many books and calculations it's replacing. These include,

for starters, an ephemeris, a table of houses, an atlas, and a book of time zone changes—but there are a lot of other books we don't mention here. Let's look at what some of these books include to help you understand how your chart's being calculated.

Ephemeris

An *ephemeris* (the plural is ephemerides—it's Greek, you know) is a book that shows where the planets are at noon or midnight *Greenwich Mean Time* every day of every year. Your computer looks up the planetary positions that are contained in an ephemeris for you—though in Chapter 20, we'll show how you could do this yourself, if you wanted.

Table of Houses

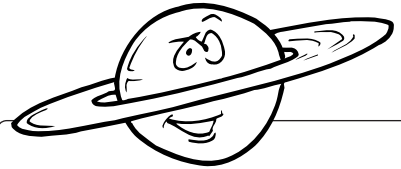
You find your ascendant, midheaven, and house cusps with a *table of houses*. These charts are arranged in one-degree increments of *longitude*, but amazingly enough, most people were born in between two of these. The latitudes along the side of the column are also in one-degree increments, so most people also live in between those.

Based on the birth information you provide, the computer program calculates the actual house positions—it's got a built-in table of houses to save you all the trouble.

Atlas

An *atlas* shows both latitude and longitude and is used to find the specific latitude and longitude for your place of birth. Almost all atlases show latitude and longitude to the minute (the Four Corners of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, for example, are 37N00 and 109W00), and many show the seconds as well. In addition, *The American Atlas* shows both locations *and* the time zone changes—as well as seconds.

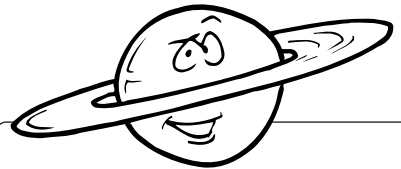
There are three ways the person doing your chart may use an atlas. Some chart-creation programs have built-in atlases, where you or the astrologer enters the name of the place and the computer does the rest. Or, they may have a separate atlas program to do this.



AstroLingo

An **ephemeris** is a book that shows where the planets are at noon or midnight *Greenwich Mean Time* every day of each year for the time period covered.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is one of the time standards used in astronomy for locations at 0 degrees longitude or meridian. It's four hours later than Eastern Daylight Time and five hours later than Eastern Standard Time.



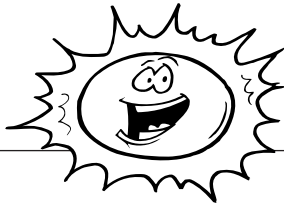
AstroLingo

A **table of houses** shows you how to find your ascendant, midheaven, and house cusps.

You may get to do this the old-fashioned way, though, and actually look up the latitude and longitude for your birthplace. The important thing is to enter accurate information, no matter how it's obtained.

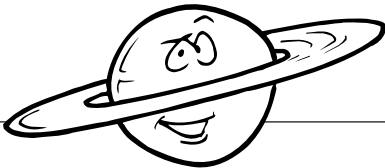
Book of Time Zone Changes

Now, don't forget, we've also got that pesky Daylight Saving Time to contend with. You know, that "fall back, spring ahead" deal, which we never seem to get straight no matter how many years we've been setting those clocks back and forth.



StarFacts

Some states, like Arizona, don't use Daylight Saving Time. Others, like Indiana, allow counties to decide whether to use it or not, so driving across Indiana during the summer is like driving across a checkerboard of time (we're not making this up).



AstroLingo

A **book of time zone changes** will show when and if the place you were born switches back and forth to Daylight Saving Time. In the past, something called War Time was also used. All places have undergone time changes at one time or another. These books include all time changes for the past, present, and future.

A *book of time zone changes* makes all this simple: It tells you when and if the place you were born switches to Daylight Saving Time, and when it switches back. Maybe we should all have one of these—whether we're doing our charts or not! But this is one more thing your computer program will do automatically.

Getting Your Chart Done for You

If you don't want to spend the hundred-plus bucks to buy your own chart-calculation program, you can get your chart done for you. There are several ways you can do this, and, in most cases, it just takes a coupon or a phone call (and a couple bucks).

Sound simple? It is. Here's the deal. You know your birthdate, your birth time, and your birth place.

So you call your local metaphysical bookstore (you can find them in the Yellow Pages under “Metaphysical Bookstores and Supplies,” or possibly under “Books, New”).

“Hi,” you say. “What do you charge to do a chart?”

“Three dollars,” they say. Or maybe they’ll say, “Five.” Or, if you live in one of those high-priced places, maybe it’ll be six dollars. That’s it. We’re not kidding. Plus you’ll have it in five minutes.

That’s Plan A. It’s a good plan, if you’re going to use this book to learn what all of your chart means on your own. But there’s also a Plan B—and a Plan C, *and* a Plan D!

Plan B is to look in the back of this book, where we’ve provided an order form that you can send in to order your chart. If you choose this route, the bookstore from which you’ll be ordering will donate one dollar for each order to Kepler College—the first four-year college of astrology. So, you can help out future astrologers in addition to getting your chart cheaply and quickly!

Plan C involves looking in the Yellow Pages under “Astrologers.” Lisa’s phone book lists one. Madeline’s lists 18. Lisa’s in a rural area and Madeline’s in a big city. You get the idea.

Then you start calling those astrologers. What do you ask? You can ask how much they charge to just run your chart. Those numbers will be close to the ones listed above. Or, you can ask for a *consultation*. A consultation with an astrologer means the astrologer will run your chart for you. Then he or she will study it prior to meeting with you and will spend the consultation time explaining just what your chart reveals about you. The cost of a consultation will vary depending on the astrologer’s hourly rate—so be sure to ask what that is!

Then there’s Plan D. Plan D is to go online. In *Online with the Heavens*, at the back of the book, we’ve listed some cool Web sites for you to check out.

An online consultation will be similar to an in-person consultation, but for starters, you (obviously) won’t be sitting face-to-face with the astrologer. Because most astrologers talk faster than they can type, you may get more info when you get a consultation either in person or on the telephone.

Still, this can be an attractive option if you live in a rural area like Lisa does, but don’t rule it out if you live in a big city. Some of the best astrologers in the country are now online, so you can choose from among them for your own private consultation. It’s kind of like picking Carl Jung as your personal therapist—it could be worth it, you know?

The Least You Need to Know

- Getting your chart calculated by computer takes just a few minutes and just a few bucks.
- You'll need to know your birth date, birth time, and birth place.
- Get thee to your local metaphysical bookstore, so you can get your computer chart done quickly and inexpensively, or use the chart order form in this book.
- You can combine getting your chart done with a professional consultation with an astrologer.



Lost in Space: How a Computer Calculates a Birth Chart

In This Chapter

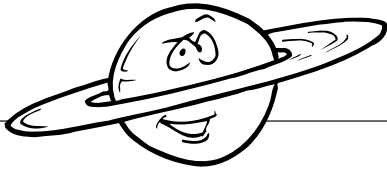
- ▶ It's about time; it's about space
- ▶ To boldly seek those planetary positions
- ▶ Houses, houses, and more houses
- ▶ Putting it all together

In this chapter, you'll see what's behind the calculations a computer makes to create a birth chart, and we're going to use Steven Spielberg as our guinea pig. It's always nice to know what's behind those numbers, after all.

First we're going to talk about time. Then we're going to talk about calculating the position of the planets. Then we'll talk about time some more and connect it to house calculation.

It's About Time; It's About Space

One of the most important things to understand about chart calculation is that it's all about time—three kinds of time, to be exact: Greenwich Mean Time, sidereal time (or star time; there's an explanation coming up later), and local time. We'll talk about each time at a particular point in the chart calculation process, and we'll tell you some of the astronomy behind time as well.



AstroLingo

Base 60 is used to calculate clock time or distance: there are 60 seconds in a minute, and 60 minutes in an hour or a degree.

Working in Base 60

There are 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in an hour: This is called *Base 60*, a system that uses 60 as its basis rather than 10. Geographical distances also are calculated using this system and are measured in degrees, minutes, and seconds. All calculations for your birth chart are done in hours or degrees, minutes, and seconds, and it's important you keep these three things separate, for example 7 hours, 29 minutes, 13 seconds. This also can be written 07:29:13.

Sixty seconds converts to one minute, and 60 minutes is either one hour or one degree, depending on whether we're measuring time or distance. Also,

remember that if you subtract and need to borrow a minute, you're borrowing 60 seconds. Or if you borrow an hour, you're borrowing 60 minutes. We're starting with this so you understand the measurement system that's behind what the computer's going to do.

Converting to GMT

The first thing the computer is going to calculate is your Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), based on the time zone in which you were born. The person doing your chart will have checked a time changes book first to make sure the time zone he or she enters into the computer is correct. Nowadays, though, many computer programs have the time zone changes already programmed into them.

GMT is the time for which the ephemeris is set up, with the position of the planets calculated for midnight or noon. If a person was born anywhere other than in England or the other locations that lie within GMT, the computer will have to convert the birth time to GMT, which will in turn be used to calculate the actual position of the planets.

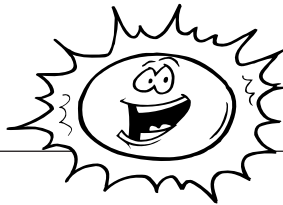
The conversion to GMT (for the Western Hemisphere, anyway) is made by adding to your birth time the difference in hours between the time zone where you were born and GMT. GMT is later than time in the U.S., and the computer calculates this using a look-up table similar to the one shown on the next page. This is such an easy calculation, though, anyone could do it!

If a person was born during daylight saving or war time, the computer would add one less hour than when converting to GMT from a standard time zone. It's easy to determine whether a person was born during daylight saving or war time by using a time changes book or a computer with such changes programmed into it.

Converting to Greenwich Mean Time

Time Zone	Add
Eastern Standard	five hours
Central Standard	six hours
Mountain Standard	seven hours
Pacific Standard	eight hours

Saving or War Time Zone	Add
Eastern Daylight	four hours
Central Daylight	five hours
Mountain Daylight	six hours
Pacific Daylight	seven hours



StarFacts

There's a possibility that one's Greenwich Mean Time of birth is on a different day than the actual date of birth at the birth location. If you were using a midnight ephemeris, for example, and were born on August 1st at 8 P.M. Central Daylight Time, you'd add five hours, which would equal 1 A.M. GMT. That, of course, will be the next day! So, you'd be looking for your planets on August 2nd rather than August 1st.

Using Steven Spielberg's chart as an example, we note that he was born at 6:16 P.M. EST. To change this to GMT, the computer first converts this to the 24-hour system (by adding 12 hours since he has a P.M. birth) to come up with 18:16. Then it adds five hours (to convert from Eastern Standard Time) to get a GMT time of 23:16.

To Boldly Seek Those Planetary Positions

Let's begin our mission by looking at an ephemeris page for December 1946. We're going to be using a midnight ephemeris throughout the rest of this chapter, so all of our references and examples will be for a midnight ephemeris instead of a noon one.

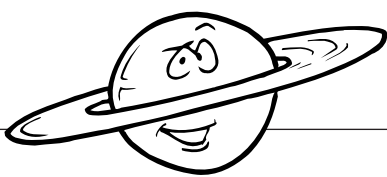
Looking at the sample page, let's find the date, December 18th, for Spielberg's planets. The first thing you're going to see is that next to the date is a sidereal time (abbreviated SID time). We're not going to use that here, but we'll come back to it when we calculate the houses. For now, just note where it is.

A page from the ephemeris for December 1946.

DECEMBER 1946										LONGITUDE									
Day	Sid. Time	☉	0 hr	Noon	True ☉	♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐	♑	♒	♓	♈	♉
1 Su	4 36 59	8 2 11 39	27 39 39	3 56 1	11 45 0 3	21 9 4	18 14 6	17 41 3	14 18 0	8 47 4	20 14 8	10 18 0	13 18 6						
2 M	4 40 56	9 12 29	10 17 28	16 44 32	11 45 0 2	21 10 5	17 15 6	18 25 8	14 30 5	8 46 1	20 12 3	10 19 4	13 18 2						
3 Tu	4 44 52	10 13 20	23 17 37	29 57 7	11 45 0 1	21 12 0	17 43 0	19 10 4	14 43 0	8 44 8	20 9 8	10 20 7	13 17 7						
4 W	4 48 49	11 14 11	6 43 19	13 36 23	11 44 59	21 13 1	17 50 9	19 55 0	14 55 5	8 43 4	20 7 3	10 22 0	13 17 2						
5 Th	4 52 45	12 15 3	20 36 23	27 43 12	11 44 58	21 14 1	17 57 2	20 38 6	15 8 0	8 41 8	20 4 8	10 23 3	13 16 6						
6 F	4 56 42	13 15 57	4 56 35	12 16 3	11 45 0 3	21 15 1	17 14 0	21 24 3	15 20 3	8 40 2	20 2 3	10 24 6	13 16 1						
7 Sa	5 0 39	14 16 51	19 40 59	27 10 35	11 45 0 2	21 16 1	17 21 2	22 9 1	15 32 7	8 38 4	19 59 7	10 25 8	13 15 5						
8 Su	5 4 35	15 17 45	4 43 51	12 19 42	11 45 0 3	21 17 1	17 28 2	23 53 9	15 45 0	8 36 5	19 57 2	10 27 0	13 14 9						
9 M	5 8 32	16 18 41	19 56 58	27 34 18	11 45 0 2	21 18 1	17 34 7	24 38 7	15 57 2	8 34 6	19 54 6	10 28 1	13 14 3						
10 Tu	5 12 28	17 19 39	5 10 31	12 24 25	11 45 0 1	21 19 1	17 40 1	24 26 6	16 9 4	8 32 5	19 52 1	10 29 3	13 13 6						
11 W	5 16 25	18 20 36	20 14 51	27 40 51	11 44 59	21 20 1	17 45 1	25 16 6	16 21 6	8 30 4	19 49 5	10 30 4	13 12 9						
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15 Su	5 32 11	22 24 37	16 51 27	23 26 46	11 41 4	21 23 6	17 58 4	28 9 17	9 6	8 20 7	19 39 3	10 34 5	13 10 0						
16 M	5 36 8	23 25 40	29 56 8	6 19 58	11 41 4	21 24 5	18 14 7	28 54 1	17 21 4	8 18 0	19 36 7	10 35 4	13 9 2						
17 Tu	5 40 4	24 26 44	12 38 49	19 52 54	11 42 0	21 25 8	18 33 0	29 39 4	17 33 2	8 15 2	19 34 2	10 36 3	13 8 3						
18 W	5 44 1	25 27 48	25 2 58	1 9 30	11 43 1	21 26 8	18 53 3	30 26 7	17 44 9	8 12 4	19 31 6	10 37 2	13 7 6						
19 Th	5 47 57	26 28 54	7 12 56	13 13 45	11 44 5	21 27 5	19 15 6	1 10 17	16 56 6	8 9 4	19 29 1	10 38 1	13 6 6						
20 F	5 51 54	27 30 1	19 12 24	25 9 19	11 45 8	21 28 4	19 39 7	1 55 5	18 8 2	8 6 3	19 26 6	10 38 9	13 5 7						
21 Sa	5 55 50	28 31 8	1 4 53	6 19 27	11 46 9	21 29 3	19 36 6	20 5 5	2 40 9	8 19 7	19 24 0	10 38 7	13 4 8						
22 Su	5 59 47	29 32 16	12 53 23	18 46 59	11 47 2	21 30 2	20 33 1	3 26 4	18 31 2	7 60 0	19 21 5	10 40 4	13 3 9						
23 M	6 3 43	0 33 24	24 40 33	0 13 4	11 46 6	21 31 1	21 2 4	4 12 0	18 42 6	7 56 7	19 19 0	10 41 2	13 2 9						
24 Tu	6 7 40	1 34 33	6 128 34	12 23 33	11 45 0	21 32 0	21 33 2	4 57 6	18 53 9	7 53 3	19 16 5	10 41 8	13 2 0						
25 W	6 11 37	2 35 42	18 19 30	28 16 58	11 42 3	21 32 9	22 5 5	5 43 2	19 5 2	7 49 8	19 14 1	10 42 5	13 1 0						
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27 F	6 19 30	4 38 1	12 17 49	18 22 22	11 34 7	21 34 7	23 14 7	7 14 5	19 27 4	7 42 5	19 9 2	10 43 7	12 58 9						
28 Sa	6 23 26	5 39 11	24 29 30	0 39 33	11 30 7	21 35 6	23 51 4	8 0 4	19 38 4	7 38 8	19 6 7	10 44 3	12 57 9						
29 Su	6 27 23	6 40 21	6 152 52	13 9 49	11 27 1	21 36 5	24 29 3	8 46 2	19 49 3	7 35 0	19 4 3	10 44 8	12 56 8						
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31 Tu	6 35 16	8 42 40	2 26 21	8 1 42	11 23 3	21 38 3	25 19 9	25 48 9	10 17 9	7 27 2	18 59 5	10 45 7	12 54 6						

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What you need to notice now is that the positions that are given for each planet for each day are accurate only for midnight. So the computer needs to calculate the distance traveled from the *start time* (midnight in our case) in the ephemeris to the time Spielberg was born.



AstroLingo

The **start time**, or reference time, will be either midnight or noon for a given date, depending on the ephemeris. The computer uses this to determine the daily travel of the planets.

Find the sign a planet is in by looking *up* to the nearest sign shown in the column; or, if there is a new sign change on that day, you might use that one: It all depends on whether the planet changed signs after or before the person was born. If a planet hasn't changed signs during that month, though, then it will be the sign shown at the top of the column.

Daily Travel

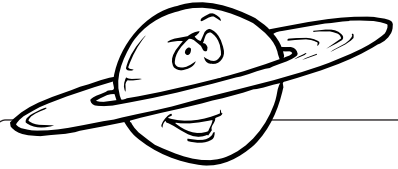
To calculate the distance from the start time, the computer's going to find out how far each planet traveled between the start time and the next day's position. Then it's going to calculate how much of that distance was traveled by the planet at the time Spielberg was born. Remember that we have to use the GMT here, not the birth time in Cincinnati!

Let's use Spielberg's birth data, December 18, 1946 at 23:16 GMT, as an example. The computer is going to subtract the position shown for the planets on December 18th at midnight from the position of the planets shown for midnight on December 19th. This will show you that planet's *daily travel*.

Next, the computer calculates how much time elapsed between midnight and when Spielberg was born. Using his GMT of 23:16, this is calculated as follows: 23:00 is 23 hours past midnight, and 16 minutes divided by 60 minutes = .26 hours. So 23.26 hours divided by 24 hours = .9691666. In this case, each planet will have traveled 23.26 hours, or .9691666 of a day from the position shown at midnight.

Now the computer multiplies this number (.9691666) by the amount of daily travel for each of the planets that day. The Sun, for example, travels about a degree per day. And on the day that Spielberg was born, it traveled a total distance of 1 degree, 1 minute, 5 seconds. So its travel until Spielberg was born would be .9691666 times the Sun's total travel for that day of 1 degree, 1 minute, and 5 seconds. (Aren't we lucky that the computer, not us, gets to figure this stuff out?)

The Sun's travel also can be expressed as 61 minutes and 5 seconds (or a total of 3,665 seconds). So .9691666 times that equals 59 minutes and 2 seconds. The computer then adds this amount to the December 18th position shown in the ephemeris (25 degrees, 27 minutes, 49 seconds) to arrive at the position for Spielberg's Sun. Adding 59 minutes, 2 seconds gives a final position of 26 degrees, 26 minutes, and 51 seconds. The computer rounds this to 26 degrees, 27 minutes of Sagittarius, which is what is shown on the chart. Then the computer does the same thing to find all of Spielberg's other planets' positions, plus his North Node.



AstroLingo

Daily travel is the distance a planet moves in a 24-hour period.

What About Retrogrades?

Now, if a planet is retrograde, or appears to be moving backward, the computer is going to work in the opposite direction. You can see for yourself when you look at the ephemeris that some of Spielberg's planets are losing ground, so you'll know right away that they're retrograde. The computer knows this, too. There's also an "R" in the column above, on the date when the planet went retrograde, or, if it started the month in retrograde motion, this will be shown on the second day for the month.

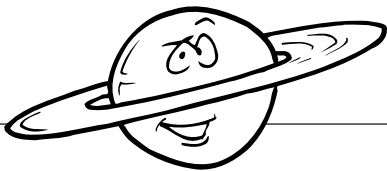
What the computer does in this case will be exactly the reverse of what we've just shown you above. Because the second entry's going to be smaller than the first entry, the computer is going to subtract it from the first position, instead of vice versa.

In our example, this means the computer would subtract the December 19th position for Saturn from its position on December 18th. Then it calculates how far it traveled

until Spielberg was born and *subtracts* it from the December 18th position, because Saturn is retrograding.

A Wrinkle in Sidereal, or Star, Time

Sidereal time is time as measured by the heavens, and a sidereal day is the length of time it takes the Earth to rotate on its axis once, relative to the fixed stars. On the other hand, our calendar or mean (average) solar day is the length of time it takes the Earth to rotate on its axis relative to the Sun. (This also is sometimes referred to as the apparent movement of the Sun because to us, the Sun appears to move around the Earth.) The mean solar day is slightly longer than the sidereal day, because while the Earth is rotating on its axis, it's also moving in orbit around the Sun.



AstroLingo

Sidereal time, or star time, is based on the actual amount of time it takes the Earth to rotate once on its axis in relation to the fixed stars. While clock time measures a day as 24 hours based on the apparent movement of the Sun, sidereal time measures it at its astronomical, or star, speed, about four minutes less.

The Earth gets back to the same place it started from, in relation to the fixed stars, about four minutes earlier than it does in relation to the Sun. So by our clock time, the sidereal time is about four minutes later at the beginning of each new day. You can see this in the ephemeris under the column for sidereal time.

The local sidereal time tells you which degree of the zodiac is on the midheaven. This is the starting point for calculating the houses, which we'll explain later in this chapter.

But let's make this a little simpler by giving you an example. Imagine a line extending directly over your head into the heavens. That's your *local zenith*. If you went outside at the same sidereal time every night, you would find the same fixed stars crossing your local zenith at that moment. You could also call this *star time*. Because it takes a little less time for the Earth to get back to its initial position, relative to the stars—by about four minutes—our clock day is actually a little bit longer than the real star time, or sidereal time.

We need to convert everything into sidereal time in order to calculate a birth chart so that we can determine the ascendant, midheaven, and houses by star time.

Calculating Sidereal Time

Let's go to our example to see how this works. On the sample ephemeris page, look up the sidereal time for Spielberg's birth date, December 18, 1946. Keep in mind that the start time of our sample ephemeris page is midnight.

You'll find the sidereal time next to the date. The computer will update it to the time Spielberg was born. To do this, the computer looks up the sidereal reference time for

the date and year of birth. Then it adds (at least in North America) the true local time (also known as local mean time) of birth—as hours, minutes, and seconds—to the reference time of the ephemeris. Then it adds an acceleration factor based on the *time* of birth to correct for the four-minute difference between our clock time and sidereal time. And finally, it adds another acceleration correction factor for the four-minute difference, based on the *location* of the birth.

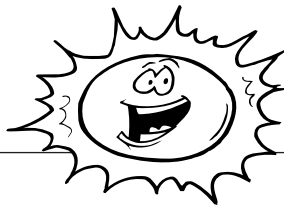
All of those factors added together give the computer the sidereal time of the birth. For you hard-core math whizzes, we're going to show you how Spielberg's sidereal time was calculated by the computer. But if you're not interested in these details, go ahead and move along to "Desperately Seeking House Cusps," later in this chapter.

First, the computer looks up Spielberg's date and year of birth in the ephemeris to get the sidereal time: In this case it's 5 hours, 44 minutes, and 1 second at midnight on December 18, 1946. Then the computer calculates the true local time, or the amount of time that passed between the reference or start time in the ephemeris and the exact time of birth.

Remember that the reference time for our ephemeris is midnight Greenwich Mean Time. So we have to make a few corrections to find out how many hours and minutes it was past that time when Spielberg was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. And this leads us to another discussion of time, in this case, true local time.

Will the True Local Time Please Stand Up?

Now, really, there isn't a false local time. But there *is* a true local time, and this is based on where the Sun actually is, instead of our clock time conventions. The Sun appears to move 60 miles every four minutes, which is the same as moving one degree in longitude every four minutes. This is why the time zones around the world change by one hour for every 15 degrees of longitude around the world.



StarFacts

Greenwich, England was selected to be 0 degrees in longitude, and when we travel west of there—as we do to get to the U.S. from England—for every 15 degrees of longitude we travel, there is one hour of difference in time. In this case, time is one hour earlier for every 15 degrees of longitude that we travel west of Greenwich.

Only at the primary meridians (every 15 degrees from Greenwich) does the clock time equal the Sun time. Everywhere else it's either earlier or later by actual local or solar time. So unless a person was born directly on one of the primary meridians—in the case of North America, at 60W00, 75W00, 90W00, 105W00, or 120W00—the computer makes a correction of four minutes of time for each degree of difference in longitude for the birth location.

Imagine, for example, that the birth location is three degrees to the east of the prime meridian 75W00, at 72W00. The Sun has already reached this area and passed over it before it reached the 75W00 meridian. Basically, it's later in this location by Sun time than at the primary meridian—by three degrees times four minutes, which equals 12 minutes. And because it's later in time at 72W00 than at 75W00, the 12 minutes is *added* to get the correct local time.

At 78W00, this is three degrees past the primary meridian of 75W00, and so the computer corrects for those three extra degrees and *subtracts* 12 minutes from the time for the primary meridian to get the local time. In essence, it's earlier at 78W00 than it is at 75W00, as the Sun reaches it later.

Calculating True Local Time

Now that you understand what local time is, we're going to walk you through what the computer is going to calculate for Spielberg's local time. First of all, it's going to determine if he was born during daylight saving, war, or standard time. If he had been born during either daylight saving or war time, the computer would have subtracted one hour from his birth time. But since it was an Eastern Standard Time birth, no changes were made at this step.

Next, his birth location is Cincinnati, Ohio, which has a longitude of 84W31. This is 9 degrees, 31 minutes west of the 75W00 primary meridian. The clock time when he was born was 6:16 PM EST, but that was accurate only at the 75W00. In Cincinnati, the solar time was a little bit earlier. So the computer multiplies the difference in longitude by four minutes and gets 36 minutes and 124 seconds, which converts to 38 minutes and 4 seconds.

Since Cincinnati is west of the 75W00 meridian and it's earlier there, the computer subtracts this amount from the time of 6:16 P.M. to get 5 hours, 37 minutes, and 56 seconds as his true local time. But to keep this in a 24-hour clock system, so we don't confuse A.M. and P.M., 12 hours are added and his true local time is shown as 17 hours, 37 minutes, and 56 seconds (17:37:56). This is what the computer adds to the sidereal time shown in the midnight ephemeris, as this is the real difference in time between the start, or reference time, shown there.

If Spielberg had been born in Europe, though, calculating the true local time would be a slightly different process from what we've used, because the time there is later than in Greenwich.

So far, we have the sidereal time and the true local time, which will be added together as follows (in a 24-hour system):

Sidereal time shown in ephemeris:	5 hours	44 minutes	1 sec
+ True local time (past midnight):	17 hours	37 minutes	56 sec

But there are still a few minor corrections to make before the computer has the final calculated sidereal time.

Acceleration

Next, the computer adds something called *acceleration*. This is how we compensate for the four-minute difference between the solar day and star time. This is added at a rate of 10 seconds for every hour from the start or reference time in the ephemeris—midnight in our case—to the true local time for North American births.

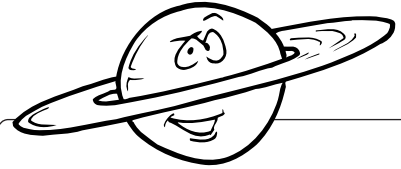
This equals 10 seconds of time for each hour after midnight that Spielberg was born. The computer uses the true local time, which, for this step, can be rounded to 17 hours and 38 minutes. So the computer multiplies 17 hours and 38 minutes past midnight by 10 seconds per hour, which equals 170 seconds plus about 6 more seconds for the 38 minutes. This adds up to 176 seconds, or 2 minutes and 56 seconds.

So the computer adds 2 minutes 56 seconds for the acceleration part of the formula based on his birth time. In our example so far, the computer has the following:

Sidereal time shown in ephemeris:	5 hours	44 minutes	1 sec
True local time (past midnight):	17 hours	37 minutes	56 sec
Acceleration (based on time of birth):		2 minutes	56 sec

Correction for Place of Birth

There's still *one more* minor correction for the computer to make. The computer already corrected for the difference of four minutes between sidereal time and a solar day if you were born in Greenwich, England. But because most of us are born elsewhere, the computer corrects for these four minutes again, based on our location. In essence, this is a correction for the place of birth, and, if we remember that distance equals time, this makes sense.



AstroLingo

Acceleration is a correction factor to compensate for the difference of about four minutes between a solar day and sidereal time. Acceleration is calculated for both the time of birth and place of birth.

To calculate this, the computer is going to add 10 seconds for every 15 degrees of west longitude. Spielberg was born at 84W31, so for the first 75 degrees of west longitude, it adds 50 seconds. That leaves another 9 degrees and 31 minutes to correct for, which is about 6 seconds, for a total correction of 56 seconds. The computer then adds the 56 seconds to the rest of the corrections and adds them all up to get the actual sidereal time for Spielberg's birth. So now we have:

Sidereal time shown in ephemeris:	5 hours	44 minutes	1 sec
True local time (past midnight):	17 hours	37 minutes	56 sec
Acceleration (based on time of birth):		2 minutes	56 sec
Acceleration (based on place of birth):			56 sec
Actual calculated sidereal time:	22 hours	83 minutes	169 sec

This converts to *23 hours, 25 minutes, 49 seconds, which is the final sidereal time for Spielberg*. Hooray! We finally have the number we need!

The computer also knows that once the sidereal clock reaches 24 hours, it starts counting over again beginning at 0. So it checks to make sure that the final sidereal time is within 24 hours. If it's not, it subtracts 24 hours from the total to get the correct sidereal time. In Spielberg's case, this wasn't necessary.

Let's summarize the corrections the computer makes for North American charts, using a midnight ephemeris in order to arrive at sidereal time:

1. The computer starts with the reference sidereal time in the ephemeris for the date and year of birth.
2. Then it calculates the true local time for the birth place. It then expresses that birth time in a 24-hour system (adding 12 hours for P.M. birth times), and adds that to the sidereal time it found in the midnight ephemeris.
3. Now it calculates and adds the acceleration factor to compensate for the difference of four minutes per day between sidereal time and regular clock time, based on the birth time.
4. The computer calculates the acceleration factor again to compensate for the birth location and adds this, too.
5. Last, the computer adds all of the above and converts it to within 24 hours to get the final calculated sidereal time.

Houses, Houses, and More Houses!

It's time to talk about house systems, which are very technical. There are lots of different ways to divide space to come up with houses. One of the most commonly used house systems is Placidus; this may be because for a long time it was the only one available in reference books.

Now that there are computers, though, a wide variety of house systems are available. There are lots of technical differences between them, which we aren't going to cover, and different astrologers like different house systems. For example, some astrologers prefer Koch houses for far northern latitudes.

For the purposes of this book, though, we're going to use the Placidus house system. It's certainly a good system to start with, and many astrologers still prefer to use it today.

Desperately Seeking House Cusps

As you may recall, house cusps are the places where the houses begin. If you look at Spielberg's chart, you'll see these lines, with a sign and degrees on each, dividing the houses.

Now that the computer has Spielberg's sidereal time, it's going to "look up" the houses in a table similar to what we're showing you. This is a page from the *AFA Table of Houses, Placidus System*.

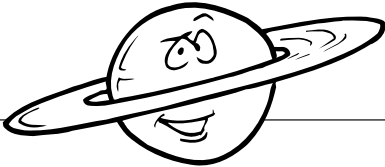
N LAT	23 ^h 24 ^m 0 ^s			MC X 20° 12' 19"			351° 0' 0"			23 ^h 28 ^m 0 ^s			MC X 21° 17' 27"			352° 0' 0"			N LAT
	11	12		Ascendant	2	3	11	12		Ascendant	2	3	11	12		Ascendant	2	3	
0°	♈22 42.3	♈23 23.4	♈21 43.9	♈19 24.1	♈18 34.0		♈23 46.0	♈24 22.0	♈22 39.2	♈20 20.3	♈19 35.0	0°							
5	22 59.0	24 30.5	23 43.1	20 39.5	19 1.5		24 3.5	25 29.8	24 38.5	21 35.3	20 2.0	5							
10	23 16.5	25 40.6	25 45.1	21 54.9	19 29.0		24 21.7	26 40.7	26 40.5	22 50.3	20 28.9	10							
15	23 34.0	26 55.1	27 51.5	23 11.4	19 56.8		24 40.9	27 55.9	28 46.8	24 6.2	20 56.1	15							
16	23 38.8	27 10.7	28 17.5	23 26.9	20 2.4		24 45.0	28 11.6	29 12.8	24 21.6	21 1.6	16							
17	23 42.7	27 26.5	28 43.8	23 42.5	20 8.1		24 49.0	28 27.5	29 39.0	24 37.2	21 7.2	17							
18	23 46.6	27 42.6	29 10.4	23 58.3	20 13.8		24 53.1	28 43.8	0 5.5	24 52.8	21 12.8	18							
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21	23 58.9	28 32.7	0 32.0	24 46.3	20 31.2		25 5.0	29 34.3	1 26.9	25 40.4	21 29.9	21							
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25	24 16.5	29 44.5	2 26.1	25 52.5	20 55.3		25 24.3	0 46.6	3 20.5	26 46.1	21 53.5	25							
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27	24 25.9	0 23.0	3 25.7	26 26.9	21 7.8		25 34.0	1 25.3	4 19.9	27 20.2	22 5.7	27							
28	24 30.7	0 42.9	3 56.3	26 44.4	21 14.1		25 39.1	1 45.4	4 50.4	27 37.5	22 11.9	28							
29	24 35.7	1 3.4	4 27.5	27 2.1	21 20.6		25 44.3	2 6.0	5 21.3	27 55.1	22 18.2	29							
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31	24 46.1	1 46.1	5 31.4	27 38.5	21 33.8		25 55.1	2 49.0	6 25.0	28 31.1	22 31.2	31							
32	24 51.5	2 8.4	6 4.3	27 57.1	21 40.6		26 0.7	3 11.4	6 57.7	28 49.5	22 37.8	32							
33	24 57.0	2 31.4	6 37.9	28 16.0	21 47.5		26 6.5	3 34.5	7 31.0	29 8.3	22 44.6	33							
34	25 2.8	2 55.1	7 12.1	28 35.3	21 54.5		26 12.5	3 58.3	8 5.0	29 27.4	22 51.4	34							
35	25 8.7	3 19.6	7 47.1	28 54.9	22 1.6		26 18.7	4 22.9	8 39.8	29 46.8	22 58.4	35							
36	25 14.8	3 44.9	8 22.9	29 15.0	22 9.0		26 25.1	4 48.4	9 15.3	0 6.6	23 5.6	36							
37	25 21.1	4 11.2	8 59.4	29 35.4	22 16.4		26 31.6	5 14.7	9 51.5	0 26.8	23 12.9	37							
38	25 27.7	4 38.4	9 36.8	29 56.2	22 24.0		26 38.5	5 42.1	10 28.6	0 47.4	23 20.3	38							
39	25 34.5	5 6.6	10 15.1	0 17.5	22 31.8		26 45.5	6 10.4	11 6.6	1 8.5	23 28.0	39							
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41	25 48.9	6 6.6	11 36.5	1 1.6	22 48.0		27 0.5	7 10.5	12 25.4	1 52.1	23 43.7	41							
42	25 56.5	6 38.4	12 15.8	1 24.5	22 56.4		27 8.5	7 42.5	13 6.3	2 14.7	23 51.9	42							
43	26 4.5	7 11.7	12 58.1	1 47.9	23 5.0		27 16.7	8 15.8	13 48.2	2 37.8	24 0.4	43							
44	26 12.8	7 46.5	13 41.6	2 12.0	23 13.8		27 25.4	8 50.7	14 31.3	3 1.6	24 9.0	44							

A page from the AFA Table of Houses.

Excerpts from the AFA Table of Houses, Placidus System are reproduced with the permission of Gregg Howe of Astro Numeric Service and the American Federation of Astrologers, Inc. Copyright 1988 by the American Federation of Astrologers, Inc.

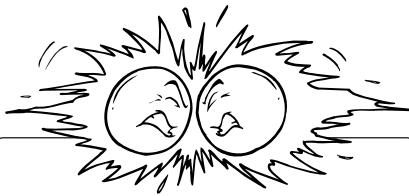
The computer is going to look up the sidereal time closest to Spielberg's calculated sidereal time. Since it's really, really, really important to have the right sidereal time before going on to this step, it's a good thing we've got computers to do this for us!

Notice the sidereal times in the top left-hand corner of each box and you'll see that the table on the left is for 23 hours, 24 minutes, 0 seconds. The table on the right is for the sidereal time of 23 hours, 28 minutes, 0 seconds.



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Interpolating the houses means finding the correct positions between two sidereal times for them.



Star-Crossed

Correcting for latitude can make an enormous difference. In Spielberg's case, most of his house cusps are about 35 to 45 minutes later than shown in the table of houses. That's not a big difference, but in some charts, this is enough for a planet to move to a different house, or for an ascendant, or M.C., to change signs—and we all know how star-crossed that could be!

You can see that Spielberg's sidereal time of 23 hours, 25 minutes, 49 seconds is *in between* those two sidereal times. So the computer knows that it's going to have to *interpolate* between these house tables to get the right houses for Spielberg. Lucky for us, we don't have to know what those steps are! But there are a few things we *can* understand easily.

The Search for Midheaven

Notice the M.C. notations in the middle of the two headers? An M.C. is the same as the midheaven or tenth-house cusp for the chart. Now, we've already seen Spielberg's chart, so we know his midheaven is at $\text{H}20^{\circ}41'$.

The two M.C.s shown on the two tables here are $\text{H}20^{\circ}12'19''$ (20 degrees Pisces, 12 minutes, and 19 seconds) and $\text{H}21^{\circ}17'27''$. So we know the computer has calculated the correct sidereal time, as Spielberg's midheaven lies in between these two M.C.s. And when the computer is done interpolating for his correct longitude, it will have Spielberg's midheaven as well, which is 20 degrees Pisces and 41 minutes (written as $\text{H}20^{\circ}41'$).

Calculating the Other Houses

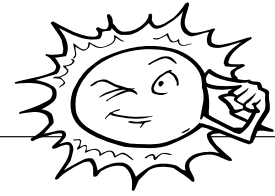
Now the computer needs to know Spielberg's latitude in order to find the rest of the houses. Because he was born in North America, he has a northern latitude, and the computer knows to look for it on this chart. It's 39N06, or 39 degrees and 6 minutes north of the equator. That's very close to the house cusps shown for the latitude of 39N00.

Now look at the left table with the sidereal time of 23 hours, 24 minutes, and 0 seconds, and notice the column of northern latitudes next to it. Look at the ones shown for the latitude of 39 degrees and compare them to the house cusps on Spielberg's chart. They're pretty close, but the computer goes the extra step and interpolates them for latitude corrections, too.

You will see the house cusps listed for the Eleventh House, Twelfth House, ascendant, Second House, and Third House for that latitude. The other house cusps aren't listed, because they're exactly opposite the ones shown, in the opposite sign.

In general, house systems operate the same way, so that the house opposite will have the same degrees, minutes, and seconds, but the opposite sign. Using Spielberg's midheaven as an example, it is $\Upsilon 20^{\circ}41'$, and the I.C. (or the fourth-house cusp) will equal $\text{♁} 20^{\circ}41'$ (20 degrees Virgo, 41 minutes), the sign opposite Pisces.

It's like this for every house. In this table of houses, we know the Eleventh (Fifth), Twelfth (Sixth), ascendant (descendant—Seventh), Second (Eighth), and Third (Ninth). And, of course, we already know the midheaven and I.C., too.



Heaven Knows

A good way to check the computer's work (if you're inclined in that direction!) is the following: If the person was born around sunrise, the Sun should be in the First House, or perhaps just into the Twelfth. A noon birth means the Sun will be in the Ninth or Tenth House. Sunset births occur in the Seventh or Sixth House, or right on the descendant. And midnight births can be found in the Third or Fourth House.

Putting It All Together

Finally! The computer puts this all together in a chart. It has the planets' positions, and now it has the house cusps. It puts the calculated houses in the appropriate places and then adds the planets in there, too. And thus we have Spielberg's chart!

Aren't we lucky computers can calculate all of this for us—saving us all this time-consuming work—as well as possible mistakes? It's good to know precisely what the computer's doing—but we can let it do all the dirty work for us!

The Least You Need to Know

- Base 60, instead of base 10, is used to calculate time and distance. For example, there are 60 minutes in an hour, or one degree.
- All birth times need to be converted to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) in order to calculate the positions of the planets.
- Sidereal time is a true astronomical time, used to calculate the houses.
- Birth times need to be converted to true local time as part of the process of finding the house cusps.
- Acceleration is a correction factor to compensate for the difference of about four minutes between clock time and star time. Acceleration is calculated for both the time and place of birth.
- With a correct sidereal time, house cusps can be located in a table of houses, but to get accurate ones requires interpolation for both longitude and latitude.
- Accurate time is essential for correct chart calculation!



All About Me: Interpreting Your Astrological Chart

In This Chapter

- ▶ Chart basics: it's all Greek to me
- ▶ Aspects: specifics on experience
- ▶ Chart interpretations even idiots can make
- ▶ A sample chart interpreted
- ▶ When you need to know more: getting a professional reading

It's time to start putting together all that you've learned to interpret your birth chart. But first we need to cover one more aspect of your birth chart—aspects. In this chapter, we'll look at how these planetary relationships flavor your birth chart—and unlock more secrets about why you behave the way you do.

Chart Basics: It's All Greek to Me

Well, okay, so it's not Greek. But it sure looks like a foreign language. In fact, those symbols on your birth chart *are* another language—a powerful symbolic one.

The language of astrology uses symbols for signs, planets, and houses, and to show the various relationships among them. If your child were to draw a picture of your family standing in front of your house, the stick person with the longer hair would be Mom, the one with the glasses would be Dad, and the short one would be Junior (or maybe Spot, if your kid's got some Picasso tendencies).

Just as Mom, Dad, Junior, and Spot are much more than “Mom,” “Dad,” “Junior,” and “Spot,” astrological symbols represent much more than “Aries,” “Mercury,” “the First House,” or a “sextile.” For example, Aries, the first sign of the zodiac, is ruled by Mars, a cardinal fire sign, and has a *yang* energy. All of that should come immediately to mind when you see the symbol ♈ .

In turn, each of these symbols represents a larger meaning as well. Cardinal signs, for example, like to lead, to get things started, though they aren’t always around to see things through to completion. By using the symbol for Aries, ♈ , these concepts are part of what’s represented, too, plus a whole lot more.

Astrological Symbols

Sign	Symbol
Aries	♈
Taurus	♉
Gemini	♊
Cancer	♋
Leo	♌
Virgo	♍
Libra	♎
Scorpio	♏
Sagittarius	♐
Capricorn	♑
Aquarius	♒
Pisces	♓

Planet	Symbol
Sun	☉
Moon	☾
Mercury	☿
Venus	♀
Mars	♂
Jupiter	♃
Saturn	♄
Uranus	♅
Neptune	♆
Pluto	♇
North Node	♁
South Node	♂

Aspect	Symbol
Conjunction	♌
Sextile	✳
Square	□
Trine	△
Opposition	♌
Quincunx	⋈
Other	Symbol
Retrograde	R

Aspects: Specifics on Experience

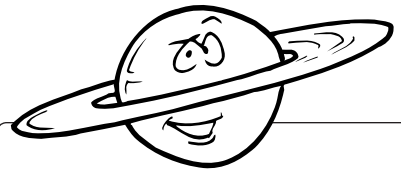
You probably remember *aspects* from walking through the houses in Part 3. There we mentioned that a planet's aspects could determine how its energies would manifest in a certain house.

Looking at aspects means answering the question, "How do these planets get along?" There are five major aspects and many more minor aspects. Most planets can form any aspect to another, except for Mercury, which is never more than 28 degrees from the Sun, and Venus, which is never farther than 48 degrees from the Sun.

The following are the major aspects:

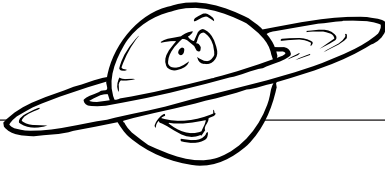
1. Conjunctions, which are the strongest aspects
2. Squares, which are considered to be challenging, and their tension provides dynamic action in your life
3. Oppositions, which show a need for balance between two competing or different energies or needs
4. Trines, which are considered the most favorable aspects, as their signs usually share the same element
5. Sextiles, which are harmonious, bring opportunity and attraction

Before we walk through the aspects, it's important to understand precisely what aspects are and how they're determined. Remember those numbers before and after each sign next to the planets of your birth chart? Those are the *degrees* of each planet at your birth, and they take on prime importance when we begin aspecting. The



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In astrology, **aspect** has a technical meaning. When two planets are in aspect to each other, they are related by one of a set of geometric angles between them, some of which are beneficial, and others that are challenging.



AstroLingo

Planetary **degrees** show the position of the planets in the signs.

Orbs are the variances in degree allowed in determining aspects.

number of degrees one planet is from another determines its aspect to that planet.

Most astrologers agree that aspects occur within *orbs*, rather than just those that create exact angles. For example, while an exact square is 90 degrees, angles from 83 to 97 degrees are commonly considered to be squares; but even these orbs of 7 degrees depend on the planets involved. Exact aspects, of course, create the strongest connections, but wider orbs cannot be ignored. Some astrologers don't take orbs beyond 6 degrees, while others will go as high as 10 degrees.

In general, different orbs are allowed for different types of aspects. This is based on the planets—the Sun and Moon often get 10-degree orbs—and the type of aspect. Conjunctions get more of an orb than a sextile, for example, as a conjunction is a stronger aspect. We'll be explaining exactly what conjunctions and sextiles—and all the other major aspects—are in the next section of this chapter.

To explain this concept a little more, a conjunction is two planets within, say, 7 to 10 degrees of each other (out of 360 degrees), so the percentage of variance is small. Ten degrees out of 360 is $\frac{1}{36}$ or 2.7 percent, after all.

On the other hand, if a sextile, which is only 60 degrees to begin with, had a 10-degree orb, that would be a nearly 17-percent variance! So orbs for an aspect like a sextile are smaller than orbs for something like a conjunction or opposition.

One helpful way to determine aspects is to recognize what part of a circle a particular angle represents (and you thought your geometry days were over!). We've provided a list for you.

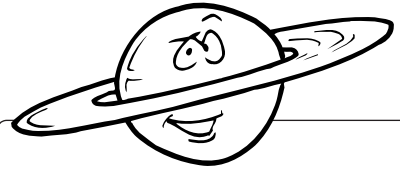
Aspects Are Angles of the Circle

Portion of Circle	Angle	Aspect Name (* Major Aspect)
$\frac{1}{2}$	180°	opposition*
$\frac{1}{3}$	120°	trine*
$\frac{1}{4}$	90°	square*
$\frac{1}{5}$	72°	quintile
$\frac{1}{6}$	60°	sextile*
$\frac{1}{7}$	51½°	septile
$\frac{1}{8}$	45°	semi-square
$\frac{1}{9}$	40°	novile
$\frac{1}{10}$	36°	semi-quintile
$\frac{1}{12}$	30°	semi-sextile

Note that the major aspects are the opposition, trine, square, and sextile—plus the *conjunction*, which isn't listed above because it's not an angle—planets in conjunction are in the same area. All the other aspects are considered minor, though some may not be *quite* as minor as once thought.

In addition, it's interesting to note that all the major aspects are essentially same-degree aspects (like a planet at 8 degrees is looking for another planet at about 8 degrees of another sign, in order to have a major aspect). Most minor aspects involve aspects that are not same degree.

Another way to determine aspects is to remember which signs are which quality, element, and/or energy. As a rule (there are exceptions), sextiles and trines are formed by signs with the same element or energy, and squares and oppositions are formed by signs of the same quality.



AstroLingo

A **conjunction** occurs when two planets are in the same area.

The New Math: From Conjunctions to Sextiles

We're going to concentrate on the major aspects here, with one exception. Astrologers have recently found that *quincunxes*, or angles of 150 degrees, have far more importance than had been previously thought.

Like so many things in astrology, aspects used to be characterized as good or bad. These days, astrologers recognize that we need our challenges to make the most of our lives, so aspects that used to be called bad are now viewed in a new light. And aspects that were called good in the past can in fact make you too lazy!

Let's start at the very beginning, though.

Aspect: **Conjunction** ☿ 0°

Conjunctions are the strongest aspects in astrology. The two (or more) planets involved are a focal point of the chart, and their meaning is emphasized. They can be either easy or challenging, depending on which planets are involved and other aspects in the chart.

Aspect: **Sextile** ✨ 60°

Sextiles are considered quite favorable, as their signs usually share the same energy. They do require some effort on your part, though, unlike easy trines. Sextiles are like development opportunities, so if you don't take action to develop them, you can miss out!

Aspect: Square □ **90°**

Squares are considered to be challenging, and their tension can provide dynamic action in your life and development. Most of us would never do anything without being motivated by squares (or oppositions)!

Aspect: Trine △ **120°**

A trine is considered the most favorable aspect, as its signs will usually share the same element and energy. These are well-developed skills and strengths, which many people fail to recognize within themselves, because they do it so well. In fact, too many trines can make you weak or lazy, since there's no resistance here at all, just an easy flow of energy between the two planets involved.

Aspect: Opposition ♂ **180°**

Oppositions are considered challenging, especially in areas of growth and achievement. They also can show a need for balancing opposite needs and/or energies, such as career versus home, or self versus others.

Aspect: Quincunx ⋈ **150°**

In a quincunx or inconjunct, there is no relationship between the signs involved—neither quality, element, nor energy. This aspect indicates a need to adjust in some way, whether it be a change in attitude, habit, or behavior.

Some planets or energies get along well together, whereas others are uncomfortable with one another. When two planets are in aspect to each other, they're essentially talking and communicating, and it's the slower planet that's telling the faster planet how to behave, think, and act. This is because the slower planet takes longer to move, so it's going to have a greater impact.

Planets, Fast to Slow

Moon	☾
Mercury	☿
Venus	♀
Sun	☉
Mars	♂
Jupiter	♃
Saturn	♄
Uranus	♅
Neptune	♆
Pluto	♇

Getting Along: Venus/Jupiter Aspects

While we haven't got the time or the room to take you through all the aspects, we thought we could at least illustrate how aspects work by showing you two planetary relationships through each of the major aspects. Charismatic Venus and expansive Jupiter, for example, get along quite well. Jupiter, the slower planet, expands Venus's function, so there'll be more money, more love, and more relationships!

Venus Conjunct Jupiter ♀ ♂ ♃

People with this conjunction love a good time and are charming, generous, and popular. Honest and helpful, they're inclined to help those less fortunate. They've also got artistic ability and may be talented as peacemakers as well.

Venus Sextile Jupiter ♀ ✎ ♃

Jupiter's expansiveness enhances Venus's charisma with this aspect, making these people graceful, charitable, outgoing, and affectionate. This is a highly favorable aspect, often considered good luck.

Venus Square Jupiter ♀ ☐ ♃

This more challenging aspect can make people vain, lazy, extravagant, or ostentatious. This is the aspect of someone who may blow his or her money on luxury items. Used constructively, this aspect can lead to success in public relations, counseling, or the media.

Venus Trine Jupiter ♀ △ ♃

There's a great deal of grace and elegance with this aspect, plus there's a knack for making big money, having successful partnerships—and lots of love affairs! This aspect indicates success in music and the arts, and harmony in marital and domestic affairs.

Venus Opposition Jupiter ♀ ♂ ♃

This aspect is extravagant like the square, and in addition is often found in social climbers, who acquire and discard friends in a never-ending pursuit of the "in crowd." Navigated well, this aspect can learn to relate well to others—but it's a major challenge.

Venus Quincunx Jupiter ♀ ⋈ ♃

This aspect needs to learn self-respect rather than rely so much on what others think. These people lack faith in themselves, and this can make them defensive, or others may walk all over them. Growth with this quincunx comes when these people truly understand that the greatest approval comes from within.

A Harder Row to Hoe: Sun/Saturn Aspects

Strict Saturn gives just about everybody a hard time. The Sun is about creativity, a person's vitality, and his or her sense of self, while Saturn is about structure, limitations, losses, or responsibilities, and there's no exception here.

Saturn is the slower planet, so it's the one in charge here. People with this combination may find it hard to enjoy life, or may end up censoring themselves, even when Saturn and the Sun are in good aspect to each other. There may be problems with authority figures or the father, especially when the two planets are in challenging aspects to each other. Even in its more favorable aspects, Sun/Saturn aspects make for a no-nonsense, hardworking relationship.

Sun Conjunct Saturn ☉ ⋈ ♄

People with this aspect will have material success because they are hardworking and single-minded. A Sun-Saturn conjunction means these people take their lives very seriously and learn from their experiences—but they should also learn to find some easy-going friends to offset the demands they make on themselves.

Sun Sextile Saturn ☉ ✎ ♄

This aspect means a long, well-ordered, successful life, and these people will joyfully accept all duties and responsibilities that come their way. Working together, the Sun and Saturn lead to good common sense and solid self-confidence.

Sun Square Saturn ☉ ☐ ♄

There's a major challenge at work here, and these people have to work very hard to achieve what they desire. There can be a feeling of underachievement, or internal insecurity, and these people want to make certain that they hang on to any position they have.

Sun Trine Saturn ☉ △ ♄

Success with this aspect comes through one's own efforts and powers of concentration, and these people not only grow easily but prosper as well. Accepting responsibility comes naturally to people with this aspect, and so they may be managers or supervisors.

Sun Opposition Saturn ☉ ⋈ ♄

This challenging aspect can actually cause people to fight against themselves, or refuse to accept the obstacles in front of them. The lesson with this aspect is to learn to work with limits and conform to structures and limitations—a hard thing for a strong Sun to do.

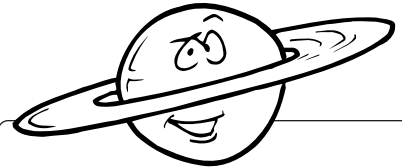
Sun Quincunx Saturn ☉ ⋈ ♄

People with this quincunx often have authority issues and can become self-righteous if challenged. They may let others take advantage of them, or simply ignore others' wishes. The lesson for people with this aspect is to learn to relax, and to learn to live and work constructively with other people.

Aspect Grid

When your birth chart is created, an *aspect grid* is created at the same time. This is a set of boxes, with the planets listed across the top and down the side, showing the various aspects those planets make. Spielberg's aspect grid is shown on the next page.

Your birth chart also may show aspects at its center, represented as lines, with the type of aspect shown on each line. Lots of astrologers either use a color printer or colored highlighter to differentiate between the aspects on a birth chart.

**AstroLingo**

An **aspect grid** is a chart showing the relationships among planets on a birth chart.

Chart Interpretations Even Idiots Can Make

One easy way to start making chart interpretations that include the aspects is to think of aspects as planetary relationships. Ask the question, "How do these planets get along?"

For example, we noted earlier that charismatic Venus and expansive Jupiter get along quite well, and that Jupiter, the slower planet, expands Venus's function, so there'll be more money, more love, and more relationships.

We also said that the Sun is about creativity, a person's vitality, and his or her sense of self, while Saturn is about structure, limitations, losses, or responsibilities. Knowing this, we can see why this is going to be a more challenging relationship.

It may help you to go back and look at the keyword concepts for each planet. Better yet, we've provided a quick reference for you in the following table. So now, you can use those keywords to begin answering the question about how these planets get along.

An aspect grid.

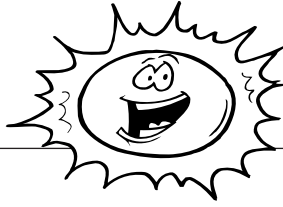
Steven Spielberg
Natal Chart
 18 Dec 1946
 6:16 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

	☾	☉	☿	♀	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♁	♇	♆	♁	♁s	♁c
☾															
☉					//				#		#	#	//	#	
☿					0°49				0°16		0°01	1°11	1°11	0°23	
♀								#	1°43			#	1°45	//	
♂								//	1°41						
♃											#	1°06	0°48		#
♄															
♅															
♆															
♁															
♇															
♆															
♁															
♇															
♁s															
♁c															

Planetary Keywords

Planet		Keywords
Sun	☉	Purpose and self, the person's center
Moon	☾	Emotions, habits, and unconscious patterns
Mercury	☿	Thinking and communication
Venus	♀	Relationships, possessions, money, and harmony
Mars	♂	Action and independence
Jupiter	♃	Growth, optimism, success, and generosity
Saturn	♄	Responsibilities, rules, and limitations
Uranus	♅	Invention, originality, and sudden change
Neptune	♆	Spirituality, dreams, and the mystical
Pluto	♁	Renewal and transformation

Last, don't forget that the slower planet will always be acting on the faster planet—it's the one that will be dominating the relationship, in other words.



StarFacts

In matters of love, it takes more than a good Sun sign aspect to make a good relationship. Matches “made in heaven” have several good aspects between other planets in their charts. For example, a good aspect between two people's Moons is very helpful because the couple will be comfortable together on a daily basis—and emotionally compatible. But in addition, good love matches have some challenging aspects between them as well because without a little challenge, the couple might never get together—they'd have nothing to learn from each other!

Your Astrological Signature

Your astrological signature is determined by counting up all the planets you have in each element. How many planets are in earth signs, for example? Air signs? Fire signs? Water signs?

You'll be using only planets, not Nodes, or angles in the chart, at least to start. In the same way, you'll then count up how many planets are in each quality: How many are in cardinal signs? Fixed signs? Mutable signs?

Next, check to see which element and quality have the largest number of planets. Only one sign will represent each pair—and that sign is your astrological signature!

For example, Spielberg has five fire planets and five fixed planets. The fixed fire sign is Leo, so Spielberg's astrological signature is Leo, and creativity and self-expression would be extremely important to him.

The astrological signature is valuable because it gives the overall tenor or flavor of the chart. If a person has an Aries signature (that is, the majority of his or her planets were in cardinal and fire signs), for example, but only one of his or her planets is in Aries, this emphasis won't be obvious from a first glance. Yet that person will want to lead, and start or pioneer new things—he or she will act somewhat like an Aries, in other words.

In Spielberg's chart, he has only two planets in Leo, so the fact that it's his astrological signature reveals a great deal.

What if there's a tie? Well, first look to see if the Sun or Moon are in the groups that tie. If only one or both are in the same group and neither is in the other, then that breaks the tie. But if the Sun is in one and the Moon is in the other, then you still have a tie.

That's when you add, first, the ascendant, and then, if there's still a tie, the mid-heaven. Usually the tie is broken by then, but not always. If it's not, it really *is* a tie.

Sowing or Reaping: Which Lifetime Are You In?

Whether you're sowing or reaping in this lifetime can be determined by counting the number of planets on the eastern half (the left half of the chart, houses ten through three) of your chart and then counting the number of planets on the western side (the right side of your chart, houses four through nine).

If there are more planets in the east than the west, then this lifetime is a *sowing lifetime* and you'll have a great deal of freedom and choices about what you do. Things won't usually fall in your lap from others, but anything you work toward consistently can work out. You'll have to put in a lot of energy to make things work, but you *will* have lots of choices as to what you work on. This time around, you're sowing your seeds and creating your own opportunities.

On the other hand, if there are more planets in the west than the east, you're in a *reaping lifetime*, and will have less freedom. However, you could say your life is set up for you to walk through—you'll usually find that it opens up to new opportunities from others just when you need it to do so.

In essence, you're harvesting the seeds you planted in previous lives, so your life is already "in place," so to speak. You may have fewer choices, but you don't have to work so hard to get where you're going—you just reap your harvest from previous lives! If you believe this is your only lifetime, then this will still reveal whether you create your own opportunities or receive them through others.

A Sample Chart Interpreted, or, Let's Be Voyeurs

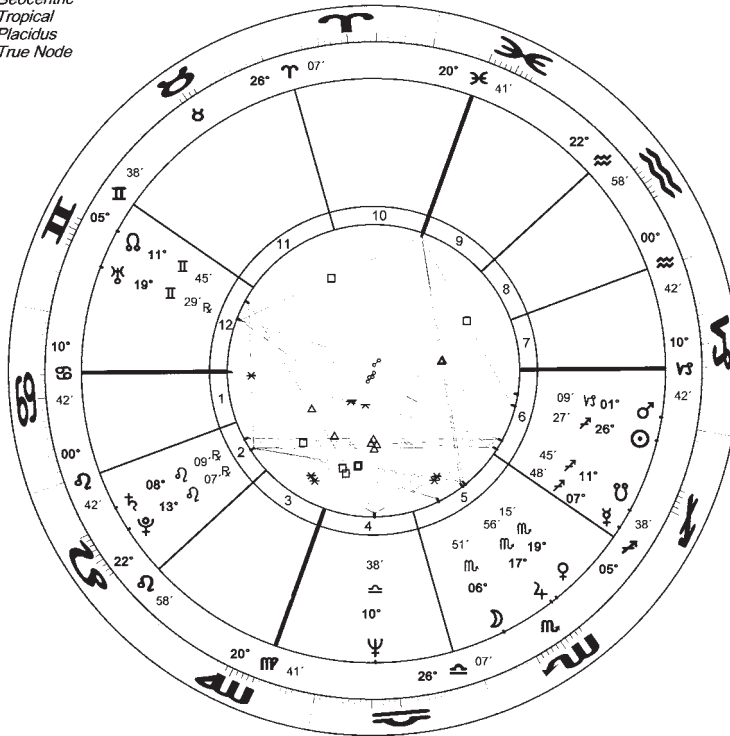
And now, back by popular demand, here's Steven Spielberg's chart yet again. You may notice a difference, and if so, good for you. This time, we've put in the aspects.

First, note that, using the formula above, Spielberg's in a *reaping lifetime*. In fact, he's a great example of that type of life, and, as a young director, he was taken under an older, wiser director's wing, a major opportunity for him. Next, let's look at some of the aspects in Spielberg's chart and apply them to what we've just learned so that we can see what else we can discover about him.

Spielberg's chart has lots of trines—eight, to be exact. Trines can be charms for the easy life—too easy, in fact, but this preponderance is set off by the eight squares that are also formed by Spielberg's planets. Squares, remember, are challenging, so they provide dynamic action as well.

Steven Spielberg
Natal Chart
 18 Dec 1946
 6:16 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Steven Spielberg's birth chart, with aspects.



No planet forms more aspects on Spielberg's chart, though, than Pluto, which appears at 13507R in his second house. Pluto squares Spielberg's fifth-house Moon, Venus, and Jupiter (all in Scorpio), trines his sixth-house Mercury and South Node (in Sagittarius), is conjunct to his second-house Saturn, and is sextile to his fourth-house Neptune (in Libra). All these aspects to Pluto show how important power, regeneration, and transformation are to Spielberg's life. He'll also have an intensity about him that few others can match. Life is serious and important to him, not just a time to have fun.

Here Comes the Sun

Before we get into more specific aspects of Spielberg's chart, though, we need to get a general feel for him. We notice his Sun is in Sagittarius conjunct Mars, and remember that this Sun sign is here to seek truth, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. This is a sign that likes its freedom and being on the move as a quester.

With his Sun close to Mars, his “trail” tendencies are even more pronounced, as Mars is also an independent influence. But noting that Mars is in Capricorn instead of Sagittarius, we realize that whatever vision or truth he’s seeking, he wants to use his energies (Mars) to build something long-lasting (Capricorn) that will influence others for many years to come. Because his Sun and Mars are in the Sixth House, we would expect these pursuits to be part of his day-to-day work.

Then we look across the chart and see that Uranus is opposite his Sun. This is *another* influence showing his need for freedom and independence, but this time, it shrieks of someone unusual, different, and possibly too rebellious or willful to work for someone else! He may also dislike authority, routine, and doing the same thing day after day. He prefers to do whatever he wants on his own terms, and whatever he does will be uniquely and authentically him.

Now, notice that both Spielberg’s Sun and Uranus are square to the midheaven, the symbol for his career. He needs plenty of freedom and independence to make choices in his career. Working for someone else would probably not be his preference. In addition, he wants to be known for projects the establishment wouldn’t do—ones that are daring, different, and authentically him.

Then look at the sign on his midheaven. It’s Pisces, the sign associated with film, movies, photography, spiritual pursuits, being of service, and inspiring others. In his unique way, Spielberg brings his vision and truth to others in his films, and inspires our world in original ways (Uranus square midheaven).

His Sun and Uranus both rule two houses. The Sun is in charge of the Second and Third Houses, while Uranus is in charge of the Eighth and Ninth. This gives these planets more emphasis than normal, with two kingdoms instead of the usual one.

Having Leo in both the Second and Third Houses, Spielberg is being challenged to use his creative and self-expressive talents (Leo, second-house resources) to acquire new, self-expressive abilities and information, and to form creative (Leo) associations with others in his community (Third House). In his case, it’s not enough to just get rich, as his self-worth (Second House) is tied to his mental and intellectual achievements (Third House).

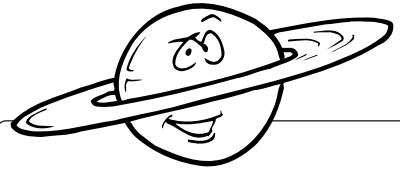
Moon River (aka Moon in Scorpio)

Now that we’ve looked briefly at his Sun, we’ll move on to Spielberg’s Moon, the second part of the important triad. We notice his Moon is in Scorpio in the Fifth House, and we realize this is someone with very powerful emotions. He may not always share them with others, but it is definitely part of his strong, creative drive. Additionally, because Scorpio is a fixed sign, he never gives up, no matter what the odds!

Notice that the sign of Scorpio doesn’t have a house cusp. This is called an *interception*, and it shows an area of his life that he needs to develop on his own, outside of his local environment, since others may not understand his true needs or respond in ways that are supportive.

In Spielberg's case, because the Moon is intercepted, his emotional needs may not be understood by others, so he may be less likely to express them. Or they may run rampant when he's upset. (Note that Venus and Jupiter are in the same boat, so he may have been forced to develop his values and beliefs on his own terms for similar reasons.) With his Moon in Scorpio *and* intercepted, his vulnerability may be so great that he could take special precautions to prevent others from getting too close.

We also notice that the Moon is square to Saturn in the Second House and realize that he tries to keep his emotions under a tight rein, while channeling those strong feelings into his creative (Fifth House) endeavors. However, too much internalizing of his emotions could lead to difficulties with depression or despondency. In any case, his emotional nature (Moon) is very intense (Scorpio), and it's very much behind his powerful success. According to Noel Tyl, a distinguished astrologer, Spielberg's Moon in the Fifth House also shows his "incredible imagination in his films, appealing not just to children but to the fanciful child in every adult."



AstroLingo

An **interception** means that a sign doesn't appear on a house cusp. Instead, it appears totally within a particular house, with the sign before it beginning the house and the sign after it ending the house. Intercepted signs represent areas that the person will need to develop on his or her own, because others won't be aware of those needs.

And He's Got Personality!

Then we notice his ascendant is Cancer. Now this is an interesting piece of information—one we might not expect. From this we realize he's here to learn about responsible nurturing, and his personality is adaptable, or able to sense the moods and feelings of others.

We know Cancer is an emotional sign, so we might expect that he would wear his feelings on his sleeve. But we already know the ruler or landlord of this house, the Moon, is more likely to keep them under wraps, due to his strong vulnerability. So although he exhibits some of the characteristics of a Cancer rising, he could be cautious about revealing his feelings. On the other hand, we see his Moon trining his ascendant and realize that when he does express his feelings, he does so constructively.

Now notice that his ascendant is exactly square to Neptune, showing some confusion regarding his identity or personality, especially when he was young. He may have had difficulties expressing himself when young or may have lived in his own fantasy world. Because Neptune is in the Fourth House, his family may have had shifting circumstances, or there may have been something confusing or uncertain about his home life.

Happy Trails to You!

Notice too, that his Neptune is trine with the North Node, the path of his future development and greatest growth. He had the option of channeling all this uncertainty, fantasy, or confusion into his path for the future. His North Node is in Gemini, the sign of ideas and mental pursuits. Because Neptune is the ruler of Pisces, the sign associated with films, photography, magic, and such, his home influences somehow led him to his path.

We need to keep in mind that we still have a “trail person” here, seeking his grail, truth, or vision, and that all of these parts of his chart are like different internal parts of himself. We don’t have enough space to tell you everything about Spielberg’s chart or life, but you can see from this short demonstration that there’s a *lot* to anyone’s chart!

When You Need to Know More: Getting a Professional Reading

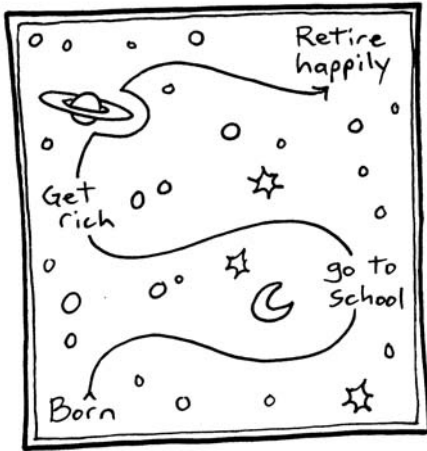
Just as with everything in astrology, reading and interpreting a birth chart takes years and years of training, as well as an intuitive sense of what it all means. You can certainly make some initial analyses based on what you’ve learned, but aspecting—and putting it all together—may make you feel like a “complete idiot.”

This is just one reason you might choose to get a professional reading—but there are other reasons as well. Let’s say, for example, you have specific questions: When should I start my business? Is there a good time soon to put my house up for sale?

A professional reading can help you answer those questions, as well as give you a comprehensive overview of why you behave and/or react the way you do. Chapter 19, “Getting Started,” suggested a number of ways to find a certified astrologer who can help you.

The Least You Need to Know

- The language of astrology uses symbols for signs, planets, and houses, and shows the various relationships among them.
- When two planets are in aspect to each other, they are related by one of a set of geometric angles between them.
- Your astrological signature reveals the overall tenor of your chart.
- You are either reaping or sowing in this lifetime.



Using Astrology to Map Your Life

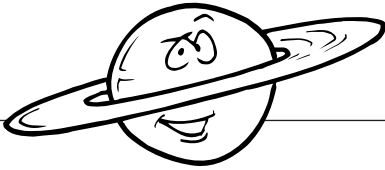
In This Chapter

- Progressions, or I can't stand still
- Transits, or planetary triggers
- Astrology is your compass
- Windows of opportunity

With progressions and transits, we begin to explore how the movement of the planets interconnects with what's happening in your life *now*. Understanding transits and progressions can give you the foresight to take advantage of your life's favorable times—and not let the less favorable ones get you down.

What Transits and Progressions Have to Do with You

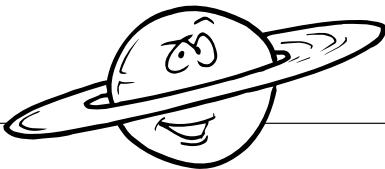
Progressions contain the primary timing for your development and growth and show how you evolve and grow. They are generally felt internally. You may make external changes based on them, but they are like the unfolding of your astrological DNA. The timing for all of these changes is very personal, based solely on your own chart. Because evolution is slow, these are slow changes.



AstroLingo

Progressions show how you and your chart progress throughout your life and contain the timing for your development and growth.

Transits occur when the present positions of planets overhead aspect their various positions in your birth chart. You could think of them as triggers for events in your life and the development shown by progressions.



AstroLingo

Your **progressed chart** is different from your birth chart in that it moves each planet by its amount of daily travel for each year of life after the person is born. Progressions show how you evolve and develop over time.

Transits, on the other hand, are based on the movement of the planets overhead in comparison to the position of the planets in your chart. They're much faster than progressions and often act as triggers or release points for whatever themes of development your progressions are suggesting.

Transits can also appear to us as events, external matters, or issues with our environment and the people around us. Until we learn to recognize our external circumstances as metaphors for our internal self, challenging transits can feel like someone hitting us with obstacles and problems.

Progressions, or I Can't Stand Still

You may have been born with your Sun in Libra and your Venus in Scorpio, but as you progress through your life, so do your planets. How your planets progress as you age is what progressions are all about.

A *progressed chart* moves each planet by however far it moves in one day for each year of life. The Sun, for example, moves about one degree per day, so in a progressed chart, the Sun would move about one degree per *year*. The slowness of this process means that only the inner planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars) are going to move significantly within a lifetime. The outer planets may progress into an exact aspect or placement and then get your attention, but generally it's the inner planets and the angles (ascendant and midheaven) of the chart that evolve over time.

In order to look at your progressions, you've got to use a double astrological wheel—your birth chart on the inside, and your progressed chart on the outside. If you were to look at these two charts, you would see how your birth planets are evolving over time.

Basically, your progressions move all your planets by one day for each year of life after birth. So you can look up your birth date in an ephemeris and find (roughly) that the planetary positions each day after your birth are going to represent the way your chart unfolds year by year. (You'll remember from Chapter 17, "Houses in the

Third Quadrant: Out in the World,” that an *ephemeris* is a book showing where the planets are at noon or midnight Greenwich Mean Time.)

There are some more technicalities to finding your progressions than what we’re going to cover, but the “formula”—one day for each year—gives you the general idea. You can see, then, that progressions and the unfolding of your development are individually determined by your chart alone.

The Moon, for example, moves about 13 degrees a day, which translates in a progressed chart to about 13 degrees a year. Because each sign covers 30 degrees, this means that about every two and a half years, your progressed Moon moves into a new sign. It also means that approximately every 28 years, you will have a progressed lunar return, where the Moon returns by progression to its original position in your chart.

Progressions signal the themes and changes in your chart that are waiting to unfold over time. They are often felt internally but can then become external changes. As an example, one of us became an author when her Sun and Mercury both moved into her third house (the House of Communications). Before this change occurred on an external level though, it was first experienced as an internal need or desire to start writing about important experiences and ideas.

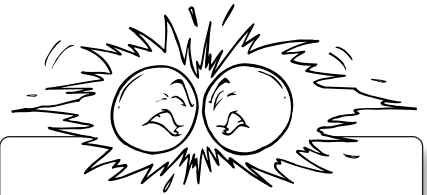
The changes in you represented by progressions can appear as a planet that ...

1. Changes signs or houses
2. “Changes” direction (goes retrograde or goes direct)
3. Makes an aspect to a natal planet
4. Makes an aspect to another progressed planet

Each of these can unlock a different type of change in you as you progress through your life.

When progressed planets make aspects to your natal planets, they’re only allowed very tight orbs because they take such a long time to move. A 1-degree orb is allowed for both before and after the aspect is exact. Yet even with that, except for the Moon, it normally takes a few years for a progressed planet to move out of aspect with a birth planet.

Knowing what your progressions are and when they’ll occur can help you unlock the potentials of these cycles. But even if you don’t know what’s happening and when, you’ll evolve anyway, according to the timing of your astrological schedule.



Star-Crossed

Ignoring the signals that challenging progressions or transits put out can lead to cataclysmic or life-changing events. So it's best to pay attention!

Who, Me? Evolve?

Yes, you. It takes the Sun about 30 years to move through a sign, so, depending on the degree at which your Sun began, you either have already moved into a new Sun sign, or will someday. A 39-year-old with a 16303 Sun, for example, progressed into a Cancer Sun at about age 14, and at age 44 will move into a Leo Sun.

Notice how slowly this change takes place, every 30 years after the first one. Sun sign changes are *major* changes in how you behave, and this includes your interests, attitudes, and outlook, too. Of course, a progressed Sun never gets around the entire zodiac, because it only moves about one degree per year.

Some of the progressed Sun aspects you can expect include a helpful sextile to your natal, or birth, Sun from your progressed Sun when you're about 60. At 45, there will be a less-helpful semi-square, and, when you're 90, you'll get a square. Unless you're as old as Methuselah, though, your progressed Sun never gets much more than a quarter of the way around your chart. Still, your progressed Sun can be busy aspecting any of your other planets while it's progressing through your chart.

Your Moon evolves as well, in a very different way. It takes the Moon about two and a half years to move into a new sign, and about 28 years to return to its original sign. When this happens, the area of life with Cancer on the cusp (that is, the house ruled by the Moon) may have significant changes. Also, this progression occurs near another important transit at age 29, so there can be major issues coming up at this time.

How Your Chart Evolves as You Age

Here we are once again with Steven Spielberg's birth chart, this time progressed for age 47. Before we look at this particular moment in time, though, let's walk through some of Spielberg's earlier progressions.

First of all, Spielberg's Moon progressed past Jupiter and Venus when he was just a baby, and then his Jupiter progressed over his Venus when he was only six years old. As you may recall, Jupiter co-rules Spielberg's tenth house, and so it's probable because of these progressions that he became interested in film and television—visual artistic media—at a young age. All these planets are in his fifth house, after all—the house of creativity.

Now look in Spielberg's sixth house, where, among other planets, his Sun and Mercury reside. The Sun, as noted above, moves about one degree a year, and so by the time Spielberg was five, his progressed Sun had caught up with his natal Mars. This would have made him very energetic, active, and exuberant, even more than he had been before—and probably quite a handful for his parents! This particular progression can also coincide with accidents, surgery, and impulsive actions that are later regretted. Even without any of that, though, he would have needed a firm hand.

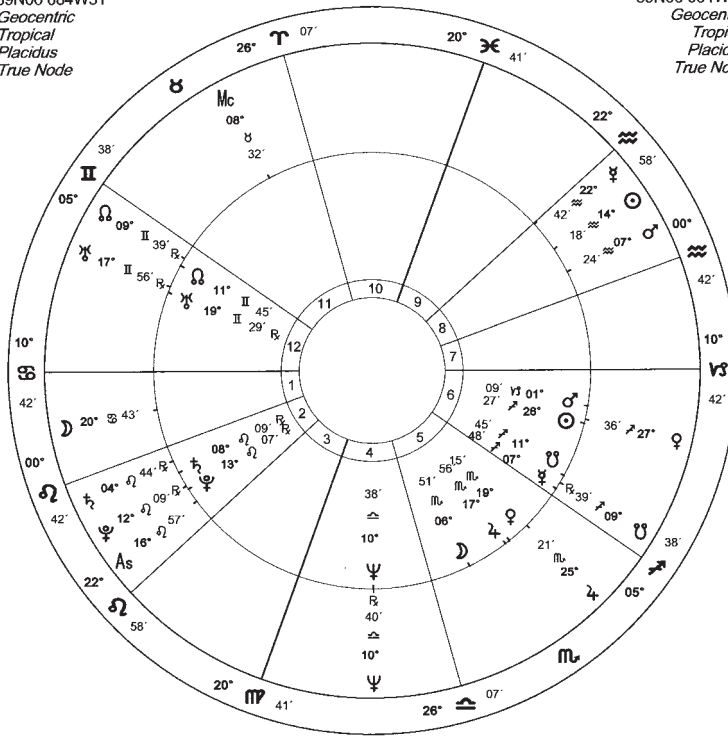
But aspects play a role here as well. Spielberg's Mercury progressed to an exact trine with his Saturn when he was a baby, and then a few years later, at age four, it trined

his Pluto. He may have developed a very probing mind at a young age, or more likely, he may have gotten a new sibling then. (Mercury naturally rules the third house and so represents brothers and sisters, and Pluto is associated with life and death.)

Inner Wheel
Steven Spielberg
 Natal Chart
 18 Dec 1946
 6:16 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
Steven Spielberg
 Sec. Prog. SA in Long
 15 Dec 1993
 12:00 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

*Steven Spielberg's
 progressed birth chart.*



By the time Spielberg was eight years old, his Mercury had progressed up to oppose Uranus, and so, even as a youngster, he may already have developed different thought patterns from others around him. Or, he and his family may have unexpectedly moved or had a major disruption to their home life (notice that Mercury is the landlord for his fourth house). His friends and family members could also have had a difficult time understanding him or his ideas then. Notice, too, that since Uranus is in his twelfth house of hidden things, he may have decided to keep his unusual ideas and thoughts to himself.

Now look at Spielberg's progressed chart compared to his natal chart for December 15, 1993. This was the date his movie, *Schindler's List*, was released. (Remember that his progressed chart is the outside wheel.) First notice that his progressed Moon is in

the First House exactly trine to his natal midheaven, or the tenth-house cusp representing his career. In progressions, the Moon is often the “timer” because it moves faster than any other planet. In this case, it’s pointing to an important career achievement for him (trine his midheaven).

Next, notice that his progressed Sun in the Eighth House in Aquarius is opposite his natal Pluto. And this aspect is just finishing up, because it’s about one degree past exact. We know from this that the previous three years were a struggle for him. Making *Schindler’s List* may have been very difficult, as other influential people may have opposed his efforts. There may have been separations in his major relationships during this period, possibly due to long periods of on-location filming. In some major way, though, those three years were a challenge, and it’s likely that it was related in some way to this movie.

Finally, notice that Spielberg’s progressed Venus is conjuncting his natal Sun in the Sixth House. And it is just now finishing this aspect at about one degree past the exact conjunction. This progression usually coincides with success, lots of money, and enhanced social relationships. Marriages and births often take place during this progression, or there may be new romances. Notice, too, that Spielberg’s fifth house, the house of creativity, is ruled by his Venus. So this could also indicate a significant creative success, which, of course, we know *Schindler’s List* was.

Just as with Spielberg’s, your birth chart progresses in its own way, with your progressed planets aspecting your natal or birth planets. As your progressed planets move through the signs, they show how and when you develop and evolve.

Transits, or Planetary Triggers

You could think of transiting planets as being part of a cosmic transit system, moving around overhead on a regular schedule (better, in fact, than most earthly transit systems!). This is one way to keep in mind that these planets are always on the move, changing positions at the rate of their daily travel. It’s another kind of transit system—one we can predict and plan by.

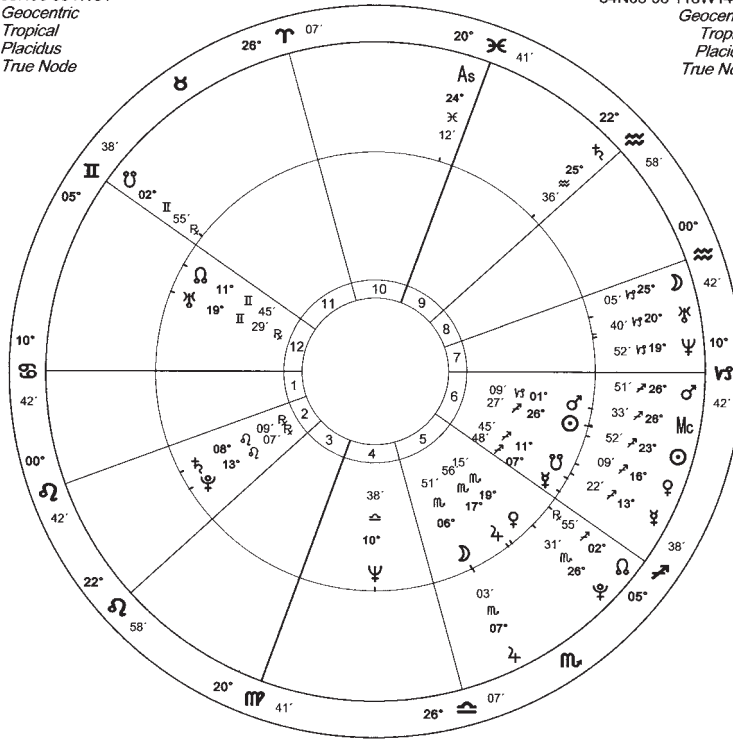
Transits are concerned with particular moments in time, and in fact, your birth chart is a transit that was frozen in time when you were born. Transits are also concerned with the relationships that occur when the present positions of the planets aspect your natal planets. Like a progressed chart, a transit chart looks like a double wheel: Your birth chart is on the inside, and *the moment’s chart*, or transit chart, is on the outside.

Here, for example, is Steven Spielberg’s chart with transits for December 15, 1993, when *Schindler’s List* was released.

Inner Wheel
Steven Spielberg
 Natal Chart
 18 Dec 1946
 6:16 PM EST +5:00
 Cincinnati
 39N06 084W31
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
Transits 15 Dec 1993
 Natal Chart
 15 Dec 1993
 12:00 PM PST +8:00
 Los Angeles
 34N03 08 118W14 34
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

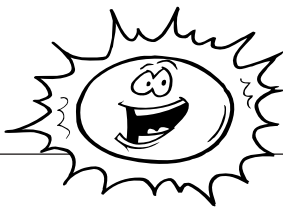
Steven Spielberg's birth chart, with transits, for December 15, 1993.



Transits are like triggers—they pop the cork right off the bottle. They're quicker—and happen faster—than progressions, and most of them are specific to each person. At the same time though, there are transits that are aspects between the same natal and transiting planet that occur at the same ages for everyone. We'll look at those in more detail later in this chapter.

But first, let's look at what transits were happening when Spielberg released his film *Schindler's List*. Notice in his chart that transiting Saturn was in his ninth house sextiling his natal Sun. This is a period that presents lots of opportunities for achievement, not from luck, but rather from hard work, which we know he used well. A few months later he received an Oscar for *Schindler's List*!

Also observe that transiting Uranus and Neptune in his seventh house are exactly trine his natal midheaven. The Uranian influence here may have manifested itself in unexpected opportunities or creative changes in his career at this time. The Neptunian aspect may have led him to a very spiritual truth or understanding connected with his career, or in his case, a spiritual and inspirational film.



StarFacts

The Moon returns to its original position by transit every month. This is called a *lunar return*. The Sun returns to its position by transit every year, on or about your birthday (it can be the day before or after your birthday), and this is known as a *solar return*. And so you see where the birthday wish, “Many Happy Returns,” comes from!

In general, while Uranus and Neptune were trining his midheaven, Spielberg’s career was about to undergo a beneficial shake-up or “earthquake” of sorts. Because both of those planets were in his seventh house at the time, it may also have been a period when his relationships were undergoing major changes.

This brief explanation should give you an example of how transits work and are different from progressions.

Outer and Social Planet Transits

Astrologers look at the transits that the outer planets make more closely than those of the inner planets because they move more slowly and so have a much more powerful effect on our lives.

Now, **Pluto’s** motto is “Change or die!” Its transits always pressure you to transform some aspect of your life that isn’t authentically you. Generally, with a Pluto transit you will be forced to change the area ruled by the planet that Pluto contacts. Most people find it *very* painful not to cooperate with Pluto transits.

Neptune transits encourage us to view old problems from a spiritual or transcending perspective—and to let go and move on. Neptune’s unpredictable, though, and its transits can either unleash psychic or imaginative powers—or lead to confusion, self-doubt, escapism, irresponsibility, or even self-destruction.

Uranus transits are associated with innovation, rebellion, and unexpected change. A Uranus transit makes you see things in a new way—and once you do, you can never go back to the old way of seeing things.

While **Saturn** is associated with limitation, its transits also can herald movement to a higher level of responsibility—to rewards for a job well done. If there’s still work to be done, though, these transits can make you sit down, reassess, and seek the right path.

Jupiter transits often involve broadening your horizons in some way—either through travel, social contacts, or physically, philosophically, or intellectually. Jupiter, remember, is the planet of expansion, and the house it's transiting will determine in what area of your life the expansion is occurring.

The inner planets transit far more quickly, so their effects are not as profound as those of the outer and social planets. In fact, often when an astrologer looks at the transiting cycles for a client's chart, he or she only checks the major ones shown by the outer and social planets.

From the Terrible Twos to the Midlife Crisis and Beyond

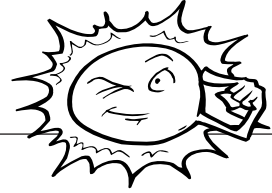
These are the cycles, or passages, that are common to everyone—and that occur at about the same age for everyone, too. They're timed by transits of planets that aspect themselves, such as Saturn to Saturn. Because the planet is aspecting itself, and each planet moves at a certain rate, these always occur at about the same age for everyone.

Let's start by looking at the terrible twos. This is the point at which Mars comes around and conjuncts itself for the first time. The terrible twos are the equivalent of a person's first taste of independence and assertion. Mars returns occur every two years, so we get more accustomed to them as we get older. But this first time is a lulu—as any parent can tell you!

Next, there's the Jupiter cycle, which is a 12-year growth cycle. Every 12 years, when transiting Jupiter comes around to conjunct your natal Jupiter, you start a new growth cycle, learning completely new things, and expanding your mind and self in new ways.

Another transit that has a marked effect is when Uranus is sextile itself for the first time during the teen years. This is when people get their first need for independence, to separate from their parents and become their own person. We're all familiar with this cycle—either from our own experience or that of our children—and we all know it can be a very chaotic period!

At age 29, people experience their first Saturn return. This is a major transit: "Grow up," it says, and, if you're not yet on the right path, you'll have a strong feeling of apprehension. All sorts of major changes may occur at a Saturn return if you haven't been on *your* path, but instead have been meeting other people's expectations. You might even quit your job or get divorced!



Heaven Knows

We can't stop the planets in their cycles—or our own growth, which they represent—but we can be aware of those cycles and plan our lives accordingly. Knowing that you've got a Saturn transit going on, for example, can help you to know that it's time to reassess and restructure—and help you avoid making big mistakes!

However, if you're doing what you're supposed to be doing, then you won't have problems—and you may be rewarded with a promotion for good work, or similar “prize.” You could think of a Saturn return as a time to clean up the inappropriate parts of your life—and to ensure that you're on the right path for you (or reassess your path)—instead of worrying about what others think.

The second Saturn return at age 58 is also a major transit. Business people may be made chair of the board or achieve an important goal. A human life is roughly two-thirds over at this point, and, interestingly, statistics indicate that people who feel unhappy with their lives, are depressed, or feel like a failure in some way may end up using this as their exit point from the planet.

The Midlife Crisis

The midlife crisis used to occur at age 42. This cycle coincides with when transiting Uranus comes opposite natal Uranus, transiting Neptune squares itself, and shortly afterward, when transiting Saturn opposes itself. However, because some of the outer planets are in the faster portions of their orbits right now, this has been happening during baby boomers' late thirties. In addition, another planet has gotten into the fray.

Because of its erratic orbit, Pluto is moving through the signs faster than its average. For this reason, transiting Pluto is currently squaring personal Pluto at age 36 or 37—before the midlife crisis! (We're speaking here about people who have Pluto in Virgo; those with Pluto in Leo experienced this right *during* their midlife crisis, at around 39 to 40 years old.) Transiting Pluto square natal Pluto signals general transformation. This square used to appear late in people's lives, so this is a major change for this generation.

Preparing for the latter part of life and eventually death is a big step, but it isn't one that's necessary when this aspect occurs in people so young. Instead, this transit's intensity should be focused on changing one's life for the better, giving up whatever is being brought up from the past that isn't appropriate or authentic.

People who successfully make it through this series of “midlife” transits develop a new maturity to become their true selves. The purpose of the midlife crisis is to reorient themselves away from just meeting external demands toward more internal needs that give real meaning to their lives.

Not everyone makes this shift, though.

Before we discuss the specifics of the midlife transits, let's look at the transiting Pluto square natal Pluto in more detail.

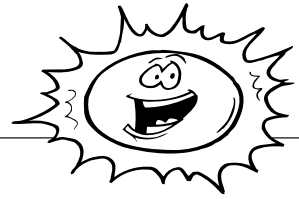
Oh, What Fun It Is to Transform Ourselves!

General transformation is a period when past issues that are no longer relevant are dug up and eliminated. This can include aspects of yourself that have been forgotten or repressed for so long, you no longer remember them.

This transit lasts almost two years, and by the time it ends, a person's life and consciousness are quite changed. Sometimes a person's life is completely rebuilt after this occurs. It's better to cooperate with the changes that need to happen to you during this period than resist them, because the consequences of resistance can be quite destructive. So if this is the cycle you've bumped into, then we strongly encourage you to get the message early, rather than later!

Transiting Pluto square natal Pluto is happening to many people who are still young, people who have half their lives to live at this higher level of consciousness. This unusual situation is one indicator of the High Renaissance period the Earth is experiencing now at the start of the new millennium—a time of rapid and profound change, growth, and transformation.

This early Pluto transit is going to happen—at least during this period in time—*before or during* the midlife crisis. So, by the time the midlife crisis is over, the men are separated from the boys and the women from the girls!



StarFacts

Pluto transits are just too demanding to ignore. People find they can't hang on to their old behavior patterns during these periods in their lives, and so they give up and make the change!

Uranus and Neptune and Saturn—Oh My!

Yes, indeed! The midlife crisis can be a lot like encountering lions and tigers and bears! And with Neptune in the act, even if these aren't real dangers, you may *believe* they exist. Here's an up-close and personal look at these midlife transits.

When transiting Uranus opposes natal Uranus, its purpose is to reorient you to doing things with personal meaning. At this point in your life, you've spent most of it trying to have an impact on the external world and meeting the expectations of others. Now it's time to shift toward doing the things that have *internal* meaning for you.

For people who've been doing what they were "supposed" to be doing, this period is often an epiphany. For those who've gotten into premature ruts or who've stopped growing along the way, though, there's a sudden "last chance" feeling about it that sends some people off on radical changes quite unlike their normal selves. This could mean a career change (this happened to both of us), or, more negatively, leaving one's spouse for someone younger, buying a snazzy sports car, or seeking new adventures.

The most appropriate response to this is to withdraw internally and figure out *what you really want to do with the rest of your life*. If you don't take the time to examine what you want and then make the needed changes, you may find yourself living a hollow life later—and never understand why.

When transiting Neptune squares natal Neptune, you can expect another period of intense questioning of yourself, your ideals, and how well you've lived up to them. But because it's Neptune, it's difficult to see where you're really going during this period—and if it's even worth going there.

This is a lot like driving a twisty road in heavy fog and not being able to see well. So while you may decide you should make some changes in your life, you may *not* understand which ones to make. Instead of actually making these changes during this time, it's best to consider which course to take until the fog clears. This period or transit takes almost three years!

When transiting Saturn is opposite natal Saturn, it can mean either a successful culmination of your effort and work, or it can be a time when old patterns that weren't cleared out earlier challenge your career and relationships. Once again, it's a time for reassessment and refocusing. This transit occurs a little later than the Uranus and Neptune transits, but in past times, all three used to happen together.

So the entire process is geared toward questioning your present life and yourself. If you ever thought you knew yourself, this period may prove otherwise. But instead of responding with an intense desire to recapture your youth, it's best to find out what in life really has meaning for you, and then find a way to refocus your life on that.

Unlocking Personal Transits

Personal transits are cycles whose timing is based on the placement of your own planets. Unlike the cycles that occur at specific ages when a planet aspects itself, these transits can occur at any age. For example, transiting Saturn will conjunct each person's Sun at a different age, and the timing of that will depend upon what sign your Sun is in and where Saturn was when you were born.

For example, if your Sun is in Cancer and Saturn was in Gemini when you were born, then this transit would have happened for the first time when you were a young child. But if Saturn was in Leo when you were born (and you have a Cancer Sun), then you would have been in your mid-twenties before this occurred for the first time.

In general, you can look at your birth chart and the current planetary positions to see what's happening for you at any given moment in time.

In Spielberg's birth chart, for example, his Mercury is in his sixth house at 07948. In the first edition of this book, we noted that in February of 1998, transiting Pluto was directly conjunct his natal Mercury. We noted that this meant that at this time he was intensely focused on communicating a very powerful message to the masses, and this is precisely when *Saving Private Ryan* was released.

Also in the first edition of this book, we noted that transiting Saturn would trine Spielberg's Sun in early May 1998. This, we noted, would be an important time for him to make significant progress, which would occur without any special effort on his part. Further, because Saturn had just entered his eleventh house when this happened, we predicted Spielberg would make significant progress toward his innovative goals (Aries on the eleventh-house cusp) or become the leader of a new group then. DreamWorks, anyone?

Astrology Is Your Compass

Now that you understand how your chart unfolds with progressions and transits, you can see how astrology can be used to look ahead into your life.

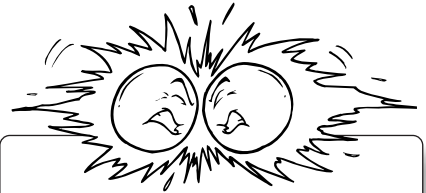
It's always a good idea to check out your progressions and transits regularly—and it's also good to know three to five years in advance what's coming down the pike in the way of major changes. You can anticipate and plan for everything, from job or career changes to financial difficulties, having children, or even relocating. Looking ahead gives you the room to plan what responses you might choose and to accept responsibility for what the changes end up being.

Relationship issues may come up, too. If you know a troubling time is approaching, you can understand what the likely issues are and learn appropriate ways to handle and deal with them. Then when it actually arrives, it's not a cataclysmic period, but one of growth and understanding of how you and your relationships are changing. We'll be looking at this more closely in the next chapter.

Astrology can be used as a compass because you can see not only the kinds of events or changes that are going to unfold, but also how you're evolving and growing during your life. Knowing that gives you a road map for your life and a more conscious approach for dealing with it. After all, wouldn't you rather know where you're headed on your life's journey than move ahead blindly?

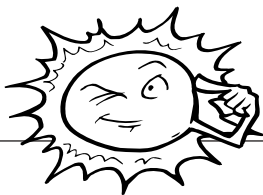
Windows of Opportunity

Windows of opportunity are periods where your progressions and transits are beneficial—good times to make changes, progress, and develop things easily. These progressions and transits are usually trines and sextiles (sometimes conjunctions), and they're just waiting for you to take advantage of them.



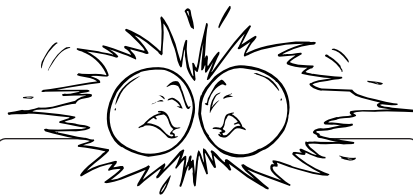
Star-Crossed

If a person has taken shortcuts to his or her achievements, then the Saturn transit across the mid-heaven can unravel it all, which is what happened to Richard Nixon during Watergate! If a person's well prepared for it, though, this transit will culminate in success.



Heaven Knows

If you're trying to make a career change, it's best to look for trines or sextiles with planets to the midheaven, tenth-house ruler, or the planets in the Tenth House, to initiate that change. Why make things harder for you than they need to be? Make the most of your windows of opportunity—and your career will be rewarded accordingly.



Star-Crossed

Ignoring the signals that challenging progressions or transits put out can lead to cataclysmic or life-changing events. So it's best to pay attention!

Often, though, when these periods hit, there's a tendency to sit back and take it easy, so it's important to use them to your advantage and not squander them.

But you won't know there's an opportune period unless you're looking at your progressions and transits to determine when they are. So look—do it yourself, or visit an astrologer at least once a year. It's a good investment!

Jump or Be Pushed, Your Choice

Unlike a trine or sextile, when squares or oppositions come up by transit or progression, you'll be *forced* to do something. Either you'll take matters into your own hands and take action—or an external action will *force* you to do something.

Some of these squares from outer planets, like Neptune or Pluto, can take a couple of years to get through. If you don't consciously understand what's happening and, as a consequence, respond inappropriately, you can end up projecting the energy outward, and it will come back to you as difficult external events.

Some of these external events can be cataclysmic—a serious accident, a severe illness, or even a death in the family—and *force* you to make the change. Anything that's blocking positive growth, be it a job, a relationship, or personal property, will be removed to ensure that the needed growth occurs.

Let's take an example. Suppose that you feel that you're in the wrong job but you don't do anything about it. Rather than take the cues you're getting and act when you have control over the situation, you decide to just "wait and see." Eventually, you may get

fired, or the company may go bankrupt. Then you'll be forced to act. Progressions and transits are the blueprints for what's happening in your life, but what you choose to do with them is up to you. Remember, astrologically, there are no accidents—just misdirected energy.

Obviously, it's best to take the appropriate action before a catastrophe occurs. Serious accidents, something terrible happening in one's career, or a major blow-up in a relationship are all manifestations of a "jump-or-be-pushed" aspect. Something's gotta blow to send you in the direction that you must go. If you get to that point without doing anything constructive, you'll be pushed.

If You Want to Know More

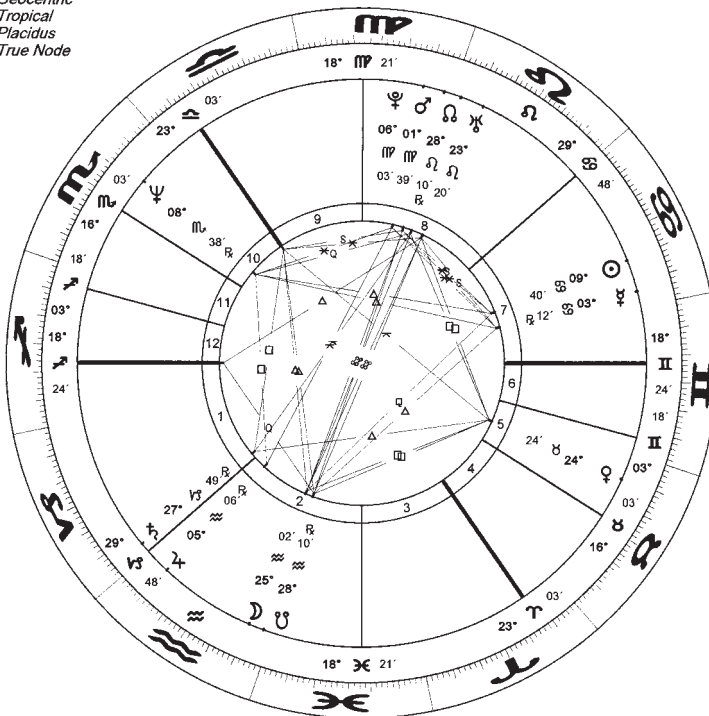
Because this is a beginners' book, we can't really cover all the transits and progressions in detail. If you're interested in learning more about them, we'd suggest a book like Robert Hand's *Planets in Transit*, which is the bible on transits. Another is *The Eagle and the Rose*, by Bernadette Brady, which has a much more in-depth discussion of both transits and progressions. Our intention was to introduce you to these concepts so you'd understand how they work—and, of course, to pique your curiosity!

Diana, Princess of Wales and Her Son, Prince William

To show you a bit more about how transits and progressions work, we've included some information about Princess Diana's birth chart, and its relationship to her accident and to her death on August 31, 1997. Because it's based on the birth time given by Diana's mother, the chart shown below is considered correct.

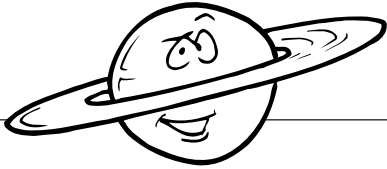
Princess Diana
Natal Chart
 1 Jul 1961
 7:45 PM -1:00
 Sandringham England
 52N50 000E30
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Princess Diana's natal chart.



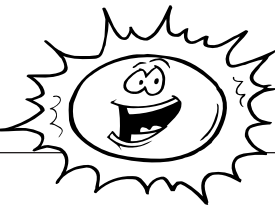
Diana's Life and Her Birth Chart

Princess Diana was well known for her Cancer Sun's emotional vulnerability, and for her tremendous compassion. Notice that Diana's birth chart has a trine, a beneficial aspect, between her Sun and Neptune, the planets of love and compassion. Neptune is also found in her Tenth House, the area of one's career and reputation, symbolizing that Diana would be known for her compassionate works. The Sun in her Seventh House shows that she wanted to share herself with others, which she certainly did.



AstroLingo

Remember, the **Nodes** physically represent moving points that relate to the moon's orbit around the Earth. Astrologically, the South Node indicates heredity or the past, while the North Node represents possibilities for growth and the future.



StarFacts

Regulus, a fixed star at 29° of Leo, is one of the four royal stars of Persia. All of the royal stars promise strong success, as long as a particular human frailty is avoided. Mythical King Feridum was linked to this star. He was quite prosperous until he engaged in revenge and lost his entire kingdom.

Princess Diana's Moon, representing her emotional nature, is in Aquarius, the sign of the humanitarian. So, we know from this that she always concerned herself with all classes of people, not just the upper crust. Her ascendant, or rising sign, Sagittarius, shows her spirit and questing nature. Diana certainly fulfilled the potentials shown in her birth chart in a magnificent way.

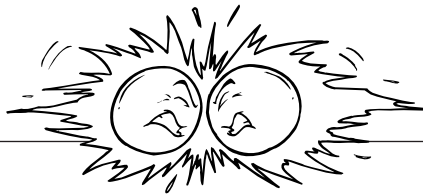
Notice that Diana's Eighth House, the area of death and transformation, is occupied by Uranus, Mars, and Pluto. All three of these planets together, in this particular house, made this area of her life especially prone to sudden, unexpected, and violent transformations, including death. It's also interesting that these three planets are generally viewed as "male" planets, and that at the time of the accident there were three men in Princess Diana's car—and a lot more outside the car chasing her!

The other symbol in her Eighth House is the *North Node* in Leo, symbolizing Diana's future path in this life. Just as Leo the Lion is king of the jungle, Leo itself is the sign of royalty. Diana's North Node is conjunct—i.e., in the same space with—the fixed star of Regulus. Regulus, known as one of the royal stars of Persia, was associated with the mythical Persian King, Feridum. This star promised great success, as long as revenge was avoided, and certainly fits with Diana's royal life path.

Together, all four symbols in her birth chart's Eighth House suggest a royal person surrounded and besieged by men, resulting in a violent and unexpected, accidental death. The transits at the time of Princess Diana's death indicate how the potential for a serious accident was actualized.

Diana's Cycles at Her Death

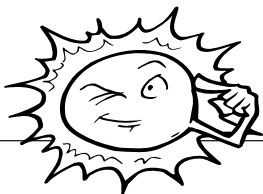
Astrologers disagree about whether Diana's accident was fated or not. Even without astrology, the cause of her death was such an extremely unlikely event, that in some ways it only makes sense to understand the tragic car crash as fate. While some astrologers say the accident appears to be immutable fate, others point to research that suggests the transits she had at the time of her death meant her life would be changed forever. We certainly all agree on that! Following are some of the transits and warning signs that Princess Diana was in danger.



Star-Crossed

In 1996 and 1997 two "great comets"—Hyakutake and Hale-Bopp—passed within sight of Earth. The last time Hyakutake visited was about 10,000 years ago, and the last time Hale-Bopp passed by was 4,200 years ago.

In ancient times, comets were associated with the death of royalty. In 1996 and 1997 we had two consecutive "great comets," providing perhaps the first clue that a royal person's life could be in danger. Then, on September 1, 1997, one day after Diana died, a solar eclipse conjuncted, or took place on, Diana's Pluto, the planet of death and transformation. This eclipse occurred in Diana's eighth house, which we've already identified as the area representing death and transformation.



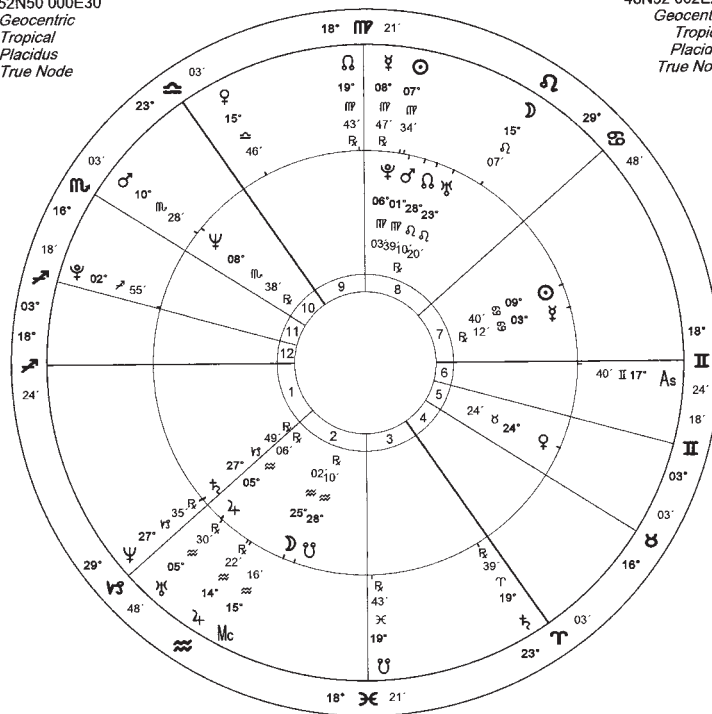
Heaven Knows

You may have noticed the large number of accidents that occurred near the eclipse as well as the number of deaths of other well-known people. For example, we saw several military plane accidents; many people were killed in a major tour bus accident in Egypt, the target of terrorists; and Mother Teresa died.

Eclipses occur when the Sun and Moon line up in a rather exact way, with either the Sun or Moon turning dark somewhere around the world. The meaning of an eclipse depends on which one is occurring, as well as where in a person's chart it occurs and what planets or angles the eclipse is aspecting. In general, eclipses can indicate unexpected, but very significant, events. These events can occur as early as thirty days prior to the exact date of the eclipse, and for at least six months after it's over. In the case of this particular eclipse, its meaning, according to Bernadette Brady, author of *The Eagle and the Lark, a Textbook of Predictive Astrology*, was that of high physical stress, accidents, and injuries.

Inner Wheel
Princess Diana
 Natal Chart
 1 Jul 1961
 7:45 PM -1:00
 Sandringham England
 52N50 00E30
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
Diana's accident
 Natal Chart
 31 Aug 1997
 0:25 AM -2:00
 Paris France
 48N52 00E20
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



Next, look at Diana's transits at the time of the accident, shown on the outer wheel in the preceding figure. The inner wheel represents Diana's birth chart. Notice that transiting Neptune is on or conjunct her natal Saturn in the First House. This could indicate that Diana's view of reality was dissolving, including her status as a royal person. In this case her physical structure (Saturn) dissolved as well, but left her in a highly elevated position (Neptune).

Also look at transiting Uranus conjunct her natal Jupiter in her second house. Remember that Uranus is the planet that represents liberation, and the freedom to become our authentic selves. Jupiter represents our growth, and in this case, the conjunction from transiting Uranus liberated Diana to grow beyond what she became in her life. Notice, too, that this liberation occurred in Diana's second house of resources, showing the millions of dollars donated to her charities after her death.

Now notice that Diana's natal Pluto, the planet of death and transformation in her eighth house, was being squared by transiting Pluto, an aspect of general transformation. This is normally a very difficult period of time as we examined earlier in this chapter, and while it rarely corresponds with a person's own physical death, in this case it did. Physical death is certainly the ultimate form of transformation.

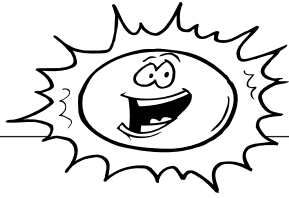
Last but not least, transiting Saturn, the planet of losses, limitations, and reality was very close to Diana's fourth house cusp, the area of physical endings. It was still in the Third House, though, the area of short trips and local travel, and in this case showed a loss while traveling or driving!

None of these transiting aspects alone would have been enough to indicate Diana's death. Even several, or all, of the aspects considered together probably wouldn't have been enough to indicate death, but they *do* indicate a higher risk. The probability of death increases further when we add the appearance of the September 1, 1997 eclipse of accidents and high physical stress in Diana's eighth house, the house of death, on her Pluto, the planet of death and transformation. And remember the passage of the two comets. Yet even the high probability that all of these combined elements represent wouldn't have been enough to indicate Diana's death on August 31, 1997 if the potential for a sudden and violent death had not already existed in the princess's birth chart.

The Meaning of Diana's Death

It seems certain that Diana's death increases the probability that Charles will never become king. And other astrologers agree! Even before Diana's death, world-renowned astrologer Noel Tyl, in *Predictions for a New Millennium*, asserted that Charles will never reign as sovereign of Britain. Charles has *none* of the five royal signature astrological aspects found in the birth charts of previous kings and queens.

Indeed, the constrictions of royal life Diana fought against so poignantly were evident in the tension between the royal family's restrained and formal response to her death and the tremendous emotional outpouring of grief shown by Britain's



StarFacts

For more on the British royal family, check out *The Complete Idiot's Guide to British Royalty*.

“commoners” and people everywhere. Diana was the world’s favorite royal person! Her death has done a lot to ensure that a major transformation will occur within the royal family and its social structure in Britain.

The sign of Sagittarius is also associated with the publishing industry and this, too, has been transformed from Princess Diana’s death. The circumstances of Diana’s accident sparked a worldwide demand for the media to respect the personal lives of public figures and for a return to responsible journalistic standards. And then there are the charities. Diana left behind a legacy of compassion and caring that will long be re-

membered by millions of people, and her unfortunate death ensured that a great deal of financial support and public attention will continue to surround her favorite causes.

Last, but perhaps most important, Princess Diana was one of the few female leaders who made it as a woman while emphasizing the feminine attributes of vulnerability, compassion, nurturing, and caring. It’s not an accident that her death affected so many people. We’re now in a period of time when the energies of the goddess are returning after an extended absence. Diana embodied healing, feminine energies in a world that sorely needs them, and she showed us how to use them. Her death reminds us that we all need to refocus on those areas and actualize more of those energies within ourselves.

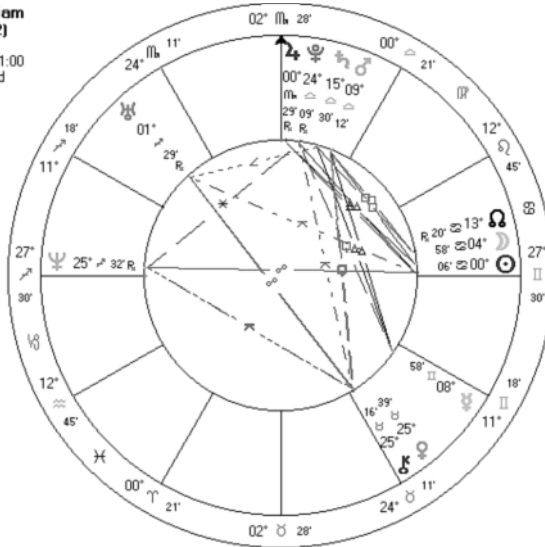
Prince William’s Natal Chart

Diana’s oldest son, Prince William, is next in line to the throne after his father, Prince Charles, and it’s very possible that this young man will be the next ruler of England. For that reason, we’re including his birth chart, along with a brief discussion.

Before we begin looking at Prince William’s chart, we’d like you to take a moment to compare it with his mother’s chart shown earlier in this chapter. Does anything strike you immediately? Both have Sagittarius Rising, for one thing, but even more striking are the four planets in each of their eighth houses. Clearly, young Prince William was struck by this house’s death and transformation at a young age, with the death of his mother. In fact, William’s Mars in Libra and Diana’s Mars in Virgo nearly conjunct each other in their respective eighth houses, as do their Plutos.

Prince William’s chart also suggests he’s destined to serve, as his Cancer Sun and Moon in the Seventh House of connections to others suggest. Note that Cancer in this house is intercepted—the house is ruled by Mercury—which means that the feeling of Cancer will be influenced by the communication of Gemini. And William’s Cancer Sun is opposed by his twelfth-house Neptune in Sagittarius: He may have trouble following his own dreams because he’s caring for the dreams of others.

**Prince William
Natal Chart (2)**
Jun 21 1982
9:03 PM BST -1:00
London, England
51N30 00W10
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

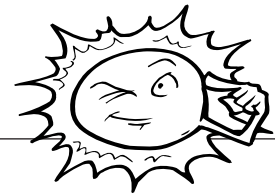


Prince William's natal chart.

Squaring William's eighth-house planets and opposing his eleventh-house Uranus are Venus and Mercury in the Fifth House of Creativity. Mercury is a trickster here, and at home with Gemini besides, while Venus seeks the social spotlight. Opposing Uranus suggests that these aspects may be at odds with a desire to further humanitarian ideas without concern for the trappings of tradition.

With his Sagittarius rising, Prince William will be the speaker of truth and will want to enlighten his country. He'll approach the 21st century with innovation and enthusiasm, and will want his country to become globally conscious, possibly including wanting his country to participate in cleaning up the Earth, and politically, getting countries to make peace. He wants everyone to get along and get going on solving the problems. He'll also be a crusader when it comes to the lack of basics like food, shelter, and good health, and on these issues, he will be a crusader, like his Mom. The Royals haven't seen the last of Princess Diana!

Rather than take all the fun of this chart interpretation, though, we've decided to leave the rest for you. Take your time. Use this chapter as your guide, and work, one step at a time, to find out what Prince William's chart reveals about him—and his future.

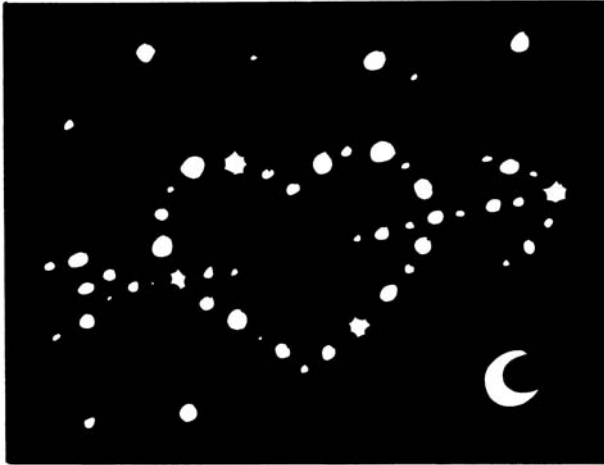


Heaven Knows

Cancer was also Diana's Sun sign, so the interception here is all the more intriguing. It's possible that William's loss of his mother at a young age will cause him to seek out partners who fulfill a mother role for him, something that's also suggested by his seventh-house Moon.

The Least You Need to Know

- Progressions signal the themes and changes in your chart that are waiting to unfold over time.
- Transits occur when the planets' present positions overhead aspect your birth-chart planets or move into new houses.
- You can use astrology as a compass to navigate through your life.
- Windows of opportunity are times when it's easy for you to accomplish things.
- Squares or oppositions force you to act or make a change, whether you want to or not.



Should You Love the One You're With?

In This Chapter

- ▶ Using relationship astrology to chart your love life
- ▶ Beyond the signs—planets, houses, and aspects
- ▶ Julia Roberts in love
- ▶ Matches made in heaven

You've seen the love sign books. You may even own one. And yet, it doesn't seem to fit. You're a Pisces and he's a Capricorn, and, while your book says that mixing water and earth makes mud, you think you've got something better going. What gives?

As you may have suspected, there's more to relationship astrology than just your Sun signs. You'll want to look at your Moon signs, too, for starters, where you'll find your emotional make-ups, and you'll want to check out the matches of your other planets and your ascendant, as well as what houses your signs and planets are in. Last, you'll want to look at how your charts aspect each other—that's the real key to a match made in heaven.

Relationship Astrology and You

You can approach relationship astrology from two different angles:

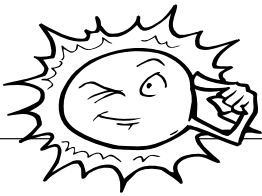
- ▶ Confirming what you already know by comparing your charts, or
- ▶ Comparing your charts before you get in too deep

If you're already in a relationship, there are most likely certain things you know about each other and how you interact. Chances are, for example, one of you is the "controller," while the other is the "agree-er." One of you may have a shorter fuse than the other, or one of you may want to make love every night, while the other would rather wait for Saturday—or Christmas!

If you're considering a relationship and know the person's birth date, birthplace, and birth time, you can get their chart and do a little detective work to see if this will be a match made in heaven. If you've both got Aries at your midheaven, you'll be constantly butting heads—and you may want to avoid all that confrontation. Then again, as Aries midheavens, you may not! Confrontation is part of who you are, after all.

Charting Your Relationships

Once you have both charts in hand, the fun can begin. In a few pages, we're going to illustrate this by looking at the charts of Julia Roberts and her former husband Lyle Lovett (attention Julia's new love interest—are you taking notes?), but before we do, we want to show you the steps you can take to chart your own relationships. You may want to return to Chapter 3, "Astrology Basics for Your Personal Forecast," to find out which signs represent which qualities and elements. We've provided a quickie reminder chart for the energies, *yin* and *yang*.



Heaven Knows

There's no need to limit relationship charting to your love life. You can use these steps to see why you and your mother seem to fight about everything, or why you felt an instant affinity for someone who's now a good friend. All you need is both your charts.

The Signs and Their Energies

<i>Yang</i>	<i>Yin</i>
Aries	Taurus
Gemini	Cancer
Leo	Virgo
Libra	Scorpio
Sagittarius	Capricorn
Aquarius	Pisces

Got those charts in hand? Good. Let's start with the obvious: your Sun signs.

	Person 1	Person 2
Sun signs:	_____	_____
Are your Sun signs <i>yin</i> or <i>yang</i> ?	_____	_____
How about the quality of your Sun signs: cardinal, fixed, or mutable?	_____	_____
Next, note the element of each Sun sign: fire, earth, air, or water?	_____	_____

Now, you'll want to do the same for each of your ascendants.

	Person 1	Person 2
Ascendants:	_____	_____
Are your ascendants <i>yin</i> or <i>yang</i> ?	_____	_____
How about the quality of ascendants: cardinal, fixed, or mutable?	_____	_____
Next, note the element of each ascendant: fire, earth, air, or water?	_____	_____

Now that you've written it all down, let's see what these match-ups say about your relationship.

Energies. If one of you has a *yin* Sun sign, or rising sign, and one of you has a *yang*, it's a good beginning. It means that you're two halves of the same whole. But two *yins* don't make a wrong, nor do two *yangs*. If you're both *yin*, you may need a third party to get things going, while if you're both *yang*, there may be arguments about where to go for dinner. But remember, this is just the tip of the iceberg—there's a lot more to relationship astrology than just the energy of your Sun signs and ascendants.

Qualities. If your relationship got out of the gate quickly, it may be because you both have cardinal Sun signs or ascendants. It's probable that at least one of you does. If you're looking for staying power, a fixed Sun sign or rising sign person is usually in it for the long haul, while if you want to play the field, a mutable Sun sign or ascendant may be "ISO" the same thing.

Elements. Remember that earth-and-water example we gave at the beginning of this chapter? Earth and water *do* make mud—but sometimes a soothing mud bath is just what a relationship needs. Down-to-earth earth signs and intuitive water signs can

actually make a good match, just as any of the elements can combine in interesting ways. The important thing is to be aware of these combinations and their permutations. Here are some of our takes—all in fun.

Combination	Permutation
Fire + fire	Quick-burning, but nothing to feed it
Fire + earth	Earth slows down the fire, longer lasting heat
Fire + air	Air feeds fire, fire needs air
Fire + water	Steam heat! Passion and fire
Earth + earth	Slow and steady; progressive
Earth + air	Slow, but heady
Earth + water	Optimum for growth
Air + air	Nowhere to go but up
Air + water	A light, misting rain + champagne, too
Water + water	A downpour—lots of love, lots of emotion!

Signposts

The next thing to look for is the placement of each of the signs. Recall our example of the two Aries' midheavens earlier? That's just one signpost to look out for. You'll want to note the sign and house for each of your planets, and here's a worksheet to do just that.

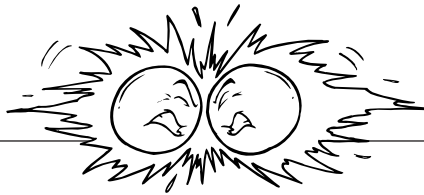
Note the sign and house for each planet.

	Person 1		Person 2	
	Sign	House	Sign	House
Sun ☉	_____	_____	_____	_____
Moon ☾	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mercury ☿	_____	_____	_____	_____
Venus ♀	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mars ♂	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jupiter ♃	_____	_____	_____	_____
Saturn ♄	_____	_____	_____	_____
Uranus ♅	_____	_____	_____	_____
Neptune ♆	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Person 1		Person 2	
	Sign	House	Sign	House
Pluto ♃	_____	_____	_____	_____
North Node ♋	_____	_____	_____	_____
South Node ♏	_____	_____	_____	_____

Planet Placings

Look to the Moon! That's the first rule of thumb when it comes to looking at your planet placings. You can use the preceding chart to see which sign each of your Moons is in. Both at home in Cancer? Be sure to keep tissues in every room! A big-hearted Leo Moon plus a detached Aquarius Moon? Could mean emotional misunderstandings because a Leo Moon is all about ego and pride—while Aquarius, its opposite, is about the lack of ego and pride.



Star-Crossed

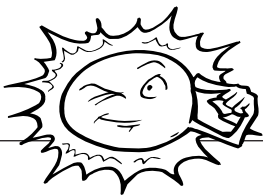
Remember the adage "Opposites attract"? The same holds true when it comes to astrological match-ups. Sure, we give the example of a big-hearted Leo Moon and a detached Aquarius Moon meaning emotional misunderstandings, but Aquarius's emotional detachment may be just what exuberant Leo needs—and Leo can inject a shot of cheeriness into the life of a sometimes too serious Aquarius Moon.

You can review the Moon in each zodiac sign section in Chapter 11, "The Inner Planets: WHO Are YOU?" For easy reference, here's a chart of how each Moon sign feels. You can use this chart to see how each of you feels, which can help you understand why one of you cries at dog food commercials while the other didn't even cry at birth!

Moon Sign	How It Feels
Aries	with its <i>head</i>
Taurus	with its <i>senses</i>
Gemini	with its <i>mind</i>
Cancer	with its <i>feelings</i>
Leo	with its <i>heart</i>
Virgo	with its <i>logic</i>
Libra	through <i>others</i>
Scorpio	with intense <i>emotions</i>
Sagittarius	through its <i>experiences</i>
Capricorn	through <i>perseverance</i>
Aquarius	through its <i>individuality</i>
Pisces	through its <i>imagination</i>

House Hunting

Using the preceding chart, you can now see which signs are in which houses. We introduced you to the houses in Chapter 4, “There’s More to You Than Just Your Sun Sign,” and we discussed each house in depth in Chapters 15–18. To review the area of each house, simply look at the reverse of the tear-out reference card inside the front cover of this book.



Heaven Knows

The relationship between his Taurus Venus and her Cancer Venus creates a sextile, one of the most favorable aspects. In fact, these two are soulmates, which is why both of their Venuses are in their twelfth houses. That’s the House of Past Life Connections, remember? There’s more about soulmates at the end of this chapter.

But there’s much more to house hunting than just which signs are in which houses—and this is where the fun really begins. Set your charts next to each other, and spend some time looking at the signs and planets, house by house. Remember how, in Chapter 22, “Using Astrology to Map Your Life,” we noted that both Princess Diana and her older son, Prince William, had four planets each in their eighth houses? This was an easy connection for us to make. Look at your two charts and see if there are equally easy connections in yours.

Aspects, Heart to Heart

Many of the connections are not so easy. One Cancer woman we know is married to a Gemini man—but there’s nothing typically Gemini about him: He’s quiet, thoughtful, and takes his time making decisions. While she has many planets in Cancer, her twelfth house, where these planets reside, is ruled by Mercury because Gemini is on its cusp—and there’s our first “aha.”

The second “aha” occurs when we look at their Venus placements:

His

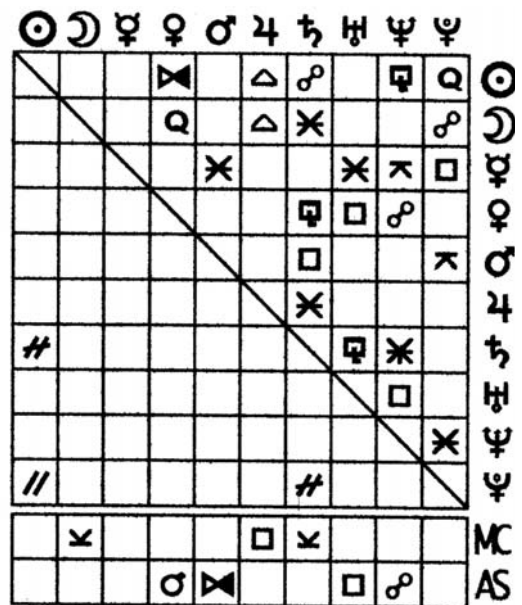
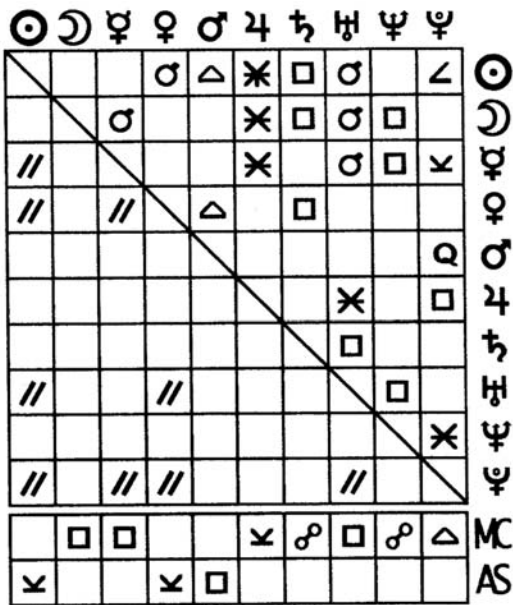
07 Taurus ♉ 05 in
the Twelfth House

Hers

18 Cancer ♋ 01 in
the Twelfth House

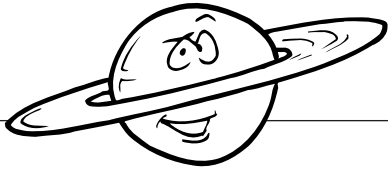
While this isn't a conjunction, both have Venus in the Twelfth House, so they prefer privacy and are deeply creative.

Aspecting your relationships is where you really get down to the nitty gritty. One simple way to do this is to look at your aspect grids. When this couple looked at their aspect grids, they immediately noted that both their Neptunes were sextile their Plutos, and both their Neptunes were in Leo, too. Dreamy Neptune sextile transformer Pluto means they both can transform their dreams into reality—something both of these creative people do on a daily basis—in their studies at opposite ends of the house!



Study these two aspect grids and see what connections you can make.

Another way to look at two aspect grids is to set up a *synastry grid*, which combines the two grids into one easy-to-read grid. We'll do that below for Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett.



AstroLingo

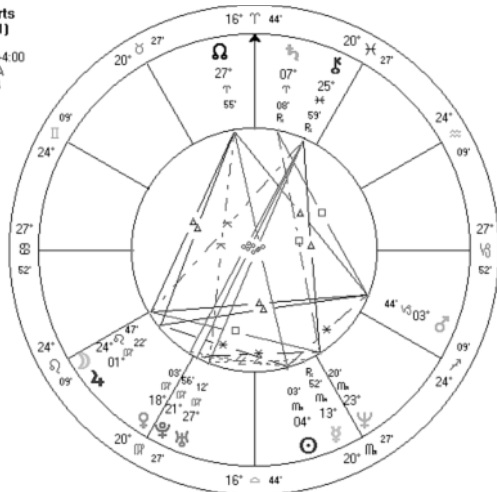
A **synastry grid** combines two aspect grids into one in order to easily analyze a relationship.

Stars by the Stars: The Relationship Charts of Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett

Just for fun, we decided to take a look at the chart of Julia Roberts and see what it could tell us about her love life. But then, we decided it would be even more fun if we looked at the chart of Lyle Lovett next to hers and looked at their relationship as well. Let's sneak a peak at Julia's lessons on the path of love.

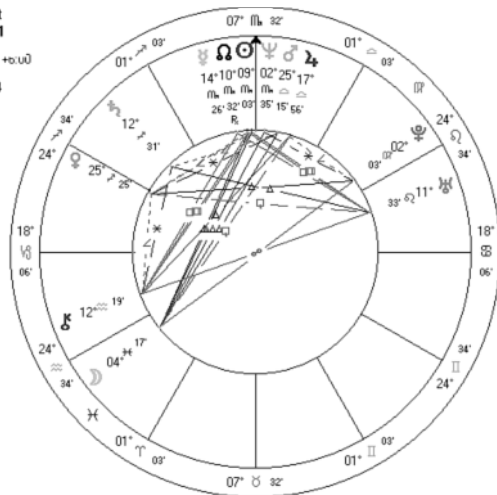
Julia Roberts's birth chart.

Julia Roberts
Natal Chart (1)
 Oct 28 1967
 0:16 AM EDT +4:00
 Atlanta GA, USA
 33N45 084W24
*Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node*



*Julia's former husband,
 Lyle Lovett's, birth chart.*

Lyle Lovett
Natal Chart 1
 Nov 1 1957
 12:00 PM CDT +5:00
 Klein Texas
 33N19 095W34
*Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node*



Here are the breakdowns of Julia and Lyle's Sun signs and ascendants:

	Julia	Lyle
Sun signs:	Scorpio	Scorpio
Are their Sun signs <i>yin</i> or <i>yang</i> ?	<i>yin</i>	<i>yin</i>
How about the quality of their Sun signs: cardinal, fixed, or mutable?	fixed	fixed
Next, note the ele- ment of each Sun sign: fire, earth, air, or water?	water	water

Now, you'll want to do the same for each of their ascendants.

	Julia	Lyle
Ascendants:	Cancer	Capricorn
Are their ascendants <i>yin</i> or <i>yang</i> ?	<i>yin</i>	<i>yin</i>
How about the quality of ascendants: cardinal, fixed, or mutable?	cardinal	cardinal
Next, note the element of each ascendant: fire, earth, air, or water?	water	earth

Part 4 ► *Getting and Interpreting Your Chart*

Note the sign and house for each planet.

	Julia		Lyle	
	Sign	House	Sign	House
Sun ☉	Scorpio	4th	Scorpio	Solar 10th
Moon ☾	Leo	2nd	Pisces	Solar 2nd
Mercury ☿	Scorpio	4th	Scorpio	Solar 10th
Venus ♀	Virgo	2nd	Sagittarius	Solar 12th
Mars ♂	Capricorn	6th	Libra	Solar 9th
Jupiter ♃	Virgo	2nd	Libra	Solar 9th
Saturn ♄	Aries	9th	Sagittarius	Solar 11th
Uranus ♅	Virgo	3rd	Leo	Solar 7th
Neptune ♆	Scorpio	5th	Scorpio	Solar 9th
Pluto ♇	Virgo	3rd	Virgo	Solar 8th
North Node ♁	Aries	10th	Scorpio	Solar 10th
South Node ♋	Libra	4th	Taurus	Solar 4th

In this synastry grid for Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett, Julia's aspects are read across and Lyle's down.

Across
Julia
Natal Chart (1)

Synastry Grid

Down
Lyle
Natal Chart (3)

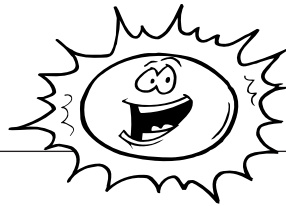
	☾	☉	☿	♀	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♁	♋	♌	♍
☾	9A30	△ 0A14	△ 9A34		✕ 0A33	♁ 2A55								∠ 2A33
☉		♁ 5A00	♁ 4A49			♁ 1S54			∠ 2A06	□ 1A56				
☿			♁ 0S33					∠ 2A14						♁ 2A18
♀	△ 0A37				♁ 5S57	□ 1S47		□ 3A28	□ 0A34	△ 2S29	♁ 2A29			
♂	✕ 0A27									♁ 0A44	♁ 2S39	□ 2A39		
♃						∠ 1A34								♁ 1A12
♄						♁ 5S22					□ 0S23	□ 0A23		△ 4A13
♅			□ 2A19			∠ 4S24	∠ 0S38			□ 0S33				△ 5A11
♆		♁ 1S27		∠ 0S28	✕ 1S09	✕ 1A13						♁ 4A40	□ 4A40	
♇	♁ 7A15	✕ 1S53			♁ 1S41	♁ 0A41						♁ 4A08		□ 0A18
♁			□ 1A33					□ 0A06			∠ 1S19			
♋		♁ 6A29	♁ 3A20									□ 0A27		
♌				♁ 0S13		□ 1A28				♁ 4S06				□ 1A05
♍		♁ 3A30	♁ 6A19				♁ 0S24			∠ 0A36				

When we look at the aspect grid for Julia and Lyle, we immediately see that there are no long-lasting aspects here, even though they share a Scorpio Sun and the intensity of a Moon opposition. While they will always be good friends, their marriage wasn't destined to last.

It's interesting to note that their Moons are in opposition to each other. This indicates that these two will often be at odds with each other (emotional volatility), but there's a great emotional attraction as well. Clearly, they can push each other's buttons.

In addition, Julia's Sun is trine Lyle's Moon. She can be compassionate to his needs and feed his ego, and he can do the same for her, creating a mutual emotional nurturing, where the ego of one can feed the emotions of the other.

Note that their Scorpio Suns are conjunct. This is called a focal point. There's an intense initial attraction, or intense passion and volatility—a lot of rain and emotion that they can pull out of each other, but again, it won't last.



StarFacts

Julia and Lyle's Mars aspect is just a sextile—it's not as strong as a trine or conjunction. This indicates that there's sexual energy, but it's fleeting. With a sextile, these two had to make an effort to develop a sexual relationship, and it would have to be rekindled over and over to make it last. Still, it's harmonious when it's there. With this aspect, there won't be war, violence, or fighting—but there won't be any lasting fires either.

Lyle's Venus trines Julia's Moon and Jupiter, and squares her Uranus and Pluto. This can be interpreted as a natural affection for each other as well as a good energy, but with the square to Uranus and Pluto, that they will outgrow each other is a given, and they may even become frustrated with each other. The energy flows well at the beginning, but it doesn't continue to grow.

The aspects between Julia and Lyle suggest more than anything that these two will end up as good friends—which they indeed have.

Matches Made in Heaven

Is there such a thing as a soulmate? And, if there is, can you find it in your charts? The answer to both questions is “Yes.” You’ll find a wealth of information about soulmates in *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Reincarnation*, by David Hammerman and your co-author, Lisa Lenard. But let’s look at the idea astrologically for now.

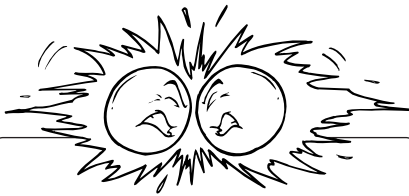
As you’ll recall from Chapter 13, “The Outer Planets and the Nodes: The Bigger Picture,” many astrologers believe that your South Node reveals your past lives and your North Node reveals your destiny. These signposts are one way to see if you’ve been together before—and if you’re destined to be together again.

But there are other things to look for as well. Parallel paths can be found in conjunctions between either your houses or signs—and especially when both occur. Trines and sextiles can indicate that your relationship will be a good one this time around, while an opposition can indicate stormier weather, or that the present relationship has had many challenges in past lives that need to be overcome—if not in this life, then in a future one!

Two more places that reveal whether you’re soulmates:

- Saturn has a lot to do with past lives. You’ll want to check out how your Saturn aspects pair up.
- Your twelfth house also reveals a great deal about your recent past lives. If you—or your partner—has any planets or Nodes there, you’ll want to search both your souls for the lessons they’re suggesting.

By now, it’s clear that there’s a whole lot more to relationship astrology than just your Sun signs. So, happy hunting—and happy relationships!



Star-Crossed

In any lifetime, you’ll have more than one soulmate, and not all your soulmates are your lovers—or even your best friends. Soulmate relationships present both challenges and opportunities, and once you understand what the soulmate dance is all about, you can work with it instead of against it.

The Least You Need to Know

- Relationship astrology looks to much more than just your Sun signs.
- Examine what energies, qualities, and elements you share—and don’t share.
- Explore what houses your signs and planets are in—and how they aspect each other.
- Signs that you’re soulmates can be found in your charts.

Part 5

You've Done Your Chart, Now You Want More

Besides your birth chart, there are other ways to unlock your unconscious or find other clues to your destinations. Tarot, palmistry, numerology, and psychic intuition are four of those ways—and they're all connected with astrology.

All five disciplines reveal the story of you—and all four chapters look at fate versus free will to help you make decisions that will affect your future. This section introduces you to these four fascinating realms and shows you some quick and easy ways to use them to take another look into who you are and where you're headed.





It's in the Cards

In This Chapter

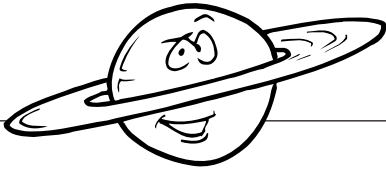
- ▶ Tarot and astrology
- ▶ The Major Arcana
- ▶ The Minor Arcana
- ▶ Can I read my own cards?
- ▶ Books with good interpretations of the Tarot cards

Tarot decks have been found dating back to China and Egypt more than 4,000 years ago. And there are hints in metaphysical writings from this period that, by using Tarot cards' colorful symbols, groups of people who spoke different languages or dialects could communicate with one another. What a neat idea! But there's a lot more to Tarot than just universal communication, as you will discover. Read on.

If you like what you see here, be sure to pick up *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Tarot and Fortune-Telling*, written by Arlene Tognetti, co-author of this chapter, and Lisa Lenard, co-author of this book.

Tarot Cards: Much More Than Works of Art

Like the symbols of astrology, *Tarot* cards represent the total energies of the Universe. Tarot, through its pictures, colors, and numbers, relates lessons, ideas, universal archetypes, and spiritual changes, and can help you develop intuitive powers.



AstroLingo

Tarot is the name for a deck of 78 cards used for tapping the unconscious and foreseeing potential conditions and outcomes. As the cards are dealt, the symbols, or pictures, are interpreted by the reader based on the cards' combinations.

Each Tarot card is a work of art, and Tarot experts can tell just by looking at a deck which artist created it. Each card is filled with rich symbolism too. In fact, Tarot connoisseurs refer to decks by name: the Crowley-Thoth Deck, the Universal Waite Deck, the Rider-Waite Deck, the Golden Dawn Deck, the Aquarian Deck, and the Morgan Greer Deck. Because every deck is comprised of different works of art (78 to be exact), it's no wonder that different people prefer different decks, just as some of us prefer Renoir over Picasso or Rembrandt.

For example, consider the artistry involved in the imagery of the Tarot card for the Fool. This guy's heading straight for a cliff—with total abandonment and openness! That's the first thing you notice when you look at the Fool, which you could think of as the innocence of youth.

But there's a lot more going on in this card too. In his right hand, the Fool is carrying a wand—and wands, one of the four elements, or suits, of the Tarot, represent life's possibilities. In his left hand, he's carrying a white rose, a symbol of purity and innocence. In addition, he's got the Sun blazing behind him, so he's bright with promise, and he's got his little dog, too, who's full of youthful exuberance.

The Fool Tarot card.



The cliff represents the pitfalls his life may bring, or the exciting new adventures that he's never experienced before. The mountains behind him are the highs and lows of life, or obstacles to overcome. He may not know it yet, but life isn't always a bowl of cherries—or white roses. So he's willing and open to take a chance on any adventure that awaits him.

The Fool is key number 0 in the Tarot deck. That means it's the first card, the baby, the new opportunities of one's life.

We wish we could explore the imagery of all the cards, but all we can give you here is a sampling to whet your appetite for more. This is, after all, essentially a guide to astrology, remember? We will give you some interpretations of what the cards mean, though.

Don't Be an Idiot, Be a Fool

The Fool is just one of the 78 Tarot cards. Tarot cards are separated into two categories: the 22 Major Arcana and the 56 Minor Arcana. In Latin, *arcana* means “secrets” or “mysteries of life.”

The Major Arcana are universal, or important, mysteries, which also correlate to the 12 signs of the zodiac and the 10 planets. The Major Arcana are connected to the archetypes that we all learn through worldly experience. In the old Tarot books, Major Arcana cards represented your destiny, or what was going to happen to you.

Minor Arcana, the small mysteries, correlate to our use of our free will or choices. The Minor Arcana, like our everyday playing cards, are divided into four suits represented by the same four elements described in astrology. The suits are Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles.

Wands correspond to the element fire, Cups to water, Swords to air, and Pentacles to earth. The Minor Arcana cards represent your choices or, in other words, what you could do to change existing conditions.

It's interesting that there are more freewill cards than destiny cards. What this says is that more knowledge gives you more choices in life!

Tarot cards are used primarily as a method for gaining information and insight into one's life, and there is a wide variety of card layouts, or spreads, used for this purpose. In recent years, Tarot experts have been exploring the connections between astrology and Tarot—connections that even an idiot can make!

From the World's Oldest Book: The Major Arcana

Those who read the Tarot well have spent years studying the symbolism and meaning of the cards. There are many interpretations, and one is that the 22 Major Arcana cards correlate to the 12 signs and 10 planets of astrology. While it's impossible to

reduce the complex symbolism of Tarot to just one interpretation, we've listed the cards and their astrological equivalents, along with a few possible meanings, below, as an example.

Who's Who?

Tarot Card	Astrological Equivalent		Meaning
0 Fool	Aries	♈	Innocence, openness
1 Magician	Mercury	♿	Creative ability
2 High Priestess	Moon	♁	Intuition
3 Empress	Venus	♀	Abundance, fertility
4 Emperor	Mars	♂	Authority, father
5 Hierophant	Taurus	♉	Conformity
6 Lovers	Gemini	♊	Choices in life
7 Chariot	Sagittarius	♐	Victory through adversity
8 Strength	Leo	♌	Fortitude, compassion
9 Hermit	Virgo	♍	Truth
10 Wheel of Fortune	Jupiter	♃	Destiny, luck
11 Justice	Libra	♎	Fairness, honor
12 Hanged Man	Neptune	♆	Sacrifice, release
13 Death	Scorpio	♏	Regeneration
14 Temperance	Cancer	♋	Patience, adaptation
15 Devil	Capricorn	♑	Materialism
16 Tower	Uranus	♅	The unexpected
17 Star	Aquarius	♒	Hope, faith
18 Moon	Pisces/Cancer	♓/♋	Imagination
19 Sun	Leo	♌	Contentment
20 Judgement	Pluto	♇	Awakening
21 World	Saturn/Capricorn	♄/♑	Attainment

The Minor Arcana

The 56 Minor Arcana are divided into four elements, or suits: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. Each suit has 14 cards: Ace through 10, and four separate court cards to represent the people and events of each suit. The separate court cards are the King, Queen, Knight, and Page. Each of the four suits correlates to one of the four elements we use in astrology, and each suit also has an energy, as you'll see in the following table.

Energies and Elements of the Minor Arcana

Tarot Deck Suit	Common Deck Equivalent	Energy	Element
Wands	Clubs	<i>Yang</i>	Fire
Cups	Hearts	<i>Yin</i>	Water
Swords	Spades	<i>Yang</i>	Air
Pentacles	Diamonds	<i>Yin</i>	Earth

Now, when you begin to add in the signs that these energies and elements represent, you also find the “character” of the Minor Arcana royalty. Note how each Minor Arcana court card has characteristics of each of its represented signs.

Wands

Element: Fire.

Signs: Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius.

King: Ambitious, energetic, direct, daring, loyal, confident, capable, good leader, impatient, candid.

Queen: Generous, loyal, outgoing, ambitious, dramatic, determined, proud, affectionate, egotistical.

Knight: Action toward a goal, growth and enterprise, youthfulness, power, love of life, romantic, change in environment, self-promotion, directness, movement.

Page: The messenger of news, phone calls, fax, communications, youthful attitude, enthusiastic, ardent, positive messages, outspoken, assertive.

Cups

Element: Water.

Signs: Pisces, Cancer, and Scorpio.

King: Sensitive, emotional, leadership qualities in human relations, father figure, changeable, worrier, sometimes moody or overly emotional, heart-centered.

Queen: Magnetic, nurturing, mothering, good imagination, feels intuitive, sometimes secretive or overly protective, artistic.

Knight: Romantic dreamer, lover of music and the arts, sensitive, brings offers of love and affection into your life, creates a positive atmosphere, matters to do with the heart.

Page: Imagination, intuition, messenger of love, peace and joy, happiness, impressionable, lighthearted, content, giving.

Swords

Element: Air.

Signs: Aquarius, Gemini, and Libra.

King: Balanced character, logical, reasoning powers, weighs the pros and cons, good mental ability, good counsel, good advice.

Queen: Analytical, practical thinker, teacher, advisor, discriminating, objective, can be a harsh judge of character, cuts to the chase.

Knight: Coming or going of events that can change your future, tells the truth, ardent, lover of logic, good communication skills, quick and sometimes hasty, cuts to the core.

Page: The messenger of warnings or the need to be vigilant, sharp mind, quick actions, clever, focused on the goal, intense, persevering.

Pentacles

Element: Earth.

Signs: Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn.

King: Steadfast, practical, easygoing nature, kind, prosperous, benevolent, financial ability, growth and development in the material world, good father, sometimes stubborn or slow to move on things.

Queen: Charitable, generous, good with children, Earth Mother, good businesswoman, business acumen, dedicated, patient, slow to act.

Knight: Concerns and events relating to business deals, loans, banking, focused on prosperity, development of talents or careers, slow and methodical.

Page: Sends messages of hope, contentment, responsible, conservative, persevering student, admires all forms of education, productive, ambitious.

What Do They Mean in Your Life?

Like the houses of astrology, the suits and the court cards of the Minor Arcana represent the areas and people in your life. In fact, now that you've noted their corresponding astrological elements and meanings, you may have a pretty good idea of how to interpret them.

Swords, Cups, Wands, and Pentacles

Wands	Fruits of Your Labors, Tools of Your Trade
Ace of Wands	The beginning of great things
Two of Wands	Watching for development, waiting
Three of Wands	Helpful advice through partnership
Four of Wands	Celebration of the good life
Five of Wands	Struggles, scattered forces
Six of Wands	Victory, coming home to success
Seven of Wands	Competing interests, threats
Eight of Wands	Arrows of love, enthusiasm
Nine of Wands	Well prepared to handle adversity
Ten of Wands	Handling a burden, responsible nature, security
Cups	Life, Creativity, Emotions
Ace of Cups	Beginning of love, joy
Two of Cups	Friendship, companions
Three of Cups	Celebration of joy, kindness, success
Four of Cups	Reevaluation, detachment
Five of Cups	Emotional loss, sadness
Six of Cups	Happiness from childhood, memories
Seven of Cups	Fantastic visions, dreaminess, nostalgia
Eight of Cups	Walking away from an attachment
Nine of Cups	Your wishes will be fulfilled
Ten of Cups	Success in family, marriage, love
Swords	Action, Power, Obstacles
Ace of Swords	The beginning of victory, conquest
Two of Swords	Stalemate of plans, indecision
Three of Swords	Heartache, disappointments
Four of Swords	Rest from strife, convalescence
Five of Swords	Disgrace, legal complications
Six of Swords	Leaving sorrows behind, travel
Seven of Swords	Deception, sneaky behavior
Eight of Swords	Fears, restricted action
Nine of Swords	Depression, desperation
Ten of Swords	Cycle of closure, endings

Pentacles	Possessions, Wealth, Security
Ace of Pentacles	The top position
Two of Pentacles	A small profit
Three of Pentacles	Approval for your work, recognition of skill
Four of Pentacles	Firm foundation, stability
Five of Pentacles	Financial or spiritual difficulties
Six of Pentacles	Gifts given, bonus or inheritance
Seven of Pentacles	Speculation or investments, profit
Eight of Pentacles	Focused on work and productivity
Nine of Pentacles	Fulfilled, financially stable life
Ten of Pentacles	Highest attainment of success, good position

“Can I Read My Own Cards?”

Well, of course you can! First, you've got to have a deck of Tarot cards, although you can use a regular deck if you keep the common deck equivalents of the Tarot-deck suits in mind. Most books will tell you that the best way to learn to read Tarot cards is to just do it—and we agree. Practice, practice.

At the same time, though, as with anything that unlocks the unconscious, we also encourage you to get books or take classes from a pro. Otherwise you could easily misuse the cards and draw the wrong conclusions. We do want you to try reading Tarot cards, but we also want you to understand what you're doing!

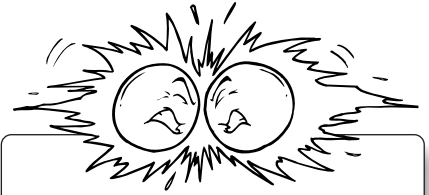
Before you try doing Tarot readings, you should spend some time just looking at the cards and getting to know them—look deeply into their eyes, or whatever it is you do to get to know people. You might want to relate what you see in the cards to things that happen in life so you can get a feel for them. It's usually easier to understand the cards after you've gotten acquainted with them—just as it is with people.

As the students of co-author Lisa know, the word “symbol” can tend to lead you to make reductive analogies: A lake is female; a tower is male, for example. Lisa's students aren't allowed to use the word symbol, in fact. They can only say metaphor, a word that opens up the many possibilities of meaning rather than limiting them. But if you're not familiar with basic symbolism, you need somewhere to begin, and quite a few symbolic systems appear in Tarot cards. Let's start with some basics.

Color Symbolism

Color	Possible Meanings
White	Innocence, purity, faith
Black	Evil, darkness, unknown

Color	Possible Meanings
Red	Passion, aggression, power
Blue	Tranquillity, thoughtfulness, mental abilities
Green	Growth, development, spring
Yellow	Healing, sunniness, optimism
Purple	Intuition, problem-solving ability



Star-Crossed

In Tarot, the Death card doesn't necessarily mean physical death—and neither does the Hanged Man! Death and the Hanged Man may represent just change. They could mean the beginning of a new lifestyle!

Number Symbolism

Number	Possible Meanings
1	God, self, beginnings, solitude
2	Duality, couples, twins, companionship
3	Trinity, three Graces, triangle, pyramid
4	Solid foundations, strength, endurance
5	Midpoint, uncertainty, adventure
6	Harmony, equilibrium, progress
7	Good luck, change, Sabbath, new beginning
8	Progress, achievement, higher development
9	Mysticism, high achievement, idealism
10	Perfection, superiority, the peak

Picture Symbolism

Image	Possible Meanings
Child	Innocence, possibility, hope, playfulness
Mountains	Challenges, high expectations, lofty goals
Water	Intuition, emotions, feelings
Sword	Power, aggression, fighting

Keep in mind that these brief examples are only some of the possible meanings of the cards. Instead of trying to force meaning from the pictures, though, let the cards do

the talking—and see what they have to say. Below, you'll find two simple ways of reading Tarot cards. But there are many more ways you can read them, just as there are many ways of interpreting just what it is the cards are saying.

Simple Reading 1: An Overview of You

Shuffle the deck of cards, and then cut it into three separate piles. We'll use the 10-card layout called the Celtic Method. In this example, imagine that a student of Tarot (the seeker) has asked a question of the cards while she was shuffling. Here's the question, with the cards representing her future answers. (Note that in the Celtic Method, cards can be right side up, or upside down with the figure reversed.)

Question: What can I expect in my career in the next three months?

Now here's our reading of these cards:

1st Card, 4 of Swords: Conditions Around the Seeker

This card indicates renewed activity in the seeker's career. Action will start taking place to direct her toward her career goals within the next three months.

2nd Card, Hierophant: Opposition

The seeker needs to be patient and wait for the conforming influences from the corporation she works for. The 2nd card, or opposition, refers to the traditional structure she now works for. She can't advance too quickly with this particular opposition.

The Celtic Method of Tarot card reading: When you're laying out the cards, place them in one continuous line from card 1 to card 10. We've put the cards in two rows here simply to make the reading fit in the space we have.



3rd Card, The Magician

This card indicates that it's hard to manifest a new direction from the past or that inadequate information was given for career advancement.

4th Card, 5 of Wands: The Past

There were a lot of struggles or opposition in her past, but they're behind her now.

5th Card, 5 of Swords: What Might Happen

Some gossip or difficulties may lie ahead, but the seeker can avoid them by using her intuition.

6th Card, 8 of Pentacles: What Will Occur

There will be delays in attaining the goal within three months, which means it will take more time than the seeker had hoped.

7th Card, Knight of Pentacles: Fears or Attitude

The seeker is fearful of her career not going her way or not sure if extra pay or an increase in pay is on the horizon.

8th Card, 2 of Cups: How Others See the Situation

It is evident that the seeker is getting lots of support and understanding from others.

9th Card, Death: Delays

There will be delays in attaining the goal due to the powers that be, which are either political powers or people in power within the seeker's corporation.

10th Card, Justice: The Outcome

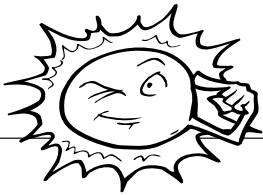
The seeker will eventually be treated fairly and justly and have a career that makes her happy and satisfied and helps her advance forward in her chosen field. Because there are several reversed cards, though, the answer will take longer than three months, but when the change does happen, it will be both positive and balanced.

Simple Reading 2: Ask a Specific Question

For this reading, we laid the cards out as shown in a seven-card spread, and asked the cards the question, "What will be the outcome of the Microsoft Trial?" We performed this reading in May 2000, before the outcome of the trial—how and if Microsoft would be broken up—was known.

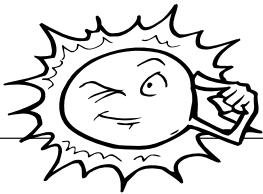
Question: What will be the outcome of the Microsoft trial?

What an interesting story these cards tell! Here's our interpretation.



Heaven Knows

In a seven-card spread, the sixth and seventh cards are read together to determine the final outcome. In this case, we add together the crisis (3 of Swords) with what will come true (the Star) and find a happy ending after a trial of swords.



Heaven Knows

The best readings seem to occur when the reader doesn't worry about what the cards "really mean." The key word here is relax and enjoy yourself.

Ace of Wands. A new beginning will start out of this trial for Microsoft. The Ace of Wands indicates a whole new cycle in Microsoft's life.

8 of Wands. This opposition card shows that the arrows of love will find their mark. The trial will make Microsoft expand their horizons, in a good way, not a bad one. They will be forced to open up in new directions, and to create new goals and innovations.

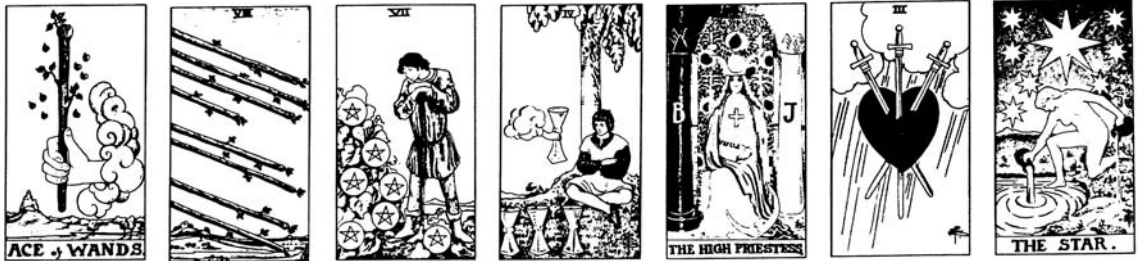
7 of Pentacles. This card shows the present situation. Negotiations will have to be looked at, and there will be speculation, even a stop in the midst of productivity, while the company puts itself on hold, waiting and watching for the outcome of the trial.

4 of Cups. In the present situation, Microsoft has not accepted the offer that was presented to them (the one Cup under the old apple tree). They're sitting on their haunches, waiting and seeing and not making any moves. The 4 of Cups indicates a refusal to make a change—but change they will.

The High Priestess. With the High Priestess in this position, what's been unknown is still unknown. Intuitively, we all know what's going to happen, but Microsoft is acting like it won't—like it's unknown, in other words. If they don't think it, maybe it won't happen, so they're just sitting and waiting—and "wishin' and hopin'."

3 of Swords. This card of the unexpected shows there will be a crisis for Microsoft, a division or separation by 3 (that's the 3 in the 3 of Swords) that will happen. No ifs, ands, or buts here.

The Star. This final outcome card shows that the crisis will ultimately result in something that's good for everyone. The Star is hopeful for the future, so even though the company will be split, it will end up being both positive and hopeful in the end—for both Microsoft and the consumer.



Here's the significance of each card in the seven-card spread:

Card 1. Your home or what is surrounding the question or situation. In this reading, the Ace of Wands.

Card 2. Yourself or the collective thoughts of the group. In this reading, the 8 of Wands.

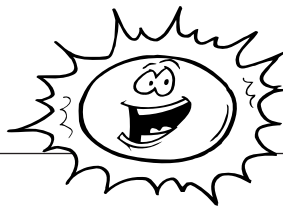
Card 3. Your wish. In this reading, the 7 of Pentacles.

Card 4. What will occur. In this reading, the 4 of Cups.

Card 5. Sudden changes or opposition. In this reading, The High Priestess.

Card 6. What you don't expect. In this reading, the 3 of Swords.

Card 7. What is sure to come true. In this reading, The Star.



StarFacts

Here's a reading method that's even simpler than the preceding simple readings. After you've cut the deck into three equal piles, pick one of the piles. Think of a question that's about something immediate. For example: "How will my day go today?"

Then turn over the next seven cards (in a row). Read each card separately, and then get the collective feeling from all seven cards. See how they read, and test your interpretation by being aware of how the day unfolds and the events that happen in it. Then take notes and check back on your cards to see how close you came!

What You Should Do Now

We'll say it again: Practice, practice, practice! All of the metaphysical mediums, including astrology, Tarot, palmistry, and numerology, take years of patient effort, study, and practice to gain proficiency and accuracy. You'll want to consult Appendix C, "Resources for the Starry-Eyed: If You Want to Find Out More," at the back of this book for a selection of excellent reference books that are wonderful tools for a self-study of Tarot. Read up, reflect, and remember: A picture speaks a thousand words! Enjoy your exploration of Tarot.

The Least You Need to Know

- Tarot and astrology share both symbols and ideas.
- The Major Arcana cards correspond to the signs and the planets.
- The Minor Arcana cards correspond to the qualities and the elements.
- You can read your own Tarot fortune using any one or a combination of several interpretations.



Hand-y Forecasts

In This Chapter

- ▶ The basis of palmistry
- ▶ Palmistry and astrology
- ▶ Geography of the hand
- ▶ What your hand knows about you—and how to get it to talk

Hold your hands out in front of you and take a good look. Then turn them over, palms up. What do you see? If you know the language of palmistry, you can read much of the story of your life there.

As we move and use our hands, the muscles, bones, and nerves of the hands pull and build muscles and tissue in such a unique way that lines, mounds, and shapes appear on the palm and the fingers, revealing both the trauma and the glory of our lives. In this chapter you'll learn a little about the art of palmistry and its reflection of the astrology of your birth chart. Although these are two separate art studies of the character and potentiality of the human personality, their similarities and differences have intrigued the human race for centuries.

If you're interested in learning more about palmistry, we'd recommend *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Palmistry*, by Robin Gile and your co-author, Lisa Lenard.

Palmistry and Astrology

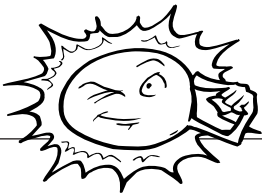
Palmistry is an ancient mystical art that has its roots in many cultures. In the prehistoric caves of France, for example, cavemen left their handprints next to their animal drawings as signatures on their artwork. They had no formal written language, but their handprint was uniquely theirs and distinct from all other hands in their tribe. Often the symbols of the Sun or Moon accompanied these handprints.

In the pyramid crypts of the ancient Pharaohs of Egypt, the Pharaohs' palm prints, as well as their birth charts, were displayed on their tombs. In the text of the Hebrew mystical writings, the Kabbalah, there are references and diagrams of the palms of people and their connections to astrology and the Tree of Life. And, in the Hindu tradition, there has been a correlation of both birth charts and palmistry for forecasting one's destiny for many centuries.

All these ancient traditions connect the format of palmistry to that of astrology.

"It's Just a Hand," You Say? Guess Again

When you turn your palms over and begin to look at the lines on your hands, you're going to notice two things right away. One, there are a lot of lines, and two, the lines on your right hand aren't the same as the lines on your left hand. That's where the saying, "The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing," comes from!



Heaven Knows

There are lines and shapes on our hands when we're born, but these change as we use and work with them, especially if we experience a major change in lifestyle. For example, if we immigrate or divorce or have great career success, the whole format of lines and mounds—and even the shape of our hands—adjusts!

If you're right-handed, your left hand is your unconscious, the recorder of all that has been—or is going to be—that's traumatic and dramatic in your life. More of your future options and possibilities are patterned on the left hand. The right hand is where your present and immediate concerns are displayed most strongly. The past and present are evident here also, but in the context of what's going on in your life now.

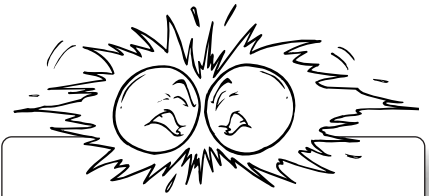
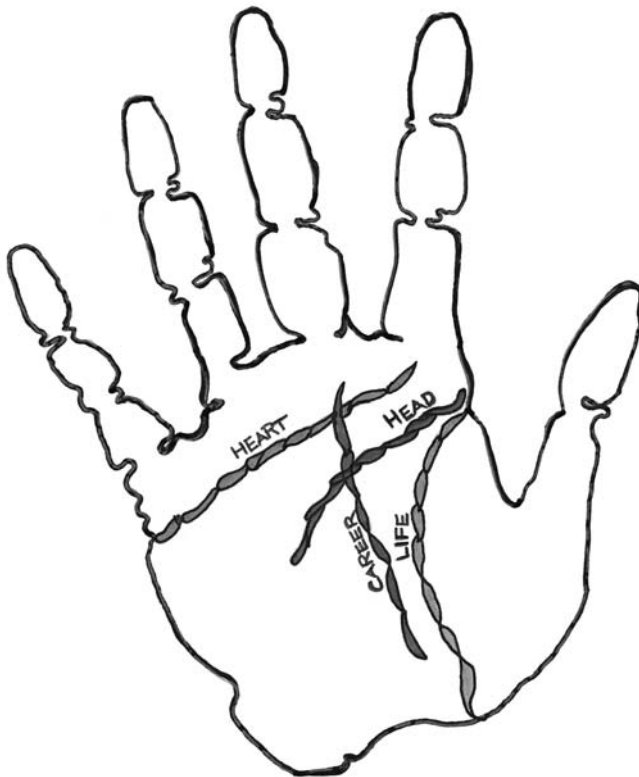
If you're left-handed, the opposite is true: The left hand is the here and now, and the right hand is the unconscious, the recorder of all that has been or is going to be.

The lines and the shape of the hand at birth reflect our true talents and destiny. Line and shape changes that come through experiencing life, with its fear, stress, and worry can make alterations that hinder us from knowing our true path. Sometimes you find yourself conforming to what others demand of you, and your hand will show such submission. When you

take a vacation or even spend a relaxing time in the water, whether it be a bathtub or the ocean, you'll find fewer light lines (that show anxiety) and more flexibility in your hands. This reflects the real you and your true destiny.

Geography of the Hand

The comparison between the two palms and the hands in general is what allows the palmist to predict specific possibilities. This is because your hands change as you create the action and the events of those possibilities. If you're learning and living an expanding lifestyle, with the element of mastery and accomplishment as your lifetime goal, your hands will change subtly within six months to a year after an event has occurred.



Star-Crossed

People who have a closed and fearful resignation to life have fingers that curl into their palms and many lines with unclear paths. Their hands are tight, with little extendability. Those who have an openness and adventuresome acceptance of life have open fingers and palms, with clear lines on flexible hands. So relax those hands—and open your life!

Reading the lines.

On the open palm there are three lines that everyone has and a fourth line that appears on some people denoting a strong commitment to career. The *life line* starts somewhere between the index finger and the thumb and runs around the base of the thumb on the palm. The *head line* starts in the same area as the life line and cuts the palm in half more or less horizontally. The *love line* starts under the index finger usually, extends across the top of the palm just under the fingers, and ends on the curve of the hand under the baby finger. The *career, or destiny, line* divides the hand vertically, starting at the wrist and ending under the longest finger.

The Life Line

You'll recall that in astrology, the Sun ☉ symbolizes the life force, and in palmistry, the area of the hand that's symbolic of this energy is the life line, the line that goes from the upper part of the thumb to the wrist. Markings on this line correlate events and changes in your life. For example, if your life line begins on the inside of the fold of your thumb, you have secrets surrounding your birth. Or, if your life line begins closer to your index finger, you have successful parents who took an active part in their community.

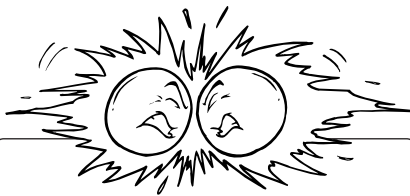
The farther out on the palm away from the thumb base your life line is, the more open your lifestyle and the more you'll travel. The deeper and more pronounced this line is, the healthier you'll be—and the more life experience you'll be open to. In addition, inside of this line is the sensuous mount of the Sun, the surface of the palm that shows the vigor of the physical body. The color, fullness, lines, and texture of this mount are important indicators of your body's vitality.

The Heart Line

How you love is evident in several areas of the palm. Venus ♀ rules the heart line, which is the first more or less horizontal line on the palm underneath the fingers.

The heart line usually starts under the first finger, your index finger, and then runs across the hand to the end at the curve of the palm under the baby finger, your pinky. If the heart line is thick and deep, you love intensely and continuously. But if it's thin and has many little lines coming into it, you love sporadically and have periods where love is lacking in your life.

When the heart line is broken or has many islands on it, you may have heartaches or the possibility of divorce or separation from a loved one. An island is an area on the line where worry or stress lines have disturbed the natural flow of it and small circles appear or the line appears braided with the stress lines folding over on the major line. Note, though, that this



Star-Crossed

If your heart line waves across your hand, it's a sign that you've wavered in your devotion to a loved one, whether in thought or in deed.

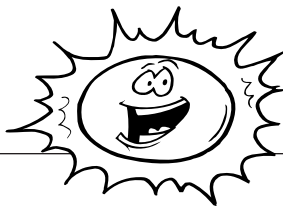
often shows up after the fact rather than before a relationship breaks up, because no one really believes that they're going to be hurt emotionally—and as a human thinks, so the hands reflect the thoughts.

Marriage and affair lines show up above the heart line and below the baby finger at the side of the hand. One line between the crease of the baby finger and the heart line is one marriage, two lines are the possibility of more than one marriage—or it may be that your mind is assuring itself in case of future loneliness. Small lines indicate short attachments. Diagonal lines coming into the marriage line represent daughters, and vertical lines are sons. If your hands are fleshy, with mounds, then you're sensuous and enjoy lovemaking, while if your hands are flat, and the bones felt just below the surface, you're apt to be aloof and cooler in your emotional make-up.

The Head Line

How we think, a Mercury influence ☿, is evident on the head line, which appears exactly in the middle of the palm. The head line usually starts close to the thumb, attached to or near the life line. Some head lines go right across the palm, and this is the sign of an open and inquiring mind—but not necessarily of great intelligence. When the head line is short, the mind is restricted in its outlook on life. This line changes more than any other line on the hand.

Now, if your head line dips to the heel of your hand (in palmistry called the Moon surface of the palm), then you're creative and emotional. If it's straight across the hand to the Plains of Mars, the part of the palm above the Moon surface but below the heart line, then you're logical and intellectually inclined. At any rate, the longer the head line extends into the Moon surface (artistic) or the Plains of Mars (logical), the more you're active in your chosen mental pursuits.



StarFacts

Business executives often have one hand with a logical head line and one hand with an artistic head line. Picasso had this combination—and he was one of the highest-paid artists ever!

Islands appear as a braiding of a line or an overlap of tiny stress lines that form small islands on the major lines such as the head, heart, life, and career lines. Islands on the head line denote periods of mental instability or drug allergies. Breaks usually indicate a total change of belief systems or a crisis time in your life. When the head line is joined at its starting point with the life line, it's a sign that your parents' belief system influenced your mental outlook on life. The farther across the hand the life and head lines are joined, the longer the influence.

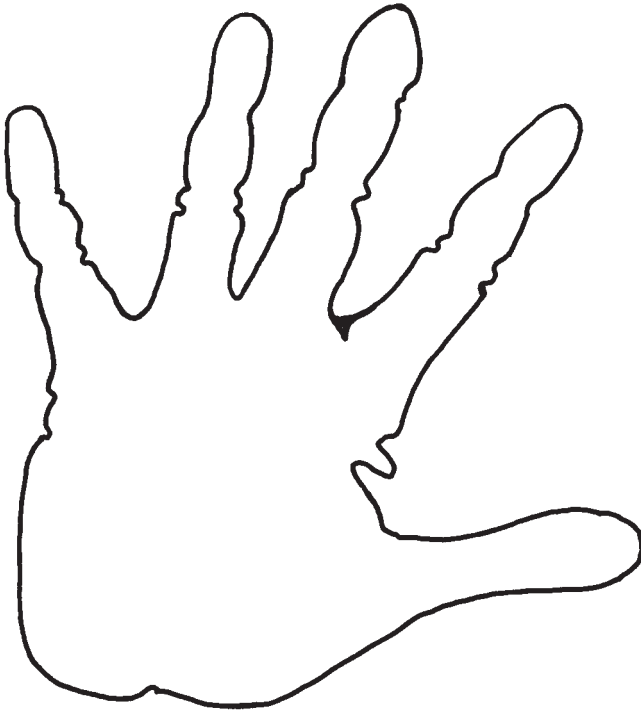
The Shape of the Hands

The four elements so integral to the workings of the astrological birth chart also define the basics of palmistry interpretations. That's right—the four basic shapes of the hand are the earth hand, the water hand, the fire hand, and the air hand.

The square earth hand indicates serenity and a strong need for security and hard work.



The earth hand is square-palmed with short thick fingers and square fingernails, and indicates a strong need for security and hard work. The palm has a tough texture, and the hand is solid and has less flexibility, which suggests the earth-hand person may have learned to defend his or her emotions early in life and has created an inner truth and outer wall of defense. The color of these hands is beige or earth-toned, which denotes a serene personality. In addition, the hand feels warm, which reveals the warm heart that lies behind the outer defenses. The lines are deeply etched into the palm, but there are not very many, which hints at the inner stability of the person.



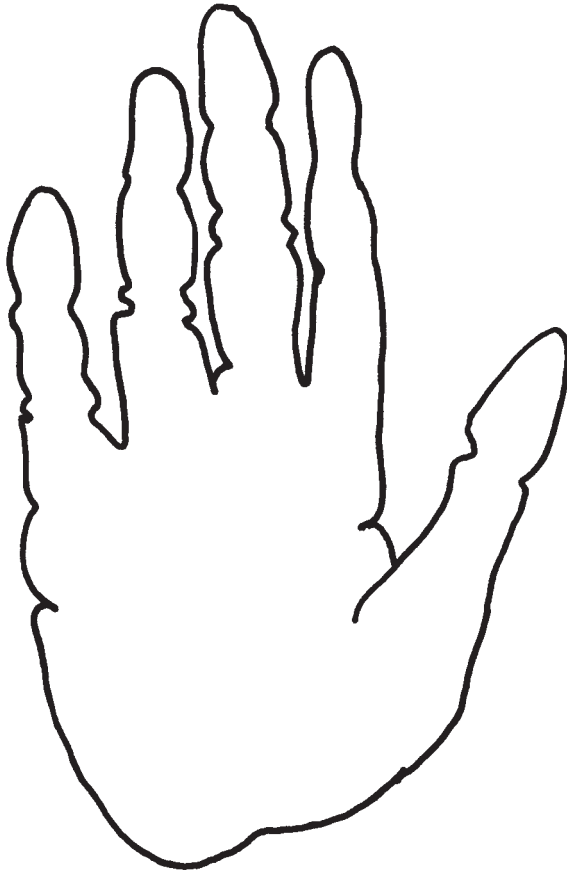
The large water hand indicates flexibility and the ability to cope with the ups and downs of life.

The water hand is noticed immediately by its sheer size. The largest of all the hand shapes, this is the hand of the “feelers,” those who feel their way through life, with emotions and instincts more finely tuned than the average person. The heel of the hand is rounded into the wrist, which suggests that this is an individual who often acts impulsively. The fingers are long and often double-jointed and very flexible, and the fingernails are rounded and have prominent half moons, which indicates that water-hand people have learned to flow with their own and others’ emotions.

The water palm has a soft, pillow-like texture, and the hand, though strong, is the most pliable of all hand types, which hints that the person may have learned to flow with the tensions of life and instinctively found a way to create an inner peace and an outer humor to deal with tribulations of life.

This is a white hand with blue veins showing through the fleshy skin of the cool, sometimes damp palm and indicates the passions that lie beneath the calm exterior. Clarity is a quest for people with such hands—not only for themselves, but for all humankind. The lines are many and meander over the whole hand. Usually, the heart line and the life line are stronger than the head line, but the head line may have many branches, denoting the versatility of attitudes and lifestyles such individuals will experience in their lifetimes.

The small, flame-shaped fire hand indicates drive and commitment.

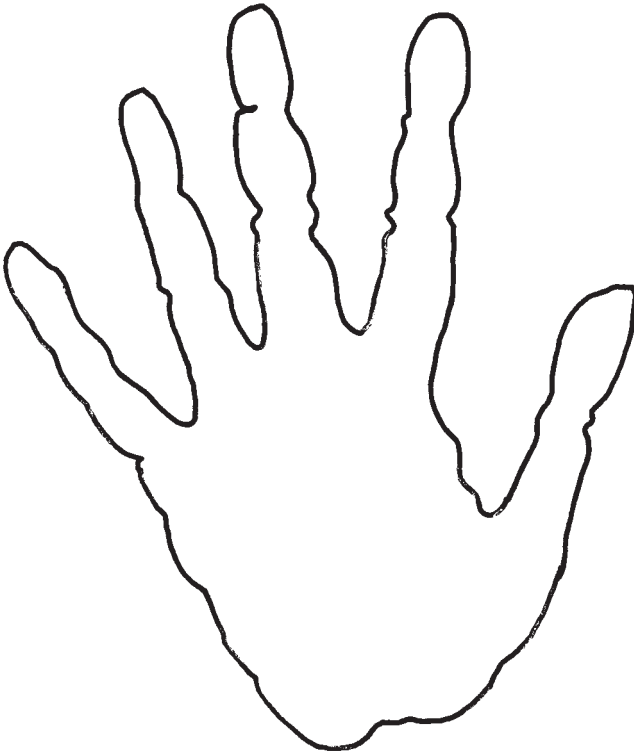


The smallest of the hand shapes, the fire hand is flame-shaped. These people have big ideas and a creative outlook. The palm is oval-shaped, with the heel of the hand sliding into the wrist, and the fingers, although short, are thin and pointed at their tips.

As in the water hand, fire-hand people are noted for their impulsive natures—not because of their deep-felt emotions but rather because of their driving need for action. If these people have found their obsession in life and are creating or working in it, the fire hand will have flexibility. If, however, compulsions have taken over, the hand will be stiff.

This is a hard hand to manipulate unless the person gives you permission to move it, so strong is the will of the fire person. The fingernails are pointed and often manicured, which denotes the need for looking good to the world at large. The color of the hand is pink or red-tinged, and the hand feels hot, revealing the passions that lie beneath the bubbling, outgoing personality. The lines are deeply etched and have many branches, denoting the desires for experience and change. Yet such change must be as the fire person wills it to happen and not because life just happens to go that way.

The long, narrow air hand indicates creativity and intellect.

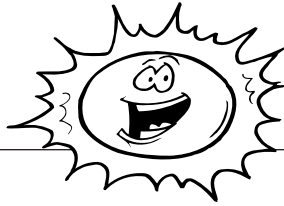


The air hand, the longest and narrowest of all the hands, is the hand of the innovative genius. The thin hand allows the bone structure to be evident in the overall look of the hand and especially noticed in the fingers, which are long, with the skin drawn tightly over each knuckle. The fingers are pointed and have almond-shaped, blue-tinged nails with tiny half-moons showing, which suggests a deep intellect that drives the personality to delve deep into the mysteries of life. The palm has almost no division from the wrist and has a soft, silky texture.

The air hand is easily moved, and the joints are firmly felt, which suggests that air-hand people are quick and decisive. Their mental quickness allows them to take action more quickly than those with other hand types and sometimes earns them the mistaken label of impulsive.

The color of the palm is pale, with an underlay of veins and arteries that shows up like spider webbing underneath the skin of the cool, dry palm. This indicates a person who has found intellectual solutions to life's problems—and who is willing to share these insights.

The lines are lightly traced on the hand and many offshoots and squiggles denote that there's an analytical cast to the personality. The air-hand person must learn to bring together the mental and emotional planes in order to find lasting happiness in life.



StarFacts

Just as there aren't only simple Sun sign interpretations in astrology, there are more than just simple hand-shape meanings in palmistry. We're all a combination of two or more of the archetypes of earth, air, fire, and water. For instance, if you're a Libra with the Moon in Virgo and a Scorpio ascendant, you may have the square palm of the Virgo (earth) and the prominent bone structure and long fingers of the Libra (air), with the large water hand of the Scorpio ascendant. And your right hand may have a slight variation from your left, according to which element is more prominently used from your birth chart at this time of your life.

The Thumb and Fingers

Each finger of the hand has a different planet characterizing the energy of your life that it rules. The thumb represents your Mars power ♂, and it has to do with the actions of your life and your sexual energy. The index finger—the second finger on your hand—has to do with destiny and is ruled by Jupiter. Saturn is represented on your hand by the longest finger, or third finger, and this relates to your authority and power expression. The ring finger is connected to Venus and shows your need to express and receive love and to earn financial security. Your pinkie, or little finger, is a reflection of your thinking processes and is ruled by Mercury.

If one of these planets has a prominent position in your birth chart, then that finger may have special markings or you may choose to wear rings on that finger. If you feel strongly connected to your destiny, and the planet Jupiter is placed in your birth chart on the ascendant or conjunct your Sun, you may wear a blue sapphire on your index finger. This may be an unconscious realization of the birth chart.

Thumb

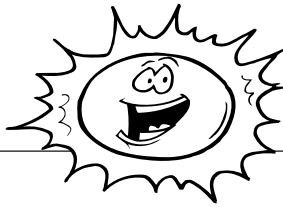
If your thumb can be extended at least 90 degrees from the hand, then you're open-minded and aboveboard in your actions. But if your thumb is held anywhere from a 20- to 10-degree angle, you're probably uptight and habitual in your actions. In addition, if the top or tip of your thumb is wider and larger than its base, there's an intense level of anger and frustration indicated. When the thumb pad slopes back to your fingernail, though, there's an artistic flair and a love of beauty and harmony. If your thumb bends back from the middle knuckle, it's a sign of stubbornness—and

the more the bend, the more set in your ways you are. But if your thumb is straight from the first joint to the tip, you're more straightforward. And the more flexible and easily movable your thumb is, the more active and decisive you are.

Accidents to the thumb usually happen in fits of frustration or anger. Scars or markings on the thumb emphasize that the actions taken at the time of their appearance are turning points in your life. Any injuries to the thumb—including something as simple as a broken nail or a hangnail—in fact, are indications that your actions need careful consideration!

Index Finger

The index finger, or finger number two, is Jupiter-ruled (Υ) and is called the Jupiter, or destiny, finger in palmistry. If your index finger bends in toward the rest of the fingers, you have a tendency to conform; if it bends out and away from the other fingers, it's a sign of originality and an independent nature.



StarFacts

In palmistry, if your index, or Jupiter/destiny, finger is larger and longer than any of your other fingers, then you have the ability to become a ruler in your country. This finger is also called the Napoleon finger, because Napoleon had a long index finger.

Accidents to the index finger indicate disappointment with your choices in life, or a wake-up call to make decisions. A wart or the sudden appearance of markings on your index finger means a challenge to your lifestyle, a reminder that all life is subject to change.

Middle Finger

The middle, or Saturn, finger is Saturn-ruled (♄) and is the finger of authority. Most teachers, policemen, and all people in authoritative roles in life usually have well-developed middle fingers. Scars, warts, or injuries to this finger are a sign that there's an upset with those who have authority, or that you're not using your own power to assume authority over your own life.

This finger can also represent the father energy in your life, and if it's been injured, it may indicate that your relationship with your father concept needs to be adjusted. If you realize your limitations in life and have constructed a beneficial structure to your lifestyle, this finger will be injury-free and well-placed in the hand.

Ring Finger

The ring finger is Venus-ruled (♀) and is the finger of love, creativity, and money. If this finger has marks or injuries on it, it indicates a concern or change about love and/or money. It's interesting to note that this is the finger that customarily wears the wedding ring. Perhaps people do marry for love and money!

Now, an interesting insight into relationships is shown by the latter two fingers. If the middle, or Saturn, finger, representing the male energy of the relationship, is bowed in toward the ring finger, it means that the man is dependent on the woman in the relationship. But if the ring finger, representing the female energy of the relationship is bowed in toward the middle finger, it means that the woman is dependent on the man in the relationship.

If, when the hand is relaxed, the two fingers lie touching each other for their full extension, it indicates that the two persons in the relationship are in love, share the same interests, and have a meeting of minds. When the two fingers are touching at the bottom of the fingers close to the hand, and then have a space between them, then the couple, while in love, has different interests and doesn't have a meeting of minds.

If the fingers lie close together except at the tips, the couple love each other, share interests but do not communicate verbally. If the fingers touch at the base and at the tips but not in the middle, the couple are lovers and communicate, but don't share the same interests. Note that all these apply only when the hand and fingers are at rest, not when you're consciously trying to make the fingers touch.

Baby Finger

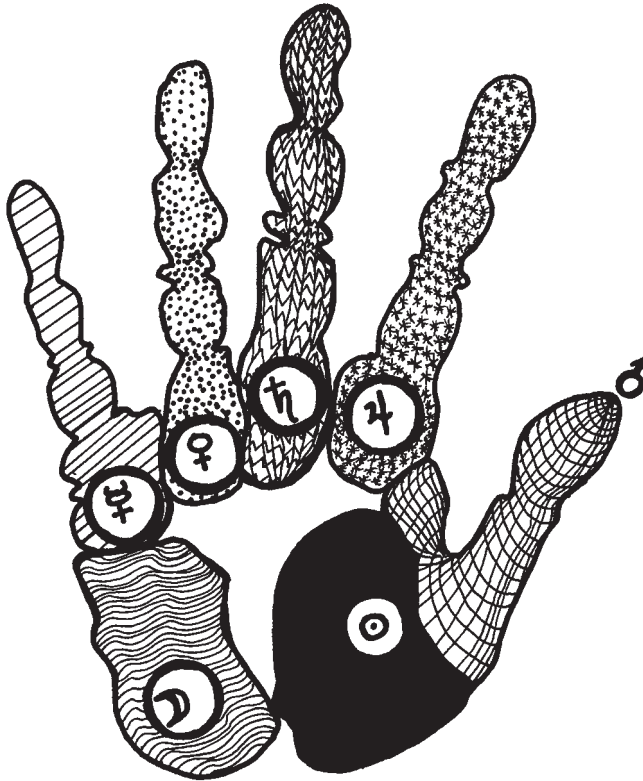
The baby finger, or pinky, is Mercury-ruled (☿) and reflects your mental state. If there are injuries, scars, or warts on your baby finger, you may have been mentally upset, frustrated, confused, or depressed when the injury occurred. However, when you're learning, using your creative abilities, or expounding on ideas, whether in a teaching or business environment, your baby finger is straighter and extends a distance away from the rest of the fingers when the hand is relaxed. This extension of the baby finger is a sign of a high level of intelligence and originality.

When your baby finger is close to your hand, you have a tendency to conform to society's accepted ways of thinking. When your hand is palm down and relaxed, and your fingers are spread out, you're independent and a non-conformist. If, when the palm is down and relaxed, the fingers are close and the baby and the index fingers curve in, you're concerned with conforming and having status in your society.

What Your Hand Knows About You— and How to Make It Talk

When you look at your palms, you're going to see that in between the lines and where the thumb and fingers join the palm, there are hills and valleys. Just like the terrain of a planet has names, palmistry has astrological topographical names to delineate the mounds as separate areas of the hand.

The topography of the hand.



The Success Story

Starting at the top of the hand under the index finger, you'll find the Jupiter ♃ mound. The larger this area is in both size and height, the more social and exuberant you are. In addition, when your life line or head line begins here, you hold an important and influential role in life. If your heart line starts on this mound, you're famous for your creative talents. Any lines extending up to this mound from the life line, head line, or heart line are a sign of success in your chosen field, while scars, marks, or light lines on this Jupiter surface all have to do with social accomplishment.

When this mound is indented, you turn inward for success and seek a greater truth than what the world has to offer. If this surface is flat and has no markings, you're quite happy to live quietly, with success a private pleasure rather than a social one. The Ring of Solomon, found on the Jupiter mound, is a line that is a half circle around the base of the index finger. This line means that you have wisdom that you share with others.

The mound of Jupiter represents what you accomplish in this world that leaves a lasting impression on society. Here is where *who* you are becomes *what* you are.

The Mentor or the Boss

The Saturn ♄ mound, under the middle finger, is related to authority, power, and teaching ability. The larger and higher the mound is, the more you're involved with administering to society. If your heart line starts here, you come to love later in life. When lines from the head line or life line come to this mound, it signifies that you've reached a new level of authority or power in your life.

The destiny, or career, line that can vertically cut the hand in two usually ends on the mound of Saturn, although it can begin anywhere on the edge of the palm next to the wrist, and this line and mound have a lot in common. Both are trademarks of a success in society that has to do with academic or business interests rather than talent or artistry.

When there are scars or markings or light lines here, you're having difficulties with your own grasp of authority or with the power that society is using in your personal life. An indentation here means you seek an inward authority.

If the mound of Saturn is flat, you're unconcerned with power and seek only to live on equal status with your peers. You've opted out of the hierarchical struggle so prevalent in our society.

The Saturn mound is the area on the palm that expresses how hard you labor for status and power. This is where you take your inner vision and manifest it in the physical world, giving order and justice to the world outside of yourself.

Money and Love

The Venus ♀ mound is under the ring, or Venus, finger on your palm. If the mound is large and high on your hand, you have both talent and the passion to succeed with it. Usually, you're an artist, whether the world grants you success or not. When you're looking for money you'll find it on this mound, too, and usually the lines are deep but short here. The short, deep lines are your money lines: One line is one income, and several deep lines are several different ways you earn a living. If money is extremely important to you, or you're very worried about money for a length of time, this line can become a deep crevice on the mound of Venus.

These money lines are different on your left and right hands. In addition, the present financial situation usually is expressed on your right hand, and the future on your left. If you're left-handed, change this around, and if you're ambidextrous, go to a good palmist!

Longer lines coming up from the base of the hand close to the wrist are called Venus, or talent, lines and are usually on the hands of those who make their living using their talents, such as film people, media, sports figures, musicians, artists, and writers.

If your mound is flat, it's an indication that you're not artistically inclined nor concerned about materialistic matters. If your Venus mound is indented, you may be inclined to seek creativity inwardly, and your values are the virtues of spirituality rather than the virtues of materialism. Scars or marks on this mound indicate that you worry about your ability to create or earn a living.

The mound of Venus is how we creatively use our divine life spark in exchange for worldly rewards.

Learning to Live with Others

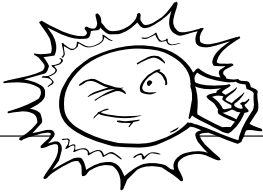
The mound of Mercury ☿, under your baby finger, is large and high when you're in a career or mindset that serves and cares for your fellow human beings. If you spend your life communicating with others, you'll usually have the Mercury mound raised and prominent on your palm. This mound can expand or contract in life passages more than any other surface of the hand.

Four lines on this mound are indications of a vocation in the healing arts. If your Mercury mound is predominant on the palm, it suggests a versatile mind that enjoys talking and listening to others. Scars or marks on this mound express the stress of dealing with the general public, or it can be that at the time of the appearance of the mark or scar, you were undergoing a great deal of mental anxiety. If your mound is flat, then you're not interested in serving your fellow humans and have a different life path instead. But if your mound is indented, then you're more reclusive and turn inward for communications with yourself and/or the divine.

The mound of Mercury reflects how you interconnect with and serve our society.

Weird and Wonderful

The Moon ☾ surface, also known as the heel of the hand, is at the base of your palm next to your wrist and opposite your thumb, and slopes gradually into your wrist. When your Moon area is large and high, then you're emotional, sensuous, psychic, and energetically creative. If, however, there are short, deep lines on this mound, you may be living too much in a fantasy world instead of in reality.



Heaven Knows

If there are scars or marks on your Moon mound, you may have experienced a fearful event. It's possible that at the time the mark appeared, there was anxiety over life choices—or a genuine fear of the future.

Long lines starting on this mound and extending up and across the palm to the index or middle finger are an indication of resourceful psychic and/or spiritual interests that have been of use in your day-to-day life. And lines extending out from the lifeline into the Lunar surface are signs of travel or adventure. If the head line extends deep into your Moon mound, you must use your creative talents to express yourself or you may find yourself moody and irritable.

If you're a pragmatic realist, you'll have a flat Moon-mound surface, while if the mound is indented, you're experiencing life more inwardly than others. This latter is the Aquarian genius or inventor who lives in society and yet apart. The Moon surface is where the human goes beyond culture and worldly bonds. This is where you experience visions and fantasies. However, you may spend a lifetime trying to explain your insights to the rest of the human race.

This is also the Mound of Dreams—the Moon can take you beyond your everyday reality to the home of your soul and back again in the quickness of a dream-filled, moonlit night.

Ahh—Where Life Begins

The Sun ☉ mound of the palm is that area inside your life line below the thumb. This surface is surrounded on one side by the life line, recording and predicating the life, and on the other side by the actions of your life, signified by the thumb. In Hindu palmistry, the horizontal lines on this surface are considered former lives that influence this life, and if the horizontal lines cross over the life line, there's freedom to use the talents of that former life and to release old karmic debts left over from that lifetime.

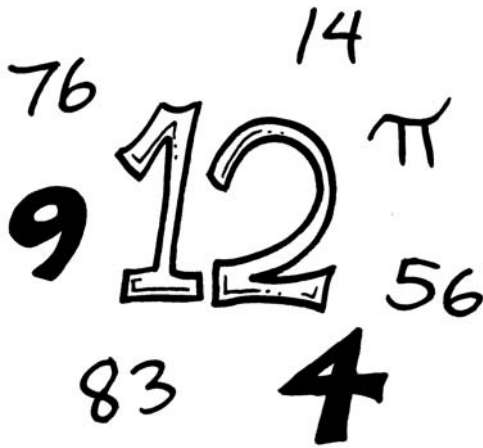
The larger and higher this mound, the more vitality and vigor your personality and body have. The life line and the head line start at the top of this mound close to base of the thumb. If you have family secrets, your life line and the head line start inside the fold of the thumb. If the line starts upward toward the index finger, you have a clearer grasp of your childhood and parental structure.

This is one of the changing areas of the hand, for as the adult releases childhood anxiety, the lines will modify to reflect it. This mound also is significant in your enjoyment of the pleasures of life. If the Sun mound is prominent, then you have a lusty appetite for sex, food, and luxuries, while if the mound is flat, you're contained, reserved, and very moderate in your enjoyment of life's pleasures. If the mound is indented, you've chosen to live a reclusive, austere, celibate lifestyle.

The Sun mound is the joy of life, the record of how you dance the dance of your life. All your life—and the fire energy that you put into it—is recorded on your palm, here in your flesh for you to see. Open your hands and you open the book of your evolution of life!

The Least You Need to Know

- ▶ Your left hand (if you're right-handed) shows your life's record—past, present, and future.
- ▶ Your right hand (if you're right-handed) shows your present concerns.
- ▶ Your life line defines your life force.
- ▶ Your heart line shows how you love.
- ▶ Your head line reveals the nature of your mind.
- ▶ The shape of your hand shows your personal style.
- ▶ Your fingers, with their planetary correlations, show how you behave.
- ▶ The mounds reveal the areas of influence at work in your life.



Please Take a Number

In This Chapter

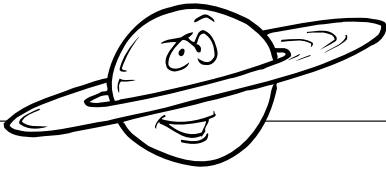
- ▶ Numerology and astrology
- ▶ You can do more with numbers than just count
- ▶ What are your numbers? (and do they add up?)
- ▶ Pulling it all together

If you've been avoiding numerology because of those negative math-class memories, think again. In numerology, there are no equations to memorize, no theorems to apply, and no final exams—there are just the numbers themselves—and what they reveal about you. Numerology, as you'll discover in this chapter, is user-friendly!

Numerology and Astrology: Maps for Life

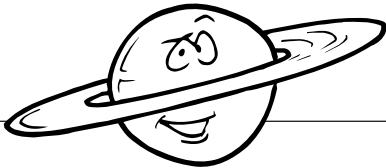
Numerology and astrology are connected in a number of ways. First of all, numerologists and astrologers have observed the energies of the planets and numbers and the way these energies are manifested in people's behavior.

Numerologists have assigned meaning to the numbers just as astrologers have assigned meaning to the signs. When we look at these numbers we'll see that they make astrological sense as well.



AstroLingo

Numerology is the study of the meanings of numbers, especially as they relate to one's birth date and birth name.



AstroLingo

Your **birth path number** represents your life path and your unique, innate talents, and shows how you can use these abilities on the road of life.

Your **name number** (or destiny number) represents your purpose in life, your calling, and your mission.

Similarly, if you take the simple numbers that numerology uses and begin to rearrange them in different ways, you'll soon notice that the possible combinations are quite literally astronomical. Your numerological profile reflects a unique combination of numbers, just like your astrological chart, and the result is yet another map of your life.

If you're interested in learning more about numerology, we'd suggest *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Numerology*, written by Kay Lagerquist, who co-wrote this chapter, and Lisa Lenard, who co-wrote this book.

It's in the Numbers

There are two numbers that are considered your numerological foundation, your *birth path number* (also called your life path or birthday numbers) and your *birth name number* (destiny). Besides your destiny number, your birth name is composed of several secondary numbers, which are also important keys to who you are. (We'll talk about them in a minute.)

Your Birthday Numbers

Your birthday numbers are composed of the month, day, and year you were born, a single number called your birth path number. This number is the life path or path of opportunity you have come to take. It gives you insight into how to fulfill your purpose in life.

In numerology, every number is reduced to a single digit (Numerology Rule #1). So, to find your birth path number, you'll add all the numbers of your birth-

day together. That is, you add the month, day, and year together to find the single birth path number (including the "19" if your year of birth is 1944, or the "20" in the year 2000).

Lisa was born on June 23, 1952, so her calculation looks like this:

Month	+ Day	+ Year	= Birth Path Number
June	+ 23	+ 1952	
6	+ 5	+ 8	= 19
			19 = 1 + 9 = 1

So Lisa's birth path number—her unique talents and opportunities on the road of life—is a 1. (Did you remember Rule #1? Add the number 19 together until it reduces to a single number, in this case, 1.)

What does that mean? Hang on, we'll get to that in a minute. First, let's talk about your other main number, your name number.

What's in a Name?

Your name, or destiny number, represents your purpose in life. The destiny number is the sum total of your complete name at birth. Because every number is reduced to a single digit (the exceptions are the *master numbers* 11, 22, and 33—but we'll get to those in a minute, too), if the combination of the letters of your name (including your middle name) adds up to 24, you will add the numbers together (2 + 4), to find 6 as the total. This means that 6 would be your name number. Got it? If not, don't panic, there's more help on the way.

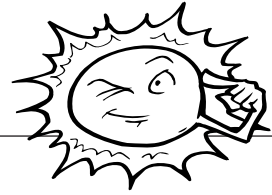
The following table shows you the individual number assigned to each letter of the alphabet. Just add up each of the numbers for the letters of your whole name, one at a time, like we'll show you below.

Alphabet Numbers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

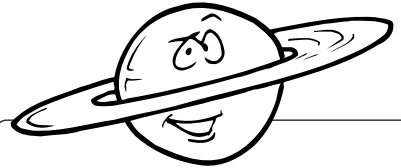
About the "Y"

The "y" can be a vowel or consonant when figuring the name, or destiny, number. It's tricky, but go slowly, you'll get it. When the "y" is the only vowel sound in the name it is used as a vowel: as in "Lynn." When the "y" is a silent sound, it is a consonant, as in "Kay." But, when the "y" makes an "e" sound, it is a vowel, as in "Sandy."



Heaven Knows

Numerology Rule #1: Numbers are added together to reduce to one number. For example, if you have a 12, you'll add 1 + 2, to get the single number of 3.



AstroLingo

The **master numbers**—11, 22, 33, 44, and so on—indicate giftedness and leadership. There are special qualities assigned to each of them.

It's in the Numbers, Again

Let's go back to Lisa again for an example of how to figure your name, or destiny, number. Even though Lisa's never before revealed her middle name to the world, for the sake of numerological science, Lisa will now do so.

First, using the table above, Lisa assigned each letter of her name a number.

L I S A	H O N E Y C A K E	L E N A R D
3 9 1 1	8 6 5 5 7 3 1 2 5	3 5 5 1 9 4
3+9+1+1	8+6+5+5+7+3+1+2+5	3+5+5+1+9+4
(14)	(42)	(27)

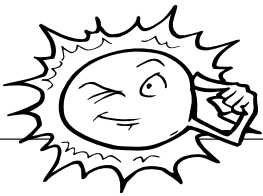
$$14 + 42 + 27 = 83$$

$$8 + 3 = 11$$

11 = Name Number or Destiny Number

So, Lisa's name is an 11, one of the master numbers. And this brings us to Numerology Rule #2.

According to the symbology of numbers, the number 11 indicates imagination, inspiration, and possible genius. The 2 ($1 + 1 = 2$) indicates a sensitive nature and a peacemaker. So, Lisa's 11/2 name number indicates a possible genius who is going to excel at negotiating peaceful agreements.



Heaven Knows

Numerology Rule #2: *Do not reduce master numbers.* The master numbers 11, 22, 33, and so on are not reduced to single digits because they have special significance. It is thought that those with master numbers are reincarnated souls who have volunteered to come back to help the human race evolve.

You Can Do More with Numbers Than Just Count

Now we get to the fun part: What do all these numbers mean? Because there are hundreds of books—with thousands of pages—discussing the meanings of each number, you should realize that we can only give you a brief overview here. If it piques your attention, we suggest you get to a bookstore to find out more (and we'll even recommend a book or two later!).

The Numbers and the Signs: 1 Through 9

The meaning of numbers and their corresponding astrological signs form an insightful partnership. Although few authors agree on which number belongs

to which planet or sign, we have decided to give a brief look at the qualities of each number and the similar qualities in astrological signs. The numerology sign is not meant to equal the astrological sign; rather, the astrological sign helps us recognize the qualities the numbers described. But enough explaining. Here's our rendition.

Number 1

Number 1 is independent, pioneering, and headstrong and rules beginnings: It is the Aries energy. A number 1 person has a purpose, wants results, and is impatient to get on with it. Number 1s meet challenges with courage and self-reliance and often have strong opinions. They are determined initiative takers. In fact, if you're around a 1, you might just have to get out of the way: Number 1s like to have their own way!

Number 2

Number 2 is the symbol of relationships, unity, diplomacy, and a love of peace. Number 2s want harmony at all costs. They are sensitive and in need of balancing the opposites in their life. They're arbitrators and pleasers—diplomatic, modest, and considerate. The number 2 is the energy of Libra.

Number 3

Expressive number 3 is full of humor, talent, creativity, enthusiasm, and vivaciousness—the joybringer. Number 3s thrive on creative expression, drama, writing, and speaking. They rule words and expression and are often writers, actors, and public speakers. Threes have great ability to influence others with their words, expressiveness, warmth, and outgoing style. A 3's enthusiasm for life attracts friends and happiness. Number 3 shares qualities with two signs—can you guess which?—Leo and Sagittarius.

Number 4

The number 4 person requires stability and security. It is the number of the foundation builder, the hard worker. The number 4 is about putting down roots—life is serious, after all, and must have order. Hard work, family roots, the home, and health are all in the domain of 4s, who follow the rules, are good managers, and are always economical: Waste is *verboden*. We cast the 4 as Taurus energy.

Number 5

Magnetic, energetic, and restless, number 5 lives for change and to be free. These people are curious, adventurous, and interested in metaphysics and progressive thinking. This Gemini energy is always looking for ways to be unrestricted and free from routine. Number 5s are curious about the latest information, good at sales, and promote themselves and others easily. Flexibility and adaptability make them easy travelers.

Number 6

Number 6 is about responsibility, duty, and protection of the family. It is the number of the nurturer, and family and home are central in 6s' lives. They love to beautify things—the home, the office, the yard, the kids. Six is the number of the heart: Romance, marriage, divorce, and love—deep love, not the flirtatious-fling type—are all ruled by the number 6. A 6 is a natural teacher and counselor, and this nurturing number belongs to the Cancer soul.

Number 7

Analytical and private, number 7 needs silence and solitude. This mystical number is introspective in nature and is usually involved in the search for wisdom, seeking scientific investigation or pursuing sacred patterns. Number 7s specialize in some area and are often sought after for their wisdom. They are unusual, even eccentric, and sometimes loners; they love the soulfulness of nature. Seven is considered a spiritual number and is sometimes called the Christ consciousness number. We assign the blended qualities of analytical Virgo and mystical Pisces to number 7.

Number 8

Number 8 is about ambition, money, business, and achievement. It is the number of the CEO, the expert, the authority. The number 8 is the number of power, especially personal power, and learning to be authentic. Excellent organizers and visionary business managers, 8s are usually the boss—or need to be. They deal with the material world, acquiring money, investing, and using this success to serve a higher purpose. They are in charge of society's structures and are learning to use power responsibly. The number 8 belongs to Capricorn.

Number 9

Nine is the number of endings, finishing, and completion. It is the end of a cycle and considered the last number in numerology (1 to 9). The number 9 has the properties of all the numbers inherent in its power. It is intuitive, emotional, capable of deep empathy, and has come to learn compassion. Number 9s must learn to feel deep concern while remaining detached. This number also is associated with the ability to rise from the ashes of despair and begin again.

Nine rules transformation, global concern, and universal love, as well as the arts and a desire to achieve brotherly (and sisterly) love. If 9s pursue a life of personal gain, there will tend to be losses and heartaches until they enlarge their sphere and begin working for the good of others. Then great rewards are theirs in both love and wealth. Number 9 is the energy of the Scorpio.

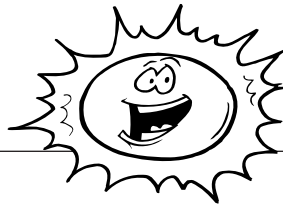
The Master Numbers

The most commonly seen master numbers at this time are 11, 22, and 33.

Number 11

Number 11 people are here to inspire and help others achieve a higher purpose. They are meant to shed light on others' troubles, to illuminate wherever there is darkness. Number 11s are very intuitive, often psychic. Idealists at heart, these spiritual visionaries seek universal truth so that they might teach these truths to others. They also seek the spotlight, for as leaders and teachers they need to give speeches or be on a platform where they can inspire others.

Being high-strung, fanatical, and in love with ideals more than people, 11s do have their weaker points, but regardless of their faults, they are insightful and shine with star qualities. The 11 is the energy of the Sagittarius.



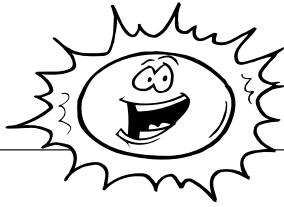
StarFacts

Numerologists have actually determined meanings for the numbers 1 through 99, with special significance given to master numbers. The symbolism of numbers was developed and explored in the time of ancient Greece, by Plato, Pythagoras (actually thought to be the father of mathematics *and* numerology), the Hebrews, the Gnostics, the Kabbalists, and the Egyptians. The symbology of numbers is like astrology in that it is meant to reflect universal truths about the nature of mankind.

Number 22

Number 22 is the master builder. Twenty-twos have an innate ability to see the whole picture in all its parts and know the steps for implementing large-scale plans. They are drawn to working at the corporate level or on projects that will influence the masses. They are intuitive visionaries who take creative ideas and put them into material form.

Twenty-two is the number of the manifestor who builds things that will better the planet. Innovation mixed with practicality and spiced with spiritual wisdom is the 22's M.O. This master number is a leader with far-reaching influence. The futuristic vision of Aquarius is shared with the groundedness of Earth, and together these two energies (remember, Aquarius is ruled by both Uranus and Saturn) exemplify the essence of the number 22.



StarFacts

There are special qualities assigned to each master number. Number 11 is the number of the idealist, the inspirational leader who will uplift others. Number 22 is the master builder, the manifestor, the master planner. And number 33 is the master of healing energies, the teacher of teachers.

While we may think it sounds great to have a master number, people with such a number have a special burden. Many think that those with master numbers are tested in life in order to demonstrate their mastery. No wonder life is so hard sometimes—it's a test!

Number 33

Thirty-three is the number of the master of healing energies. This energy is that of unconditional love, the love vibration raised to the highest level. Number 33 requires self-sacrifice and will be called to become a master of emotions. There is a sensitivity to the suffering of people with this number and through their profound love for people, they will teach others. Like all the master numbers, 33 is a leader, and this number inspires others to have compassion for all, thereby manifesting healing of the planet. Pisces represents the essence of the master number 33.

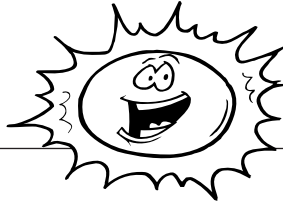
What Are Your Numbers (and Do They Add Up)?

There are five important numbers in numerology. All of them come from your birth name and your birthday. These five important numbers are ...

- Your destiny
- Your heart's desire
- Your personality
- Your life path
- Your power number

Now remember, your birthday numbers and your name number each reveal different things about you: Your birth path, or birthday, numbers represent your life path, and your name number represents your destiny. These are the numbers to which you should pay the most attention.

There are secondary numbers that can reveal insightful information about you, too. But first, let's take a look at these five important numerological numbers and relate them to Lisa's numbers.



StarFacts

In addition to determining personal numbers, numerologists also study the numbers of places, events, names of countries, and even houses. Your address has a number that can indicate the qualities and energy of your house. For instance, if your house address is 2959 it adds up to a 7 ($2 + 9 + 5 + 9 = 25 = 2 + 5 = 7$). This 7 house represents a place where people come to rest, retreat, and rejuvenate. People who live in a 7 house will want privacy, quiet, and solitude. This would not be a house for parties or families, but one for research, study, and reflection.

Your Destiny, or Name, Number

The first important number we have already discussed. Your destiny, or name, number shows your mission in life, what you came here to do. This is your purpose and the arena of work that will bring you to what you were destined to be. Your birth path, or life path, number indicates the tools and unique gifts you have that will help you achieve your destiny. The destiny number is determined by adding up the digits for all the letters of your name. (Refer to "What's in a Name?" section earlier in this chapter for more information.)

Lisa's destiny number is 11. The 11 tells us that Lisa's purpose in life is to lead and uplift others. She is destined to be a truth seeker, an idealist who brings "light" to a situation. Her 11 destiny suggests she will be outstanding in some way with this master number. Way to go, Lisa!

Your Heart's Desire

Another important number you will want to know is your heart's desire number, which indicates your secret ambitions. This number is also called the soul number and will tell you about what you need to feel fulfilled on a spiritual level.

To find the heart's desire number, you work from your birth name again. But this time, it's the vowels in your name that tell the secret. Add the vowel numbers together from your whole name until you have one single number (remember—master numbers are not reduced). A master number at the soul level has special significance.

Let's look at Lisa's numbers again. Adding her vowels together, we get a 6, and that tells us that her secret ambition and heart's desire are to be nurturing, responsible, and family oriented (just like a Cancer!).

In order to find out *your* secret ambitions, it might help here to summarize each type, so we've provided an easy reference table for each number.

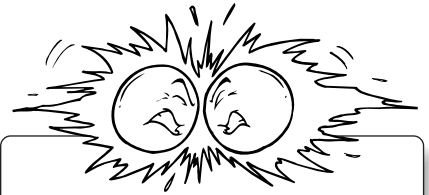
What's in Those Numbers?

Number	Sign	Traits
1	Aries	Independent, pioneering spirit, leader, strong-willed; wants to do it his or her own way
2	Libra	Wants harmony, to merge, to be sensitive, diplomatic, a peacemaker at any cost
3	Leo/ Sagittarius	Loves creativity, positive, optimistic, enthusiastic; wants to express happiness
4	Taurus	Wants the practical, down-to-earth, permanence; loves to build security
5	Gemini	Loves variety; wants freedom, change, and to be up on latest trends; curious, progressive
6	Cancer	Wants to be the heart of the family, nurturing, loving; wants to beautify and be of service
7	Virgo/ Pisces	Loves analyzing, solitude, scientific research; seeks wisdom and the spiritual; requires privacy; wants to investigate mysteries
8	Capricorn	Ambitious, business-minded; wants to be the boss and the moneymaker; wants success and recognition
9	Scorpio	Emotional, intuitive, transformative, artistic, deep, spiritual; dreams of the ideal and healing
11	Sagittarius	Inspirational leader, truth seeker, visionary, intuitive; wants to uplift and inspire
22	Aquarius/ Earth	Visionary manifestor; brings spiritual into material; wants to improve things
33	Pisces	Visionary healer, loving, self-sacrificing; wants to heal through love

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Your Personality Number

Numerologists believe that if you add the numbers for the consonants of your name together, the resulting number reveals your personality. Because Lisa's consonants add up to 5, we can tell that Lisa has a youthful, magnetic personality. Of course, you may also remember that your ascendant reveals your personality as well. So you might think of the personality as the mask you wear in public—or the cloak you put on and go out into the world with—while inside that cloak is your heart's desire.



Star-Crossed

It's easy to make mistakes when adding all those numbers. Double-check your addition—you don't want to think you're a 4 when you are a 5!

Your Life Path, or Birth Path, Number

We have worked with this number before. Remember, the life path, or birth path, number is one of the two main foundations for numerology. This number (the sum of the month, day, and year you were born) indicates what inherent talents and gifts you've got to make your way in the world.

It shows where you'll find your opportunities to fulfill your purpose. If you wish to make this lifetime count, pay attention to your life path number.

Lisa's life path number is a 1. She's a natural leader, takes initiative, and is determined. She'll find opportunity when she is self-reliant, goes after it, and takes the independent path in life.

Your Power Number

The last of the five important numerological numbers is your power number. This number is called by many names by various authors, including the reality number, the maturity number, the true self number, and the ultimate goal number.

Regardless of its name, this number governs the second half of your life and is fully operating for you whenever you're in harmony with your soul, destiny, personality, and life path numbers. Think of it as a kind of integration—when you're living in wholeness and balance, you are in your power, and your power number points the way to wholeness.

The power number is found by adding together your two foundation numbers: the birth path number and your name number. Going back then, our gal Lisa has a 1 birth path number and an 11 name number. Adding them together, we get 12, and then adding them again, we arrive at the single digit 3. So Lisa's power number is a 3, which means that she's in her power when she is creative, expressive, writing, and enthusiastic.

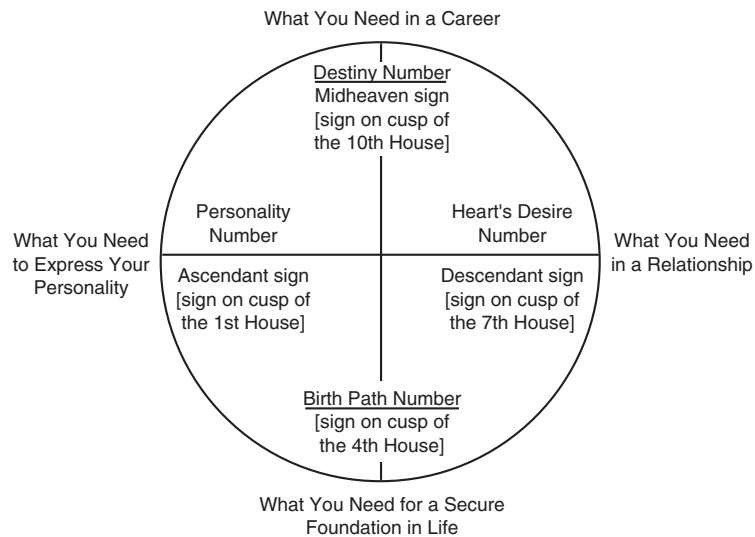
Pulling It All Together

Numerology and astrology give us insight into the mystery of who we are and what our purpose might be. Here's a chart that pulls it all together.

Assign your numbers and signs to each of these areas. As you work with this chart, there's a very important point to keep in mind: You're not trying to get your astrological sign to match your number, you're using one to give insight about the other.

Now let's see what's revealed.

The four basic needs chart.



Career Needs

Lisa's destiny number (the full name number) is an 11. Her midheaven sign (on the cusp of the tenth house) is Aries. So to discover what she needs in a career, we must look at the meaning of the number 11—and at the meaning of the sign Aries. Lisa needs to inspire others and help them find a higher sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. That's the 11 energy. She also needs to have a career that lets her be independent and innovative and enables her to get results. That's the Aries energy. You can see that it's the combined information of the sign and the number that gives us true insight into Lisa's need in a career choice.

Foundation Needs

What is it that gives you a sense of security? A home, family, money, property, friends, or a particular attitude? Each of us has unique and different needs. Your sign and number indicate your basic need for security, which is the foundation for your life. This is found in your birth path, or life path, number and the sign on the cusp of the Fourth House.

Again, from Lisa's chart we know she has a 1 birth path number. Her security is found in being independent, assertive, and courageous (all 1 qualities), yet she also needs Libra energy. She needs partnership, cooperation, and fairness to feel secure in her life. Quite a trick to get independence and partnership at the same time, but this is her basic security need. This is the foundation for her life.

Relationship Needs

Relationships are complex and often confusing. Here's a clue to making your relationships work for you. The heart's desire number (the vowels in your name) tell what is the very least that you must have in a relationship or partnership. Your descending sign (on the cusp of the Seventh House) describes qualities you seek in others to have a good relationship.

Lisa has a 6 heart's desire number. In her heart of hearts she wants and needs a deeply caring, romantic relationship and a marriage based on love and family. Her descending sign is Aquarius, which tells us that Lisa needs an unconventional partnership that gives her freedom and independence. Needless to say, she will need a nontraditional and understanding partner.

Personality Needs

Your personality number (the consonants in your name) tells how others see you—what it's like to meet you, how you come across in the social world. The personality number correlates to your ascendant sign in astrology. Remember, the ascendant, or rising, sign is the one on the first-house cusp.

Lisa has a personality number 5 and a rising sign of Leo. If we were to meet her, she would strike us as enthusiastic, on the move (the 5), warm, generous, and loving (Leo energy). Lisa, then, according to our chart, will need situations where there is room for her dynamic personality. She needs to be allowed to fully express her zest for life.

Your Power Center

In an astrological chart there's nothing placed in the center, yet there is a center-force energy there. In numerology, we place the power number at the center as the number of integration and wholeness—the driving force.

What's Lisa's driving force? Her power number is 3. With a 3 at the center we begin to see that creativity and enthusiasm are her power tools. When Lisa is in her power she will be expressive, creative, and bring a happy spirit to her work, relationships, home, and to others. She will be able to fully express her power when she lives her life honoring her destiny, heart's desire, birth path, and personality numbers.

As you can see, numerology, like astrology, is an ancient system for divining knowledge about your own mystery. It is a guide—and heaven knows in this hurry-up, do-more, be-more life, it helps to have a map!

If you want to learn more about this fascinating field, be sure to check out Appendix C, "Resources for the Starry-Eyed: If You Want to Find Out More," in the back of this book for good books on numerology.

The Least You Need to Know

- Your birth path number reveals the road you will travel in this life.
- Your destiny is revealed in your complete name at birth.
- Your secret ambitions are revealed by the vowels in your name.
- Your personality is found in your name's consonants.
- Your power number is the sum of your birth path number and your name number.



In Tune with Your Cycles: Psychic Intuition and Astrology

In This Chapter

- ▶ How's your psychic intuition?
- ▶ Astrology and shamanism
- ▶ Every Chiron tells a story
- ▶ Psychic signs: your intuitive advantage

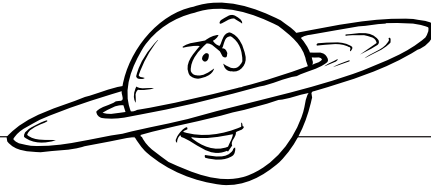
Like all esoteric arts, astrology acknowledges the influence of psychic intuition in our everyday lives. But did you know that your Sun sign has its own particular intuitive advantage? Or that astrology and the ancient/modern art of shamanism are closely connected?

In this chapter, we'll show you how to be in tune with your cycles, by using your own psychic intuition. But first, let's find out what you already know.

You Know What You Know, Even If You Don't Know It

There's a big difference between what you *think* and what you *know*. Knowing originates in the "gut" rather than the "mind," and trusting what you know means understanding your intuitive nudges.

We've all had those moments of "knowing," whether *precognition*, *premonition*, *déjà vu*, *second sight* or *telepathy*, or just a plain *hunch*. Each of these "senses" is actually an intuitive sense: *extrasensory perception*, or what some call the *sixth sense*.



AstroLingo

Precognition is a foreknowledge or awareness of a future event before it occurs. A **premonition** is a precognitive sense of danger or forewarning of an unfortunate future event. **Déjà vu**, French for "already seen," is an event that feels so familiar that it seems you have experienced it before. **Second sight** is the ability to see future events. **Telepathy** is the communication of thoughts, images, or feelings between minds, without the use of the five "ordinary" senses. A **hunch** is an unexplained sense of a future event or outcome. **Extra-sensory perception, ESP**, or the **sixth sense** is the perception of thoughts, situations, or issues without using one of the five "ordinary" senses.

Most people think of a psychic as someone who sits behind a crystal ball and can read their every thought. This scary—and misconceived—notion couldn't be further from the truth because the truth is that we're all psychic. How psychic are you? Here's a little quiz for you to find out.

How Psychic Are You?

Chances are, you've had one or more of the following experiences at one time or another. To find your psychic quotient, answer each question (honestly, now) "Yes" or "No."

1. Have you ever known the phone was going to ring before it did—and who was going to be at the other end before you picked it up (call waiting does not count here)?
2. Have you ever been in "the right place at the right time" or met just the right person at just the right moment?
3. Have you ever bought a gift for someone that turned out to be "perfect," even though the person had never mentioned it to you before?
4. Have you ever dreamed about a place you've never been that was nonetheless familiar?

5. Have you ever discovered that a real place that you'd dreamed of was just as you dreamed it?
6. Have you ever taken an immediate like or dislike to someone?
7. Have you ever had a hunch about something coming up in your life?
8. Have you ever sensed what someone else was feeling?
9. Did you ever know what was going to happen before anyone else did?
10. Have you ever had a physical sensation when you sensed that you were making a bad decision?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, you’re already psychic. If you answered “Yes” to quite a few of them, you probably know that already. But all humans have psychic ability, and even if you didn’t answer any of these questions “Yes,” you can learn to develop yours.

Getting Intuitive

Entire books have been written about developing your psychic abilities (including our favorite, *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Being Psychic*, by Lynn A. Robinson and LaVonne Carlson-Finnerty), so we can’t teach you all there is in one brief section. Still, we can start you on your way, by suggesting an exercise to get you in touch with your psychic self—right this minute. This meditation comes from *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to New Millennium Predictions*, which, by the way, offers solid introductions to each of the esoteric arts in addition to a glimpse into the future.

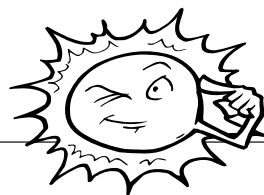
Intuitive Insight Exercise

Keep a pen and paper handy while you do this exercise, so you can jot down some “intuitive notes.” Note that you may want to do this exercise with a partner, or use a tape recorder to record it and then play it back to yourself—whenever you want.

Close your eyes and take a deep breath and then exhale. As you do, say to yourself the word “relax.”

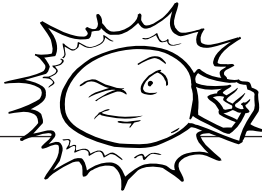
Visualize a Sun over your head, glowing radiant and warm.

Imagine the light from the Sun flowing through your body, filling your head, flowing down through your neck, across your shoulders, down your arms, thorough your hands, and into your fingers. The light fills your chest, back, belly, and hips, and flows down into your legs, feet, and toes.



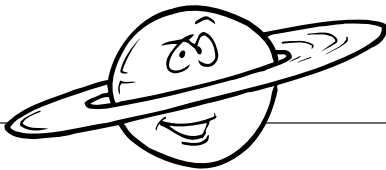
Heaven Knows

Pay attention to any cues from your intuition. Is there an image that leaps to mind, or an inner voice encouraging a shift in perception? Perhaps you feel a surge of pleasure about a change that you’re considering. All these impressions are ways that your intuition gives you messages.



Heaven Knows

Your intuition continually gives you messages through feelings, an inner voice, a nudge, a body sensation, and countless other ways. It's easy to discount these impressions as you rush about in your daily life, so it's important to remember that it takes just a moment to slow down and check in with this valuable resource called intuition.



AstroLingo

Shamanism is the belief that a tribe's priests, or shamans, are in touch with, and can help others get in touch with, the spirit world.

Imagine the light is bathing every cell of your body with healing and calming energy. The light also brings knowledge and wisdom.

Now, visualize the light flowing down through your physical body and out around your body, into your aura. Feel it soothing and relaxing you.

In this calm and relaxed state of mind, ask your intuition a question. Then pause for a moment and pay attention to any thoughts, feelings, words, or body sensations that you may experience.

Write down your impressions on the paper you placed next to you before you began.

What information did you receive? Consider these ideas to be intuitive advice that offers you options for the future.

Are you willing to act on this information? If so, what steps can you take—starting today? Sometimes, intuitive answers don't come immediately. You may find that an answer will pop into your mind when you awaken in the morning, or later the same day.

Astrology and intuition go hand in hand, and one of the best ways to explore their synergy is by exploring the connection between astrology and shamanism.

Astrology and Shamanism

Shamanism is an ancient practice of using intuition to heal, and *Chiron* ♁, an asteroid located between Saturn and Uranus that follows the same orbital plane as the planets, is named after a mythical centaur who was a gifted warrior, teacher, and shamanic healer.

Astrologically, the asteroid Chiron is considered to be a symbolic shaman and wounded healer, and many astrologers study Chiron's cycles to note both universal and personal healing patterns. Chiron's cycles with Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are of particular interest because, as you'll recall from Chapter 22, "Using Astrology to Map Your Life," these are slower-moving planets and so form aspects with longer and stronger impacts.

When astrologers look at Chiron cycles, they're using an ancient art with a modern twist. The asteroid Chiron is a recent discovery, and adding it to the astrological dance provides new insight into global affairs. Each Chiron cycle with an outer planet invites us to make symbolic shifts of consciousness.

Ancient Art Meets Modern Mastery

Let's add a few more symbolic characters to our shamanic mix:

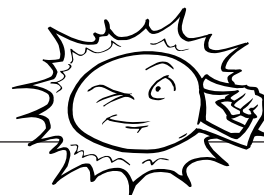
- Uranus, the Revolutionary
- Neptune, the Mystic
- Pluto, the Transformer

Each of these planetary pairs has a cycle of its own, each of which invites a symbolic shift of consciousness. Let's look at some of the most recent cycles for each of these pairs.

A **Chiron-Uranus** cycle invites a dialogue between the Shaman and the Revolutionary. The current Chiron-Uranus cycle began in 1898, when Chiron joined Uranus in the sign of Sagittarius. This beginning beckons us to open to radical new ways in order to shift our consciousness about the nature of reality, and so heal old wounds.

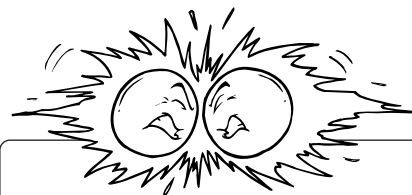
A **Chiron-Neptune** cycle tracks the dance between the Shaman and the Mystic. The current Chiron-Neptune cycle began in August 1945, when Chiron was conjunct Neptune in Libra. That conjunction began the process of healing unfair religious and spiritual beliefs, as well as on traditional marriages and partnerships.

A **Chiron-Pluto** cycle promises that when the Shaman meets the Transformer we will use our power wisely by cleaning up hidden manipulative patterns. The cycle before the current one began in July 1941, with a conjunction in the sign of Leo.



Heaven Knows

You can find the asteroid Chiron on your astrological chart. Its symbol is ♁. Like the planets and Nodes, Chiron can be found in a sign and house, and aspects other planets as well.



Star-Crossed

The wounded side of Pluto is the vengeful destroyer, and it was in 1941 that Hitler's army invaded Russia, Italy and Germany invaded Egypt, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the U.S. entered World War II. A meeting of these two is always explosive, but this conjunction was unusually so, because it was in Leo.

We recently began a new Chiron-Pluto cycle in Sagittarius on December 30, 1999. This cycle promises that the meeting of the Shaman and Transformer will seek out new truths and greater understanding (Sagittarius). In this cycle, we'll examine the wounds inflicted by our dogmatic belief systems, and begin to heal them as well.

Heal Thyself

Finding Chiron in your own chart is like finding a personal invitation to heal your wounds. Take a moment to locate your Chiron now.

Just as Chiron is the symbolic shaman, each sign has a symbolic role as well. By locating your Chiron, you've taken the first step toward healing yourself. In the chart below, we've provided both the psychic wound and the healing potential for Chiron in each sign.

Chiron Sign	Psychic Wound	Healed By
Chiron in Aries	impatience	patience
Chiron in Taurus	doubt	understanding
Chiron in Gemini	self-distrust	wisdom
Chiron in Cancer	indifference	gentleness
Chiron in Leo	over-enthusiasm	tolerance
Chiron in Virgo	servility	strength
Chiron in Libra	indecision	steadfastness
Chiron in Scorpio	possessiveness	selfless love
Chiron in Sagittarius	restlessness	inner peace
Chiron in Capricorn	fear	courage
Chiron in Aquarius	aloofness	sharing
Chiron in Pisces	paranoia	self-transcendence

Did your Chiron negative side sound familiar? Lisa found her Chiron in Sagittarius, and restlessness is definitely a signpost in her life. Lately, though, she has found some inner peace. By knowing what heals the negative side revealed by your Chiron, you can begin your own healing process, too.

Psychic Signs: Your Intuitive Advantage

Your psychic sign can be found in your lunar placement, because the intuitive Moon knows much that's hidden from ordinary view. You can think of your psychic sign as your intuitive signature, the natural way to approach your own, very special sixth sense. So, what's your Moon sign? You can find your intuitive advantage in the following sections.

Moon in Aries: Born Leader

With an Aries Moon, you feel with your head, and this is a good intuitive advantage to have. Occasionally, though, it's hard for you to remember that you've got a right brain to go with your left brain. You can't always push ahead on *chutzpah* alone; sometimes, you've got to consult the direct line to your instinct as well.

Moon in Taurus: Born Content

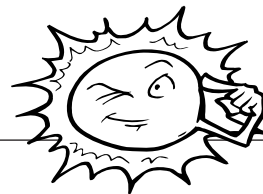
Your Taurus Moon means you feel with your senses, so you have an innate trust of what you sense as well. Because you're so down to earth, however, you may forget about that sixth sense occasionally. Remember that your artistic nature makes you naturally intuitive, and make the most of it.

Moon in Gemini: Born Talking

Inquisitive by nature, you're a natural when it comes to analyzing your feelings—and everyone else's. You're at home in the world of mental stimulation, so don't forget that some of the most exciting mental stimulation can come from sources other than the "ordinary" five senses. Pay attention to that inner voice just as you pay attention to the outer ones.

Moon in Cancer: Born Sensing

Intuition is at home in the Moon's home sign, and with a Cancer Moon, you're sure to have a storehouse of impressions that you've received in both ordinary and extraordinary ways. Here in Cancer, feeling and feelings are the Moon's middle name, and no one goes on gut instinct more often.



Heaven Knows

With a Cancer Moon, you need to be aware that sometimes your imaginings are so vivid that they can pass for intuitive nudges, but once you've learned to feel the difference, your intuition will be your lifelong partner.

Moon in Leo: Born Smiling

With your big-hearted and outgoing Leo Moon, turning inward isn't always part of the picture, but even as social a Moon as Leo has an intuitive edge. The secret here is to really pay attention to what your heart is saying. Sometimes it's the quiet little voices that have the most to say—including your inner one.

Moon in Virgo: Born Logical

A logical Virgo Moon may seem at odds with the "illogic" of intuition, but in truth, this is a very intuitive placement. With a Virgo Moon, you want to get to the bottom of everything, and sometimes intuition is the most efficient means to that end, as

you well “know.” Trusting your logical gut instinct is second nature to a Virgo Moon, especially when it makes “extra” sense.

Moon in Libra: Born Balancing

Your Libra Moon gives you a strong sense of how others feel, and you intuitively know what will work and what won't. Your natural sense of balance and harmony also means you can “sense” when things (and people) work well together—and when they don't. A natural in the intuitive realm of grace and beauty, creating the right balance is your natural realm.

Moon in Scorpio: Born Powerful

Intensity is at the heart of a Scorpio Moon, and with this placement, your intuition is especially strong. Scorpio Moons must be careful to not misuse their natural intuitive advantage, just because it's so natural to them. With a Scorpio Moon, intuition and feeling go hand-in-hand, and you can use your intuitive advantage to find your soul-mate. Be careful not to mistake your imaginings for intuition, however.

Moon in Sagittarius: Born Free

You're a natural at expecting the unexpected, and your intuitive edge is your sense of adventure and excitement. Not only do you *think* the grass is greener on the other side, you *know* it is, and your intuition can help you experience life to the fullest. A Sagittarius Moon is alive with the sense of discovery, and your intuitive sense can add flavor to the fire.

Moon in Capricorn: Born Responsible

Discipline and determination are your bywords if you've got a Capricorn Moon, but this doesn't mean you're without an intuitive advantage. A Capricorn Moon needs to be needed, and you can intuitively sense when those you can help are within your realm of responsibility. You may not be big on emotional fireworks, but you “know” a good match when you feel one.

Moon in Aquarius: Born to the Beat of a Different Drum

An Aquarius Moon can make you so independent that your intuition is your own best friend, in every sense of the word. Because you're often off exploring on your own, you have to trust your gut instincts every step of the way, and your intuitive sense may be finely tuned to both danger and delightful difference. A progressive thinker like you takes your intuition for granted, as you “know” already.

Moon in Pisces: Born Psychic

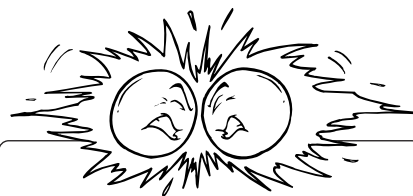
The Pisces Moon is sometimes called the Psychic Moon, so it's no surprise that with this Moon placement, intuition is as much a part of you as your own face in the mirror. Like the other water signs, Cancer and Scorpio, Pisces must be careful not to let its imagination disguise itself as intuition, but intuitive nudges are truly at home in dreams, which is in turn the most comfortable realm for this most compassionate of Moon signs.

Flavors of the Day: Every Day Tells a Story

In the next chapter, we'll be discussing the cycles of the Moon. In every 29½ day Moon cycle, the Moon passes through each of the signs of the zodiac, and, depending on what your Moon sign is, you intuitively "feel" the energy signature of the Moon change as it does so.

We like to think of the way a day feels as that particular day's flavor. A day in an Aries Moon will feel like a good day to start things, for example, while a day in a Pisces Moon will feel like a good day to imagine them.

Armed with a Moon sign calendar, you can know the feel of a day without an intuitive nudge. But why not see if your intuition "tells" you what sign the Moon is in on any given day? Here's a key to the Flavors of the Day, by the Moon signs.



Star-Crossed

You'll note that the feeling of any given day has both a positive aspect and a negative one. It's up to you to use the day's flavor to its best.

Moon in	Flavors of the Day
Aries	beginnings/pushiness
Taurus	steady course/getting bogged down
Gemini	communication/lack of listening
Cancer	sensitivity/moodiness
Leo	exuberance/boisterousness
Virgo	organization/nitpicking
Libra	equilibrium/indecision
Scorpio	power/possessiveness
Sagittarius	enjoyment/restlessness
Capricorn	control/challenges
Aquarius	independence/detachment
Pisces	dreaminess/over-imagination

As you've probably intuited by now, this chapter is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what your psychic intuition can tell you. We hope we've piqued your interest enough that you'll want to find out more. You may even find that you already "know" it!

The Least You Need to Know

- Everyone is psychic—including you.
- Getting intuitive is as simple as meditating on a question—and "knowing" the answer.
- Astrology and shamanism have ancient roots and modern applications.
- Your Chiron placement tells a story of where you are wounded and how you can heal.
- You can use your psychic sign to find your intuitive advantage.
- Every day is flavored by the sign the Moon is in that day.

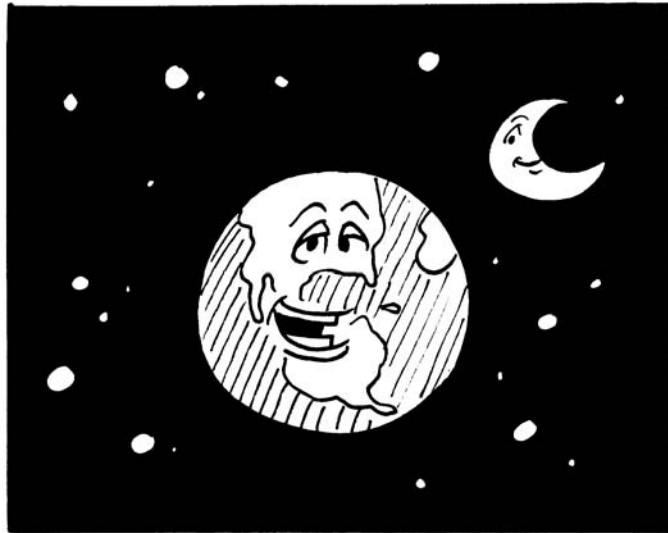
Part 6

Astrology's Spin on the Globe

Astrological gardening? Astrological business decisions? You bet! You can use astrology to plan your whole life—and you'll benefit in the process.

You probably already know that the Moon and the tides are connected, but in this section, we're going to look at how your ups and downs are connected to the phases of the Moon as surely as the tides.

Astrology is connected with everything in your everyday life—as you'll soon find out.





Moon Phases: Our Unconscious Collective Mood Monitor

In This Chapter

- ▶ What are moon phases?
- ▶ The tides affect us all
- ▶ Our monthly highs and lows
- ▶ How do moon phases affect the way we do things?

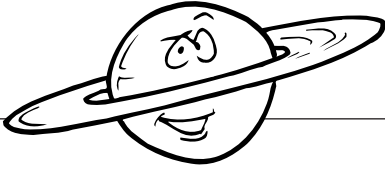
Chances are you're already aware of the Moon's *phases*, even if you've never paid them much attention. In its 29½-day cycle, the Moon moves through four major phases: the New Moon ●, the First Quarter Moon ○, the Full Moon ○, and the Last Quarter Moon ○.

In this chapter, we'll explore just how the Moon affects everything and everyone here on Earth.

What Are Moon Phases?

How much of the Moon is illuminated—and therefore, what phase we see—depends upon its angle to the Sun. The Moon begins waxing, or growing in light, at the New Moon until it's a Full Moon. Then the Moon begins to wane, or decrease in light, at the Full Moon until the next New Moon.

Here on Earth, we see these changes in the Moon's appearance. As it moves through these *phases*, the Moon is moving through the signs as well, spending about two and a half days in each sign.

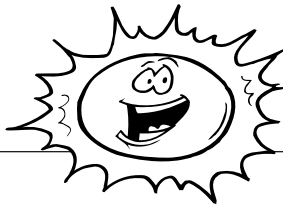


AstroLingo

Moon phases are the names for the eight parts of the Moon's 29½-day cycle. They are: the New Moon, Crescent Moon, First Quarter Moon, Gibbous Moon, Full Moon, Disseminating Moon, Last Quarter Moon, and the Balsamic Moon.

The Moon travels about one degree every two hours—sometimes faster or slower—which translates into crossing a sign about every 60 hours. And, as you may recall from Chapter 10, “When the Moon Is in the Seventh House,” the Moon’s energies are manifested differently in each of the signs.

Then there’s a *void-of-course* Moon, one that has made its last major aspect to other planets until it moves into the next sign. This is a period when it’s best not to begin things: Purchases can turn out to be mistakes or bad investments, decisions can be the wrong ones, and new starts or actions taken tend to come to nothing. While you can’t always delay decisions, it’s best to be aware of these periods in order to avoid what could be costly mistakes.



StarFacts

The 29½-day cycle of the Moon—from New Moon to New Moon—is how we got our month. And Monday is named for the Moon, too!

In and Out with the Tide

The Moon affects all liquids on Earth, from the tides to our bodily fluids. The Moon’s cycles were originally noted in ancient times, in fact, precisely because their effect on everything from the tides, to growing things, to human nature, was quite apparent.

Tidal charts help fishermen and marine biologists follow the rhythm of the tides and of marine life. And they can help us determine the general mood of humanity as well. One of the three primary *biorhythmic cycles*, in fact, is the lunar cycle, which measures your natural emotional cycle.

The oceans’ tides are directly affected by the position of the Moon. When the Moon’s at its highest point (about once a day), the tides at that point—and at the point on Earth exactly opposite it—are at their highest. When the Moon is at its exact opposite point, the tides are at their lowest. So each day there are two high tides and two low tides.

We humans tend to retain more water during the Full Moon each month, and because the skull can't really expand when its fluid pressure increases, we sometimes see the excess water there manifested in "Full Moon Madness." Hospitals have also noted there's more likelihood of hemorrhage during a Full Moon—again, due to an increase in fluid. And it's been proven that more bleeding occurs with surgeries performed during a Full Moon as well.

Lunar cycles—and the Moon's sign—also affect the best times to plant, water, weed, and harvest. We'll be discussing these more extensively in the next chapter.

Everybody Feels the Pull

Thousands of years of lunar observation and recording of that data have indicated the same results over and over: begin in a New Moon; nurture in a First Quarter (Wax) Moon; harvest in a Full Moon; review in a Third Quarter (Wane) Moon. Many proverbs also allude to this idea:

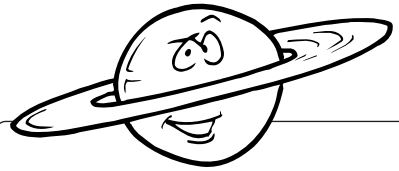
Tell your troubles to the Waning Moon
And they'll be gone in the morning
Tell your wishes to the Waxing Moon
And they'll be there when day is dawning.

You "feel" the pull of the Moon just as the tides do, and your *lunar high*, or personal new Moon, occurs when the Moon is in the same sign as your natal Sun sign. So if your Sun sign is Gemini, you're going to feel your best when the Moon is in Gemini. This is a good time for you to start new projects, and you will feel your best, both emotionally and intellectually.

Your *lunar low* occurs when the Moon is in the sign opposite your natal Sun. In the example above, Gemini's opposing sign is Sagittarius. During your lunar low, it's best not to make any decisions, and you may run into obstacles in projects already begun.

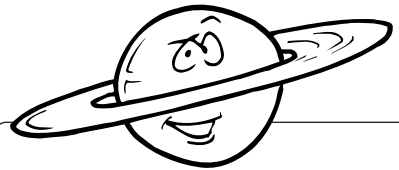
How Moon Phases Affect the Way We Do Things

Understanding the Moon's phases and their effect on our daily lives can help us work with these energies rather than against them. Let's take a walk through each to see exactly what this means.



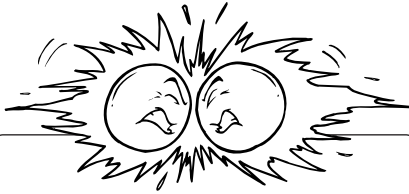
AstroLingo

When the Moon is **void of course**, its energy is spent, and this is a time of gestation, research, or rest. Either nothing will come of decisions made during this time, or there will be unexpected problems that can prevent a successful completion.



AstroLingo

Biorhythmic cycles measure the cyclical changes inside your body, using your birth date as a starting point. The three major biorhythms are the 23-day physical cycle, the 29-day emotional cycle, and the 33-day intellectual cycle.



Star-Crossed

Hitler's nonaggression pact with Russia and the Vietnam Peace Accord are two examples of treaties signed during a void-of-course Moon. These Moon periods are associated with nothing coming of events, decisions, or agreements made during them. In the case of Hitler and Russia, we all know how that ended up: war. Hitler never intended to keep the agreement.

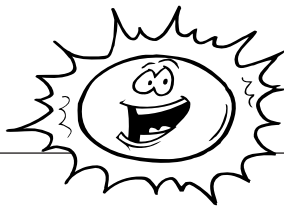
● A New Moon begins in darkness and will slowly emerge as a crescent that appears to us like the curve of the letter D. This is the Moon that is full of possibilities, the Moon of beginnings, as well as a period when people have a natural urge to start something.

○ The First Quarter, or waxing, Moon, is also known as the Half Moon and appears to us as a filled-in D. This is the Moon that will see projects through, the Moon of action and independence. It also can bring external challenges to light, and in fact, the astrological definition of a First Quarter Moon is "crisis in action." It's typically a period when a lot is happening—and when there's often a crisis or challenge associated with whatever was started at the time of the New Moon.

○ The Moon is always exactly opposite the Sun when it is Full, and it's at this point that activities are brought to fruition, like a blossoming flower—whatever was being developed comes to light at this time. Everything's visible during a Full Moon, when it truly has become a "full circle."

○ The Third Quarter Moon looks like a filled-in C, and is the midpoint of the Moon's waning phase. It's a time to assess, to look over what's been accomplished, to learn from one's mistakes, and to wind down and prepare for the next cycle.

During the Moon's dark night, which is called a Balsamic Moon, before it once again begins its next cycle, psychic energy is at its peak. It's time to retreat, to reflect, and to get ready to begin again.



StarFacts

What's a Blue Moon? And why do things only happen "once in a Blue Moon"? Well, there are usually 13 Full Moons each year, and, while the lunar cycle is about 29½ days, months are anywhere from 28 to 31 days. Once in a Blue Moon, there are two Full Moons during one month, and that second Full Moon is called the "Blue Moon."

The Moon has been a woman for as long as anyone can remember, and, with the recent resurgence of interest in goddesses and goddess cycles, the phases of the Moon have reclaimed their ancient stories as well.

Using Moon Signs to Guide You

Annual Moon sign guides, like *Llewellyn's Moon Sign Book*, show the best times for activities as diverse as getting your hair cut, borrowing money, having your teeth filled, getting married, and buying a house. Some of these guides, in fact, list the best and worst times for over 100 activities.

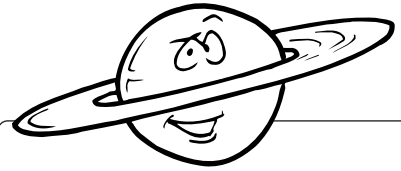
Basically, Moon sign guides will tell you things like the best time to buy a house is when the Moon is in a fixed sign (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, or Aquarius), or that the best time to go fishing is when the Moon is in a water sign (Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces). If you've been paying attention as we've gone along, you'll soon be making these connections on your own.

Once we learn to associate the Moon's natural cycles—both through its phases and through the signs—with our own, we can plan our lives to move *with* these rhythms rather than *against* them. For example, if you sow seeds (in other words, start something) during a waning Moon, the seeds will usually germinate more poorly than if you sow in a waxing Moon. If you weed in a waxing Moon, you may spread the weeds rather than destroy them.

Beginnings and the New Moon ●

The New Moon is the very beginning of everything—when a seed first germinates and comes out of its seed capsule and the first green shoots appear. This is life at its most basic, with only instinct to guide it, the starting point for all ventures. The Sun and Moon are conjunct, or in the same place, during a New Moon, so they'll have the same sign.

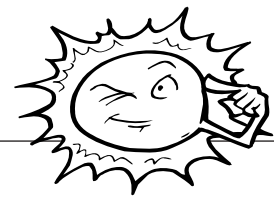
The New Moon is the most masculine form of the Moon's feminine energy, because this is its most active, primitive, and impulsive phase. This is a good time to begin new projects, or to set the plans you've made in motion. It's a good time to plant anything that you hope to see succeed, in fact.



AstroLingo

Your **lunar high** (or personal new Moon) occurs when the Moon is in the same sign as your natal Sun sign.

Your **lunar low** occurs when the Moon is in the sign opposite your natal Sun sign.



Heaven Knows

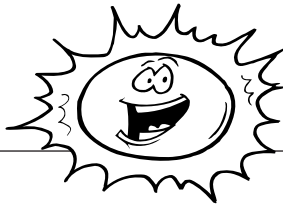
A Moon cycle, also known as a goddess cycle, can be viewed at its literal level—a woman's natural 28-day menstrual cycle. Or it can be taken to a more metaphoric level, such as birth—growth—aging—death—rebirth. Viewed metaphorically, we can see why the Moon rules everything from gardens to growth and from banquets to bath water.

First Quarter Moon: External Challenges ○

During the First Quarter Moon, you'll begin to see a seedling's stem with its first pair of leaves, and it will have started to establish its root system. In the next phase—Gibbous Moon—it will make its first buds. This is the time to make sure that everything continues to go smoothly. Here is where you'll meet your challenges—in the case of that seedling, a late spring frost could threaten it, while in the case of a project, someone in power may question your direction or motive.

During this phase, the Moon is 90 degrees ahead of the Sun, or square to it, so it's a time of challenges and, hence, a good time to seek guidance. A seedling may flounder in the hot sun or strong wind, and you may need to stake it or give it more water. Or that project, gathering its own momentum, may run into the first bureaucratic snafu.

The key during a First Quarter Moon is to know that challenges will appear so that you can anticipate them, prepare, and meet them.



StarFacts

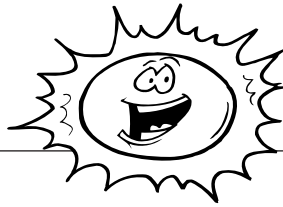
The New Moon is the planted seed, the first of the elemental powers of fertility and nurturing. This Moon represents gestation, the first step toward birth. Aries is the sign associated with this Moon.

Full Moon: The Better to See What's Happening ○

When the Moon is full, it's exactly opposite the Sun, and in this bright glare, all activities reach their harvesting stage. This is the time when the flower blooms and you see the results of your efforts. If things haven't gone quite according to plan, everything that's wrong will suddenly be seen quite clearly, while, if they have, it will be the time to gather your rewards.

This is the Moon of high energy, the Moon's highest peak before it begins its waning phase. Crazy things happen during Full Moons, often because all that energy hasn't been channeled during the earlier phases.

A Full Moon can be a time of grand achievement or great disillusionment. If you followed the Moon's phases in your planning and development up to this point, you're probably enjoying the fruits of your labors.



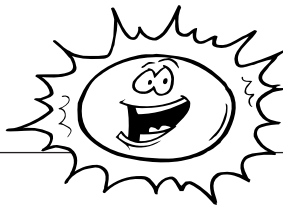
StarFacts

People born during a First Quarter Moon become very experienced and are capable of meeting crisis after crisis. They have an instinctive understanding of what actions to take to resolve issues and get things back on track. Some of these First Quarter people get an adrenaline rush from doing this, because they're so competent at it, and they may actually create crises in order to get their "fix," or energy high! This Moon is associated with Cancer, because nurturing is required to further programs, projects, and efforts.

Third Quarter Moon: Internal Challenges ○

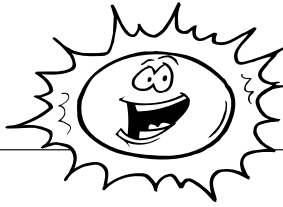
Just because the Moon is continuing to wane doesn't mean its energies aren't at work; they're just moving in a different direction. Once again the Moon is 90 degrees from the Sun, though on the other side of the circle, and so the Third Quarter Moon is assessment time, when we look back at what we've done and see where we can make improvements. We'll also note what we did right, of course. But rather than bask in our glory, as we did during the Full Moon, it's best to use this time to diagnose and correct.

All this assessment can lead to disappointment or a resolve to improve or do better, both of which can in turn lead to internal challenges as we question whether we should have tackled something like this in the first place. And sometimes the Third Quarter Moon means we have to go back to square one and start all over again.



StarFacts

The Full Moon is the romantic lover, the fulfillment of a child, and also the beginning of the separation from the child. This is the Moon most closely associated with Libra, or seeing things from other people's points of view. This is also why this period is associated with rewards or disappointments, as this is when others become aware of what you're doing.



StarFacts

The Third Quarter Moon is the Wise Woman, whose knowledge of the mystical and unknown can help us arrive at greater understanding. This is the Moon associated with Scorpio.

This is a good time to remember that mistakes are lessons, not reprimands. If you learn from your errors and don't repeat them, then you should congratulate yourself. And learning from your errors is what this Third Quarter Moon is all about.

Finally, there's the Balsamic cycle, part of the Last Quarter cycle, the dark Moon when the plant releases its seed to start the next generation—the plants that will be born at the beginning of the next New Moon phase. This is the period that bridges the ending of the last cycle with the beginning of the one to come.

Just like life itself, the phases of the Moon wax and wane. Planning your life by the Moon's cycles can help you achieve better results—and save you lots of heartache.

The Least You Need to Know

- Approximately every 29½ days, the Moon moves through four major phases. Every two and a half days, the Moon changes signs.
- When a Moon is no longer forming major aspects to other planets while it's in a sign, it is said to be "void of course"—a time when no new actions should be begun.
- The Moon affects all fluids on Earth, from the tides to our bodily fluids.
- The New Moon is the time to plant, a time of beginnings.
- The First Quarter Moon is the time of growth, when challenges are discovered and overcome.
- The Full Moon is the time of fruition and things coming to light.
- The Third Quarter Moon is the time for retreat and review.



Astrology and the Natural World

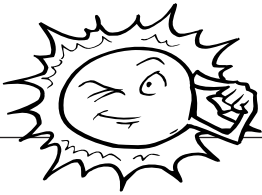
In This Chapter

- ▶ Who needs a weather report when you have astrology?
- ▶ Our cosmic garden, the Earth
- ▶ A time to plant, a time to reap
- ▶ A time to weed and kill those bugs

You don't have to be an astrologer to take advantage of astrological gardening. Scientists from astronomers to agronomists (agricultural scientists) have studied the effect of the Moon's phases and signs on gardening, and their findings agree that your garden can prosper with a little Moon know-how.

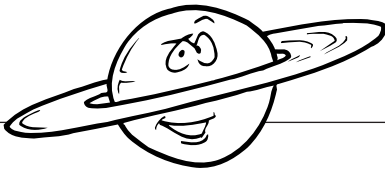
Who Needs a Weather Report When You Have Astrology?

Most Moon sign books go so far as to make general weather predictions, which, interestingly, often prove more accurate than the up-to-the-minute weather forecasts we get on radio and television. Remember, the Moon's connection to all fluid activity on Earth is a well-documented fact. It only makes sense that the Moon would also be interested in "our cosmic garden."



Heaven Knows

If you find it difficult to believe that the Moon is connected to what's going on outside, we'd suggest you get outside more! Anyone who has spent time in a garden, in the country, or just hiking through the meadows or mountains knows intuitively that the Moon and growth go hand in hand.



AstroLingo

A **waxing Moon** grows in light from the New Moon to the Full Moon.

A **waning Moon** decreases in light from the Full Moon until the next New Moon.

During the big blizzards on the East Coast in January of 1996, for example, there were seven planets in either Capricorn or Aquarius. No wonder it was so cold and snowy: Both Capricorn and Aquarius are notoriously cold signs!

Another example occurred in the summer of 1993, when four planets, including powerful Pluto and Saturn, were in water signs. This was when the "100-year floods," the worst floods in 100 years, occurred throughout the Midwest.

Our Cosmic Garden, the Earth

Let's start with some basics—the waxing and waning phases of the Moon. The first rule of green thumb is: *Plant annuals that develop their yield (or harvest) above-ground during a waxing Moon; plant root, bulb, biennial, and perennial plants during a waning Moon.*

If you think about this, it makes a whole lot of sense. A waxing Moon, with its increasing light, is going to be the friend of things whose growth is primarily above the ground, while a waning Moon, with its decreasing light, will assist things that grow below the ground.

The second lunar rule of green thumb is: *The elements equal the parts of a plant.* In other words, knowing which part of the plant corresponds to earth, air, fire, or water can help you determine the best time to plant to maximize that organ's growth.

Rudolph Steiner, founder of the *anthroposophical movement*, sets up this correspondence in the following way:

The Elements and Their Corresponding Plant Organs

Element	Signs	Corresponding Plant Organs
Earth	Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn	Roots (earth = underground)
Air	Gemini, Libra, Aquarius	Flower (air = airborne pollen)
Fire	Aries, Leo, Sagittarius	Seed (fire = beginnings)
Water	Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces	Leaves and stems (water = growth)

Lunar rule of green thumb number three is that *each sign governs something in your garden*, even a seemingly barren sign like Gemini. Below are some of the activities that can benefit from being performed during certain Moon signs.

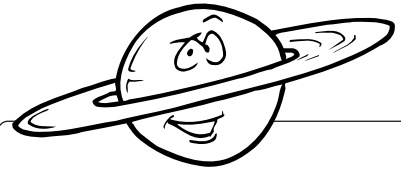
Gardening by the Signs

Activity	Moon Signs for Best Results
Planting and Fertilizing	Fruitful signs: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces
Harvesting	Dry signs: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, Gemini, Aquarius
Irrigation	Water signs: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces
Weeding and Pest Control	Barren signs: Aries, Gemini, Leo, Virgo, Sagittarius, Aquarius

The last basic lunar rule of green thumb is to *plant in a water sign whenever possible*. Remember, the water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces. Taurus and Capricorn are the next best signs, especially for root crops, and then Libra, which is the best sign for planting flowers, vines, or other ornamental plants.

Lunar Rules of Green Thumb

1. Plant annuals that produce their yield above ground during a waxing Moon; plant root, bulb, biennial, and perennial plants during a waning Moon.
2. The elements correspond to the parts of a plant.
3. Each sign governs something in your garden.
4. Plant in a water sign (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) whenever possible.



AstroLingo

The **anthroposophical movement**, founded by Rudolph Steiner in 1912, is a movement that incorporates mystical insight and superior speculation to arrive at a larger meaning.

A Time to Plant

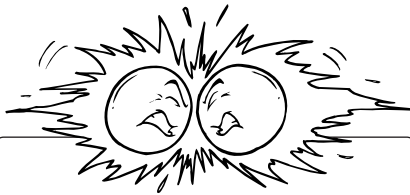
Do you remember that Byrds song, “Turn Turn Turn”? Did you know the lyrics are from the Bible? Yep, that’s right, they’re straight out of *Ecclesiastes*, which is not only one helluva—excuse us, hevenuva—poem, it’s also some of the best astrological gardening advice ever written:

To every thing there is a season
 And a time to every purpose under heaven:
 A time to be born, and a time to die;
 A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted ...

Well, you get the idea. And, once you know what you're looking for, you'll discover lots of astrological advice in the Bible!

Planting by Moon Phase

Planting by the Moon's phases can help you achieve terrific results in your garden. We've arranged this information for you by types of plants and by giving you examples of those plants. So get out those seeds, and read on.



Star-Crossed

Don't make the mistake of planting during the Fourth Quarter Moon. It's a barren time, and not only do seeds not take well, they probably won't grow at all. This period is normally for resting and reorienting to get ready for the next cycle. It's the wrong time to be starting something new!

Some books or calendars use the terms "first, second, third, and fourth quarter," instead of "new, first, full, and last quarter." We'll note these in parentheses so you won't get confused.

● **New Moon (First Quarter Moon):** Annuals that produce their yield above the ground, and whose seed is *outside* their fruit, are best planted at this time. Examples include asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cress, endive, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, and spinach. This is also a good time to plant cereals and grains.

○ **First Quarter Moon (Second Quarter Moon):** Annuals that produce their yield above the ground, and whose seed is *inside* the fruit, are best planted at this time. Examples include beans, eggplant, melons, peas, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and the like.

○ **Full Moon (Third Quarter Moon):** This is the best time for biennials, perennials, bulb plants, and root plants. You can plant trees, shrubs, berries, beets, carrots, onions, parsnips, peanuts, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, strawberries, turnips, winter wheat, and grapes.

○ **Last Quarter Moon (Fourth Quarter Moon):** Don't plant anything during this Moon. You'll be wasting your time and energy! It is, though, a good time to weed, kill bugs, and turn your sod.

Planting by Moon Sign

In addition to knowing which quarter is best for your particular plant, it's also helpful to be aware of which sign will produce the best results. Along with its element, each sign's quality determines which plants will do best when planted during that

Moon sign. And remember that each sign rules a body part—these also relate to parts of a plant's body.

Moon in Aries: Aries is a good Moon for getting rid of weeds and pests, as well as for tilling, but it's not the best time for planting because it's generally a dry, fiery, masculine Moon.

Moon in Taurus: This is a productive, earthy, feminine Moon, a good time for root crops like potatoes and for leafy vegetables. Taurus (the Bull) will give short, sturdy growth.

Moon in Gemini: Gemini is another good Moon for weed killing. Another barren, dry, masculine Moon, it's also airy. But this is a good time to plant melons, because Gemini rules the vascular system that they thrive on.

Moon in Cancer: This is one of the best planting Moons. It's fruitful, moist, and feminine. It's a good time to plant, irrigate, bud, graft, plant root crops, and cover crops—in short, a good time to plant just about anything.

Moon in Leo: Leo is the most barren sign—it's dry, fiery, and masculine. Kill those weeds, and destroy those pests. Mow the lawn to keep its growth down. But don't plant anything—it will go to seed!

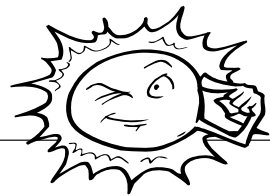
Moon in Virgo: The Moon in Virgo is often called the Moon in Bloom; it's not the best time to plant, but you will often begin to see the fruits of your labors appear. Vines can do well when planted in this sign, but they will bloom more than bear fruit.

Moon in Libra: A Libra Moon is especially good for flowers, vines, ornamental plants, and root plants, as well as for seeding hay and other livestock feeds. Other plants that do well if planted here are those with flowers that are eaten, such as broccoli and cauliflower.

Moon in Scorpio: This is a most fruitful Moon, with watery effects, and it's also a very good time to plant corn, berries, and cereals. Scorpio rules the sexual organs, so there's lots of fruit with this Moon.

Moon in Sagittarius: Sagittarius rules fruit and is a good time for planting fruit trees, or for that matter, any trees. This is more a harvesting sign than a planting one, though.

Moon in Capricorn: This can be a good Moon for planting root crops like beets, potatoes, and turnips. Grafting and pruning under this Moon sign will take well, too.



Heaven Knows

Plant in a water sign whenever possible, except for root crops, like potatoes and carrots, which are best planted in an earth sign. And avoid planting during air and fire signs: Your plants may go to seed.

Moon in Aquarius: Harvest, kill weeds, and all that, but don't plant! Not only will seeds not grow here, they may rot. This is, however, the sign of cloning and asexual reproduction, so it's a good time for some experimentation.

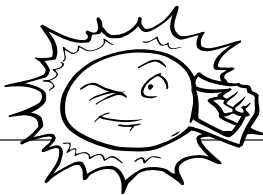
Moon in Pisces: Along with the other water signs, the Pisces Moon is an excellent time for planting and is especially good for root growth. This is probably the best placement for "fruit of the earth," like potatoes and other tubers.

Barren Times

The preceding section makes very clear which signs are the best times to plant but barren times have their purposes in gardening, too, as any seasoned gardener knows. Barren times are good times to mow your lawn, prune, harvest, and spray for weeds and pests. Let's look at each of these activities individually.

Mowing the lawn: Mow in the first or second quarter if you want your lawn to grow. Mow in the third or fourth quarter to slow the growth down.

Pruning: The best time to prune is during a waning Moon, and a third quarter Scorpio Moon not only slows branch growth, it produces better fruit yield. In addition, third quarter pruning stops limbs and branches from growing too quickly.



Heaven Knows

What are the best Moon signs for weeding? You know how Leo likes to win, and it wins here hands down.

First Prize for Most Barren Sign:
Leo

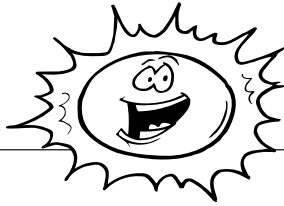
Runners Up: Aries, Gemini, Virgo,
Sagittarius, Aquarius

Harvesting: Always harvest during a waning Moon to avoid problems like rot or crops going to seed. Grain should be harvested just after the Full Moon, and fruit and root crops should be harvested during dry signs. If you're going to be using your root crops for seed, though, harvest them at the Full Moon.

The Joy of Weeding

The best gardeners know the best times to weed. Standard gardening books always say, "Weed in the morning and the weeds you've plucked out will be dead in the sun by afternoon." What they don't tell you is which signs and phases will increase those odds. But we will.

The best phase for weeding is always just before the darkest Moon. This is also the best time to cultivate soil and to kill those pesky bugs and such. Combine this phase with a barren sign for the best results.



StarFacts

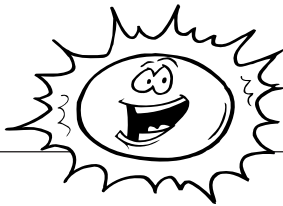
Many believe that Gemini is the best time to kill weeds. It's all about timing and rhythm, and Gemini knows about those particular twins. When weeding is done under this sign, the weeds won't reroot themselves and start growing again, because this sign is too barren and there's not enough water in the soil.

Pest Control: Say Good-Bye to Bugs and Blights

By now you've probably figured out the secret to the rhythms of gardening by the Moon. The secret is, there is no secret. Even idiots can use the Moon's phases and signs to achieve gardening success.

The last ingredient in successful gardening is getting rid of the bad guys—without getting rid of the good guys in the process. This means no nukes, no chemicals—and good timing. We'll help you here with the good timing part; the rest is up to you.

Since Leo's still basking in the glory of winning first prize for most barren sign, this is a good time to remind you that it's also the best sign for killing pests. Bugs killed in Leo stay dead. Leo is barren, dry, fiery, and masculine—a killer combination, when it comes to garden pests. With the exception of Sagittarius, all of the runner-up signs for weeding are also good times for pest control.



StarFacts

Even bugs have rulers! Rex Bill's *The Rulership Book* cites the following: Venus rules annoying and jumping insects, Mars rules stinging ones, and Pluto rules the poisonous variety. Insects in general are ruled by Pluto and Scorpio.

Astrological gardening is not only smart gardening—it's successful gardening. We've listed some of the books we've used in Appendix C, "Resources for the Starry-Eyed: If You Want to Find Out," so that you can use them, too.

The Least You Need to Know

- Plant annuals with above-ground yields during a waxing Moon; plant root, bulb, biennial, and perennial plants during a waning Moon.
- Weed and do other garden maintenance during the barren Last Quarter Moon.
- Kill pests in Leo, Aries, Gemini, Virgo, and Aquarius.
- Plant in a water sign (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) whenever possible.



The Best Timing for Better Business

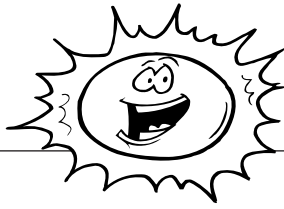
In This Chapter

- ▶ Working with cycles, not against them
- ▶ Time-Outs: Don't do it!
- ▶ Gearing up and reaching out
- ▶ Communications, travel, and computers
- ▶ Getting to yes and signing on the dotted line

There's a popular myth that says that each day has the same potential as every other day. If you think about this long enough, common sense will tell you that this just isn't so. Everyone has good days and bad days, and plenty of in-between ones. And it's not just a matter of attitudes going into it, as others around us often have the same type of day.

Now imagine you could know ahead of time which days were going to be good, neutral, or challenging. In business, you would know when to promote or introduce new products, sign contracts, or start new projects, companies, or divisions. And perhaps, even more important, you would know when *not* to take action or make decisions.

Using astrology, you can know ahead of time what the cycles or transits for each day are and plan your schedule accordingly.



StarFacts

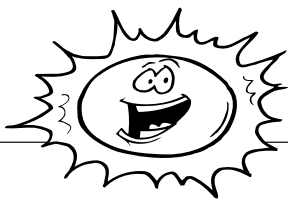
J. Pierpoint Morgan was a very wealthy American financier at the turn of the century who used astrology for business-timing purposes. He financed such companies as U.S. Steel Corporation and the Great Northern & Pacific Railroad, as well as the Boer War. His use of astrology for business made him a billionaire, back in the early part of the last century when a million dollars was a vast fortune!

Working with Cycles, Not Against Them

In our fast-paced world of the new millennium, we're often asked to work harder, longer, faster, and be more productive than we've been in the past, even though we may have already been giving 120 percent! If we understand cycles and work with them, we can be more productive, simply by being in harmony with the universal energies occurring at any time.

Time-Outs: Don't Do It!

The Wall Street Journal once published an article about 1,400 businesses that all started under the same astrological cycle, one that "randomly" occurs two to three times per week, and lasts anywhere from minutes or hours to two days. The essential meaning of this cycle is "nothing will come of it." All of these 1,400 businesses went bankrupt! This cycle is not actually random, but it's not "visible" in the usual sense either. It's the void-of-course Moon, a cosmic Time-Out.



StarFacts

When the Moon is void of course, its energy is spent, and this is a time for gestation, research, or rest. Either nothing will come of decisions made during this time, or there will be unexpected problems that can prevent a successful completion.

This cycle is a primary indicator of when *not* to take action. You may recall from Chapter 28, "Moon Phases: Our Unconscious Collective Mood Monitor," that void-of-course Moons, or cosmic Time-Outs, are periods when the Moon is no longer making major aspects (conjunction, sextile, square, trine, or opposition) to the other planets, until it enters the next sign. These times are designed for gestation, regrouping, and internal processing, but not for taking action.

In addition, the last aspect the Moon makes before it goes void determines the final outcome of an event. This means, for example, if you begin a new venture while the Moon is in Leo, then the last aspect the Moon makes while it's in Leo is what the final outcome of your venture will be—even if the final aspect is a day or two away. So it pays you handsomely to know what the Moon is doing and to adjust your schedule to be in tune with it.

Swimming Against the Tide

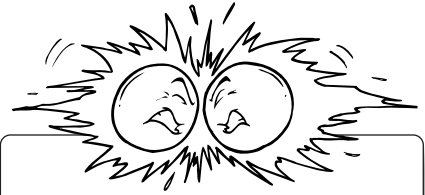
When decisions are made or actions taken during these Time-Out periods, either nothing comes of them or there are unexpected difficulties. Meetings convened often fail to come to any decisions, because the key information required is usually missing, or the person with the best understanding of it or the power needed to implement it isn't present. When decisions are made anyway, they're plagued by false starts, mistakes, and difficulties. Frequently, in fact, remaking the decision becomes necessary later. This often means changing course after spending valuable resources on an erroneous path.

Time-Outs or void Moons are gestation periods that are better used for rest and regrouping. These times are good for research, information gathering, brainstorming, catching up on paperwork, filing, writing status reports, cleaning, reading, or reviewing ideas, meditation, introspection, and getting centered. These times also are perfect for just enjoying yourself!

Other typical business examples that have been observed under this cycle include proposed new products that are approved by management but don't make it to market. Purchases made often have quality or delivery problems or parts missing. Sales calls and presentations fizzle, as customers aren't ready to make a decision, and when they are, they don't choose the product presented during the Time-Out. Investments made go nowhere, and contracts and other legal matters signed go astray or come to nothing.

A Message from the Universe: Relax!

In essence, the Universe is asking us to use this time to slow down. It wants us to recognize that the creative process of life includes time for regrouping, gestating our ideas, and collecting our thoughts or data.



Star-Crossed

Presidential candidates Dewey, Nixon (versus Kennedy in 1960), Goldwater, and McGovern were all nominated during void Moons and so lost their elections. In 1972, Nixon was elected under this cycle (the term he resigned), and President Ford, a lame-duck president, was sworn in under it.

Nothing in nature demands constant progress and action, except humans! There's often a clear reason not to push forward during these times, and when we do so anyway, we're disregarding our better senses and the Universe's plan.

A better scenario would be to make and implement important decisions only during action cycles, when the Moon is still making aspects. Imagine not wasting time in meetings that will come to nothing anyway and not expending resources going down the wrong path! Plenty of increased productivity could result from just following this one cycle.

Gearing Up and Reaching Out

Every business has times when it's ready to launch an important product or service, start a new ad campaign, begin a new group, development team, or division within the company, or merge with another company. In manufacturing companies, a new line may be created for a new product. In some cases, facilities changes may be needed, either to increase sales in a retail operation or to restructure an organization.

All these various activities have one thing in common: In some way they are all new starts. In astrology, these types of activities are primarily under the leadership of Mars and, again, the Moon. Remember from Chapter 28 that the phases of the Moon give us key signals for when to start things (with a waxing or New Moon) and when it's time to reorient ourselves (during a waning or Last Quarter Moon) before the next push. Mars, however, is the planet we call on when it's time to take action, be decisive, or make a new start.

Listening to Mars

Mars is an extremely important planet to business cycles, as businesses are built on action. Nothing happens until a sale is made through a promotional effort, a product ships, or a service is provided. Action is the essence of business!

When Mars has beneficial aspects to other planets and its motion is direct or forward, then our urges to make progress are strong, and our efforts are generally successful. When Mars has challenging aspects (but is still moving forward), one of two things happens: We either get a surge of energy to push past the challenge that comes up, or we get frustrated or angry because we meet resistance.

But because it moves relatively fast, even when Mars gets into challenging situations with other planets, it usually manages to rally quickly and find support by moving into beneficial aspects with other planets. The real difficulty for businesses hits when Mars goes retrograde.

Warning: Mars Retrograde

During Mars retrograde, or the period when we perceive Mars to be moving backward, business activity decreases or companies often run into serious obstacles. The purpose of this cycle is to reconsider our motivations, actions, and the company's activities.

While this biennial, 10-week cycle seems very inconvenient, when used appropriately it can save companies from throwing a lot of money at bad ideas. Often, it coincides with the time companies are about to make major mistakes in their directions, activities, or new products. Serious disputes can occur between people who want to continue pushing forward and those who recognize the need to reconsider goals and directions.

Introducing products during Mars retrograde is like launching battleships to go to war without ammunition and weapons—very unsuccessful! Since this is not a time for new beginnings, products and services introduced during this period aren't well-received. Actual sales for new products can be as low as 15 percent of the forecast.

What Goes Wrong

It's not that introducing a new product under Mars retrograde actually *causes* it to fail. Instead, whatever is being introduced has one or more of the following problems:

1. The product or service isn't ready for the market or vice versa.
2. The promotion isn't adequate to create desire for the product, so sales don't materialize.
3. There are mechanical or quality issues with the product or service, leading to unsatisfied customers.

In addition, products can suffer from serious mechanical failures during this period, such as Boeing's new 777 jet did when it lost oxygen on its test flight in early 1995. Because Mars is associated with heat and mechanical processes, it's also common to encounter soldering problems, injection molding, or engine failures during this period.

Worse yet, cost-cutting manufacturing changes to products under this cycle can later result in product recalls. Mars retrograde is suggesting that more testing is needed to prevent these problems, instead of prematurely implementing changes or starting new product lines.

All these difficulties are well-suited to further research, or beta testing, which is ideal to do during a Mars retrograde.

And Still More Problems!

Stock prices can also go down during Mars retrograde, especially if a company continues down the wrong path or chooses inappropriate goals. This cycle is even harder on stocks that are expected to continue rising in price. Momentum is not viewed as a good excuse by the universe for continuing down a wrong course, and the consequences can be serious! During Mars retrograde, companies may need to stop and reconsider actions, motives, and directions before proceeding. Failing to do so could invite dire consequences.

What to Do, What Not to Do

Every two years when Mars goes retrograde for nine to ten weeks, the universe asks us not to start anything new, and to reconsider our direction and goals. "What an inconvenience!" you say? Yes, indeed, but it's even more inconvenient to fail.

The universe believes that every two years we need to take stock of what we're doing, and make sure we're still on the right path, or determine where we should be headed instead. We need to reassess our goals, discover our true motives, and become clear about how we're using our energies. Once we do so, we're ready to set our course for the next two years!

Communications, Travel, and Computers

Three times each year for three and a half weeks, the universe believes we need a period of time to catch up. Now most of us, if we stopped to consider this idea seriously, would realize that we *need* to stop and catch our breath periodically. We really do need to find all the things that slipped through the cracks, get some things redone correctly, clean up, and correct all the wrong assumptions we made earlier. This is the essence of Mercury retrograde.

Mercury is another important business planet, because it's associated with communications, travel, computers, and all forms of transportation. When it's moving forward and making beneficial aspects to other planets, we're doing well in all these areas.

There are times when Mercury runs into challenging aspects with other planets, but as long as it's moving forward, these times are generally resolved fairly quickly when Mercury gets to a good aspect again. Because Mercury is very speedy (it's the messenger after all), this usually doesn't take too long.

But when Mercury slows down and seems to stop then "turn around and move backward," this is our cue to do the same. Since Mercury is associated with thinking, analysis, and communications, we're being asked to rethink, replan, reconsider, re-communicate, and redo whatever fell through the cracks. If only we humans would schedule catch-up time, our experience of this period would be a lot better!

Ignoring the Messenger

Because we're always pushing forward, with little time for these important activities, we often experience the following: Communications become miscommunications and misunderstandings. Transportation becomes difficult, with more delays and accidents than usual. Computers and other electronic equipment break down frequently, and our mistakes come to light. Appointments are missed or rescheduled and, in general, we're frustrated!

Business-wise, this is a terrible time to sign contracts of any kind. One or both parties may misinterpret the agreement or wish they hadn't signed it, and contracts often have mistakes in them. Contract discussions announced or initiated during this cycle are fraught with schedule difficulties and misunderstandings, and they often fall apart. This is definitely not the time to start new projects, since the purpose of this cycle is to catch up.

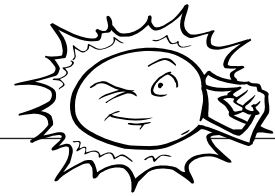
Products and services introduced or promoted under Mercury retrograde are unsuccessful, in terms of actual sales versus forecasts. Why? Customers misunderstand what's being offered or miss the offer and fail to buy it. Equally often, the product is incomplete or ineffective, especially in terms of documentation or software. The promotion may also "miss the boat" and fail to create desire for the product.

Don't Rush!

Generally, when we look back at these situations, we see that we rushed to market, or to complete our project, in time to fail. We took shortcuts that didn't work or refused to reconsider previous decisions, even when we were warned otherwise. In short, we used the period inappropriately and paid the price. Sometimes we pay dearly.

Business travel during this cycle can be difficult. Missed plane connections, lost luggage, and hotel rooms or cars that were never booked, or given away, are much more frequent. Flights might leave very late or not take off at all. Miscommunications, or nonworking electronic equipment (phones, computers, copiers) make matters worse. Appointments and calls are missed. Messages are lost or misinterpreted. Contracts and negotiations can turn sour. In short, it's best to stay home and catch up.

As you might imagine, because Mercury is associated with computers, during Mercury's retrograde period there are lots of computer failures, glitches,



Heaven Knows

America Online once unsuccessfully tried to upgrade some of its software during one of these periods, only to be off-line for about 15 hours! Computer hardware or software purchased or installed during Mercury retrograde is very likely not going to work, or it will be a nightmare before it finally does. Basically, if your computer is working fine, it's best not to do *anything* to it until the retrograde is over.

and complete power overloads from too much computer usage. Companies that try to switch to new computer programs or upgrade their hardware under this cycle are asking for major problems! In fact it's best to do all your preventive maintenance *before* the retrograde starts.

Working with Mercury

Once we understand all of the potential glitches that lie in wait for us during each Mercury retrograde period, it's easy to see how all the schedule delays occur. This is just the Universe's way of encouraging us to go back and correct what needs to be redone. And when we cooperate and do this, we find that whatever changes we made to our new product, project, or activity helped it become more successful than it was before.

We also realize that there's never going to be a major project without necessary changes or corrections. And once we truly understand that, we can plan for them during the Mercury retrograde periods. But if we don't volunteer to redo what needs to be done, then circumstances will prevent us from making any progress until we do.

Imagine working in a company where every fourth month was scheduled for catch-up and rethinking! Impossible, you say? Imagine saving thousands and millions of dollars by not pushing forward when you're supposed to be catching your mistakes! Imagine missing costly schedule delays and hassles, because you're fixing your old problems and not making new ones! Now, imagine success, because you're not spitting into the cosmic wind.

Getting to "Yes" and Signing on the Dotted Line

Contracts, negotiations, financial issues, and legal issues are all associated with Venus and Saturn. This includes all relationships with suppliers, vendors, business partners, and banks or financial institutions. It also includes general relationships with employees and managers. As long as Venus and Saturn are making beneficial aspects to other planets and moving forward, these areas flow well.

When challenging aspects come up, though, we may run into difficulties. However, Venus usually moves out of problems and back into positive relationships with the other planets fairly quickly, but her speed can keep her moving back and forth between easy and challenging situations.

Saturn, on the other hand, can take much longer to get out of difficulties, especially if it's on troublesome terms with any of the outer planets. If that's not the case though, challenging aspects to Saturn can be resolved in a few weeks, usually when the other planet moves out of a difficult aspect to it.

Periodically though, we encounter a period of about six weeks in which these areas can meet obstacle after obstacle. Venus retrogrades for about six weeks out of every 19 to 20 months. When it does this, it's time to reconsider our values, along with contracts, finances, pricing, and relationship needs.

The Venus Bottom Line

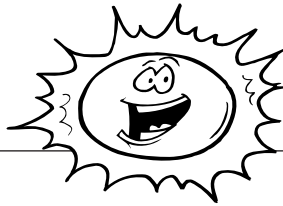
In company charts, Venus represents assets and credit, the ability to partner or create business alliances, purchasing, and the company's contract negotiations. It also represents how well the products and services are approved or accepted by customers. When Venus retrogrades, or appears to move backward, all of these areas should be reconsidered. Moving forward in these areas during this cycle can result in difficult consequences.

For example, products introduced during this period are much less likely to be accepted by customers. This is generally because customers question the value of the product or service and may not purchase it due to price or quality issues.

Partnerships, supplier relations, and major business alliances often need to be reevaluated, especially the ones with strained situations. This is often the time when difficult partnerships or vendor relationships are terminated or else set straight.

False Starts

Venus retrograde is also an unfavorable time to start a new company, because the company's assets may be less than adequate. Taking on debt should definitely be avoided. Financing for business activities or new ventures may not be available under this cycle, and assets may be revalued downward. It's not the time to seek new financial backing, loans, or credit either. Even if credit's available, there will probably be a major string attached to it!



StarFacts

The word *consider* originally meant *con*, or "with," and *sider*, from the word *sidereal*—"to look at the movement of the heavens first to be sure you're in alignment with the stars." Thus, when a person considered something, he or she checked it out with the planets before making a final decision.

The word *disaster* originally meant "against (*dis*) the stars (*aster*)." Going against the stars was considered to be a disaster.

Legal and purchasing contracts signed under this cycle can also have unpleasant consequences. Contract negotiations can be difficult, and this is a very unfavorable time to buy a new company, division, or rights to a product. A company may pay too much under these circumstances, but it's not likely to be discovered until it's too late and the deal is closed. Or there may be major disputes regarding the price, and then the negotiations fall apart completely. It's best to wait until after this cycle is over before signing any important contracts.

About every 19 to 20 months, the universe thinks we need to reconsider our values, money, what we need or want, any legal issues, and how well our relationships are working in business and generally.

If we do these things instead of signing contracts, pursuing legal or financial issues, or ignoring our business relationship needs, we can ensure these important areas continue to meet our needs. If we ignore them, though, we run a major risk of failing in these areas either then or in the near future.

It's clear that steering your business and financial decisions by the planets will save you both time and money. Why not follow the example of J. P. Morgan and use good timing to *your* advantage, too?

The Least You Need to Know

- Using astrology, we can know what the cycles for each day are ahead of time and plan our schedules to work *with* them instead of against them.
- Avoid taking action and making decisions during a void-of-course Moon. These are gestation periods, and usually nothing good will come of anything begun during these times.
- During Mars retrograde, business activity decreases or companies often run into serious obstacles. The purpose of this period is to reconsider our actions, goals, motives, and the path we are on to determine if they're still appropriate for us.
- When Mercury is retrograde, we're being asked to rethink, replan, reconsider, recommunicate, and redo whatever fell through the cracks.
- Contracts, negotiations, and financial and legal issues are all associated with Venus and Saturn. When Venus retrogrades, all of these areas should be reconsidered.
- Steering your business and financial decisions by the planets can save you both time and money.



Astrological Insights to the New Millennium

Far more than a study of fixed moments in time, astrology is a study of cycles—whether of planets, societies, or individual lives. You can think of planetary cycles, in fact, as corresponding to cycles of human consciousness. Astrologers are interested in tracking the synchronistic link between what the planets were doing in the “above” at the time that important personal and collective human events were occurring on the “below” of the earth.

Each planet has its own timetable to complete one orbit around the Sun, and each set of planetary pairs has its own timeline for completing its cycle with one another. Jupiter and Saturn, for example, come together in the same place in the sky (a conjunction) about every 20 years.

By tracking time periods and corresponding events in history for the various paired planetary cycles, astrologers can interpret the current collective status of the relationship between the two planets in question. This information helps us all to know the invitations from the planetary archetypes to evolve and transform, both collectively and personally.

Saturn-Jupiter Challenges and Opportunities

It takes 20 years for the social planets Jupiter and Saturn to complete one cycle and return to a seed point of conjunction. In their cycle, Jupiter, the expanding Philosopher, dances with Saturn, the grounded Builder, to explore personal and collective processes of growth and contraction. During the 20 years of their cycle, they invite us to change our patterns of socialization with one another and our world. The sign in which the conjunction occurs is like the sound of a tuning fork that keeps us in tune with our current tasks of balancing between give and take.

There are five Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions of the 21st century. We’re currently moving from a cycle of conjunctions occurring in an earth element to conjunctions in an air

element. As a global community, we're leaving behind the growth and stabilization of government and personal security systems as we explore more equal and experimental social systems.

Let's explore the key challenges of the five Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions as they impact each of the Sun signs. How does this planetary dance affect *you* in the first century of the new millennium?

Intrigued? You can find out even *more* in *The Complete Idiot's Guide to New Millennium Predictions*, by The New Age Collective: Astrologer Sheila Belanger—who provided these insights into the Jupiter-Saturn dance; numerologist Kay Lagerquist; palmist Robin Gile; Tarot reader Arlene Tognetti; psychic intuitive Lynn A. Robinson; and their co-author, our own Lisa Lenard.

2000 to 2020: Aries ♈ to Pisces ♉

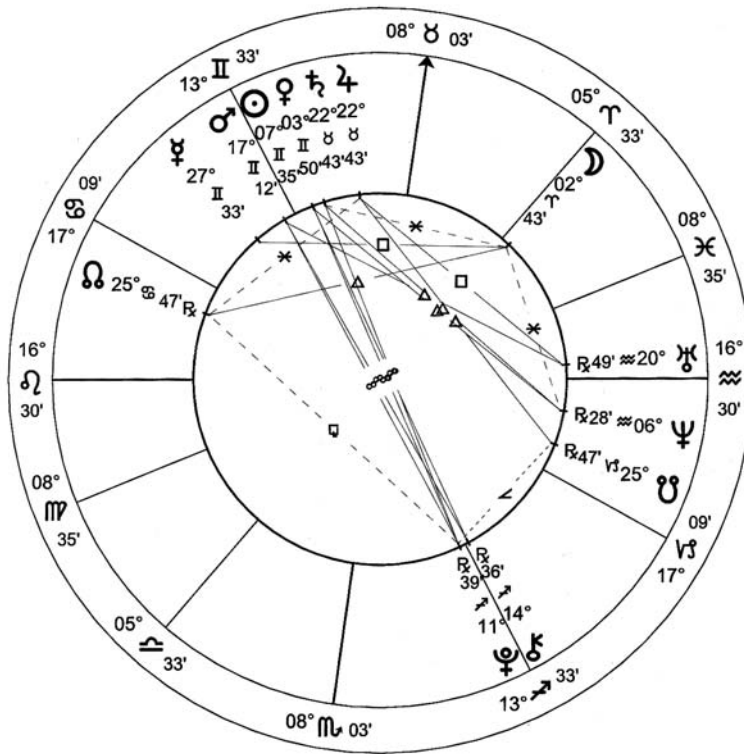
The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurred at 23 degrees of Taurus on May 28, 2000. This is the last conjunction to take place in the earth sign cycle that began in 1802. The other recent conjunctions in Taurus were in 1881 and in 1940–41. The key challenge of this conjunction is to both expand and stabilize with respect to the right use of personal and social resources.

- The three *fire* signs are invited to ground their fiery natures. **Aries** ♈ Sun signs need to slow down, get rooted, and claim ownership of their life. **Leo** ♌ Sun signs need to recognize their own authority and ability to maturely administrate their lives. **Sagittarius** ♐ Sun signs need to focus on personal health and self-care in a consistent and supportive way.
- The three *earth* signs are challenged to loosen up and invest in their own creative and enthusiastic sides. **Taurus** ♉ Sun signs need to assess where their possessions and resources are truly reflective of their individual natures. **Virgo** ♍ Sun signs need to consider their personal truths and philosophy about money and resources. **Capricorn** ♎ Sun signs need to invest resources in their own creative and self-expressive sides.
- The three *air* signs are invited to make changes in their relationships to reflect their emotional needs. **Gemini** ♊ Sun signs need to address the emotional overwhelming caused by doing too many things with too many people at one time. **Libra** ♎ Sun signs are challenged to become more intimate and committed in their relationships. **Aquarius** ♒ Sun signs need to confront their fear of losing personal freedom if they say yes to settling down and growing roots.
- The three *water* signs are challenged to get a more dispassionate perspective on their emotional lives. **Cancer** ♋ Sun signs need to explore new communities and friendships that support their value systems. **Scorpio** ♏ Sun signs need to embrace fairness and equality in relationships to balance out their tendency to dive in with both feet. **Pisces** ♉ Sun signs need to explore alternative ways to communicate their intuitive and sensitive natures.

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction

Natal Chart
 May 28 2000
 11:05 AM EDT +4:00
 Washington DC
 38N54 077W02
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of May 2000.



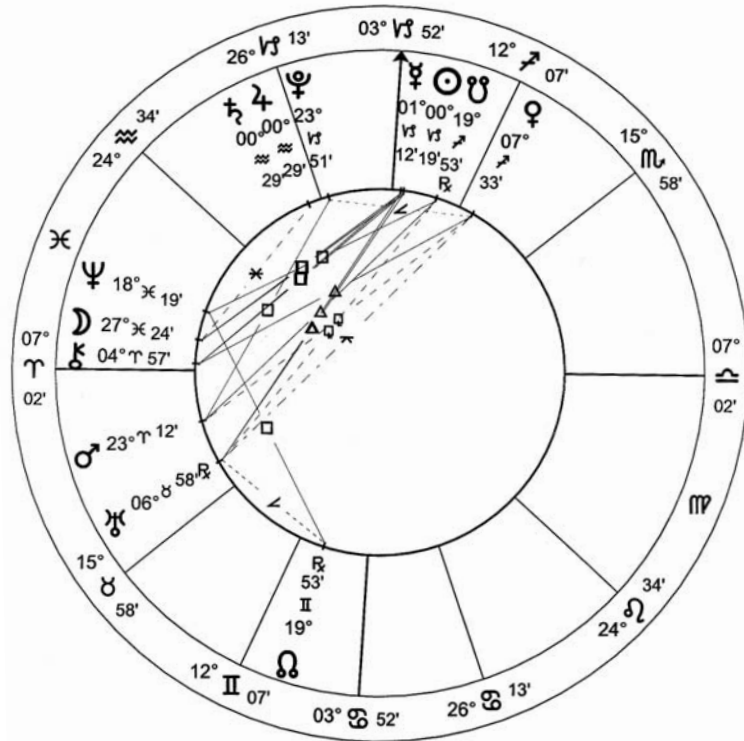
2020 to 2040: Aries ♈ to Pisces ♓

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurs at 1 degree of Aquarius on December 21, 2020. The invitation is to explore ways to create a larger global community that is humanitarian and innovative in nature. How do we collectively form societies that are diverse and open to change, yet stable enough to include and support all members of its groups?

- The three *fire* signs are invited to bring their fiery enthusiasm to dialogue and relate with others. **Aries** ♈ Sun signs need to initiate new ways to form community and take risks to manifest their dreams. **Leo** ♌ Sun signs need to focus on fair and equal partnerships and restoring balance to their lives. **Sagittarius** ♐ Sun signs need to explore new perspectives in their personal philosophy.

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of December 2020.

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction
Natal Chart
 Dec 21 2020
 12:22 PM EST +5:00
 Washington DC
 38N54 077W02
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



- The three *earth* signs are encouraged to stabilize and solidify their physical structures and game plans. **Taurus** ♉ Sun signs need to claim their capable management skills and be willing to take charge as administrators of resources. **Virgo** ♍ Sun signs need to find work and service that truly uses their abundant skills and gifts in a fair and supportive way. **Capricorn** ♊ Sun signs need to organize their own physical resources and possessions and attune their financial situations with their value systems.
- The three *air* signs are invited to get moving on manifesting and expressing their ideas and passions. **Gemini** ♊ Sun signs need to take some time to synthesize their ideas and vast amount of data into a more concise belief system. **Libra** ♎ Sun signs need to explore fun and playfulness in their relationships. **Aquarius** ♒ Sun signs need to actualize more of their uniqueness and take some risks to be independent and self-reliant.

- The three *water* signs are challenged to explore how to deepen their own emotional expression and attune to their sensitivity in social situations. **Cancer** ♋ Sun signs need to become emotionally honest about the price they pay to be caretakers for others and to be willing to ask others to support them, too. **Scorpio** ♏ Sun signs need to release old emotional patterns from family dynamics so that they can have a more intimate experience of home. **Pisces** ♷ Sun signs need to recognize their intuitive and visionary natures and create ways to honor them.

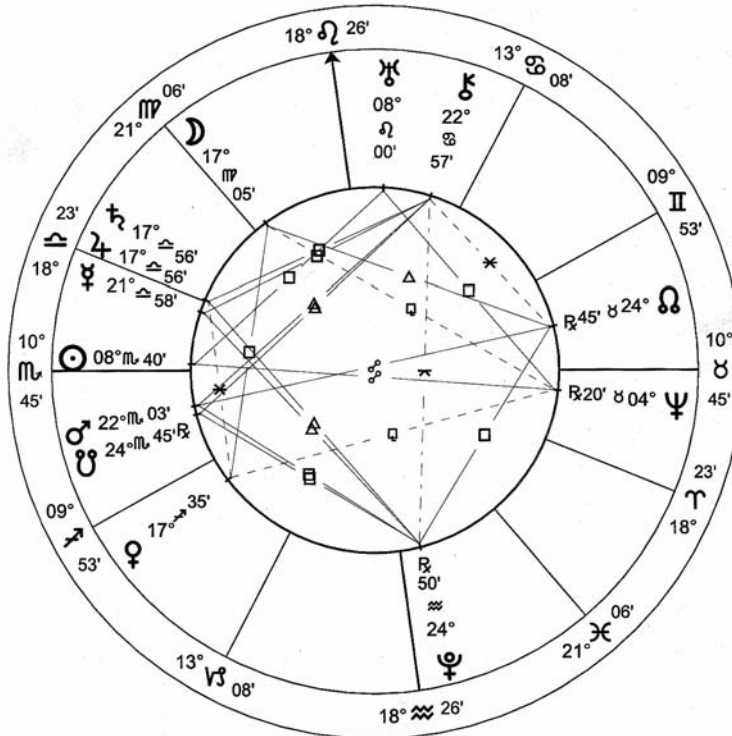
2040 to 2060: Aries ♈ to Pisces ♷

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurs at 18 degrees of Libra on October 31, 2040. This 20-year cycle explores social structures that are equal and balanced, yet also creative and artistic.

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction

Natal Chart
 Oct 31 2040
 6:50 AM EST +5:00
 Washington DC
 38N54 077W02
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of October 2040.



- ▶ The three *fire* signs are challenged to mentally understand decisions before they leap into action. **Aries** ♈ Sun signs need to be willing to see the other guy's point of view and to explore partnerships with equals. **Leo** ♌ Sun signs need to share in dialogue with the world their creativity and full-heartedness and not be attached to being special. **Sagittarius** ♐ Sun signs need to explore communities with kindred spirits that share similar life dreams and goals.
- ▶ The three *earth* signs are challenged to participate in relationships that are pragmatic and grounded. **Taurus** ♉ Sun signs need to create daily routines that are balanced with work and self-care and to explore service that is worthwhile. **Virgo** ♍ Sun signs need to create a functional and practical way to manage their finances. **Capricorn** ♎ Sun signs need to explore career paths that allow their natural leadership abilities to balance with their creative needs.
- ▶ The three *air* signs are invited to become enthusiastic and fired up about their relationships. **Gemini** ♊ Sun signs need to discover creative ways to express their diverse interests. **Libra** ♎ Sun signs are challenged to become more selfish in an appropriate way and not always defer to the other guy's needs and wants. **Aquarius** ♒ Sun signs need to explore their personal truths and beliefs about equal relationships.
- ▶ The three *water* signs are challenged to honor their authentic emotional natures in their relationships. **Cancer** ♋ Sun signs need to nest and create emotionally secure relationships. **Scorpio** ♏ Sun signs need to release their need to control and to seek the more subtle and spiritual dimensions in relationships. **Pisces** ♓ Sun signs need to explore the ability to establish clear emotional boundaries and dialogue about power issues in relationships.

2060 to 2080: Aries ♈ to Pisces ♓

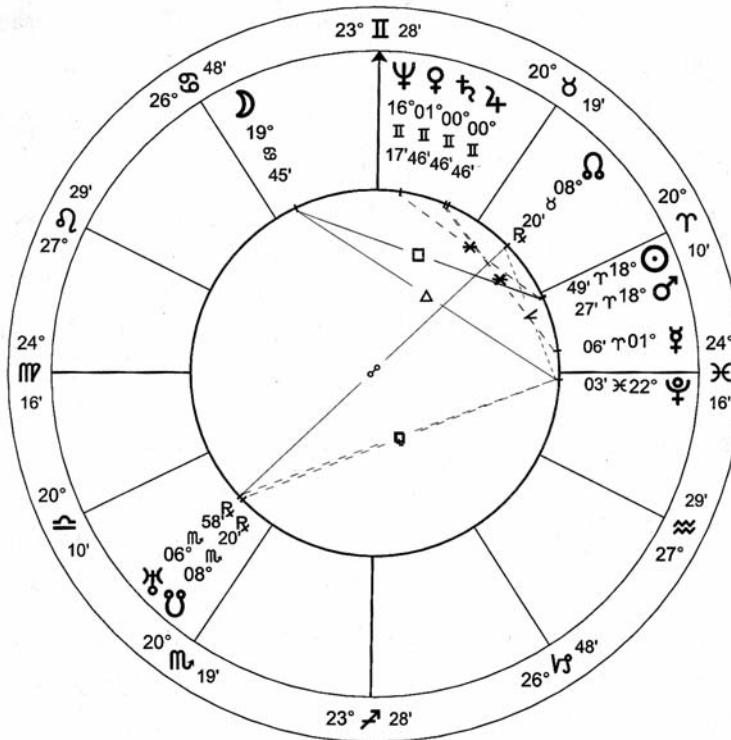
The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurs at 1 degree of Gemini on April 7, 2060. This is close to the Neptune-Pluto conjunction degree of 1892, so this Jupiter-Saturn cycle links us back to the seed gate of the current civilization. This 20-year cycle invites us to explore and create new structures for using data and information.

- ▶ The three *fire* signs are invited to intensify their spirited natures and develop new forms to communicate their uniqueness. **Aries** ♈ Sun signs need to discover how to best articulate their pioneering and courageous ideas. **Leo** ♌ Sun signs need to create communities and friendships in which personal creativity and skills are mutually shared. **Sagittarius** ♐ Sun signs need to release judgment and dogmatic stances in relationships and be willing to learn deeper truths from others.

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction

Natal Chart
 Apr 7 2060
 4:32 PM EST +5:00
 Washington DC
 38N54 077W02
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of April 2060.



- ▶ The three *earth* signs are challenged to explore innovative new ways to manage and administrate technological and communication resources. **Taurus** ♉ Sun signs need to create physical and financial security through appropriate dialogue with others. **Virgo** ♍ Sun signs are invited to step forward with their analytical skills to help administrate and organize ways to manage resources. **Capricorn** ♑ Sun signs need to analyze personal and collective strategies for the healthy maintenance of whole systems.
- ▶ The three *air* signs are invited to pursue their intellectual and communication gifts in new ways. **Gemini** ♊ Sun signs need to take risks to step out in new directions to express their ideas and knowledge. **Libra** ♎ Sun signs are challenged to reflect on their philosophy about relationships and to quest for greater beauty in their lives. **Aquarius** ♒ Sun signs need to explore playfulness and their willingness to reveal their creative gifts to others.

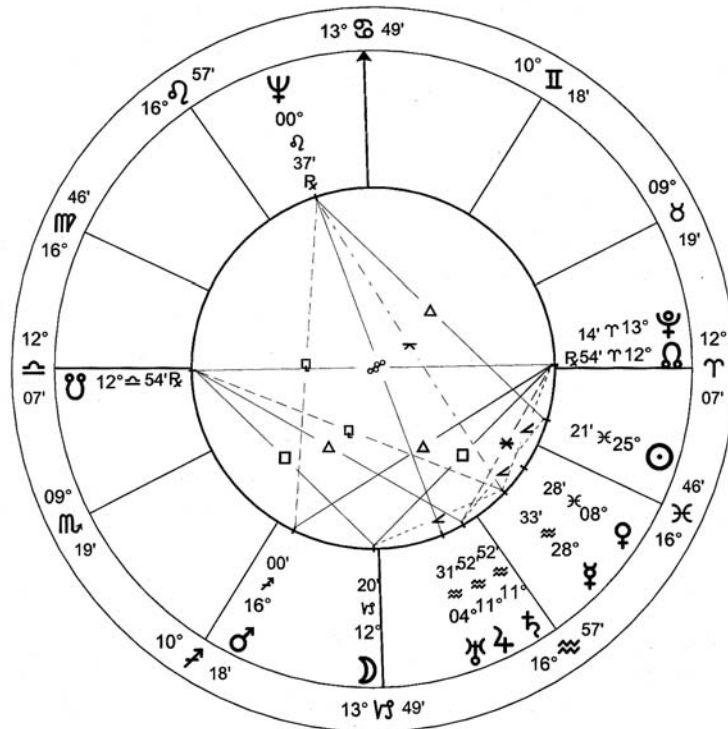
- The three *water* signs are invited to communicate their emotional truths and to explore new paths with personal intimacy. **Cancer** ☊ Sun signs need to develop their intuitive and psychic natures and explore the union of spirituality with emotionality. **Scorpio** ♏ Sun signs need to develop the ability to share honest dialogue about issues of power and emotional intimacy with others. **Pisces** ♋ Sun signs need to explore how to make a safe home in the world for their mystical and sensitive natures.

2080 to 2100: Aries ♈ to Pisces ♋

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurs at 12 degrees of Aquarius on March 15, 2080. As the 21st century comes to a close, the Jupiter-Saturn dance again occurs in Aquarius (the conjunction in 2020 was also in Aquarius). We return to the challenge of how to create an open and free, yet also stable, society that honors the uniqueness of all its members and is organized, functional, and efficient.

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of March 2080.

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction
 Natal Chart
 Mar 14 2080
 7:34 PM EST +5:00
 Washington DC
 38N54 077W02
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



- ▶ The three *fire* signs are invited to bring their fire to their world on an intellectual and relational level with others. **Aries** ♈ Sun signs need to seek out friendships and group experiences that honor their courage and strong individuality. **Leo** ♌ Sun signs need to seek balance and harmony in their lives. **Sagittarius** ♐ Sun signs need to quest for new understanding about their personal truths.
- ▶ The three *earth* signs are encouraged to get their lives grounded and functional in experimental new ways. **Taurus** ♉ Sun signs need to organize their personal resources in efficient and functional ways. **Virgo** ♍ Sun signs need to analyze and discern the most effective way to maintain their health and stability. **Capricorn** ♑ Sun signs need to clarify how best to manage their personal physical and financial resources.
- ▶ The three *air* signs are called to get inspired about participation in community and group processes. **Gemini** ♊ Sun signs need to explore new belief systems that can assist them in communicating their wisdom. **Libra** ♎ Sun signs need to celebrate their special gifts of heart and creativity. **Aquarius** ♒ Sun signs need to follow their own drummer and to claim more fully their individual natures in the world.
- ▶ The three *water* signs are challenged to express their emotional truths with friends and community. **Cancer** ♋ Sun signs need to explore emotional intimacy with self and others. **Scorpio** ♏ Sun signs need to explore new visions of family and home in which their passionate natures are honored. **Pisces** ♓ Sun signs need to seek spiritual and contemplative experiences with their friends and community.



Online with the Heavens

Of all the astrology sites, our favorite is <http://www.astrology.net>.

In addition to horoscopes, tips, and a celebrity-of-the-day birthday profile, this site also offers articles from guest astrologers (who recently included none other than Madeline G-B), an AstroMall (where you can buy everything from Cancer pendants to personal forecasts), an AstroZine, a StarMatcher (best Sun sign matches), a birthday book where you can sign in, and AstroInfo (a wealth of information about all the various branches of astrology and where to get more information).

Another great site is <http://www.astrology.com>, which features everything from your daily horoscope to charts for the stars (Hollywood, that is).

Astrology Alive! is another cool site (<http://www.lightworks.com/astrology/alive>). Recent articles posted on it include discussions of transits and Mercury retrograde. Plus, there are guest speakers and a Skywatch, showing the planets' positions, as well as daily forecasts—and something called The Astrologer's Cheat Sheet for quicky calculations!

The new-age site http://www.thenewage.com/root/na/NA_articles.htm features articles in all sorts of areas of astrology. The Avalon site (<http://www.avalon.co.uk/guilds/astrologers.html>) has astrology that are available for consultation (as do most of the sites we visited).

One other interesting site worth mentioning is <http://www.afund.com>. Here you'll find up-to-the-minute stock market forecasts. We know for a fact that a lot of stock-brokers regularly access this page!

You'll probably want to avoid astrology sites in disguise that are really "rational" types sounding off—although if you do a keyword search you're bound to come across one

sooner or later. They can really be rather funny in their rants, in fact, so don't discount them until you read one yourself.

If you want to go straight to the guest page of astrology.net to check out Madeline's article on good business timing, the address is <http://www.astrology.net/astrozine/guests.html>. Or check out Madeline's Web site at www.astro-cycles.com.

Happy browsing!



Resources for the Starry-Eyed: If You Want to Find Out More

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Glossary

acceleration The correction factor used to compensate for the approximate four-minute difference between a solar day and sidereal time. It is used when calculating both your time of birth and place of birth.

angular houses The First, Fourth, Seventh, and Tenth Houses are angular houses. They correspond to the natural cardinal signs and are houses with the potential for dynamic action.

anthroposophical movement Founded by Rudolph Steiner in 1912, the anthroposophical movement incorporates mystical insight and superior speculation to arrive at a larger meaning.

archetype A term used by psychologist/psychiatrist Carl Jung to represent patterns of the psyche, such as characters that have universal meaning. The Hero is an archetype, for example, and so is the Villain. Other archetypes include Youth, Beauty, and the Trickster.

ascendant Your ascendant is your rising sign, the sign that has just risen over the horizon at the moment of your birth. It represents the “you” that the outside world perceives, as well as personality traits, needs, and your physical characteristics.

aspect grid This grid shows the relationships among planets on a birth chart.

aspects In technical astrological terms, when two planets are in aspect to each other, they are related by one of several geometric angles between them. Some are beneficial, and others are challenging.

AstroCartoGraphy Invented by Jim Lewis, this is a map of the world showing where your planets were rising and setting at the time of your birth. It can also help you determine what types of experiences you may have in a particular location.

Astrological Ages A period of about 2,160 years, based on the precession of the equinoxes. Over a span of many hundreds of years, the Earth’s slight rotation “wobble” changes the apparent location of the Sun at the time of the spring equinox. This backward shift through the signs continues over time, and it takes 25,920 years to get through all the signs!

astrology Astrology began as the study of the “wandering” stars, or planets, as we know them today. It is actually the study of cycles, indicated by planetary movements

and associated with energies and events occurring at the same time on Earth. It uses the cycles of the universe to observe the possibilities of human behavior and experience, using the position of the planets at the time and place you were born to map your strengths and challenges and your soul's purpose.

base 60 A measurement system used for calculations of time or distance: 60 seconds in a minute; 60 minutes in an hour or a degree.

biorhythmic cycles These cycles measure the cyclical changes inside your body, using your birth date as a starting point. The three major biorhythms are the 23-day physical cycle, the 29-day emotional cycle, and the 33-day intellectual cycle.

birth chart This is a unique map of who you are. Using the date, time, and place of your birth, it shows the positions of the planets in the signs and houses. The odds of anyone else having the same birth chart as you are astronomically small!

birth path number Also called your life path number, your birth path number is used in numerology to reveal your life path and your unique, innate talents. It is calculated by adding the numbers in the date, month, and year of your birth, then reducing them to get to a single-digit number.

Book of Time Zone Changes This guide contains all time changes for the past, present, and future for the place you were born (such as Daylight Saving Time and, in the past, War Time).

cadent houses The cadent houses, which correspond to the mutable signs, are the most adaptable group of houses. The Third, Sixth, Ninth, and Twelfth Houses are cadent, and are primarily concerned with relationships and transitional states.

certified astrologer Someone who has studied astrology and has passed the demanding professional certification tests.

conjunction of planets When two planets appear in the same place in the sky at the same time. This begins a new cycle that will reflect the planets involved.

consultation A consultation with an astrologer is a meeting in which your birth chart is explained to you in detail.

cusp The beginning of each house, the door to each, so to speak. Cusps also separate the houses from each other.

daily travel This is the distance a planet moves in a 24-hour period.

descendant The cusp of your seventh house that represents how you channel your energies through partnerships and relationships.

elements The four elements—fire, earth, air, and water—describe the basic qualities of the signs and of life. The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius; the earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn; the air signs are Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius; and the water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

energies The energy manifested by a sign is either direct or indirect, external or internal. You'll see the energies called "feminine" and "masculine" in some books, but we prefer to call them yang (direct/masculine) and yin (indirect/feminine).

ephemeris An ephemeris is a book that shows where the planets are at noon or midnight Greenwich Mean Time every day of each year for a specific time period.

financial astrology This is the study of how and when to best invest your money and manage your finances.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) One of the time standards used in astronomy for locations at the zero-degree longitude or meridian, it's four hours later than Eastern Daylight Time and five hours later than Eastern Standard Time.

horizon line This line on your birth chart divides your chart into north, which is the bottom half, and south, the upper half. It also connects your ascendant, the beginning of the First House, and your descendant, the beginning of the Seventh House.

houses These are the "where" of astrology. Each of the 12 houses encompasses a specific arena of life and is the stage where the drama of the planets unfolds.

I.C. Your I.C. is the cusp of the Fourth House, the point on your birth chart that represents your life's foundations and psychological roots.

interception An intercepted sign is a sign that doesn't appear on a house cusp. Instead, it appears totally within a particular house, with the sign before it beginning the house and the sign after it ending the house. Intercepted signs represent areas people need to develop on their own, because others won't be aware of these needs.

interpolating Interpolating the houses means finding the correct positions between two sidereal times for them.

lunar high Your lunar high (or personal New Moon) occurs when the Moon is in the same sign as your natal Sun sign.

lunar low Occurs when the Moon is in the sign opposite your natal Sun sign.

master numbers Unlike other numbers, the master numbers 11, 22, and 33 don't get reduced to a single digit in numerology. All master numbers indicate giftedness and leadership, and there are special qualities assigned to each of them.

medical astrology This study uses your chart to determine the best ways for you to stay healthy and achieve a sense of well-being. It also can be used for diagnosis.

meridian line This is the line on your birth chart that intersects it from north to south, dividing it into left, the eastern half, and right, the western half. The line of your meridian connects your I.C. and your midheaven.

midheaven Your midheaven is the cusp of the Tenth House and represents your ambition, career or social role, and public image.

Moon phases The eight phases are the parts of the Moon's 29½ day cycle. They are the New Moon, Crescent Moon, First Quarter Moon, Gibbous Moon, Full Moon, Disseminating Moon, Last Quarter Moon, and the Balsamic Moon.

mundane astrology This field of astrology examines what's happening to society rather than to individuals.

name number Also called your destiny number, your name number represents your purpose, or mission, in life. To calculate your destiny number, you assign the letters of the alphabet to the appropriate numbers, then add the numbers of your name together and reduce that number to a one-digit number. The name used is your full name at birth spelled exactly as it is on the birth certificate.

natal astrology This is the interpretation of your birth chart based on the position of the planets at the time and place that you were born, which creates a map unique to you and your authentic self.

Nodes The Nodes physically represent moving points that relate to the Moon's orbit around the Earth. Astrologically, the South Node represents your heredity or your past, and the North Node represents your possibilities for growth and where your future lies.

numerology The study of the meanings of numbers, especially as they relate to one's birth date and the sum of letters in one's name.

opposite signs Also known as a polarity, opposite signs appear directly across from each other in the zodiac. Taurus and Scorpio are opposites, for example.

orbs Orbs are the variances in degree allowed in determining aspects.

palmistry Also called chiromancy, palmistry is the art of predicting a person's fortune by studying a person's hand.

personal planets In astrology, the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars are called the personal planets. They manifest their energies in the ways we reveal ourselves.

personal retrograde A planet that was retrograde at the time of your birth.

planetary degrees This is the longitude and latitude of the position of the planets in the signs.

planetary natives These have an astrological commonality, such as a planet in the same sign or house.

planetary rulers The planetary rulers of signs are the "landlords" of the house with that sign on the cusp. Each planet is in charge of certain signs and shares certain characteristics of those signs.

planets These are the "what" of astrology. They represent the various energies of a person, including things like mental and emotional nature, desires, vitality, soul, will, consciousness, and subconscious, as well as the people in a person's life. In astrology, these include the Sun, the Moon, and the other eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

progressed chart This chart shows how your birth planets evolve over time.

progressions These show how you and your chart evolve through your life and contain the timing for your development and growth. Generally, progressions are felt more internally than transits.

qualities The characteristics of different modes of activity associated with the signs. They represent different types of activities and are related to where in a season a sign falls. Cardinal signs begin each season, and so they like to begin things. Fixed signs, in the middle of each season, are preservers, keeping things as they are. Mutable signs occur as the season is changing, so they are associated with transitions.

quincunx A quincunx is an aspect of 150 degrees and indicates a need to adjust in some way.

reaping lifetime When the majority of the planets in a birth chart are in the Fourth through Ninth Houses (right side of the chart), the person's opportunities come through others.

rectification This is a method for determining your birth time based on things that have happened in your life.

relationship astrology This is the branch of astrology that studies people's charts to determine their compatibility or incompatibility with others.

relocation astrology This branch of astrology determines what type of experiences you will have in a particular area of the country or world.

retrograde When planets are retrograde, they appear to be moving backward. Although this is not actually occurring (planets can only move in one direction along their orbits), this is the way it appears to look from Earth.

sextile A sextile is an aspect of 60 degrees and is considered an opportunity for development.

sidereal time Also called star time, sidereal time is based on the actual amount of time it takes the earth to rotate once on its axis in relation to the fixed stars. While clock time measures a day as 24 hours, based on the apparent movement of the Sun, sidereal time measures it at its astronomical or star speed, about four minutes less.

signs The signs of the zodiac are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. The needs and styles of the planets are shown by the signs, as well as what methods could be used to achieve those needs and styles.

social planets Jupiter and Saturn are the social planets, and they manifest their energies in our interactions with the world around us.

sowing lifetime When the majority of the planets in the birth chart are in the Tenth through Third Houses (left side of the chart), the person creates his or her own opportunities.

start time Also called reference time; for an ephemeris, start time will be either midnight or noon for a given date. You use it to determine your planets' daily travel.

succedent houses These houses correspond to the natural fixed signs and are the houses that give us stability and purpose. The Second, Fifth, Eighth, and Eleventh Houses are succedent.

Sun sign A Sun sign represents the sign associated with the position of the Sun in the heavens at the moment of your birth. When someone asks you what your sign is, he or she is referring to your Sun sign.

synchronicity This is the belief that everything in the universe is interconnected, that it is a pattern of meaningful coincidences, or, as Carl Jung said, that everything born or occurring at a particular time has the energies of that time.

table of houses A reference chart that shows you how to find your ascendant, mid-heaven, and house cusps.

Tarot This is the name for a deck of cards used for fortune telling. As the cards are dealt, the fortunes are interpreted by the dealer based on the cards' combinations.

transiting retrogrades These retrogrades occur as the movements of the planets change and affect everybody. Unlike personal retrogrades, which happened at the moment of your birth, transiting retrogrades are related to what's happening overhead at a given moment.

transits Transits are like triggers for events in your life and the development shown by progressions. They occur when the planets' present positions aspect their various positions in your birth chart.

transpersonal planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are the transpersonal planets; they're concerned with energies beyond the self, with global universal connections.

trine An aspect of 120 degrees, this is considered the most favorable one, although too many of them can make you lazy.

vocational astrology This is the branch of astrology that studies your potential in order to determine your career or path.

void of course When the Moon is void of course, its energy is spent, and this is a time of gestation, research, or rest. Either nothing will come of decisions made during this time, or there will be unexpected problems, which can prevent a project's successful completion.

waning Moon When the Moon is waning, it's decreasing in light, moving from the Full Moon to the next New Moon.

waxing Moon When the Moon is waxing, it's growing in light, moving from the New Moon to the next Full Moon.

zodiac The zodiac is the name of the elliptic pattern the Earth follows in its annual revolution around the Sun. This path is always the same and always passes through the same 12 signs.

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