

THE *astrological* JOURNEY

A REFERENCE GUIDE TO
THE 12 HOUSES, 12 ZODIAC
SIGNS AND 10 PLANETS



Natal Chart Discovery

The natal chart is essentially a map showing the exact placement of various planets within the zodiac at the time and place of birth. Based upon the specifics of the heavens at that moment of birth, the planets are placed throughout the natal chart.

The natal chart is a 360-degree circle divided into 12 parts. Each of these parts corresponds to a different "house" or area of life. The houses are numbered 1 to 12 beginning with the ascendant house. The ascendant represents the sign that was prominent (rising) on the horizon at your exact moment of birth. Knowledge of birth time is necessary and required for an accurate reading as the ascendant calculation lays out the remaining 11 houses of the natal chart.

The natal chart provides a roadmap of our life, including our strengths, challenges, inhibitions, desires and it goes SO MUCH DEEPER. Depending on the specific house that a planet is placed in at the moment of birth, we can develop an idea of that planet's influence on the individual. Constraint? Struggle? Joy? Expansion? This all depends on the interplay of the planets and houses. Also, depending on the moment of birth, each house will fall within a particular zodiac sign, further coloring the life experience with respect to the affairs of the 12 houses.

Deep insights can be gained by developing an understanding of one's natal chart placements. It is my great joy to be able to share with you this very high-level study of the houses, zodiac signs and planets. My hope is that the information contained herein may spark your curiosity to dive deeper into the grand exploration of self-discovery that is Astrology.

Much Love,
Christine
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The 12 Houses

1st House: The House of Personality – Personal style, image, social persona and presentation of the self to others. This is the healing area of self-actualization.

2nd House: The House of Money – Availability and quality of resources and money. On a personal basis, representing self-confidence, self-esteem and personal value.

3rd House: The House of Communication – The ways by which we exchange information and communicate. Learning, language and how we condition our reactions.

4th House: The House of Home – Our connection to personal roots, family and commitment.

5th House: The House of Creation – The house of children and creative projects. Self-expression, play, performance and pleasure seeking.

6th House: The House of Servants – Duties and skills. Our day to day activities. Helpfulness, service. Mentoring and being mentored.

7th House: The House of Partnership – Long-term commitments, intimacy and empathy. Relationships and the role of equality in relationships. Ability to compromise and negotiate.

8th House: The House of Transition – The source of our deep-rooted instinct, death and rebirth, sexual bonding. All things taboo, occult and psychology.

9th House: The House of Expansion – Long distance journeys, higher education, travel, expansion of belief systems, values, religion, “the quest”.

10th House: The House of Career – Profession, reputation, one’s mission in life. Our need to leave a mark on the world.

11th House: The House of the Collective – Friendships, connection to the collective consciousness. Goals, strategies, teamwork, networking.

12th House: The House of Spirituality – Release, psychic experience, withdrawal, self-sabotage, isolation and necessary losses. Calling to be quiet, reflective and meditative in preparation for transcendence.

The 12 Zodiac Signs – Elements and Qualities

The zodiac is one of the oldest universal symbolic languages. The zodiac represents the 12 constellations that dominate our Earthly perspective of the heavens.

Each of the 12 zodiac signs corresponds to an element as well as a quality. The 4 astrological elements are water, fire, earth and air.

Water signs are associated with peace, intuition, sensitivity, calm and flow.

Fire signs are associated strength, vitality, passion, regeneration and enthusiasm.

Earth signs are associated with grounding, practicality and nurturing.

Air signs are associated with liberation, freedom and expansion of knowledge.

The 3 qualities are cardinal, fixed and mutable. The qualities represent how a sign interacts with the environment.

Cardinal signs initiate, fixed signs turn that initiation into foundations and plans, and mutable signs complete the endeavor.

The Zodiac

Aries – Cardinal Fire, representing courage, directness, right use of force vs anger aggression and fear.

Taurus – Fixed Earth, representing calm, slow/steady simplicity, acceptance vs. denial, materialism.

Gemini – Mutable Air, representing curiosity, open-mindedness, communication, listening vs. mind games, fickleness, belief in the myth of the objective dispassionate observer.

Cancer – Cardinal Water, representing gentleness, nurturing, acceptance vs. hardening of shell, self-indulgence, complaining.

Leo – Fixed Fire, representing creativity, open heart, spontaneity, rooted self-expression vs. superficiality, need for approval.

Virgo – Mutable Earth, representing service, healing, grounded-ness, aptitude and skill, commitment vs. insecurity, perfectionism, loss of perspective.

Libra – Cardinal Air, representing negotiation, balance, teamwork vs. co-dependency, self-sacrificing compromise.

Scorpio – Fixed Water, representing deep honesty, shadow-work, emotional investigation vs paralyzing complexity, psychodrama.

Sagittarius – Mutable Fire, representing faith, expansion of the mind, higher values vs. righteousness, rigid beliefs.

Capricorn – Cardinal Earth, representing self-discipline, integrity, strong boundaries, accomplishment vs. control issues, suffering, depression.

Aquarius – Fixed Air, representing individuation, uniqueness, connectedness to the collective vs. disassociation, lack of empathy.

Pisces – Mutable Water, representing mysticism, empathy, compassion vs. escapism, detachment and fantasy.

The Planets

We refer to planets in the traditional sense derived from the Latin root word "planeta", which means to wander (i.e. bodies wandering throughout the heavens). This means that both the sun and the moon, although not actual planets in the modern sense of the term, are considered planets in astrology.

There are 10 primary planets that rule the basics of astrology:

The "inner planets": Sun, Moon, Mercury, Mars and Venus. These planets move quickly through the zodiac thus affecting day-to-day life, personal attitudes and habits.

The "outer planets": Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto. These planets move slowly thus affecting the larger aspects of life. Neptune, Uranus and Pluto move so slowly through the zodiac that they affect entire generations.

And of special note; we still consider Pluto to be a planet (perhaps the most transformational of them all) even though modern astronomers have demoted Pluto to "dwarf" status.

The Inner Planets

Sun - The great luminary, providing warmth and radiance, sustaining life on Earth. The Sun's position is central to the shaping of an individual's personality and ego. Our solar energy radiates outward and thus represents the way we present ourselves to the world. Understanding your sun sign can be key to navigating your self-image, ego and self-expression.

Moon – The Moon shapes our emotions and sub conscious. The zodiac placement of one's natal moon will show emotional needs and desires.

Mercury – In mythology, Mercury was the messenger of the Gods. Mercury represents our expression, communication and intellect, affecting the way we direct and share information. In those infamous retrograde periods, Mercury can wreak havoc when it comes to communication and technology.

Venus – The planet of love – She governs beauty, aesthetic, pleasure, romance and harmony. The zodiac placement of Venus can show us how and what we love and what type of pleasure we gravitate towards.

Mars – The great warrior, planet of passion, determination, physical vitality/energy. Mars can display many octaves from the combative angry warrior, to the enlightened spiritual warrior. The zodiac placement of Mars can represent strength and how one may assert oneself.

The Outer Planets

Jupiter – Expansion, prosperity and spirituality are all within the domain of the planet of grace. Jupiter inspires us to grow, to seek higher knowledge and expansive experiences. The zodiac placement of Jupiter can bring specific forms of luck, while showing us how to expand horizons.

Saturn – Saturn is the last planet that is observable with the naked eye from Earth, representing the boundary between the seen and unseen. Where Jupiter represents expansion, Saturn represents limitation. Saturn governs time and space and allows for slow structured growth. The zodiac placement of Saturn can show our ability to persevere and overcome, along with where our boundaries and limitations.

Neptune – The planet of enchantment, dreams and inspiration existing right alongside illusions, confusion and escapism. Neptune is the cloud that lures and envelops us with its mystical presence. The zodiac placement of Neptune can represent our spiritual desires that may provide as antidotes to deception.

Uranus – The lightning bolt planet. Uranus incites instantaneous change, awakenings and revelations. Individuals with strong Uranus placements can be inspired revolutionaries. The zodiac placement of Uranus represents where one's uniqueness lies.

Pluto – Named for the God of the underworld. Associated with death and rebirth along with deep spiritual transformation from the depths of one's soul. Pluto's zodiac placement will show the areas of life where one will face the intense powers of creation and destruction. Pluto is the Phoenix calling us to rise from the ashes.