

A (Very) Brief Guide to Your Astrological Chart

Astrology is based upon the premise “As Above, So Below” - events on earth reflect the heavenly worlds.

In the Western tradition we use the Sun, Moon and other bodies in the solar system to see what strengths, weaknesses and potential are present in a chart. Other cultures use other systems e.g. Chinese astrology but you will probably gain most from understanding the chart which is compatible with your background.

Astrology consists of three essential elements.

1. Each **planet** represents a different aspect of the psyche.
2. Each **zodiac sign** in which a planet is placed shows how it will behave.
3. The chart is divided into **twelve houses**, each representing an area of life, where the planet/sign combination is most likely to be experienced.

Planets:

	Sun	Your true personality, the real you. What you're capable of being and becoming. How you act.
	Moon	How you react and respond to your surroundings. Day to day feelings and moods. sensitivity
	Mercury	Thought processes, communication, speech, writing, businesses, short journeys, games
	Venus	Marriage, romantic and business partnerships, art, fashion, music, dance, theatre.
	Mars	Decision making. assertiveness, courage, contests, war and military organisations, sport.
	Jupiter	Prosperity, growth, abundance, philosophy and religion, lawyers, charity.
	Saturn	Understanding, hard work, restrictions, the art of the possible, buildings, agriculture.

The above are all visible to the naked eye and have been observed for thousands of years.

The next three planets were discovered in 1781, 1846 and 1930 respectively and can only be seen with a telescope. They move much more slowly, affecting whole generations and are therefore sometimes called transpersonal planets.

	Uranus	Sudden change, inspiration, earthquakes, crashes.
	Neptune	Our highest ideals, dissolving of the old order, diseases, liquids e.g. oil.
 or 	Pluto	Transformation and elimination. Only discovered in 1930 and, as it takes two hundred and fifty years to complete an orbit of the zodiac, our knowledge may be very incomplete.

Signs:

	Aries	Assertive, warm, brave, enthusiastic, leadership, selfish, impulsive, reckless.
	Taurus	Practical, patient, strong-willed, love of food, trustworthy, stubborn, greedy, possessive.
	Gemini	Versatile, communicative, witty, lively, restless, changeable, flippant, inconsistent.
	Cancer	Sensitive, sympathetic, imaginative, protective, nurturing, cautious, touchy-feely.
	Leo	Generous, dramatic, enthusiastic, creative, pompous, conceited.
	Virgo	Analytical, tidy, modest, hardworking, health conscious, fussy, critical.
	Libra	Harmonious, balanced, refined, just, indecisive, resentful, changeable.
	Scorpio	Passionate, secretive, trustworthy, intense, determined, jealous, scheming.
	Sagittarius	Joyful, freedom-loving, good causes, philosophers, tactless, irresponsible
	Capricorn	Determined, reliable, cautious, disciplined, mean, wet blanket.
	Aquarius	Independent, friendly, progressive, original, loyal, unpredictable, contrary.
	Pisces	Compassionate, sympathetic, intuitive, kind, emotional, vague, disordered.

The signs are linked together by element. **Fire signs** are creative and warm, **Earth signs** are practical, **Air signs** are communicators and **Water signs** are emotionally based.

The Cardinal signs (**Aries**, **Cancer**, **Libra**, **Capricorn**) indicate movement and action, fixed signs (**Taurus**, **Leo**, **Scorpio**, **Aquarius**) signify lack of movement and steadfastness or stability while the common or mutable signs (**Gemini**, **Virgo**, **Sagittarius**, **Pisces**) show something between the other two types.

Essential Dignity:

When placed in particular signs, each of the planets is said to gain or lose essential dignity. Planets gain essential dignity by being in the sign of their rulership or exaltation and lose dignity by being in the sign of their detriment or fall which are the opposite signs to rulership and exaltation respectively.

There are further levels of dignities known as the Triplicities, Terms and Faces of planets which are not dealt with here.

Planet	Sign in which each planet is in its:			
	Rulership	Exaltation	Detriment	Fall
				
				
	 		 	
	 		 	
	 		 	
	 		 	
	 		 	

There are other situations and positions known as accidental dignity which will strengthen or weaken a planet including the house in which it is placed, its relationship to the Sun and whether it is moving faster or slower than average.

The Houses:

First (Ascendant) and particularly the sign and degree at the beginning of the first house):

The body, how you present yourself, your appearance, health, life itself.

Second: Personal possessions and moveable property, finances.

Third: Communications, primary education (per some modern astrologers), short journeys, siblings.

Fourth: Home, father, roots, family - from “womb to tomb,” the land, fixed property.

Fifth: Children, pleasure, gambling, theatre, creativity, agents

Sixth: Illness, small animals, employees.

Seventh: One to one partnerships of all kinds,

Eighth: Other people’s money and resources, sex, death, tax and insurance, stockmarket.

Ninth: Long journeys of all kinds, physical and spiritual, dreams, (further) education, lawyers.

Tenth: Achievements, reputation, career, the monarchy, mother.

Eleventh: Friends, hobbies, hopes and wishes, trades unions and parliament.

Twelfth: Seclusion, monasteries, prisons, hospitals, self-destruction.

In this brief summary, to gain an idea of your strengths and weaknesses, look at the position of the planets by sign and house and write down the key words - see if recurrent themes emerge.

Aspects:

These show the number of degrees between planets. The qualities symbolised by the planets are generally assisted by green (trine, 120° ) and blue (sextile, 60° ) lines and hindered by red (square 90° ) and pink (oppositions, 180° ) . Aspects where the planets are moving towards each other (applying) show greater strength than aspects which are separating. An “R” next to the planet shows it is “retrograde,” apparently moving backwards, which lessens its effect.

When two planets are in the same degree of the zodiac they are said to be in conjunction () and the effect will depend on the planets involved. Aspects and a conjunction will have an effect even if they are not exact. The potency will extend a few degrees either way – typically between 5° and 10° depending on which planets are involved.

Note also the position of the Part of Fortune () - particularly by sign - and the position by house and sign of the planet which rules the sign in which the Part of Fortune is placed - these give you an indication of the parts of your life which will give you greatest contentment and satisfaction.

The position of the North Node of the Moon () , particularly by house, also shows good fortune and, according to some, the area of life which must be worked on to produce spiritual growth. Conversely, the South Node of the Moon () shows bad fortune and areas with which we are familiar - little is to be gained in the soul’s growth by spending time here - we have done this before in previous lives.

This is only a very brief summary - astrology is a vast subject and can easily form a lifelong study. It is also a fascinating path to self knowledge for those who seek it and a joyful method of serving others.