

Introduction

Astrology is a fascinating subject. While almost everyone knows his or her astrological sign, they are not always familiar with the personal characteristics associated with it. Those who turn their interest into more understanding of the subject itself will gain some truly unique insights about themselves and others. I have rarely encountered a person totally immune from wanting to know more about astrology. The following paragraphs explain some of their most frequent questions.

What is astrology?

Astrology is the study of cycles. The sun, moon, and planets move in their own time and in their own space according to individual cycles. Similarly ordained, the earth and all life upon its surface carry forward in complicated, perhaps never-to-be-fully understood, patterns that make up the Grand Design of the cosmos. The Greeks believed this enthusiastically. Some of the greatest thinkers in the history of mankind did not at all think it unreasonable to study planetary cycles in order to gain a better understanding of how mankind in general and people as individuals, fit into the universal cosmos. The Greeks assembled the body of knowledge upon which modern astrology is based. They applied their advanced understanding of astronomy and mathematics to the descriptions handed down from the astrologers/astronomers (there was no distinction in those days) of ancient Egypt and Babylonia.

What does one's astrological sign mean?

When people refer to their astrological sign, they are merely stating which sign of the zodiac the sun was in when they were born.

Why is the sun's position so important in astrology?

As stars go with respect to size and brilliance, our sun is not a very impressive specimen. However, in a universe incalculably cold and dark, it is fortunate for us that the earth unfailingly continues to circle around this little spot of warmth and light. Without it there would be no life. During the twelve months it takes to make one complete orbit around the sun, the earth receives life-giving solar rays from continually changing angles. This cyclical pattern produces the four seasons. Birth, growth, maturity, and death; the cycle of the seasons is ordained by the earth's relationship with the sun, and every individual life upon its surface is in imitation of this pattern.

The date when the sun leaves one sign and enters another varies by just a day or two from month to month, occurring sometime between the 20th and 23rd. The astrological sign of those born during the one day when the sun moves into the next sign is determined by the time they were born. For example, people whose birth occurred on April 20th might be Aries, while others born on the very

same day will be Taurus if they came into the world after the sun entered the new sign. Those born on or around these dates are often said to be on the cusp. What this really means is that they are not sure if the sun had entered another sign on the day of their birth. The confusion can easily be remedied. Many calendars and almanacs list the date as well as the time when the sun enters a new sign each month.

Doesn't astrology recognize that we all share the same traits?

Astrology reflects the principle that nothing in the universe is at once so simple or so complicated as man himself, from the simple human traits inherent in all humans at birth to the complexity of specific personality and behavior patterns of a single individual. Desirable and undesirable characteristics repeat themselves in the individuals of countless generations, appearing only slightly altered by the history of changing circumstances. Specific traits indicated as belonging to one astrological sign does not deny the fact that people born in any of the other eleven signs also possess these traits. What it means is that hundreds of years of recorded astrological observations have shown that certain traits are more prominent in the personality and temperament of those born in one sign than in another. That is the reason, for example, that moodiness becomes a trait associated with one sign or loquaciousness the hallmark of another.

On what are the astrological sign descriptions based?

Certain signs share some traits. This can seem confusing unless you understand how traits are classified. Astrology uses two general classifications to explain how different signs can share the same characteristic. These two classifications also focus on the true nature of each sign, as they are distinct from each other. One classification is known as Elements, which divides the twelve signs into four groups: Fire signs, Earth signs, Air signs and Water signs. The other classification is known as Qualities, which divides the twelve signs into three groups: Cardinal signs, Fixed signs, and Mutable signs .

Elements

Defining characteristics in terms of Elements is based on whether a person's initial (elementary) reaction to everything in life is physical, pragmatic, intellectual, or emotional. An individual's first reaction to things is an instantaneous process. Describing it as though it occurs in slow motion makes it easier for us to understand how one individual's primary reactions may differ from another's, and how much the tendency of these responses influences the way we think and the things we do.

The first element is **Fire**, represented by the signs **Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius**.

For these people, the first reaction to everything is a physical one. They are the ones most likely to "shoot first and ask questions later." Before they assess the practicality of their actions, before considering the emotional consequences, and before intellectual perceptions have a chance to impose control Fire sign people need to do something. The moment their interest is aroused, they charge into battle unarmed. In their haste to do something important details may be forgotten or disregarded. They can be unmindful of how their careless actions may hurt or infringe on the rights of others. The positive side of their animated natures is that fire signs possess great courage. They are willing to take chances and do things others would not attempt. Their accomplishments can be legendary if they learn to channel their energy constructively into worthwhile endeavors and develop the patience to complete the projects they initiate. Fire sign people are the most physically active. Aries likes to be active simply as a release of energy. Leo wants to get around in order to enjoy the attention and sociable companionship of others. Sagittarius loves the freedom that comes from being physically independent.

The second element is **Earth**, represented by the signs **Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn**.

These individuals are invariably of a practical nature and seldom do anything without a purpose. Before taking action that might be a waste of time, before allowing reason and logic to present all sides of an issue (some of which may not be of direct benefit to them), and before giving in to the sentimentality of emotions, Earth signs assess everything in terms of their personal goals. They expect some tangible reward or manifestation of gratefulness on the part of others in recognition of their efforts. At times it is hard to convince Earth sign personalities that everything cannot be measured in terms of its material worth. At other times, the practical nature of the Earth sign is a valuable asset. Their eye for value lets them see the worthiness of people as well as things that may not be so readily apparent to others. They are remarkable at discovering ways to conserve resources. They instinctively recognize and enjoy the material comforts of life and don't mind expending energy in that direction. Earth signs are not particularly motivated to do anything until they find it expedient to do so. Taurus will doggedly pursue anything that fills a basic need or desire. Virgo patiently tries to secure their own needs through service and responsibility to others, though they are not above using guilt as a weapon to get what they want. Capricorn will forego temporary needs and desires. They are in it for the long haul. No matter how long it takes to get there, their goals are met when they are put in charge and can do whatever they like.

The third element is **Air**, represented by the signs **Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius**.

These individuals have an intellectual orientation to everything. Before taking action that might be unnecessary, before practicality distracts their attention, and before emotionalism can blur the facts, Air sign people focus their immediate

attention on the available information in order to form a complete and unbiased judgment. They get sidetracked looking for some lesson to be learned. Attracted to all forms of education and communication, they are adept at making objective decisions and impartial judgments. Caught up in their intellectual approach however, they often fail to realize that no matter how rich the world of imagination, there is no substitute for experiencing the physical and emotional realities of life. In personal relationships, they have to remember that high-mindedness is no excuse for lack of sentiment or physical action. In practical matters, Air signs must learn that what works in theory may not work in reality. They are usually the quickest to acquire communicative skills. Gemini wants to find out what is going on. Libra does not like to be alone and therefore seeks the companionship of others. Aquarius, inherently intrigued by people and society, wants to be where others are gathered.

The fourth element is **Water**, represented by the signs **Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces**.

Those born in a Water sign always lead with their hearts. Before taking action that might cause anxiety, before practicality imposes a limit on sentiment, and before intellectual reason offers irrefutable evidence that their feelings are unjustified, Water sign people react to everything on an emotional level. Feelings dominate their decisions. They can retard their own growth and development by giving in to feelings of self-pity or undue sentiment. On the other hand, when they allow intelligence to curb sentimentality and sharpen intuitive faculties, they can be unerring in their judgments.

Emotionalism can raise them to singular heights of inspiration and achievement and also plunge them into the depths of degradation and despair. These personalities must learn to curb possessiveness and emotional dependency. Water signs are the most sensitive. The emotional environment in which they are raised plays a major role in determining their emotional and mental health as adults. They tend to be shy and in need of constant reassurance. Their willingness to do anything is largely a matter of how they are feeling at the time. Cancer wants emotional satisfaction through home and family. Scorpio seeks emotional satisfaction through manipulation and control, and Pisces seeks emotional satisfaction on whatever physical, spiritual, or creative level they can find.

Qualities

Defining characteristics in terms of Qualities is based on three basic attitudes toward life. Does a person want to get things done, as do the Cardinal sign personalities? Is a person too stubborn or fearful of changing the status quo, as are the Fixed sign personalities? Or, is a person likely to go along with the prevailing situation by adjusting to change, as are the Mutable sign personalities?

The Cardinal signs are Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn.

People born in these signs are strong-willed and have a desire for accomplishment. They are the doers, the movers and shakers in the world. Also known as "executive" signs, Cardinal sign personalities like to be involved in major projects and to take charge of whatever needs to be done.

The Fixed signs are Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius.

These personalities are cautious and tend to be extremely stubborn. Their opinions and habits are not readily altered. They do not appreciate unexpected, sudden, or imposed changes. The tenacity of these personalities is a valuable asset in research or other areas where patience and stamina are required. Their cautious nature prevents unnecessary waste of their time, talent, and resources.

The Mutable signs are Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces.

These individuals have remarkable ability to adapt to all kinds of situations, making it easy for others to live and work with them. Their adaptability makes Mutable sign people survivors. However, their willingness to constantly adjust to the influence of other people's situations can seriously inhibit the growth and development of their own talents and personalities.

Putting the Elements and Qualities Together

Adding the descriptive Elements and characteristic Qualities together is the method that gives a unique personal profile to each of the astrological signs.

Aries is the Cardinal-Fire sign.

Aries people need to keep physically busy. They accomplish many things simply because of their restless energy. They need to learn how to make constructive use of their energetic efforts. The typical Aries urge is to take on more projects than can be done reasonably well. Though others may find it difficult to physically keep pace, they are attracted to the animation and spirit of Aries personalities.

Cancer is the Cardinal-Water sign.

Cancerians get things done through the power of their emotional commitment. Not only do they aggressively work to accomplish the goals inspired by their own feelings, they also know how to appeal to the emotions of others. By making other people feel like family members, Cancerians effectively inspire others to help get projects accomplished. They have to learn how to reach an emotional balance since they tend to be overly sensitive and moody.

Libra is the Cardinal-Air sign.

Librans accomplish things because they intellectually evaluate what needs to be done, and then they charm others into cooperating with them to achieve the goal. By unselfishly sharing the success of accomplishment with those who assisted, Librans continue to engender the cooperative efforts of others. They have to learn how to deal with confrontations. Fear of hurting others or avoidance of hostile situations can keep them from pursuing their goals.

Capricorn is the Cardinal-Earth sign.

Capricorns are natural goal setters. They willingly handle many tasks if it helps them get what they want. Many things get accomplished simply because they happen to be part of Capricorn's overall efforts to reach higher goals. They need definitive guidelines. Rules and regulations provide structure they need for establishing the pattern of their own actions. They must learn however, that the end never justifies the means.

Taurus is the Fixed-Earth sign.

Taureans stubbornly cling to their own ideas and habits, and may fail to take advantage of new ideas or situations simply because they cannot see their practical use. They have to understand that while tenacity and a stable temperament yield rewards in many endeavors, tolerance and flexibility are the best assets when it comes to personal relationships.

Leo is the Fixed-Fire sign.

Leos stubbornly cling to their pride. They resent the indignity of altering their opinions or behavior in front of or at the request of others. Their stubborn nature makes it hard for them to accept that there is no virtue in giving what they want to give rather than what may really be wanted or needed, and no reward in misguided loyalty to those who are not worthy of it.

Scorpio is the Fixed-Water sign.

Scorpios stubbornly cling to emotional attachments. They rarely forget or forgive emotional rejection. They have to learn that jealousy and possessiveness are self-defeating. Rechanneling negative feelings and experiences into constructive activities benefits others as well as themselves. No other sign has the emotional strength of Scorpio.

Aquarius is the Fixed-Air sign.

Aquarians are born looking for ideologies to which they can stubbornly cling. They refuse to budge whenever an issue involves what they believe to be a "matter of principle." As in the case of the Aquarian Abraham Lincoln, society greatly benefits when these principles happen to be noble ones.

Gemini is the Mutable-Air sign.

Using their communicative skills, Geminians adapt to any situation they encounter. However, they must learn to speak with candor instead of simply repeating what others want to hear. Clever-tongued Geminians develop the amazing ability to obscure the facts in their stimulating and imaginative chatter.

Virgo is the Mutable-Earth sign.

Virgos adapt to different people and situations by finding ways to make themselves useful. To hide their vulnerability, they focus attention on what they're doing rather than who they are. To deflect attention away from themselves, Virgos will also focus on other people by praising their talents and virtues, or just as likely, by listing their faulty behavior or personal defects.

Sagittarius is the Mutable-Fire sign.

Restless energy and the need for personal independence keep Sagittarians moving in many directions. They become experts at adapting to whatever culture and clime happens to fit their current interest. Always ready to travel for business or pleasure, and sometimes because of an overwhelming urge to escape (either figuratively or literally), they are all too willing to bypass the confinements of responsibility and work.

Pisces is the Mutable-Water sign.

Pisceans adapt emotionally to the influence of their environment. Often painfully shy, they are adept at imitating the mannerisms of other people as a way of hiding their own personality. Pisceans can too easily become victims of their considerable ability to identify with the personality and problems of other people, since it severely restricts the development of their own personality traits and talents.

Why don't some people seem to fit their astrological sign?

There are two reasons why some people don't seem to fit the descriptive characteristics of their astrological sign. In the first instance, they may not really understand the entire astrological description of their sign and are basing their opinion only on a few generalities. A more thorough explanation often reveals that most individuals do demonstrate the inherent characteristics of their sun sign. In the second instance, astrological interpretation is based on knowing the complete horoscope of an individual that indicates where all the celestial bodies were positioned at the time of birth. It will reveal how strongly an individual exhibits the traits associated with his or her sun sign.

After the sun's sign, the most important position is the sign in which the moon was located at birth. For example, let's say at the time of birth the sun was in Aries. The moon may also be in Aries at birth but it may just as easily be in any of the other eleven astrological signs. The astrological sign position of the moon has an important bearing on personality and temperament from an emotional point of view. It describes how a person will emotionally handle the characteristics and traits indicated by the position of the sun at birth. Many calendars and almanacs list the daily lunar positions.

What is the difference between astrological sign and horoscope?

As previously explained, a person's astrological sign is determined simply by the position of the sun at the time of birth. The horoscope, however, is literally a map of the heavens showing the exact position of the sun, moon, and planets. It is mathematically calculated using the exact date, hour, and location of an individual's birth. Many people are born on the same date but at a different hour. Many are born on the same date and in the same hour, but not in the same place. An individual's horoscope is calculated using all three of these variables. Every four-minute interval produces a slightly different chart, and even twins are rarely born within such a narrow space of time. The horoscope is indeed a unique chart; no two individuals have the same one. This is the reason why an astrologer can define an individual's nature and temperament in a most subtle and personal manner.

Explanations and Legends of the Glyphs in The Wheel

Zodiac Signs and Names

♈	Aries	The Ram
♉	Taurus	The Bull
♊	Gemini	The Twins
♋	Cancer	The Crab
♌	Leo	The Lion
♍	Virgo	The Virgin
♎	Libra	The Scales
♏	Scorpio	The Scorpion
♐	Sagittarius	The Archer
♑	Capricorn	The Goat
♒	Aquarius	The Water- Bearer
♓	Pisces	The Fish

The Planets

☉	The Sun
☾	The Moon
☿	Mercury
♀	Venus
♂	Mars
♃	Jupiter
♄	Saturn
♅	Chiron
♁	Uranus
♆	Neptune
♇	Pluto
♊	North Node
♋	South Node
♁	Retrograde
⊗	Part of Fortune

The Zodiac Symbols

Aries: The Ram *March 21-April 20*

Ruler: Mars *Physical correlations:* Head, Blood, face *Tarot Correspondent:* The Emperor *Element:* Fire and *Quality:* Cardinal MASCULINE

Taurus: The Bull *April 21-May 20*

Ruler: Venus *Physical correlations:* Neck, Nape, shoulders, and throat *Tarot Correspondent:* The Hierophant *Element:* Earth and *Quality:* Fixed FEMININE

Gemini: The Twins *May 21-June 20*

Ruler: Mercury *Physical correlations:* Lungs, bronchial tubes, collarbone, arms and hands *Tarot Correspondent:* The Lovers *Element:* Air and *Quality:* Mutable MASCULINE

Cancer: The Crab *June 21-July 22*

Ruler: Moon *Physical correlations:* Stomach, female breasts, glands *Tarot Correspondent:* The Chariot *Element:* Water and *Quality:* Cardinal FEMININE

Leo: The Lion *July 23-August 22*

Ruler: Sun *Physical correlations:* Heart, circulatory system, spinal column *Tarot Correspondent:* Strength *Element:* Fire and *Quality:* Fixed MASCULINE

Virgo: The Virgin *August 23-September 22*

Ruler: Mercury *Physical correlations:* Intestinal tract, metabolism, solar plexus *Tarot Correspondent:* The Hermit *Element:* Earth and *Quality:* Mutable FEMININE

Libra: The Scales *September 23-October 22*

Ruler: Venus *Physical correlations:* Kidneys, renal pelvis, bladder, skin *Tarot Correspondent:* Justice *Element:* Air and *Quality:* Cardinal MASCULINE

Scorpio: The Scorpion *October 23-November 21*

Ruler: Mars *Physical correlations:* Genitals *Tarot Correspondent:* Death *Element:* Water and *Quality:* Fixed FEMININE

Sagittarius: The Archer *November 22-December 21*

Ruler: Jupiter *Physical correlations:* Hips, thighs, liver and gallbladder *Tarot Correspondent:* Temperance *Element:* Fire and *Quality:* Mutable MASCULINE

Capricorn: The Goat *December 22-January 20*

Ruler: Saturn *Physical correlations:* Bone system, knees, nails *Tarot Correspondent:* The Guardian *Element:* Earth and *Quality:* Cardinal FEMININE

Aquarius: The Water-Carrier *January 21-February 19*

Ruler: Uranus *Physical correlations:* Lower leg, pancreas *Tarot Correspondent:* The Star *Element:* Air and *Quality:* Fixed MASCULINE

Pisces: The Fish *February 20-March 20*

Ruler: Neptune *Physical correlations:* Feet and ankles *Tarot Correspondent:* The Moon *Element:* Water and *Quality:* Mutable FEMININE

The Planets

The Sun: Orbits the entire zodiac in one year. Stays on the average of one month in each sign. The sun embodies your reflections on your own character and personality development and how it occurs. Often your particular "path" or goal is inherent in the characteristics of the Sun. Ruler of the Zodiac Sign Leo.

The Moon: Orbits the entire zodiac in 27 days. Stays on the average of about 2 days in each sign. The moon represents the inner nature of the self. This is where all the unconscious and instinctive as well as intuitive reactions stem from. This is often considered the characteristics of the "subconscious". Ruler of the Zodiac Sign: Cancer.

Mercury: Orbits the entire zodiac in about 87 days. Remains in each Zodiac sign on the average of 7 days. This planet stands for the mind and intellect as well as communication. All the mental faculties are embodied within this planet's characteristics. Some refer to it as the path that thought travels between the unconscious mind and the conscious mind.

Mercury in Retrograde which happens about four times a year can wreak havoc on signed contracts, author's drafts, computer systems, and just about anything that has a mode of communication and commitment will need to be redone when this tiny planet closest to the Sun appears Retrograde. Ruler of the Zodiac Signs: Gemini and Virgo.

Venus: Orbits the entire zodiac in 225 days and remains in each sign on the average of 19 days. This planet symbolizes love, feeling, peace and harmony in relationships. Like Mercury being so close to the Sun, its place in a natal chart is usually either the same as the Sun or falling within two houses from the Sun Sign. Ruler of the Zodiac Signs: Taurus and Libra.

Mars: Orbits the entire zodiac in 687 days and stays an average of about 2 months in each sign. This planet embodies the strength one has in their will to achieve and conquer their goals. An often-maligned planet due to its namesake, Mars the God of War, one needs to be reminded that Mars was also the God of Husbandry. Thus Martian aspects in a chart often represent animal magnetism and great understanding of nature. Ruler of the Zodiac Signs: Aries and Scorpio.

Jupiter: Orbits through the zodiac around every 12 years and stays in each sign an average of about one year. This large planet is interpreted largely on its size as a characteristic of expansion in one's chart. Trust and your values in life's meaning are embodied in this planet. Jupiter also represents career, good fortune and prosperity as well as wisdom and dignity. Ruler of the Zodiac sign: Sagittarius.

Saturn: Orbits through all the signs once every 29 years or so. Stays in each sign an average of two years. This is the result of what is called an individual's "Saturn Return". This planet represents structure, steadfastness, determination, and

limitation. Often the challenger of all the planets in a person's chart, The effect that Saturn aspects may have are often for the individual to redefine their boundaries as well as encountering restrictions that may be unpleasant. All this is in the name of transformation but could be a time for separations and farewells. Death is not an unusual occurrence with certain aspects of Saturn. Ruler of the Zodiac signs: Capricorn and Aquarius.

Chiron: Orbits takes about 51 years and connects to both Saturn and Uranus orbits. Not astronomically called a planet, but instead is referred to as a Centaur which is neither asteroid or planet because of size and "coma" but considered a "mini-planet. Chiron will stay 8 years in Aries and only 1 and 1/2 in Libra due to its odd orbit. First discovered in 1977, it has been astrologically recognized since 1992. It is termed the "wounded healer" , thus another area of interpretation for karma astrology. One astrologer, Zane Stein, considers Chiron the Ruler for Virgo *through* Sagittarius.

Uranus: Discovered in 1781, the planet takes 84 years to traverse through the zodiac and remains in each sign on an average of 7 years. This is the planet that embodies freedom and independence. It has the nickname as "liberator". its effect can be of unrepentant changes and upheaval. Ruler of the Zodiac sign: Aquarius

Neptune: Discovered in 1846, its orbit through the zodiac is 156 years. The duration in one sign is 14 years. Saturn teaches boundaries and Neptune DISSOLVES boundaries. Neptune's effect is mystical and of the spiritual realm. Those charts aspected well with Neptune usually prove to have psychic and clairvoyant abilities. The down side is this is the planet that indicates addiction to drugs and alcohol and destructive behavior because there is difficulty in coping with the mundane world. Ruler of the Zodiac sign: Pisces.

Pluto: Discovered in 1930, its orbit takes a whopping 248 years to visit all the signs in the zodiac belt. It overstays its welcome in each sign to the tune of 21 years on the average but it can vary from 11 to 30 years because of its unusual orbit. Pluto represents the deepest transformational power a person experiences in life. The characteristic this planet brings to the surface is powerlessness, helplessness, dependency, and emotional entanglement. Obsession is also indicated. Ruler of the Zodiac sign: Scorpio.

Moon's North Node and Moon's South Node: The moon is facing part south and north of the Sun's orbit thus the two directional names. If the Moon comes from the South it is called Ascending Moon's Node, North Node, or Dragon's Head. Coming from the North it is Descending Moon's Node, South Node and Dragon's Tail. The opposition creates an automatic aspect to each other. The meaning is as well opposite. The South Node indicates something you have mastered and learned in the past, old patterns that the soul carried forward to this lifetime, karmically speaking. The North Node indicates what needs to be accomplished in this lifetime and is directly opposite of the past. The effect is expressed primarily in the HOUSE that it resides in and not the Zodiac Sign.

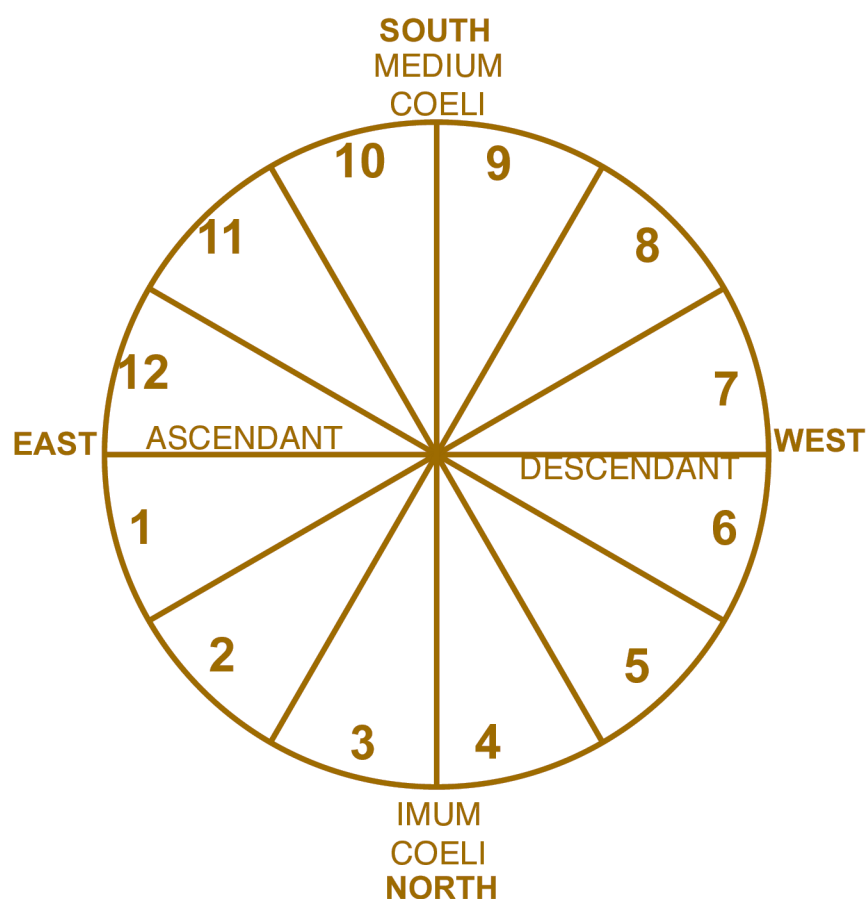
Part of Fortune: This is a point in space rather than a celestial body. The Part of Fortune shows the Moon at sunrise and indicates the relationship of the Sun

and the Moon. Finding the longitude of the Ascendant and the longitude of the Moon and subtracting the longitude of the Sun calculates the mathematical equation of the Part of Fortune. The sum is the Part of Fortune. The thumbnail meaning is that the HOUSE that the Part of Fortune resides in is where the person will be the most fortunate. Modern Astrology also looks at the Part of Fortune as related to karmic readings.

Retrograde: The path of the orbit of a planet is ecliptic, their speed, as viewed by the Earth, varies by their position in the ecliptic journey. Earth is also moving in this ecliptic path that results with it being “faster” than another planet. This makes that planet appear as if it is moving backwards. The Retrograde planets in a natal chart play a major role in working with karmic astrology.

The Wheel

The Wheel of Houses: The four quadrants are subdivided into three fields. These fields are called Houses. The calculation methods of these fields are the same in astrological practices. However, the actual subdividing does vary and this is called House System. For Indigo Ray's purposes in calculating the chart, we use the Equal house system. This means all the houses are equal sized. Other House systems are: Placidus, Campanus and Koch. In *The only way to learn Astrology, v.1* ; Marion D. March and Joan McEvers: the authors likened the components of the chart to this analogy: "The planets are the actors, the signs are the roles they play and the houses are the settings or situations in which the cast portrays its role".



The Four Quadrants

The Ascendant: Another name for this is the Rising sign and so named because the calculation for the ascendant is determined by zodiac constellation rested on the eastern horizon in the sky at the time of birth. The characteristic of the Ascendant is that sign on the horizon and is how the outside world views that individual. The three major factors looked at in a chart by astrologers are the Sun Sign, the Moon Sign and the Ascendant. These three make up the powerful indicators that all the other signs and aspects deal with in an individual's chart.

The Descendent: Opposite the Ascendant on the wheel represents and indicates in a chart how one deals with one-to-one relationships and the need of them.

The Imum Coeli: (Nadir) This is how the individual expresses himself with friends and families. The planets lying near (within 1° or so) to the IC denote the past lives of the individual.

The Medium Coeli: (Midheaven): The placement of planets near and around this point in the chart indicate profession, career and overall drive for achievement.

The Houses

First House: Begins the wheel with the focus on what this life's tone will be. Included in the interpretation are the outer appearance, type of personality, the general awareness of life and vital energy. The physical traits of the individual. The expression of independence and individuality. Analogous to Aries.

Second House: The house of finance and assets. This is called the Prosperity house. Analogous to Taurus.

Third House: The house of the mind and communications. Also identified with short journeys of a business nature. Analogous to Gemini.

Fourth House: The house of family and ancestors. This is where the home hearth lies. Also identified with the father. Analogous to Cancer.

Fifth House: The house of children. The Inner Child, if you will, is indicated in this house. Self-expression and playfulness are adjectives that can describe the aspects of the planets that fall in this house. Analogous to Leo.

Sixth House: The house of physical work. Here lies the indicator of the relationship between body and mind. Alternative medicine is indicated in this house. Work life environment is a matter for the sixth house. Analogous to Virgo.

Seventh House: The house of partnership and commitment. The give and take in personal relationships. Lasting partnerships and associates. Analogous to Libra.

Eighth House: The house of transformation. Death and rebirth. Inheritances. The Occult. Analogous to Scorpio.

Ninth House: The house of philosophy. Long journeys and foreign countries. The

search for a power greater than yourself. Analogous to Sagittarius.

Tenth House: The house of vocation or the individual's calling in life. The house becomes more important as the individual's life progresses. Analogous to Capricorn.

Eleventh House: The house of friends. The house covers groups, team spirit, large communities, and hospitality. Analogous with Aquarius.

Twelfth House: House of secrets. The mystical house. Retreat and seclusion. Can also indicate where hidden enemies are. Analogous with Pisces.

The Aspects and their Angles

♂	Conjunction	Close
♌	Semi-Sextile	30°
∠	Semi-Square	45°
✱	Sextile	60°
Q	Quintile	72°
□	Square	90°
△	Trine	120°
♁	Sesquiquadrate	135°
⋈	Inconjunct	150°
♋	Opposition	180°

An **aspect** is an angular relationship between two points in the 360° of the zodiac. Said another way, the angular distance between two planets is what causes the aspect. The aspect begins with the fastest orbiting planet of the two. For example, it would be Mercury conjunct Saturn and not Saturn conjunct Mercury.

Conjunction: CLOSE : The most powerful aspect because it indicates the same degree of the same sign for two planets. This aspect can be very intense and sometimes on the negative side, combustible. Conjunction expresses the creative energy of both planets involved.

Sextile 60°: This is a positive aspect for the planets involved. The effect is usually influence of functions in the intellectual world of ideas. Mental facilities are heightened and more interests are researched with this aspect. This expresses itself through the skill of written or spoken communication. This is the sociable aspect.

Semisextile: 30° : This is considered one of the weaker aspects of the chart but none the less can have influence on the planets involved. Most often it represents flowing of energies of the sympathetic pairing of the planets. It does allow for entry of new information

Semisquare: 45°: Also considered a weaker aspect of the chart. This angle results in planetary energies that conflict in subtle tension and usually calmness is required.

Quintile: 72°: Another positive and powerful aspect. The planetary energies are positively linked with subtle and spiritual in dimension. Independence and strong will are indicated with this aspect.

Square: 90°: One of the harder aspects, it indicates the planetary energies are in conflict. This internal and creative tension often brings rich rewards over time.

Trine: 120°: Another positive aspect where the planetary energies flow smoothly and the connection is easy and beneficial.

Sesquiquadrate: 135°: This aspect can be challenging because the planetary energies are in conflict in determined tension, control is required.

Inconjunct: 150°: As the name implies it is the opposite of conjunct. The planetary energies do not flow smoothly and one or the other predominates. Discrimination is advised with this aspect.

Opposition: 180°: With this aspect the planetary aspects are polarized. It is more likely that outer events stimulate their interaction. The challenge here is to integrate.

What you just read was an Astrology 101 lesson. What wasn't said was the importance of reading interpretations with an open mind. Many of the interpretations include the proviso of "may" or "might". It is this Astrologer's belief that the celestial influences impel and not compel. Free will is the final interpreter of any given situation. The aspects, houses, signs and patterns simply describe what were the energies available to your soul at the time of your birth.

Generally speaking one cannot exceed the boundaries placed in the natal chart because, quite simply, the energy impulses are non-existent. For example, I wanted to be a dancer. Try as I may and with mediocre results my natal chart showed no indication I would be a dancer instead it showed my soul's work was of a counseling nature. Thus any footwork (unintentional pun) I put toward being a counselor would be backed by the celestial influences. And indeed it has. This is role of the Natal Chart it sets up boundaries that progress as you progress through the journey of life. The study of the progression of a natal chart is a current way of looking at what was in the past, what is now in the present and then finally what are the possibilities for the future.