

ASTROLOGY BASICS – YOUR STARTER FOR 10

1. YOUR SUN SIGN

Most people know their Sun sign as this is the focus of daily horoscopes. Fewer, however, know how that sign is derived or about the significance of other planets.

Basically, astrology divides the 360° space around Earth into 12 equal segments of 30°. Each segment, which is fixed in space, represents one of the 12 signs of the zodiac (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, etc.). Imagine standing on Earth's surface at the exact time and place you were born and looking up at the heavens to see 12 equal divisions in the spherical space around you. Wherever the Sun was located at the moment you were born is your Sun sign. This describes your individuality and how you present to the world.

2. OTHER SOLAR SYSTEM BODIES

At the same time, the Moon and the eight other planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) were also swirling around Earth in this 360° space and astrology maintains that their individual energies influence your personality in different ways. This fuller view of the horoscope is known as a Natal Chart.

3. YOUR NATAL CHART

Your chart shows the precise position of Earth's eight companion planets, as well as the Sun, Moon and other items of astrological importance, at the exact date, time and place you were born. Their positions are recorded with respect to Earth because astrology interprets cosmic phenomena from the point of view of Earth rather than the Sun – in other words, a Natal Chart is geocentric not heliocentric. (Read more at [Your Chart Explained](#))

4. THE HOUSES

The chart also divides the 360° space around Earth into 12 *unequal* divisions called Houses. These show which area of your life is impacted by each planet and sign.

5. HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER

The basic idea is that:

- The Planets represent an energetic part of your being or a component of life e.g.
 - Moon – your feelings, instincts and emotional nature
 - Mercury – your intellectual faculties and communication style
 - Mars – your desires, passions and physical vitality.

- These energies are modified by the traits and characteristics of the Sign they are in e.g.
 - Aries – inspiration and leadership
 - Taurus – practicality and productivity
 - Aquarius – expansiveness and innovation.

- Finally, these combined forces impact the area of your life indicated by the House they are in e.g.
 - 1st House – Your Core Self
 - 7th House – Your Relations with Others
 - 10th House – Your Career and Life Aspirations.

Thus, there are countless variations that modify and nuance your Sun sign and many people maintain that their Natal Charts are incredibly accurate.

Those are the basics. Now let's look in a little more depth at each aspect of the horoscope.

6. THE WHEEL (Figure 1)

An astrological wheel contains the 12 signs of the Zodiac, from the first sign (Aries) to the last sign (Pisces). Contrary to popular belief, the signs do not represent constellations, although they do take their names from some of 88 constellations visible in our night skies.

The signs run counter-clockwise around the wheel – which is the same direction the Earth spins if you look down on it from the North Pole (West to East). This direction is known as prograde.

As mentioned, each sign contains 30°, from 0° at the leading edge or cusp of each sign, to 30° at the end of it. Thus, 30° Aquarius is at the same position on the wheel as 0° Pisces; and 30° Pisces is at the same position as 0° Aries. Planets or events occurring at these junctures are said to be 'on the cusp' or between signs.

Each sign also has a specific image and glyph.

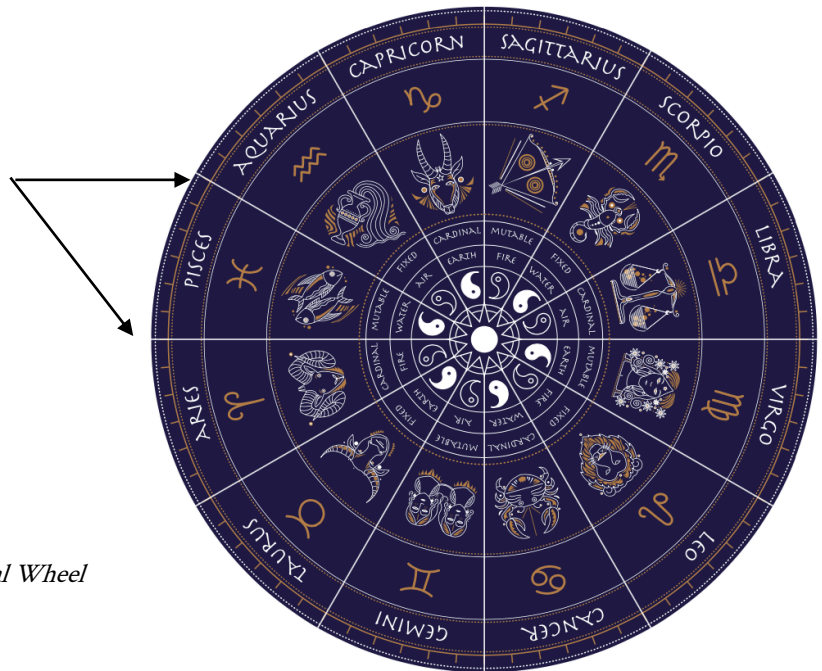


Figure 1 – The Astrological Wheel

7. THE SIGNS (Figure 2)

The signs are divided into four elements – Fire, Earth, Air and Water – each having a different nature. These run consecutively around the wheel (again counterclockwise), so three of the 12 signs each have an element in common:

- Fire (Inspirational Leaders) – Aries, Leo, Sagittarius (Nos. 1, 5, 9)
- Earth (Practical Builders) – Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn (Nos. 2, 6, 10)
- Air (Thoughtful Communicators) – Gemini, Libra, Aquarius (Nos. 3, 7, 11)
- Water (Emotional Nurturers) – Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces (Nos. 4, 8, 12).

The signs also have three modalities – Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable – which reflect their different ways of operating. Again these run consecutively around the wheel, so four of the 12 signs each share a modality:

- Cardinal (Initiating) – Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn (1, 4, 7, 10)
- Fixed (Consolidating) – Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius (2, 5, 8, 11)
- Mutable (Fluctuating) – Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces (3, 6, 9, 12).

Finally, the signs have two polarities – Masculine and Feminine – reflecting the two opposite gender traits. There are six signs of each gender:

- Masculine (Positive, Projective, Yang) – Fire and Air signs
- Feminine (Negative, Receptive, Yin) – Earth and Water signs.

This is summarised below.

Figure 2 – Sign Characteristics

NUMBER	SIGN	IMAGE	GLYPH	ELEMENT	MODALITY	POLARITY
1	Aries	Ram	♈	Fire	Cardinal	Masculine
2	Taurus	Bull	♉	Earth	Fixed	Feminine
3	Gemini	Twins	♊	Air	Mutable	Masculine
4	Cancer	Crab	♋	Water	Cardinal	Feminine
5	Leo	Lion	♌	Fire	Fixed	Masculine
6	Virgo	Maiden	♍	Earth	Mutable	Feminine
7	Libra	Scales	♎	Air	Cardinal	Masculine
8	Scorpio	Scorpion	♏	Water	Fixed	Feminine
9	Sagittarius	Archer	♐	Fire	Mutable	Masculine
10	Capricorn	Sea Goat	♑	Earth	Cardinal	Feminine
11	Aquarius	Water Carrier	♒	Air	Fixed	Masculine
12	Pisces	Fish	♓	Water	Mutable	Feminine

Every sign is therefore unique, with no two sharing the same combination of elements, modalities and polarities (Figure 3). These unique characteristics start to explain the underlying personalities of each sign.

Figure 3 – A Unique Combination

		POLARITY			
		Masculine (Yang)		Feminine (Yin)	
MODALITY	ELEMENT	Fire	Air	Earth	Water
	Cardinal	Aries	Libra	Capricorn	Cancer
	Fixed	Leo	Aquarius	Taurus	Scorpio
	Mutable	Sagittarius	Gemini	Virgo	Pisces










8. THE PLANETS (Figure 4)

Like the signs, the planets exhibit individual characteristics with each representing a different energetic part of our being (e.g. our emotions, our communications style, our approach to love, etc.).

In psychological terms, the planets represent our 'needs' or 'drives', with their energies lighting up the houses (which represent the fields of experience in our lives) to produce the experience itself.

As before, their energies manifest themselves most strongly in the sphere of life represented by the house in which they fall.

Figure 4 – The Planets

PLANET	GLYPH	MOTTO	PSYCHOLOGICAL URGE	BEST QUALITY	WORST QUALITY
Sun		I Shine	Individuality	Rulership	Dictatorship
Moon		I Feel	Personality	Empathy	Inconstancy
Mercury		I Think	Communication	Intelligence	Trickery
Venus		I Love	Values	Affection	Jealousy
Mars		I Act	Desires	Initiative	Aggression
Jupiter		I Grow	Expansion	Benevolence	Conceit
Saturn		I Achieve	Structure	Organisation	Selfishness
Uranus		I Evolve	Awakening	Originality	Rebellion
Neptune		I Dream	Dissolution	Idealism	Escapism
Pluto		I Empower	Regeneration	Transformation	Inversion

(Read more at [The Planets & Crystals](#))

9. THE HOUSES

As mentioned, the houses indicate the area of your life impacted by each planet and sign, with their sequence (1-12) broadly following the stages of human development – from birth; through infancy, adolescence, adulthood and maturity; to death.

Like the signs, they move in an anticlockwise direction around the wheel, starting at sunrise (the Ascendant) which is the leading edge of the 1st house:

- House 1 – Core Self (I Am)
- House 2 – Personal Resources (I Have)
- House 3 – Local Interaction (I Think)
- House 4 – Emotional Foundations (I Feel)
- House 5 – Creative Identity (I Create)
- House 6 – Health, Work & Service (I Integrate)
- House 7 – Relations with Others (I Relate)
- House 8 – Shared Mysteries (I Release)
- House 9 - The Higher Mind (I Believe)
- House 10 - Life Aspirations (I Achieve)
- House 11 - Collective Evolution (I Reform)
- House 12 - Endings (I Transcend).

(Read more at [The Houses & Cusps](#)).

10. THE NATURAL ZODIAC (Figure 5 & 6)

The Zodiac consists of 12 archetypes that together represent the totality of human consciousness on Earth. Like strands of ‘energetic DNA’, they provide a blueprint for all experience in life with the multiplicity of their interactions creating the enormous breadth and diversity possible.

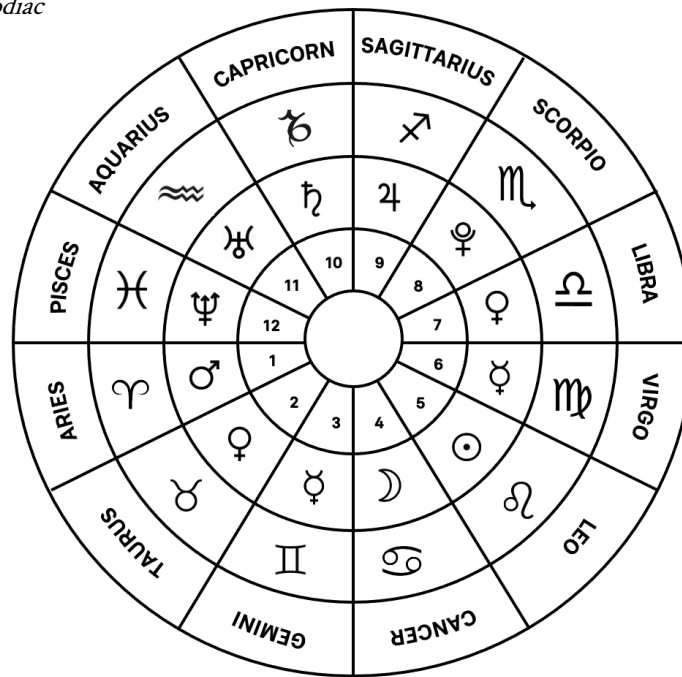
These ‘archetypes’ are manifest not only in the signs but also in the planets and the houses – with there being no fundamental difference between a sign’s embodiment of an archetype and that of a house or planet. Using the first archetype as an example – the sign Aries, the 1st house and the planet Mars all carry some quality that represents ‘the first of the twelve’ and therefore share an essential similarity. The Natural Zodiac acknowledges and describes these connections:

NO.	SIGN	APPROXIMATE DATES	IMAGE	GLYPH	PLANET	GLYPH	HOUSE
1	Aries	21 March – 19 April	Ram	♈	Mars	♂	1 st
2	Taurus	20 April – 20 May	Bull	♉	Venus	♀	2 nd
3	Gemini	21 May – 20 June	Twins	♊	Mercury	♁	3 rd
4	Cancer	21 June – 22 July	Crab	♋	Moon	☾	4 th
5	Leo	23 July – 22 August	Lion	♌	Sun	☉	5 th
6	Virgo	23 August – 22 September	Maiden	♍	Mercury	♁	6 th
7	Libra	23 September – 22 October	Scales	♎	Venus	♀	7 th
8	Scorpio	23 October – 21 November	Scorpion	♏	Pluto	♇	8 th
9	Sagittarius	22 November – 21 December	Archer	♐	Jupiter	♃	9 th
10	Capricorn	22 December – 19 January	Sea Goat	♑	Saturn	♄	10 th
11	Aquarius	20 January – 18 February	Water Carrier	♒	Uranus	♅	11 th
12	Pisces	19 February – 20 March	Fish	♓	Neptune	♆	12 th

Figure 5 – Planetary Rulership by Sign & House

When a planet appears in your chart in its 'own' sign or house (according to the archetypes above), the impact of its placement is magnified. And while it is possible that someone's chart could contain all of the planets in their natural signs and houses, this would be extremely rare (and interesting!)

Figure 6 – The Natural Zodiac



For further in-depth reading on The Natural Zodiac, try the link below.

<https://www.plutoschool.com/TheNaturalZodiac.pdf>