

# THE HOUSES & CUSPS

As mentioned in [Astrology Basics](#), there are 12 houses in astrology which start at the Ascendant (AC) in the East and then run counterclockwise around the wheel. These 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 to death.

## 1. QUADRANTS

The Houses are further divided into four Quadrants, each having a different focus. These are shown in Figure 1 below and also printed on a leather base for NOSTI's wheel to help you interpret the chart.

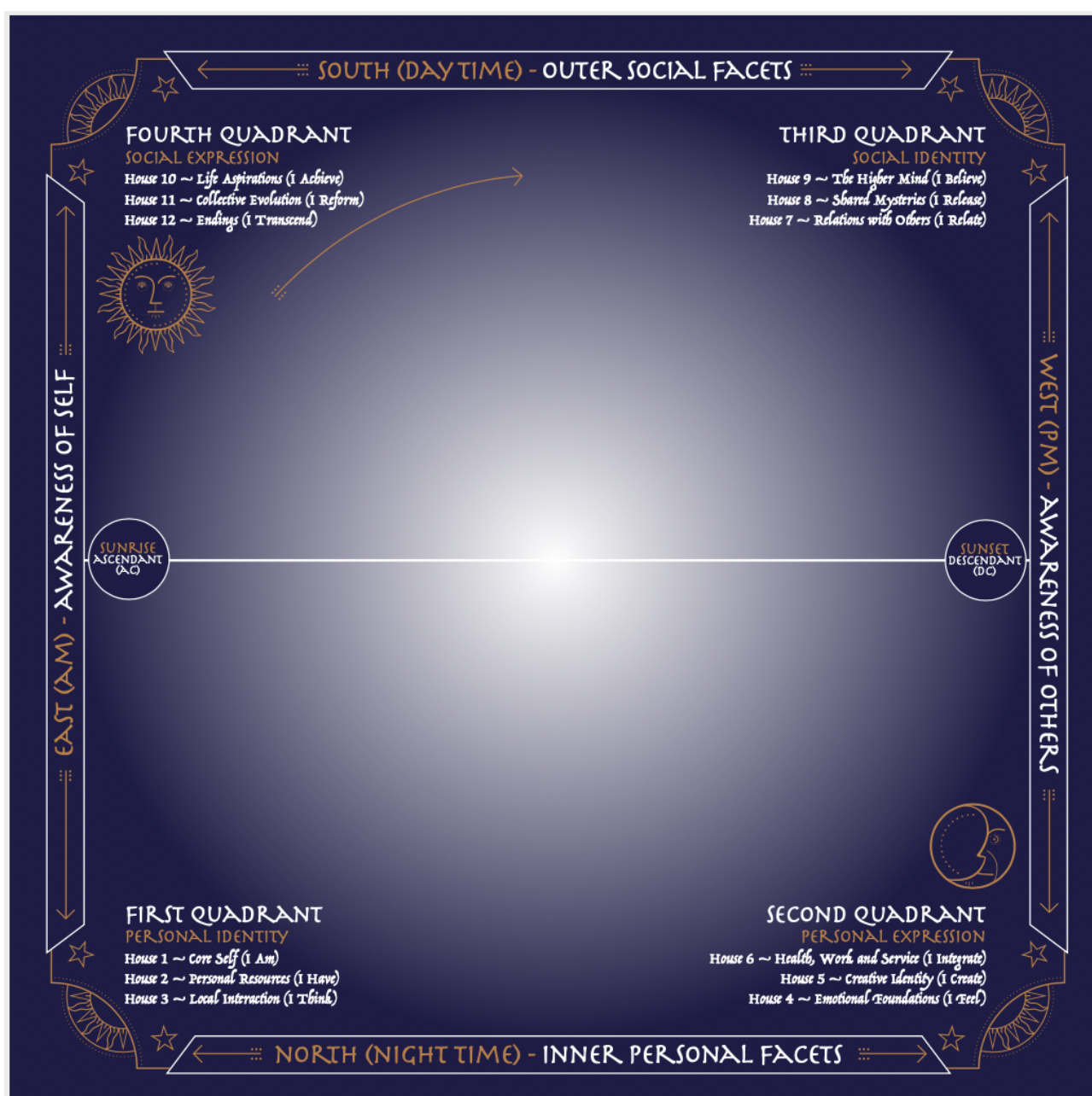
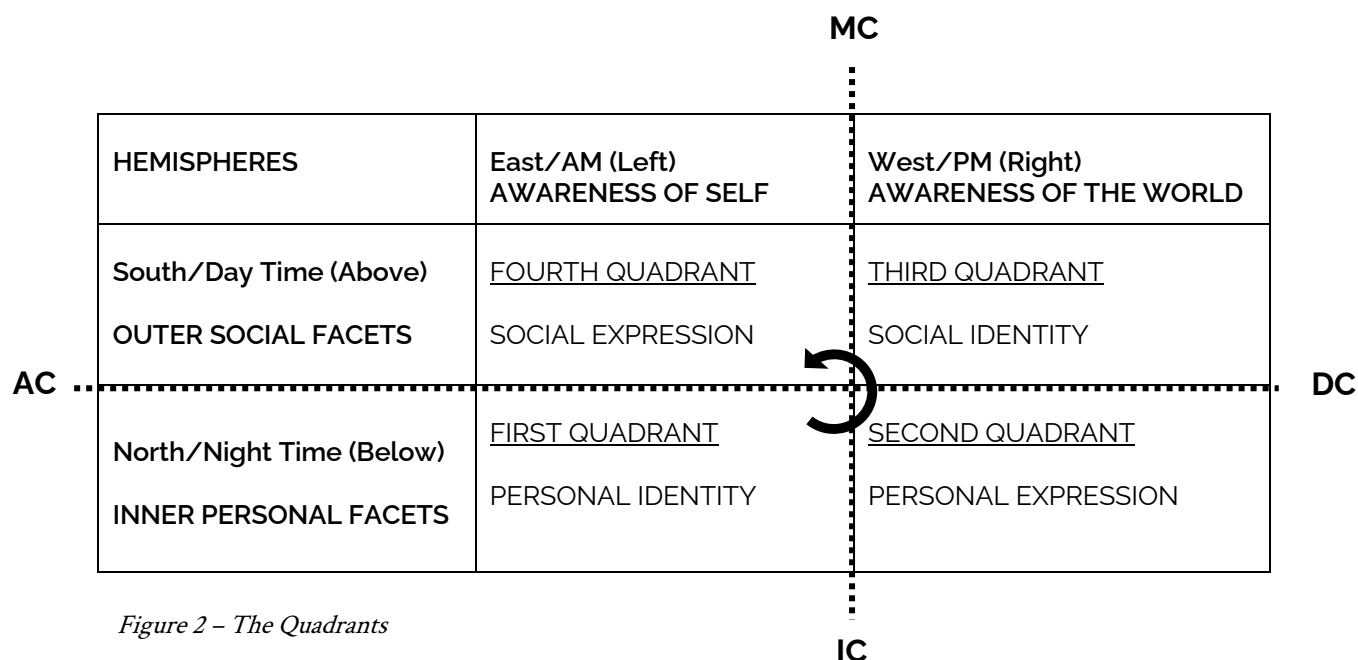


Figure 1 – NOSTI's Base

There are several important things to note:

- Orientation: Unlike a world map, an astrological chart displays East on the left and West on the right, as well as South at the top and North at the bottom. This reflects the view from the heavens if you looked down on Earth from the North Pole. For ease of reference, these directions are marked on the four borders of the base.
- Sunrise/Sunset: The Sun is shown rising in the East (left hand side) and travelling in a clockwise direction around the wheel, before setting in the West (right hand side). The points of Sunrise and Sunset are marked left and right and are also known as the Ascendant (AC) and Descendant (DC) respectively. The line joining them represents the horizon.
- Day Time/Night Time: It follows that:
  - Day Time occurs in the top half of the chart (the Southern Hemisphere) when the Sun is above the horizon. This hemisphere represents our Outer Social Facets which radiate externally like sunlight
  - Night Time occurs in the bottom half of the chart (the Northern Hemisphere) when the Sun is below the horizon. This hemisphere represents our Inner Personal Facets which are subtle and shadowy, like moonlight.
- Midday/Midnight: The point at which the Sun is highest in the sky is known as the Mid Coeli or MC (highest heaven); and the point at which it is lowest, the Imum Coeli or IC (lowest heaven). In theory (though not in reality because of time differences brought about by the seasons), these points broadly equate to midday (MC) and midnight (IC).
- AM/PM: Again, it follows that:
  - Morning (from midnight to midday) or AM (which stands for 'ante meridiem' – before the Sun has crossed the meridian line at midday<sup>1</sup>) occurs in the left half of the chart (the Eastern Hemisphere). This hemisphere represents our Awareness of Self.  
(<sup>1</sup>Meridians are lines of longitude between the North and South pole).
  - Evening (from midday to midnight) or PM (which stands for 'post meridiem' – after the Sun has crossed the meridian line at midday) occurs in the right half of the chart (the Western Hemisphere). This hemisphere represents our Awareness of the World.
- Quadrants: these four hemispheres then combine to produce four different Quadrants which, like the signs and houses (but unlike the movement of the Sun), move anticlockwise around the wheel from the Ascendant (AC) - See Figure 2 overleaf.



## 2. HOUSES

- The Houses then sequence through the four quadrants, representing our life progression from birth to infancy, through adolescence and adulthood, to maturity and death:
  - FIRST QUADRANT: the development of our PERSONAL IDENTITY
    - House 1 – Core Self (I Am)
    - House 2 – Personal Resources (I Have)
    - House 3 – Local Interaction (I Think)
  - SECOND QUADRANT: the development of our PERSONAL EXPRESSION
    - House 4 – Emotional Foundations (I Feel)
    - House 5 – Creative Identity (I Create)
    - House 6 – Health, Work & Service (I Integrate)
  - THIRD QUADRANT: the development of our SOCIAL IDENTITY
    - House 7 – Relations with Others (I Relate)
    - House 8 – Shared Mysteries (I Release)
    - House 9 – The Higher Mind (I Believe)
  - FOURTH QUADRANT: the development of our SOCIAL EXPRESSION
    - House 10 – Life Aspirations (I Achieve)
    - House 11 – Collective Evolution (I Reform)
    - House 12 – Endings (I Transcend).
- Oppositions: Note that the six Houses representing Inner Personal Facets (numbers 1-6) are always 180° opposite their counterparts representing Outer Social Facets (numbers 7-12):
  - House 1 – I Am                      opposite                      House 7 – I Relate
  - House 2 – I Have                    opposite                    House 8 – I Release
  - House 3 – I Think                   opposite                   House 9 – I Believe
  - House 4 – I Feel                    opposite                   House 10 – I Achieve
  - House 5 – I Create                   opposite                   House 11 – I Reform
  - House 6 – I Integrate               opposite                   House 12 – I Transcend.

- House Types: Much like the planet modalities (Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable – see [Astrology Basics](#)), the houses have different ways of operating:
  - Angular Houses (numbers 1, 4, 7 and 10) connote activity
  - Succedent Houses (numbers 2, 5, 8 and 11) connote stability
  - Cadent Houses (numbers 3, 6, 9 and 12) connote adaptability.

The Angular Houses are the most important because their cusps (leading edges) coincide with the four special angles already mentioned – the Ascendant (AC), Imum Coeli (IC), Descendant (DC) and Mid Coeli (MC) and so planets in these houses exert the most influence in the horoscope.

For more information, see <https://cafeastrology.com/articles/housesofthehoroscope.html>

Your chart will tell you which houses (and signs) your planets fall into and from there you can interpret your horoscope. Either consult a professional or, if you prefer self-learning, we recommend 'A Spiritual Approach to Astrology' by Myrna Lofthus or 'The Twelve Houses' by Howard Sasportas.

### 3. HOUSE CUSP RULERSHIP

One point of interest to note is which sign each house cusp falls into, as this indicates how you feel (or should feel) about the affairs of that house. According to Myrna Lofthus (see above), the implications are:

CUSP SIGN	IMPERATIVE	IMPACT ON HOUSE
Aries	Independence	This is where you need to grow and develop – to be active, energetic and take the initiative. There is a need to learn and discover for yourself. New things will be started all the time
Taurus	Productivity	This is where you need to be productive and to see the tangible results of your labour
Gemini	Curiosity	This is where you need to be curious or inquisitive. Your curiosity will help you grow through experience
Cancer	Nurture	This is where you need growth through instruction and training. The instruction may prove painful but is necessary so that you are able to express the positive qualities of your Sun sign. This house tells you where you need to use the positive qualities of your Sun sign
Leo	Self-Expression	This is where you feel a need for personal development. If you are using the positive qualities of your Sun sign in the affairs of this house, you will feel a deep sense of inner peace and contentment
Virgo	Analysis	This is where you need to separate the wheat from the chaff. There is a need to analyse your feelings with regard to the affairs of the house in a practical, unemotional manner
Libra	Balance	This is where you have been out of balance in previous lifetimes. You need to be adaptable with regard to the affairs of his house, with a strong need to see both sides before any decision is made

Scorpio	Deep Involvement	This is where there is an emotional need for intense involvement and secrecy in order to fulfil subconscious needs and those of others. You will have an intense approach to the affairs of this house
Sagittarius	Expansion	This is where you need to expand your experiences. You have felt limited in the affairs of this house in previous lifetimes, so you need to explore all of the areas in the house. However, do not over expand
Capricorn	Social Foundations	This is where we need respect and recognition from others. However, do not actively pursue this recognition as it can only be earned through merit. There is always a feeling of frustration regarding the affairs of the house ruled by Capricorn
Aquarius	Reforming	This is where you need to obtain new knowledge in order to break down old ideas from past lifetimes
Pisces	Faith	This is where you need to allow your intuition to guide you, for you will feel as if you are acting blind. No one can give you any proof for these affairs, so allow yourself to be guided by your intuition.

## 5. INTERCEPTED SIGNS

As a final suggestion, look for any 'intercepted' signs. These are signs that are totally contained within a house and, therefore, do not rule any house cusp. When a sign is intercepted, the sign opposite it will be intercepted as well.

Astrologers have different opinions about the meaning of intercepted signs. Some believe it means you will have difficulty accessing and expressing the qualities of that sign, or that whatever is represented by that sign can either be repressed or manifested in its lower, negative state. Others, such as Bernie Ashman, maintain that an intercepted sign is stimulated by our intuition and that we have an opportunity to make use of them creatively (see below).

<https://www.llewellyn.com/journal/article/2680>