



Astrology 101

A concise primer for the curious

Exploring the stars

This resource has been handcrafted with love, for folks who want to grasp the very basic building blocks of astrology.

Thank you for letting me support you with some strategic astro-shazam.

It's always my joy!

For additional support, contact me at janette@janettedalgliesh.com or my website janettedalgliesh.com

© Janette Dalgliesh 2020



“Astrology is assured of recognition from psychology, without further restrictions, because astrology represents the summation of all the psychological knowledge of antiquity.”

– *Carl Jung, founder of analytical psychology, who taught the importance of individuation as the central process of human development*

Core principles

- ❖ Astrology is NOT the boss of you
- ❖ Astrology is relational
- ❖ Astrology is both science and art
- ❖ Astrology is a language of symbols

Astrology reveals

- ❖ Some people think that the stars dictate who they are, but they have it backwards
- ❖ The moment of your birth was a perfect match for who you were when you arrived – that gloriously radiant, resonant YOU
- ❖ The stars reveal who you truly are, how you like to operate, your purposes in life, and a whole lot more
- ❖ Similarly, the current astrology in the sky doesn't dictate what will happen to you, or what choices you will make
- ❖ Astrology of the now is like weather - when you know what forces are at play, you can set your course to take advantage
- ❖ The stars are not the boss of you!

Astrology is relational

- ❖ Astrology looks at three elements - planets, signs, and houses - and studies the relationships between them all. That's why it can be endlessly fascinating and complex.
- ❖ We will keep things simple and focus on three key things:
 - ❖ which sign or house a planet is in - that tells us **how the planet likes to operate**
 - ❖ which sign links to which house - that tells us something about the **area of life**
 - ❖ any **significant angles** formed between planets or groups of planets
- ❖ Meaning emerges when we explore these relationships in the chart
- ❖ The relationships are based in both science (complex mathematics and geometry) and art (the interpretation of meaning)
- ❖ The deeper we go into a chart, the more complex the relationships become. But I recommend starting very simple, one thing at a time, because you can still glean a lot.

The three things

- ❖ Planets - in astrology, this includes Sun and Moon, as well as recently demoted planet Pluto. (Astrologers often look at asteroids, comets, fixed stars, hypothetical points and more, but we're keeping it simple)
- ❖ Signs of the zodiac - described many generations ago, these vary depending on the system (Western, Vedic, Uranian, Chinese, etc). I use a modernised version of the Western system, which emerged out of Greek and Roman mythologies and their predecessors (Babylonian, Assyrian and so on)
- ❖ Houses - many different house systems exist, each with its own benefits and weaknesses. I use Placidus because I like its accuracy and deeper insights.

Getting started

Creating your chart

- ❖ A chart is simply a two-dimensional ‘map’ of what was happening in the sky at a specific moment in time, such as your birth, as seen from a specific point on the planet, such as your birth town. If you’ve never cast a chart, the next page provides a step by step guide. Charts can be cast for any event you like!

What on earth am I looking at?? *(it can look like a lot - fear not!)*

- ❖ The circular image is simply a ‘map’ showing the positions of planets in the signs of the zodiac, at the moment of your birth. The “pieces of pie” are the houses, each numbered in the centre of the circle.
- ❖ The tables below provide data about the exact positions of each planets, and also important angles created by the planets in relationship with each other (aka aspects)

Casting the chart

If you already know how to create a chart, skip this page.

Go to astro.com - the home of Astrodienst (German for 'astro work') - a huge site full of free and paid resources.

This step by step is for desktop use rather than mobile device - it's easier to see clearly this way.

- From the home page - scroll down a little and click '**Charts & Calculations**'
 - Click '**Extended Chart Selection**'
 - if you're a guest user simply click the link to **go to the data entry page** (or set up a free user account first & skip this)
 - Data privacy information - click '**Accept**'
 - Enter your details:
 - first name
 - last name (optional)
 - gender (sadly this only offers female, male and 'other')
 - enter birth details - day, month, year
 - enter time - hour (am or pm) and minutes (if you don't know the time, choose 'unknown' - the system will set the time to midday, and you should **ignore** the section on houses)
 - select country
 - type in birth town - give the system a moment to populate the field with possible matches then select the correct one.
 - NOTE: if your town isn't in the system, use the closest town of any size until you get a match - it's the geographical location on the planet which matters here
 - Click **Continue** to go to a setup page.
 - Leave the settings as they are and click '**Click here to show the chart**'
- You are now looking at the following sections:
- Heading - showing all the details of how the chart was calculated
 - Wheel chart - the main circular 'map' of your chart
 - A table showing a list of planets and their placement, plus a matrix with little symbols representing any important angles (aspects) formed between planets.
 - A small table showing the planets places by element and modality (you can ignore this one for now)
 - click on the Wheel Chart one more time, and it will open a new window with a chart that's easier to see and that is suitable for printing

Symbols

The symbols (known as glyphs) are the building blocks of the language of astrology.
Here's a handy reference to help you read a chart.

Glyph	Planet	Represents
☉	Sun	Whole self, inner and outer
☾	Moon	Crescent moon
☿	Mercury	Winged helmet of messenger
♀	Venus	Woman's hand-mirror
♂	Mars	Weapons of war (or phallus)
♃	Jupiter	Ancient symbol for eagle or Jove
♄	Saturn	Ancient symbol for sickle
♅	Uranus	Matter + spirit + receptivity
♆	Neptune	Neptune's trident
♇	Pluto	The initials of Pluto's discoverer Percival Lowell

Glyph	Sign	Represents
♈	Aries	Head of the ram
♉	Taurus	Head of the cow
♊	Gemini	Twins
♋	Cancer	Claws of the crab
♌	Leo	Mane of the lion
♍	Virgo	Maiden with a wheat sheaf
♎	Libra	Set of scales/balances
♏	Scorpio	Scorpion's sting
♐	Sagittarius	The archer's arrow
♑	Capricorn	Sea-goat's horns and tail
♒	Aquarius	Lightning bolts
♓	Pisces	Two fish swimming



alternative sign for Pluto, representing
spirit, receptivity and matter

The Planets

- ❖ The planets can be seen as representing a part of our psyche AND a planetary spirit. They each have a different set of powers and an area of interest - their unique portfolio.
- ❖ In *astronomy*, we know Sun is a star and Moon is a moon, while Pluto and Ceres are now officially both dwarf planets.
- ❖ In *astrology*, Sun, Moon and Pluto are still all 'planets' and Ceres is an asteroid - they were categorised that way when first discovered. This is a language of SYMBOLS, arising out of many centuries of human consciousness.
- ❖ In the system I use, all heavenly bodies are measured and described from our perspective here on Earth, because that's where we humans live

Inner Planets

- ❖ Sun - ☉ - our urge to individuate, the yearning for holistic self-expression across our whole life, our radiant centre seeking to shine forth
- ❖ Moon - ☾ - our emotional home ground, vulnerability, the home, nurturing, compassion based on empathic feelings AND fierce mama-bear energy
- ❖ Mercury- ☿ - communications, both internal and external - thoughts & beliefs, systems and networks of all kinds, borders, commerce, brain function
- ❖ Venus - ♀ - one-to-one relationships, unapologetic desire, grace and balance, collaboration and partnerships, beauty, self-focused
- ❖ Mars - ♂ - action, the urge to DO something, strength, leadership in action, the freedom fighter seeking to help the vulnerable, the warrior spirit

Outer Planets

- ❖ Jupiter - ♃ - optimism, expansion, blue sky thinking, limitless possibility, exploration, visionary energy where anything is possible, non-linear, going beyond the known
- ❖ Saturn - ♄ - life mission, purpose, what we came here to do, ambition, make a mark in the world, our public legacy, authority, rigour, linear, logical, detail-oriented
- ❖ Uranus - ♅ - inner rebel, rule-breaker, a god of unexpected change, fuels breakthroughs and smashes old paradigms with ease
- ❖ Neptune - ♆ - dreamy, intangible, magical and mystical, connected to the Universal all-that-is, seeks to immerse in order to feel fully connected, where we 'lose ourselves'
- ❖ Pluto - ♇ - rules the underworld, the hidden, our deepest secret powers, a god of slow, deep change, the transformations which can feel like a death-and-rebirth - uncomfortable while they're happening, totally worth it for what's on the other side

Others

Chiron

Chiron is a strange body, with characteristics of both comet and asteroid (like its namesake, half-man, half-horse) and a very elliptical orbit around our Sun.

Chiron represents our capacity to be audacious, and our relationship with our own healing. For more on Chiron as a potent ally, go to bit.ly/ChironPower

Points

Points represent the relationships between various heavenly objects, and the ways in which they move in space. The **Lunar Nodes** relate to the relative orbits of Earth, Sun and Moon.

- ❖ North Lunar Node - Ω - represents the future for which we all reach out, the ways in which we 'push the envelope' and get out of our comfort zone. Note that the South Lunar Node *always* sits exactly opposite the North, and represents the valuable things of our past we brought with us. We reach out to the North, then lean back into the South to recover and recharge. Our work is to balance the Nodes.
- ❖ For more on the Lunar Nodes, go to bit.ly/CDnodes

Signs

- ❖ If the heavenly bodies are the actors or characters in our chart, the signs where they sit tell us how they like to operate, the need which must be fulfilled in order for them to stay happy
- ❖ Every person has EVERY sign in their chart
- ❖ Signs operate in pairs based on their position on the zodiac wheel - when you look at one sign, the sign directly opposite (180°) is also part of that story
- ❖ Every sign in your chart is located in relationship to a house, so even if there's no heavenly body or point there, the sign is still active
- ❖ Every sign is ruled by at least one planet. Some signs have two rulers because the ancients couldn't see all the planets we now use - but for our purposes here, we'll just have one planet per sign
- ❖ You can see why we are each a unique blend of these complex arrangements (and why generalised astrology leaves so much out!)

Elements

The signs divide into four elements which tell us something about their natural style of *being and relating*. The elements follow each other in a 1, 2, 3, 4 rhythm around the zodiac.

- ❖ Fire - passionate, inspired - the spirit - Aries, Leo, Sagittarius
- ❖ Earth - tangible, practical - the body - Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn
- ❖ Air - intellectual, cool - the mind - Gemini, Libra, Aquarius
- ❖ Water - intuitive, connected - the emotions - Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

Modality

The signs also divide into three modalities which tell us something about their natural style of *movement*. The modalities follow each other in a 1, 2, 3 rhythm around the zodiac; so every sign has a different combination of ELEMENT and MODALITY.

- ❖ Cardinal - initiating and leading the way - Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn
- ❖ Fixed - stable and committed to what was introduced in the Cardinal sign before it - Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius
- ❖ Mutable - adaptable and ready for change - Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces

Personal signs

The personal signs represent the evolution of our relationship
with our own self, at the centre of our own world

- ❖ Aries - ♈ - ruled by Mars - keyword “I am” - initiates, loves to lead and hates to follow, adores an impossible quest, competitive, pioneering, courageous and bold - Cardinal Fire
- ❖ Taurus - ♉ - ruled by Venus - keyword “I have” - sensory, seeks physical delight and comfort, tangible results, practical outcomes, resources I can hold and carry - Fixed Earth
- ❖ Gemini - ♊ - ruled by Mercury - keyword “I think” - communicates, curiosity, loves to do research for its own sake, ideas, concepts, masterful with words - Mutable Air
- ❖ Cancer - ♋ - ruled by Moon - keyword “I feel” - our most vulnerable place, internally our hearts, externally our literal homes, likes to connect- nurturing, compassionate - Cardinal Water
- ❖ Leo - ♌ - ruled by Sun - keyword “I will” - the star of the show, radiant, effulgent, yearns to illuminate and warm the world - creative, radiant - Fixed Fire
- ❖ Virgo - ♍ - ruled by Mercury - keyword “I perfect” - practical, sees how to make things work better, the magic of systems and habits, the Sherlock Holmes of the zodiac - discerning, analytical - Mutable Earth

Social Signs

The social signs represent the evolution of our relationship with other conscious entities, from the individual to the entirety of all consciousness

- ❖ Libra - ♎ - ruled by Venus - keyword “I balance” - loves beauty, fairness, refinement; excels at partnerships; sees both sides of the story, seeks justice for all - gracious, principled - Cardinal Air
- ❖ Scorpio - ♏ - ruled by Pluto - keyword “I transform” - connects deeply, yearns for what truly matters; helps things change and evolve, unafraid of shadows - transformative, edgy - Fixed Water
- ❖ Sagittarius - ♐ - ruled by Jupiter - keyword “I expand” - seeks to explore beyond the known and bring back the treasures; loves to party in their own way - adventurous, visionary - Mutable Fire
- ❖ Capricorn - ♑ - ruled by Saturn - keyword “I build” - moving from the swirling ocean depths to the high mountain peak; the magical pragmatist - ambitious, practical - Cardinal Earth
- ❖ Aquarius - ♒ - ruled by Uranus - keyword “I originate” - seeks to share original ideas, knowledge, concepts; curiosity in order to bring new possibilities - inventive, revolutionary - Fixed Air
- ❖ Pisces - ♓ - ruled by Neptune - keyword “I believe” - connects to the unconscious collective; dreamy; imaginative; comfortable in the floaty depths of the ocean - humanitarian, mystical - Mutable Water

Houses

- ❖ If the heavenly bodies are aspects of our psyche, and the signs where they live tell us how they like to operate, then the houses in which they sit tell us in what area of life they are most interested in
- ❖ Every person has EVERY house in their chart
- ❖ Every house is linked to a sign and its ruling planet, which help give clues to its nature in our own life
- ❖ The Ascendant is the sign which was rising at the moment of our birth, and we use that to give us the 1st house
- ❖ Without a time of birth, it's difficult to ascertain the Ascendant, in which case there are still house systems that can be used (for example, putting the Sun on 1st).

Houses

Remember, your chart contains all the houses. You can see what planet(s) might be in a house AND you can see what sign is at the doorway (cusp) of that house. All of these relationships are useful to explore.

- ❖ 1st house – appearance, attitude to life, first impressions, how you show up - links to Aries and Mars
- ❖ 2nd house – resources, money, movable possessions, talents, core values - links to Taurus and Venus
- ❖ 3rd house – teaching, learning, writing, talking, connecting, curiosity - links to Gemini and Mercury
- ❖ 4th house – home, family, ancestors, emotional ground, nurturing - links to Cancer and Moon
- ❖ 5th house – creative expression, books, kids, art, romance, lyricism - links to Leo and Sun
- ❖ 6th house – daily routines of all kinds - work, health, pets, ritual magic - links to Virgo and Mercury
- ❖ 7th house – one-to-one relationships, partnerships, contracts - links to Libra and Venus
- ❖ 8th house – sex, death, taxes, shared resources, trust - links to Scorpio and Pluto
- ❖ 9th house – new horizons, travel, the internet, higher learning - links to Sagittarius and Jupiter
- ❖ 10th house – career, life mission, business, public legacy - links to Capricorn and Saturn
- ❖ 11th house – one-to-many relationships, groups, goals, friends - links to Aquarius and Uranus
- ❖ 12th house – dreams & imagination, fiction, mystical, humanitarian - links to Pisces and Neptune

Aspects

- ❖ In addition to the relationships between planets, signs and houses, we look at the angles formed between the various heavenly bodies and points in the sky when we view these things from Earth (more relationships!)
- ❖ There are a number of angles which have significance - these are what we call the **aspects**
- ❖ Aspects in the natal chart help us understand ourselves, and also the personal evolution we came here to explore
- ❖ Example - I have Venus Square (90°) Uranus. Venus is about intimacy, closeness, collaboration. Uranus is about freedom, space, independence. Reconciling the 'binary' of those seemingly contradictory planets has been a significant part of my journey. Venus helps me know what I want; Uranus helps me smash through limits to get it - when I invite them to team up, I get the benefit big time!

Aspects

Traditional astrology implies that some aspects are bad and some are good. Nope. They're ALL useful. Some are challenging, which might be what you need to shake things loose. Some are supportive, which might be what you need to lean into at that moment.

There are many more aspects, but these are my favourites to play with.

Aspect	Angle	Quality
Conjunct	0°	Seeing things from the same point of view; emphasising and activating - like two people sitting together at a large circular dinner table
Opposition	180°	Shine a spotlight to see the other more clearly - like two people sitting OPPOSITE each other at a large circular dinner table - acts to increase authenticity
Square	90°	Challenges and awakens, useful for blowing away cobwebs and breaking out of old unconscious patterns
Sesquiquadrate	135°	Also known as the 'square and a half' this is a little like the square on steroids - really potent if something has been stuck for a while!
Trine	120°	Very supportive - a third of the circle - the most stable structure is a tripod, the trine is like that. Good support if you have scary things to do.
Sextile	60°	A milder version of the trine
Quincunx	150°	Also known as the inconjunct - without awareness, we ignore one and only activate the other; with awareness, we make sure both are activated.

Resources

Books

- ❖ “Seminars in Psychological Astrology” series of books - Liz Greene & Howard Sasportas
- ❖ Asteroid Goddesses - Demetra George & Douglas Bloch
- ❖ The Twelve Houses - Howard Sasportas and Liz Greene
- ❖ Saturn: A New Look at an Old Devil - Liz Greene
- ❖ Astrology and Aptitude: How to Become What You Were Meant to Be - Kim Falconer
- ❖ The Rulership Book: A Directory of Astrological Correspondences - Rex E Bills

Websites and blogs

- ❖ My trainer Kim Falconer for daily astro flash updates (also fab author updates!) - <https://www.facebook.com/kimfalconerfans>
- ❖ Mystic Medusa for wonderfully idiosyncratic blog posts and a great subscription service - <https://mysticmedusa.com/>
- ❖ Cafe Astrology for superb insights and explanations of various elements of astrology - <https://cafeastrology.com/>

“As above, so below; as within, so without”

– *Hermes Trismegistus, author of Hermetic Corpus*

Thank you!

You know, every single chart I study is alight with radiance, beauty, and huge possibility.

Yours will be no exception.

It's an absolute joy for me, to provide this little resource so you can begin exploring your own chart.

And ... if you'd like to take the easy path and have me do it for you, book in a one-off StarMap session.

It's just about my favourite thing to do!

Find out how to get my eyes on your chart and more at www.janettedalgliesh.com

