

ASTROLOGY

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The Intro to Astrology Series



Part 1: THE BASICS

What is astrology?

Essentially, astrology is the study of movements and positions of the sun, moon, planets, & stars in the belief that they affect the personality and lives of people.

Whether or not astrology is "really real" or has any scientific basis falls outside the scope of what this series aims to do. I find that whether or not it has any evidential backing, astrology can be an incredibly powerful and fun tool for understanding yourself, others, and the world around you, and my hope is that by the end of this series you'll know about the basics, be able to read your own birth chart, and make a determination either way for yourself!

The signs.

Most people know what their "sign" is. What this actually refers to is your Sun sign, aka. the position of the sun at the time of your birth. While some people connect deeply to their Sun sign, this placement actually only forms ONE aspect of your entire birth chart (but more on that next time). For now, I'll run through the 12 zodiac signs, giving a brief overview of each. You'll need to become familiar with the characteristics of ALL of them to be able to effectively read your whole chart.

Quick note:

- There are **FOUR ELEMENTS** to which each sign may belong: **FIRE, AIR, EARTH, WATER.**



The fire signs:

- + Fiery, lively, creative, spontaneous, passionate, fun
- **Can be** selfish, egoistic, bossy, explosive



The air signs:

- + Intellectual, analytical, curious, social
- **Can be** fickle, unstable, unreliable, duplicitous



The earth signs:

- + Stable, sensual, grounded, dependable
- **Can be** materialistic, stubborn, uptight, slow-moving



The water signs:

- + Intuitive, sensitive, emotional, nurturing, artistic, receptive
- **Can be** intense, overreactive, moody, impulsive

- There are also **THREE QUALITIES** to which each sign may belong: **CARDINAL, FIXED, MUTABLE**

— The cardinal signs:

- + Leader, influential, determined, people-oriented
- Pessimistic, lack follow-through

— The fixed signs:

- + Stable, tenacious, trustworthy
- Rigid, stubborn

— The mutable signs:

- + Adaptable, flexible, resourceful
- Flakey, inconstitent

**No two zodiac signs are of the same element and quality!

ARIES (march 21–april 20)



First of the zodiac signs. Fire sign. Cardinal. Born leader, confident, determined, passionate, quick-tempered, impulsive, aggressive, impatient.

TAURUS (april 21–may 20)



Earth sign. Fixed. Reliable, dependable, stable, grounded, practical, lover of quality things, stubborn, uncompromising, lazy.

GEMINI (may 21–june 20)



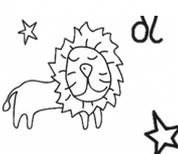
Air sign. Mutable. Expressive, quick-witted, sociable, communicative, intellectual, nervous, inconsistent, indecisive, "twin" personality nature can be perceived as fake.

CANCER (june 21–july 21)



Water sign. Cardinal. Deeply intuitive, sensitive, emotional, empathetic, nurturing, moody, manipulative, insecure.

LEO (july 22–august 21)



Fire sign. Fixed. Creative, passionate, cheerful, self-confident, attention-seeking, self-centred.

VIRGO (august 22–sept 21)



Earth sign. Mutable, analytical, kind, hardworking, organised, shy, anxious, overly critical, all work-no play.

LIBRA (sept 22–oct 21)



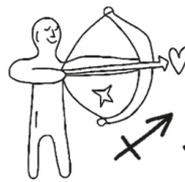
Air sign. Cardinal, cooperative, diplomatic (sometimes to a fault), fair-minded, social, values partnership, gentle, indecisive, unreliable

SCORPIO (oct 22–nov 21)



Water sign. Fixed, resourceful, brave, passionate, honest, intense, stubborn, very loyal, mysterious, secretive, jealous.

SAGITTARIUS (nov 22–dec 21)



Fire sign. Mutable, idealistic, good sense of humour, energetic, fun, optimistic independent, blunt, flighty, tactless, impatient.

CAPRICORN (dec 22–jan 20)



Earth sign. Cardinal, responsible, disciplined, good self-control, unforgiving, condescending, traditional, rigid, cold.

AQUARIUS (jan 21–feb 19)



Air sign. Fixed, rebellious, original, independent, humanitarian, deep thinker, not emotionally expressive, aloof, distant, cold.

PISCES (feb 20–march 20)



Water sign. Mutable, compassionate, friendly, selfless, artistic, day-dreamer, overly fearful, desires to escape reality, head in the clouds.

NB. Try to avoid turning directly to your Sun sign and associating (or not) the various traits with yourself—no one is purely any one sign! Instead, get in the habit of thinking generally of the different signs as qualities or tendencies that could resonate with you in different areas of your life.

For example, you might think of yourself as quick-tempered and aggressive when it comes to dealing with interpersonal conflict (aries-like traits), but simultaneously find yourself often getting carried away when it comes to love (pisces trait). Or instead, perhaps you find it difficult to open yourself up to a romantic partner (capricorn trait), but generally do consider yourself to be very in touch with your emotions (cancer trait).

Learning to read the signs in this way will be incredibly important for being able to read your chart as a whole!

