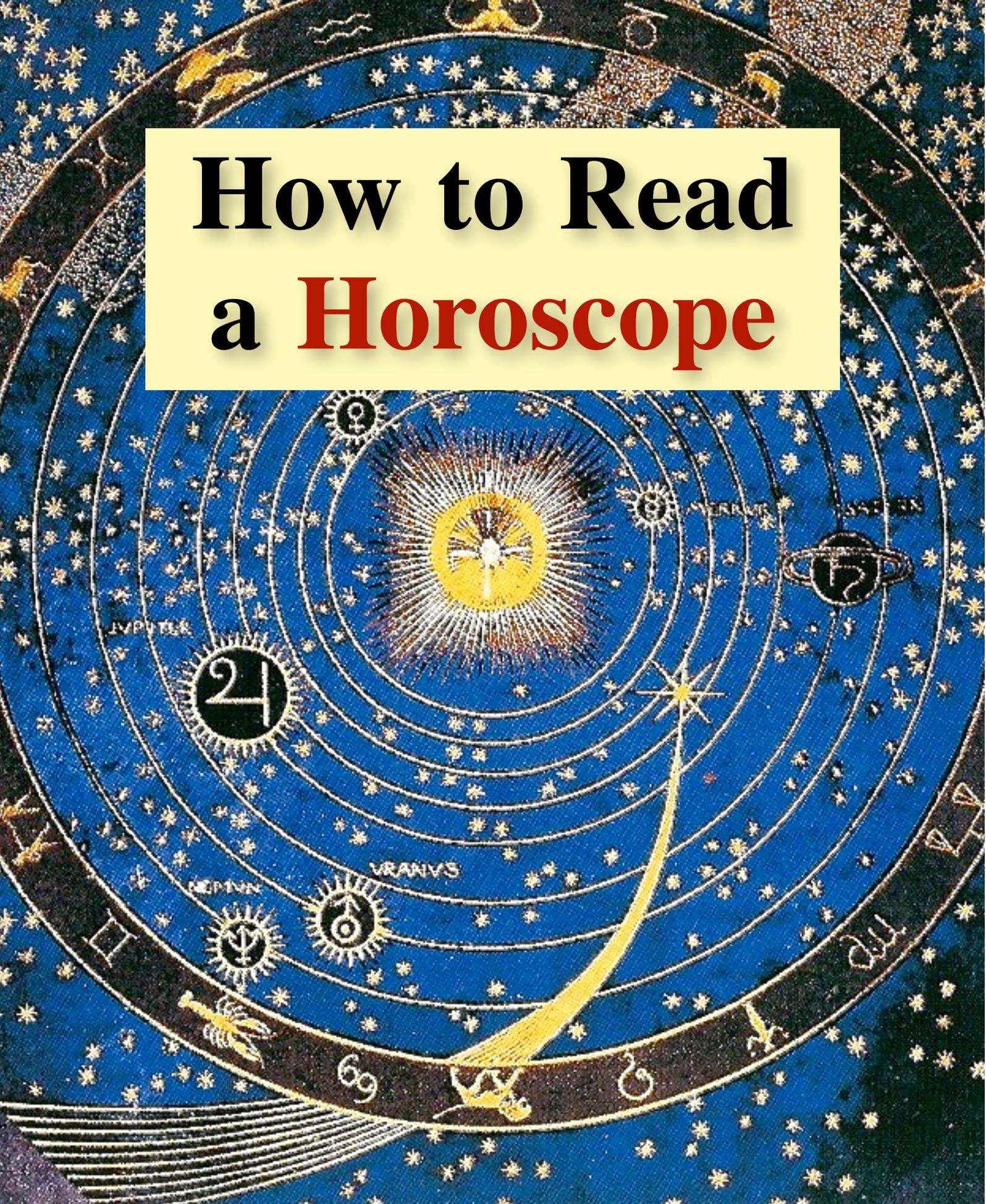


# How to Read a **Horoscope**



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The information in this document is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing. As a reader you need to accept full responsibility for your actions and should consult with a professional about your own circumstances before applying anything in this document. Results are not guaranteed – but what is, in life?

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# How to Read a Horoscope

## Welcome!

This report outlines the basic steps we – at AstroInsight – take when we read someone’s horoscope. These steps are easy to learn, and we certainly aim to keep our courses simple and fun to keep students engaged in this process each step of the way.

But, I suppose we should take a step back first, and ask...

## Why might you want to read a horoscope?

We all know that there is more to astrology than the 60 words allocated to each Star Sign in the daily newspaper column.

And we all know that *we* are more than just our ‘Star sign’, pigeon-holed into one of 12 groups, even though that may give us a number of clues about ourselves and ‘who we are’.

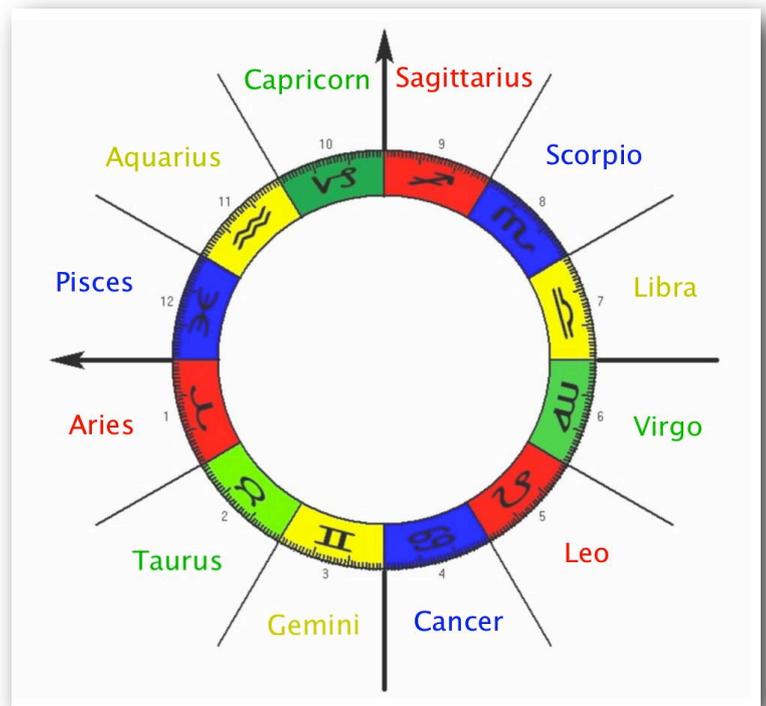
Yes, we *are* more complex – and that’s why we might want to look deeper, to understand more about ourselves, to explore other sides of who we are that we may not have fully appreciated before.

## So why *now*?

Well, we all get to a point at some time in our lives when we feel a little restless about how things are, we feel that life could be better, we could do something different, we want a new perspective on our life, our potentials.

Perhaps we feel ready for a change, or perhaps some crisis in our life has forced us to reassess a few things...

And – reading the horoscope is the first step in addressing the question: “What’s happening now, and how long will it last, and what else is there?”



**Our emphasis is on the practical and psychological interpretation** of the horoscope, so that we can use it to understand ourselves better, in order to make more deeply informed decisions about what works for us and what doesn't.

Once we can do this, of course, we can apply this understanding to others as well, and build a deeper understanding of other people.

This method of gaining insight into other people can help us in many ways – from improving our relationships with those close to us or those we work with, to being able to help them in a broader capacity as healers, counsellors, or mentors.

As astrologers, our experience leads us to believe that we were all born with different tendencies and predispositions which, when nurtured, will make it easy for us to learn and develop particular skills and talents.

In terms of the 'nature vs nurture' debate our experience tells us that we are born with a core *essence*. This innate 'something' can be read in the horoscope. It indicates the range of potentials that we can reach. It helps us see what we can be and do, and what we may have overlooked, or thought was beyond our reach. We each have our own



unique *essence*, and talents. As Susan Cain wrote in her book *Quiet*, "Bill Clinton will never be Bill Gates no matter how much time he spends alone with a computer."



We believe a person's horoscope is an accessible way to explore the potentials that each person has – and to discover our **untapped potentials** that may still be waiting for us.

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It's never too late to discover your **potential**

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So, then – how easy is it to read a horoscope?

## **It's actually easier than you'd think – to get started**

Like many things you can learn, you can start discovering useful and practical insights right from your first lesson.

We like to think of it like tennis. Anyone can pick up a racquet and hit a tennis ball and begin to have some fun from the first time they step onto a tennis court. You can exercise your body and teach it to do things it couldn't do before.

Similarly, you can have fun and learn new ways of observing people's behaviors from your very first lesson.

**You'll have "Aha!" moments** when you realize why certain things are important to you, or why you have certain preferences.

You'll start to understand other people in a different light – why they act the way they do, why they think the way they do, what they value.



## **Just follow a logical **sequence****

Reading a horoscope can be learned, and it can be simplified so that you get most of the insights without having to go into all the details that a professional astrologer might spend (sometimes unnecessary) time on.

## **Yes, there are things to learn**

Sure, just like when you learn to cook, you need to learn the main ingredients and how to handle them – and the pitfalls to avoid.

And taking some time to do practice exercises along the way helps you to become proficient at what you do – as with anything.

OK – let's start...

## The **DATA** you will need – Date, Place, Time

To get started, you will need three pieces of information to cast a horoscope: the Date, the Place, and the Time of day that the person was born.

Let's look at each of these a little closer.

### **Date**

Astrological software uses the modern Western (Gregorian) calendar which was adopted in the year 1582 by a decree of Pope Gregory XIII. This is the same calendar you will probably have seen almost everywhere, with 365 days, divided over 12 months.

The calendar day is defined as a 24-hour period beginning at midnight.

### **Place**

Generally, unless someone is born in a country area, the nearest major town or city gives a horoscope that is accurate enough for most purposes.

### **Time**

The more accurately the actual birth time is known, the better. This is the moment of the first breath taken by the newborn child.

If a time has been recorded (or remembered) within 15 minutes of the real birth time this is generally adequate for a useful horoscope reading. There are methods for refining this time after learning to work with the horoscope.

At the start, you will need to work with the best birth time available, or (as in the case of looking at the horoscopes of friends) you simply cast a horoscope for noon. In this case, you will not be able to interpret the house positions of the planets, as these could be completely inaccurate. But you will still be able to glean much useful information from the horoscope anyway.

When?

★ Date

★ Time

Where?

★ Place

# The **Steps** to reading a horoscope

Now for the actual steps to read the horoscope.

Here is where we start with a straightforward sequence, beginning with the most important factors first.

## **Step #1: Read the Sun sign – and its house position**

The sign of your Sun is what is commonly referred to as your Sun sign, or also your Star Sign.

Yes, it may seem that we are back to your ‘Star Sign’, but, in practice, this is still *one* of the key factors in a horoscope.

So – all that you may have already learned about Star Signs is not in vain.

But what you have probably read in the past may have been a range of possible behaviors that can be attributed to this Star Sign. For example, Geminis might be the type to have the computer, the stereo, and the TV running, while talking to a friend on the phone. This may be what some Geminis do at times, and it’s entertaining to read, but it doesn’t really tell you what the driving principles of Gemini actually are.

If you want to understand people in a way that empowers you, you need to go beyond the superficial entertainment level of astrology, and look at the principles or motivations behind each Sign.

This actually makes it *easier* to learn astrology, because it takes you to the architecture of the building, rather than its decorations. It reveals the motivations, which are the foundations of a whole range of possible behaviors.

## **The House position**

You may have heard the song ‘Age of Aquarius’ with the line ‘When the moon is in the seventh house’.

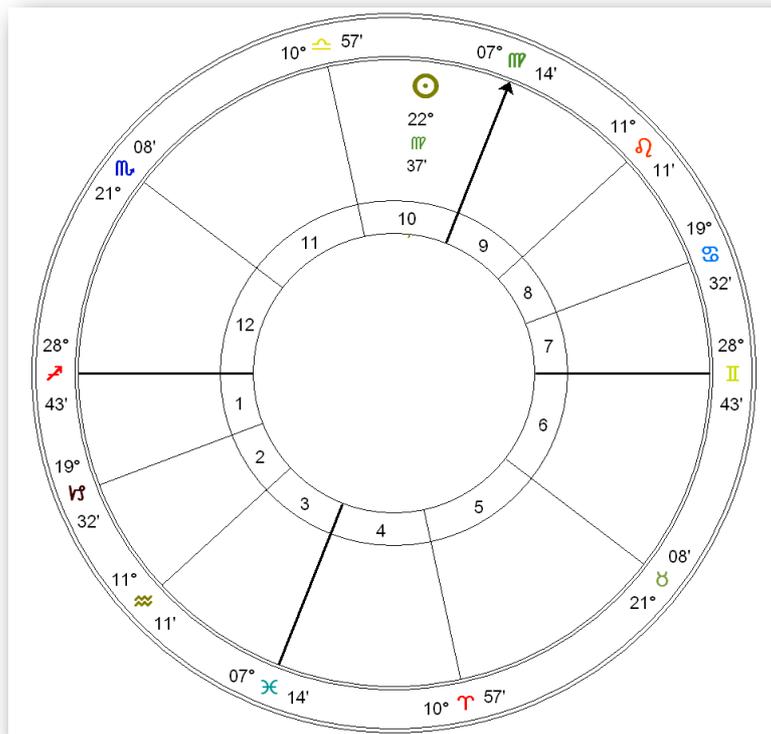
The Houses of the horoscope are a way of dividing the circle into 12 segments referring to different parts of a person’s life. Some of these are: the persona, one’s values, siblings, family, daily routine, partnerships, intimately-shared values, higher education, career, and so on.

**The point of this step is:** – the *house* position of the Sun shows **where** in your life you are most likely to want to express your most radiant ‘Self’.

The *sign* of your Sun will tell you **how** you want to ‘shine’.

**The trick to horoscope interpretation is this:**

**Combining** the interpretation for the Planet (in this case, the Sun) with the Sign *and* the House.



For example, let's say Sarah has her Sun in the tenth house in the sign of Virgo. (See chart) Sarah will want to base her career (symbolized by the tenth house) on the Virgo quality of close attention to detail. This house is **where** she will shine, where she can bring a great deal of energy to bear. Virgo describes the **how**. She should direct her career into a field where her Virgoan attention to detail is a definite asset, and build her reputation on this, for this is where she will feel most alive and find her greatest success.

[Analyzing what makes a successful career, in terms of the horoscope, is one of the advanced modules of our courses.]

This leads us to the next step of reading a horoscope:



### Step #3: Read the **Ascendant** sign

The Ascendant represents the persona with which we approach things and people. It is like a mask that we wear, which *can* hide our true or deeper feelings and attitudes about a situation.

This is why it can be tricky to ‘try to guess somebody’s Star Sign’ – because of the mask that is hiding it, or giving ‘mixed messages’. The first impressions you get from meeting someone may actually be coming from their Ascendant sign, not their Sun Sign.

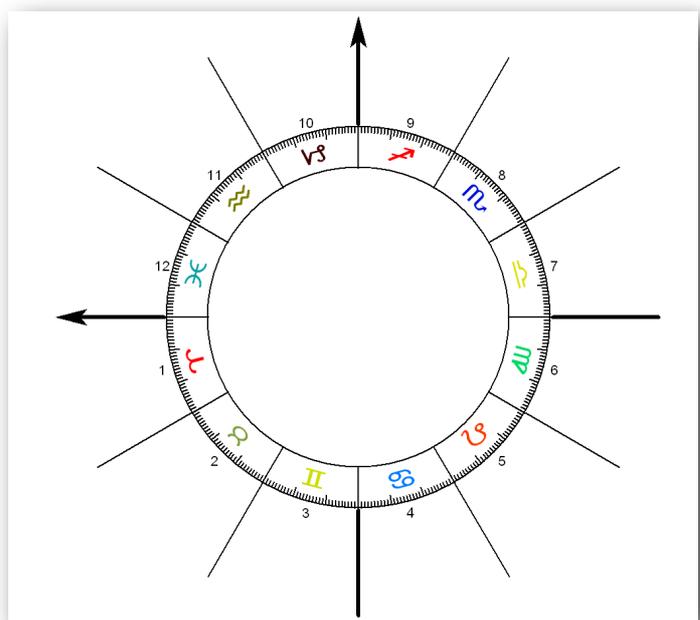
So, it is important to understand how someone tends to approach things, because that is how they will most likely tend to meet you – and it may not represent a deeper ‘essential self’ or an ‘emotional self’, but simply a persona *through* which other sides of their personality are trying to be expressed.

As with the Moon, the Ascendant is even more dependent on your exact time of birth, so **you need to make sure your horoscope is calculated accurately** to ensure you are working with the correct Ascendant.

In practice, a birth time within 15 minutes is often close enough to be confident of the sign of your Ascendant. But in some cases, a few minutes can result in a different sign on the Ascendant. This is why it is good to obtain a birth time that is as accurate as possible, just to eliminate any uncertainty.

So, the third major step in reading a horoscope is to understand the qualities that the Ascendant brings to the person.

When you see a horoscope, the Ascendant is the point indicated by an arrow pointing to the *left*.



## Step #4: Blend these 3 factors

Now, just as we did with our interpretation of the Sun, where we interpreted the combination of the Planet with the Sign and House position, now we need to blend the interpretations of the Sun and Moon and Ascendant.

In some ways this can seem as if it becomes more and more complex, and in a way, it does. But it is no different to reading a novel or watching a TV series, where we gradually come to see the characters in more detail as the plot unfolds. Our minds are quite capable of coping with this – in fact, we do this every day, and probably don't even realize we've done it.

So, now we start to see a person not just as a 'Sun Sign', but also having an emotional nature that we can also understand, as well as a way that they tend to approach things or engage with the world.

And, while this is not by any means the complete picture of that person, we are already beginning to appreciate much more of their individuality and uniqueness.

**These are 'The Big 3' in the horoscope,**

but we are really only just beginning. But if you take nothing away from this report, at least remember that you – and everyone you know – are *much more than your Sun Sign*, and the Ascendant and Moon are also extremely important factors, representing key parts of your personality.

So, let me give you another example of how these three factors can be blended to give a deeper understanding of a person.

### **Roger Federer**

Roger Federer has a Leo Sun, a Scorpio Moon, and a Virgo Ascendant.

As a **Leo**, he is quite comfortable in the spotlight. (Many currently regard him as the 'greatest of all time', but history is constantly in the process of being rewritten, so only time will tell.) He is comfortable embodying the lion, 'the King of the Jungle'.



His **Scorpio Moon** gives him the ability to keep his intentions concealed, and keep his plans to himself, to stay emotionally more ‘contained’ than many others. While he admits to having smashed a few racquets in frustration in his younger years, that appears to be well behind him now. His will to win appears as cool and steely as ever, but his Leo Sun gives him a generosity of spirit as well. It’s been said that his opponents frequently ‘feel good about losing to him’ because of his praise and respect for them after the match. But the Scorpio Moon – remember the scorpion’s sting in the tail? – is able to wait for the right time to pounce and to inflict its damage. And Federer is always on the alert for the time to break through in the course of a set, or a match, and to gain the upper hand.

Federer’s **Virgo Ascendant** gives him a clean and efficient persona, and the banner frequently carried by his fans of “peRFect” fits the efforts for precision and perfection typical of the Virgo archetype. His footwork has been compared to ballet, and his playing style as ‘effortless’, enabling him to remain at the peak of men’s tennis even at the age of 30 when many players are already past their prime. His dress code is generally simple and elegant, understated, and not flashy – fitting the Virgo style of modest practicality.

So, we have seen how these three major factors in a horoscope can already give us significant insight into a person – which is why we recommend the Sun, Moon and Ascendant as key starting points to understanding any horoscope.

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### Key learning:

Look at the Sun, Moon and Ascendant first.  
They will give you an important **framework**  
for the entire horoscope.

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## Step #5: Read the other 3 'personal' planets

Now that we are on a roll, we can continue the same way with the next three 'personal planets': Mercury, representing the mental sphere and our communication style, Venus, representing our relationship style, and Mars, representing our assertion style.

Each of these add further dimensions to the character of the person we are getting to understand more deeply through our reading of the horoscope.

By now, the principle should be familiar, so just keep building up your picture of the person from each piece of the horoscope as you interpret it.

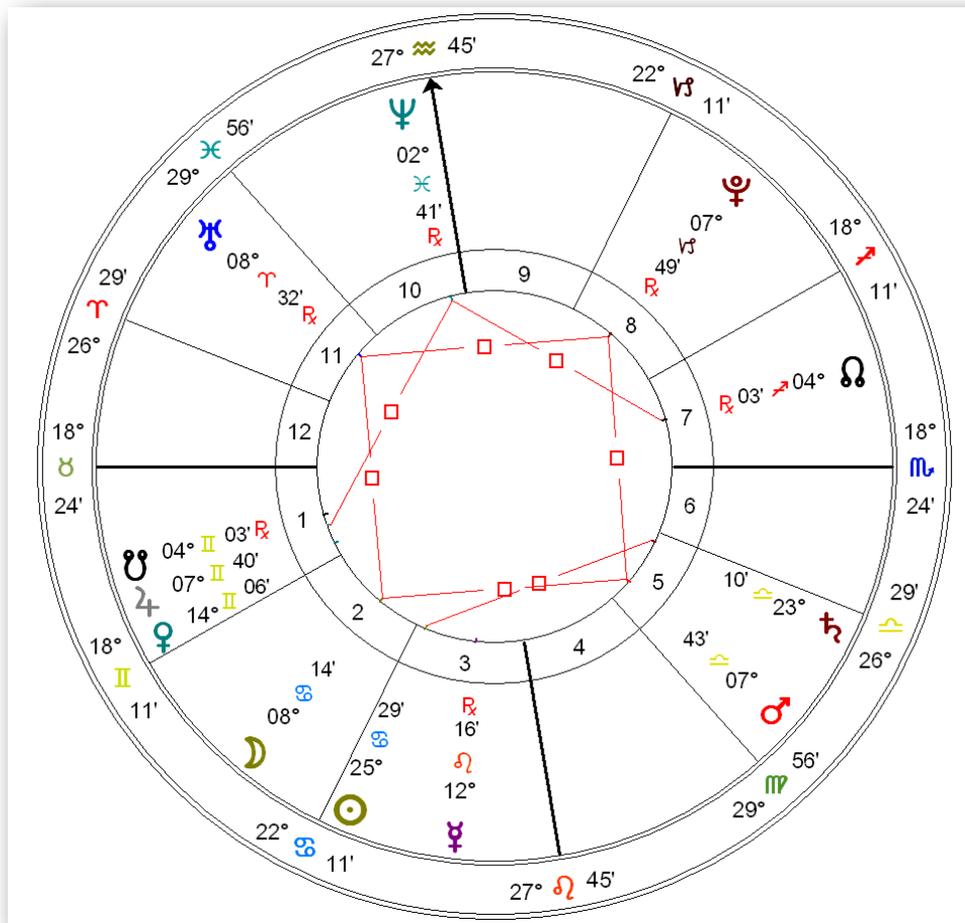
Planet	Symbol
Mercury	♿
Venus	♀
Mars	♂

## Step #6: Read the major aspect patterns in the horoscope

Now we are looking at the relationship between the planets in the horoscope – what astrologers refer to as the ‘aspects’ in a horoscope.

But there are several ways to look at this information.

One way is to go into the details of every single aspect in a horoscope – which could take a long time to explore. This is fine if it is your own horoscope, or if you are investigating a particular theme in a person’s life and you have the time to do this.



Another way is to look at the big picture – what is the biggest aspect pattern in the horoscope?

This will generally give you a clue about the biggest psychological dynamic in the person’s life. This could be a dynamic of conflict and challenge, or one of ease and flow.

[The example shown above has four planets linked in a **Grand Cross** aspect pattern – indicating a strong dynamic of internal conflict. This pattern, and others, are covered in our courses.]

**Have you seen** some people whose life just seems to be filled with hardship and obstacles, yet they thrive on the challenge, and achieve more with their life than others?

And have you seen others who seem to have it easy, who have great natural flair for certain things, yet are among the great underachievers of life?

The **Major Aspect Patterns** in the horoscope often indicate some of the major inner dynamics a person is dealing with.

Also, at this stage – pay attention to which Planet has the most aspects to other planets. This planet will generally be more significant in the person's life. For example, if Mars receives the most aspects in the horoscope the theme of self-assertion may be particularly potent in the person's psyche. In this case, the person may find a wide range of influences make it complex to assert what they want in life, depending on which planets make an aspect to Mars. This could give further insight to anger management issues, for example, or the obstructions regarding self-assertion for the person concerned.

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HINT:

Much of what you can learn  
from a horoscope  
is **Quick** – and **EASY**

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## Guiding Principle: Keep it simple

When you are starting out, it is best to keep your process simple, and to build up your deeper understanding of a person by your analysis as well as learning about the person from real life – seeing how they act, and what they tell you about themselves.

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The FIRST person  
to study is – YOU!

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Half of the learning process comes from theory and examples, the other from observing people in relation to your observations of their horoscope. Our courses include time for both of these approaches to learning, for we believe it is important to learn by doing.

**You will find that people are endlessly fascinating**, once you have this tool of astrology to reveal to you a deeper understanding of what makes people ‘tick’.

And, of course, we should all study our own lives first – so that we can make the most of our own life.

Following this simple horoscope reading plan, you’ll find it quick and easy to see the essentials of a horoscope, and to understand people at a deeper level than before.

You’ll be able to be more confident in ‘reading’ other people – and *not just* the most obvious parts of their behavior – or how they act around *you*. They may be quite different in different company, because of what other people ‘bring out’ in them.

**So,**

we encourage you to take up the study of astrology, and discover for yourself how these insights can give you useful life skills and ways of understanding your life and other people you need to deal with and those you care about.

Naturally, we'd love to have you as one of our students.

If you enjoyed this material, and found it easy to follow, you'll find our online (and offline) course just as easy and insightful.

We start our course with **Reading the horoscope**, then move on to understanding an **Individual's psychology**.

Then we look at the horoscope from a **Career** perspective – in other words, what the horoscope can tell us about our career path, and what might work for us, and what makes a vocation, rather than just a job that pays the bills.

Next we look at astrology as a **Timing** tool – this is where astrology really shines, as we can read the daily, weekly or monthly influences we are working with.

Then we study **Relationships** – how we affect each other, and how well we work together.

Beyond that, we have other areas you may be interested in, but that is enough to get you started.

**So –**

if this sounds interesting to you, visit us at

[AstroInsight.com.au/courses](https://AstroInsight.com.au/courses)

to find out how to take your next step toward deeper insights about your life and those you care about – and those you have to deal with!

Wishing you Insight for your life

*Rainer Rollfink*

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