

THE PHANTOM MERMAID PRESENTS

A No-Nonsense Guide to Astrology



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW
ABOUT THE NOT-SO-BASIC BASICS

BY AJ SHARP



INTRODUCTION



Frustrated with astrology social media?

Overwhelmed by astrology jargon?

Searching for answers?

I created this **No-Nonsense Guide to Astrology** so you can confidently join the conversation and truly understand what your own astrology placements mean.

This guide contains everything you need to know to get started with the not-so-basic basics of astrology.

AJ Sharp -

Phantom Mermaid Astrology

THE **FIVE** (NOT-SO) BASICS

Part 1 (p.4)

The Zodiac Signs

Part 2 (p.6)

The Planets

Part 3 (p.8)

The Houses

Part 4 (p.10)

Elements & Modalities

Part 5 (p.13)

Aspects



01

ZODIAC SIGNS

There are **12 zodiac signs**, each with distinct traits and characteristics.

In your birth chart, every zodiac sign is connected to a house, bringing its unique qualities to that area of life.

Understanding these signs is essential for interpreting how planets express themselves and where they influence your life.

For example, the house your sun sign is in will show you what area of life you shine in.

01 THE ZODIAC SIGNS

- ♈ **ARIES** March 21st - April 19th
risk-taker | courageous | assertive | trailblazer
- ♉ **TAURUS** April 20th - May 20th
stable | reliable | stubborn | materialistic
- ♊ **GEMINI** May 21st - June 20th
curious | talkative | open-minded | scattered
- ♋ **CANCER** June 21st - July 22nd
loyal | nurturing | self-pitying | family-oriented
- ♌ **LEO** July 23rd - August 22nd
creative | confident | energetic | cowardly
- ♍ **VIRGO** August 23rd - September 22nd
grounded | purposeful | hardworking | critical
- ♎ **LIBRA** September 23rd - October 22nd
fair | unyielding | social | charming
- ♏ **SCORPIO** October 23rd - November 21st
powerful | mysterious | guarded | chaotic
- ♐ **SAGITTARIUS** November 22nd - December 21st
explorer | optimistic | blunt | self-righteous
- ♑ **CAPRICORN** December 22nd - January 19th
dependable | initiator | relentless | achiever
- ♒ **AQUARIUS** January 20th - February 18th
innovator | rebellious | idealistic | inflexible
- ♓ **PISCES** February 19th - March 20th
intuitive | empathetic | artist | martyr

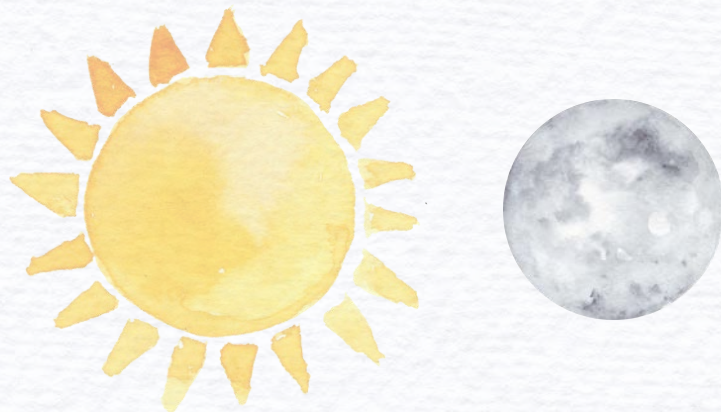
02

PLANETS

Planets in astrology are divided into **three categories**...

- personal planets (closest to Earth and most influential on our personalities)
- social planets (which affect our social interactions)
- generational planets (farthest from Earth and impacting collective experiences).

While the Sun and Moon are technically luminaries, they're typically included in the planet category.



02 THE PLANETS

- ☉ **SUN** (Personal Planet)
identity | ego | recognition | self-expression
Rules: Leo & 5th House
- ☾ **MOON** (Personal Planet)
emotions | instincts | reactions
Rules: Cancer & 4th House
- ♿ **MERCURY** (Personal Planet)
curiosity | knowledge | communication
Rules: Gemini & 3rd House, Virgo & 6th House
- ♀ **VENUS** (Personal Planet)
beauty | love | art | finances
Rules: Taurus & 2nd House, Libra & 7th House
- ♂ **MARS** (Personal Planet)
passion | drive | conflict
Rules: Aries & 1st House, Scorpio & 8th House
- ♄ **SATURN** (Social Planet)
structure | ambition | authority | productivity
Rules: Capricorn & 10th House, Aquarius & 11th House
- ♃ **JUPITER** (Social Planet)
growth | expansion | beliefs | adventure
Rules: Sagittarius & 9th House, Pisces & 12th House
- ♅ **URANUS** (Generational Planet)
growth | expansion | beliefs | adventure
Rules: Aquarius & 11th House (in modern astrology)
- ♆ **NEPTUNE** (Generational Planet)
dreams | intuition | creativity | escapism
Rules: Pisces & 12th House (in modern astrology)
- ♇ **PLUTO** (Generational Planet)
power | sexuality | death | rebirth
Rules: Scorpio & 8th House (in modern astrology)

HOUSES

The zodiac wheel consists of **12 houses**. The houses represent different areas of your life. Each house is ruled by a zodiac sign and a planet that enhance the traits of that house.



03 THE HOUSES

1ST HOUSE

identity | self | ego | appearance | your perspective | how others view you

2ND HOUSE

self-worth | finances | values | material possessions | how you earn money

3RD HOUSE

communication | siblings | transportation | neighbors | knowledge

4TH HOUSE

family | roots | home life | home aesthetics | childhood

5TH HOUSE

creativity | self-expression | children | pleasure | how you enjoy life

6TH HOUSE

routines | daily life | schedules | preventative health | work life

7TH HOUSE

love | close friendships | one-on-one client work | art | contracts | beauty

8TH HOUSE

shared resources | intimacy | other peoples money | taxes | mystery | sex

9TH HOUSE

long-distance travel | further education | religion | philosophy | adventure

10TH HOUSE

career | public image | success | rewards | reputation | life purpose

11TH HOUSE

friend groups | networking | community | future hopes | activism

12TH HOUSE

behind-the-scenes work | solitude | healing | endings | spirituality | subconscious



04

ELEMENTS & MODALITIES

Each sign is categorized into an element and a modality. Elements and modalities can help us better understand each zodiac sign and how they express their energy.

Elements

- fire
- earth
- air
- water

Modalities

- cardinal
- fixed
- mutable

△ FIRE

Aries | Leo | Sagittarius

- creative
- energetic
- feisty
- courageous
- leaders



▽ EARTH

Taurus | Virgo | Capricorn

- grounded
- stable
- practical
- logical
- sensual



△ AIR

Gemini | Libra | Aquarius

- curious
- intellectual
- communicative
- witty
- inventive



▽ WATER

Cancer | Scorpio | Pisces

- empathetic
- intuitive
- sensitive
- compassionate
- artistic



♈ **CARDINAL**

Aries | Cancer | Libra | Capricorn

- starters
- initiators
- go-getters

Cardinal signs begin each season

♉ **FIXED**

Taurus | Leo | Scorpio | Aquarius

- independent
- intellectual
- determined

Fixed signs fall in the middle of seasons

♊ **MUTABLE**

Gemini | Virgo | Sagittarius | Pisces

- adaptable
- open-minded
- thorough

Mutable signs end each season



05

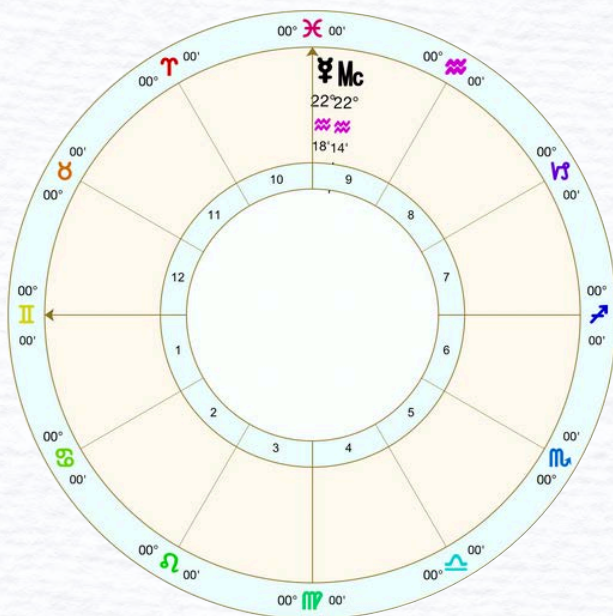
ASPECTS

Aspects are the connections between planets that show how they interact with each other in your life.

The **3 types of aspects** are...

- neutral
- soft (bringing ease)
- hard (creating challenges)

When you learn to work with aspects, they open doors for growth and new experiences. While many aspects exist, we'll focus on the **5 major ones**.



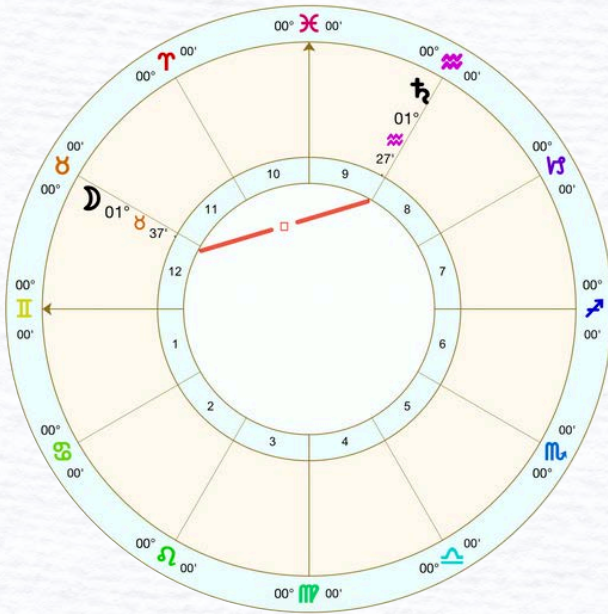
♿ CONJUNCTION

- Neutral Aspect
- Exact degree is 0 or 0 signs apart (i.e. they are next to each other)
- Orb within 0-8 degrees

The purpose of conjunctions is to unite forces, but planets in close proximity may have difficulty recognizing each other.

(Mercury is conjunct the Mc [Midheaven])

05 ASPECTS: HARD

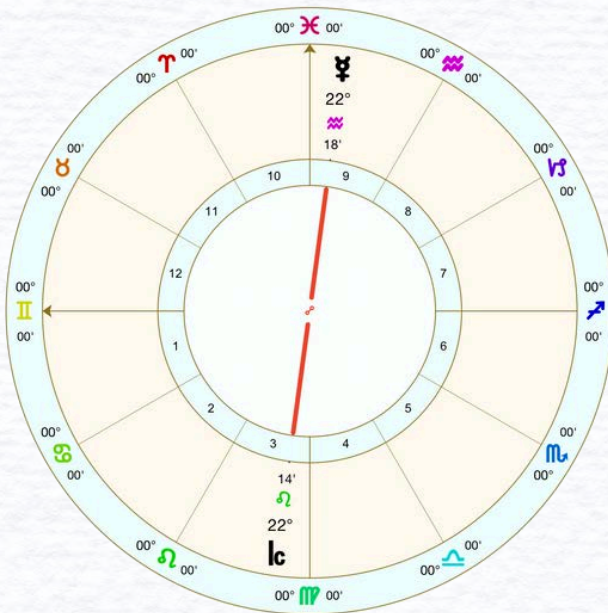


(The Moon squares Saturn)

☐ SQUARE

- Hard Aspect
- Exact degree is 90 | 3 signs apart
- Orb within 0-8 degrees

Squares represent tension and a clash of interests. Nonetheless, this tension propels us into action, paving the way for growth.



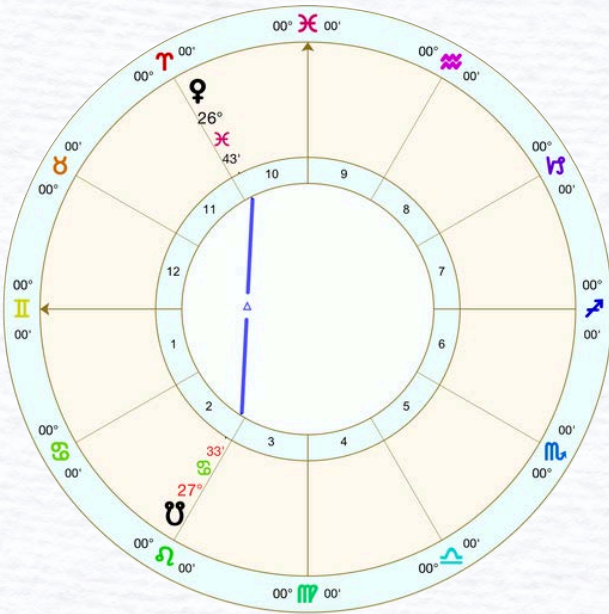
(Mercury opposes the IC)

☾ OPPOSITION

- Hard Aspect
- Exact degree is 180 | 6 signs apart
- Orb within 0-8 degrees

When planets are in opposition, they seek contrasting yet interconnected outcomes and rely on each other to reach their full potential, requiring a willingness to find common ground.

05 ASPECTS: SOFT

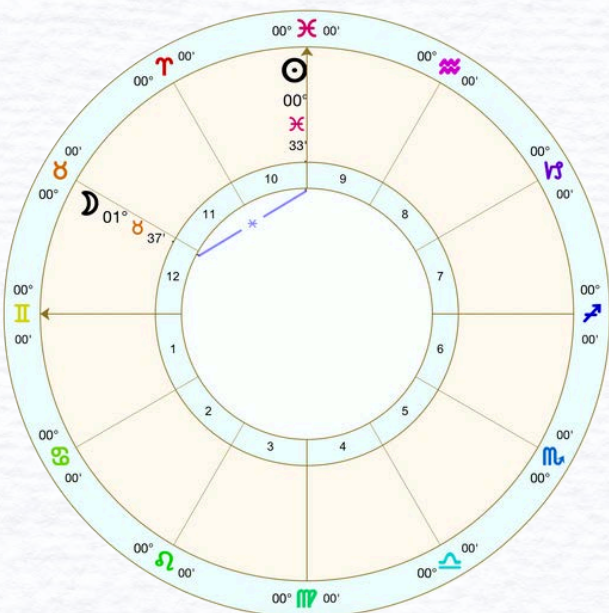


(Venus trines the South Node)

△ TRINE

- Soft Aspect
- Exact degree is 120 | 4 signs apart
- Orb within 0-8 degrees

Planets in a trine support and uplift one another, allowing for a smooth flow of energy. However, in areas where we face no challenges, we often miss out on opportunities for growth.



(The Sun sextiles the Moon)

* SEXTILE

- Soft Aspect
- Exact degree is 60 | 2 signs apart
- Orb within 0-4 degrees

Sextile planets share similarities with trines, yet they are not as passive. They require a bit of encouragement. Sextiles reveal where your opportunities and talents can be found.



CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU KNOW THE
NOT-SO-BASIC BASICS
OF ASTROLOGY

But, now what?

**READY FOR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE
TO GAIN MORE CLARITY IN READING ASTROLOGY?**

Birth Chart Bootcamp:

A Self-Paced Mini-Course on Birth Chart Reading

**My Birth Chart Bootcamp is for astrology lovers
who want to dive deeper into reading their birth charts**

What you get:

- Expanding on the (not-so) basics
- Full Breakdown of the Birth Chart
- In-Depth Examples
- The Asteroids & Angles
- North & South Node Insights
- How to Track the Transits
- Exclusive Tips & Tricks

Each section features easy-to-follow videos that you can binge-watch in one night or enjoy over several days at your own pace!

[JOIN BIRTH CHART BOOTCAMP](#)



About AJ

With 15+ years of teaching experience, I simplify astrology while respecting its intricate nature. My mission is to empower you with confidence and equip you with practical, actionable insights that you can incorporate into your daily life.

*AJ Sharp -
Phantom Mermaid Astrology*

