

## Astrological Terms

**Ascendant** – the cusp of the 1<sup>st</sup> House

**Midheaven (MC)** – the cusp of the 10<sup>th</sup> House

**Rising Sign** - the zodiacal sign on the cusp of the 1<sup>st</sup> house (ascendant)

**Ruler of the Chart** - the planet that rules the rising sign (sign on 1<sup>st</sup> house cusp)

**Star of Destiny** - the planet ruling the sign in which you find the natal Sun

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**Ruler (lord)** - the planet whose qualities has the primary influence over any specific sign, house, or aspect. A planetary ruler is given to each of the signs.

**Dispositor** - the planet which is **lord** or **ruler** of the sign where another planet is found.

**Dispositor of the Chart** - a planet that all other planets in the chart can be traced back to when you identify each planet's dispositor. The dispositor of a chart will always be found in its own sign (the sign it rules).

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**Orb of Influence** – the range at which an aspect between two planets comes into effect

**Partile** – two planets in the exact same degree of any sign or signs, and thus in aspect

**Applying** – a faster moving planet moving toward partile with a slower moving planet

**Separating** – a faster moving planet moving away from partile with a slower planet

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**Flat Chart** – a chart drawn up when the time of birth is unknown. It will have 0° Aries on the 1<sup>st</sup> house cusp and twelve equal sized houses each composed of 30° degrees.

**Ephemeris** – a table with the position of the planets for each day of any given year.

**Retrograde Planet** – a planet that appears to be moving backwards through the zodiac when viewed from earth. It's called apparent motion because it's an optical illusion.

**Intercepted Sign** - An intercepted sign occurs when a sign is totally contained in one of the houses and does not appear on the cusp of any house.

When you find an intercepted sign, the sign that is opposite will be intercepted as well. This means you will also have two signs that have double house cusps.

**Transits** - the sun, moon and planets are in continuous motion, aspects they make to planets in the natal chart over time are called transits. Transits activate the natal chart.

**Essential Dignity** – the relative strength or weakness of a planet in the chart. There are several dignities to consider including: Rulership, Exaltation & Fall, Quality & Element

**Exaltation** – one of the essential dignities of a planet. Each planet has a sign in which it is “exalted” (not to be confused with the sign it rules). A planet is said to be the most comfortable and offer its best expression when found in its “sign of exaltation.”

**Fall** - the sign opposite a planet’s sign of exaltation. A planet in its fall is said to be weakened, debilitated and diminished of its benefic properties.

**Detriment** – the sign opposite the sign a planet naturally rules.

**Karmic Degrees** - 3° degrees approaching the Midheaven (into the 9<sup>th</sup> house)  
3° degrees approaching the Ascendant (into the 12<sup>th</sup> house)