

Understanding Aspects

Aspects are important because they tell us whether an individual will experience the expression of any given planet as being positive or negative. Aspects also reveal the **Intensity** of planetary expression. They tell us how easy or difficult, pleasant or unpleasant the karma associated with a planet can be, and **When** that planet and the karma it symbolizes will be most active in one's life.

Aspects are a Measurement of Distance Between Two Planets – Measured in Degrees.

When we measure the distance between two buildings, we say they are so many blocks apart. When we measure the distance between two cities, we say they are so many miles apart. When we measure the distance between two planets, we say they are so many degrees apart.

Aspects are Measured from Sign to Sign, Never House to House !!!

There are 360° degrees in a circle, 360° degrees in every chart, thus one degree = 1/360 of a chart. Aspects are measured from sign to sign, and each sign contains 30° degrees wherever it is found.

Aspects are fixed distances (measured in degrees) between planets. Here are the names of the seven you want to be familiar with along with their measurement in degrees, their symbol and ruler:

The Seven Primary Aspects

♌ – **Conjunction** (0°) ☉ = **Power** - Forceful, Dynamic, Self-Expression, Initiation

♍ – **Semi-Sextile** (30°) ♀ = **Reflection**, Intellectual Engagement

♎ – **Sextile** (60°) ♁ = **Opportunity** - Social Engagement, Allurement

♏ – **Square** (90°) ♂ = **Disruption** - Conflict, Struggle, Ego Involvement

♐ – **Trine** (120°) ♃ = **Expansion** - Good Fortune (karma), Ease & Satisfaction

♑ – **Inconjunct** (150°) ♄ = **Resistance**, Self-Judgment, Guilt

♒ – **Opposition** (180°) ♅ = **Obstruction**, Indecision, Vacillation, Inability to Reconcile

Conjunctions *empower* or intensify the planetary forces involved. It's a solar symbol. The conjunction allows the energy of the planets to *enter* one another.

The conjunction symbolizes unity and power. It occurs when there is little or no distance between two planets. Thus, two or more planets in the same sign and approximate degree are said to be in conjunction with each other.

The conjunction brings out the strength of both planets. For this reason, and because the conjunction is ruled by the Sun, we say a conjunction is a **power complex**. The expression of the planets involved will be forceful, dynamic, producing a manifestation and the initiation of a new cycle.

A conjunction is considered harmonious or inharmonious depending on the planets involved. Conjunctions involving positive or neutral planets produce positive conjunctions. Conjunctions involving inharmonious planets produce inharmonious conjunctions.

The harmonious planets are considered to be Venus and Jupiter. The neutral planets are the Sun, Moon and Mercury. The inharmonious planets are Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

Sextiles symbolizes *opportunity*. A sextile *harmonizes* the planetary energies involved. It's a Venus symbol. A sextile presents the opportunity for the planets involved to release their positivity.

A sextile is an aspect between two planets that are 60° degrees apart (2-signs). Planets in sextile work in harmony with one another. They form an **opportunity complex** that expresses the nature of Venus. Sextiles are considered to be positive.

Squares bring strong disruptions into life if not handled skillfully. A square *energizes* the two planets, releasing a force that is difficult to manage. It's a Mars symbol. A square *disrupts* the planets.

The square occurs when two planets are 90° degrees apart (3-signs). It has the nature of Mars, thus squares are almost always a **disruptive complex**.

A square is considered to be the most inharmonious of all the aspects. The disruption it normally produces is the result of a person's conscious and/or subconscious efforts to meet their ego's needs. Conflicts and disturbances that arise through the **activation** of a square are easy to see in most people's lives. Squares are considered negative owing to the discord that arises when they **activate**.

Trines *expand* the planetary energies involved. A trine *harmonizes* the energy of the two planets with one another. It's a Jupiter symbol. Trines symbolize what some astrologers call "good luck." I prefer to say a trine symbolizes good karma (a positive causal relationship or attitude) accrued in the past by one's own sweat and blood, which is nothing to be taken for granted (though we do).

A trine occurs when two planets are 120° degrees apart (4-signs). Trines are a **good karma complex** considered to be very favorable and harmonious, they express the nature of Jupiter.

Inconjuncts exert *stress*. They indicate frustration, sickness, and guilt. Some astrologers would say they indicate *guilt*, which produces stress, which produces sickness. It's a Saturn symbol that arise when two planets are 150° degrees apart (5-signs). Inconjuncts represent a **guilt** or **stress complex**. Though considered a minor aspect, they are important to note, especially when the aspect is *tight*.

Oppositions *obstruct* the expression of the planets and houses involved, making them difficult to reconcile with one another. The opposition is a lunar symbol, and if it's not handled skillfully there can be a double loss. To soften an opposition you need to choose one end (one house and/or planet) or the other and not allow the opposite planet or house to interfere because of *indecision* or *doubt*.

An opposition exists between two planets when they are 180° degrees apart (6-signs). 180° degrees is as far apart as two planets can ever be. They are literally opposed to one another. Ruled by the moon, oppositions manifest as vacillation, an indecisive or conflicted attitude that disrupts a person's life, making it difficult to balance or reconcile the forces involved. *People want their cake, and eat it too.*

The opposition is an **obstructive complex**.

The opposition is considered to be inharmonious because of the difficulties it produces in a person's life, but an opposition between harmonious or neutral planets is usually easier to reconcile.

There are no bad aspects, though some aspects are certainly more difficult than others. Harmonious aspects simply produce what a human considers positive or pleasant, whereas inharmonious aspects tend to produce what people consider to be undesirable or unpleasant (both are subjective).

Difficult aspects like a square often drive a person to great success and accomplishment, though usually without experiencing much contentment or happiness in the process. On the other hand, people with strong harmonious aspects, though often more content in life, find it challenging to accomplish things in the world. The best charts will contain a combination of **hard** and **soft** (harmonious & inharmonious) aspects. The hard aspects will produce the drive needed for success in the world, while the soft or harmonious aspects produce greater contentment and satisfaction.