

Introduction to the Houses

Houses are divisions of the horoscope indicating **WHERE** planetary urges will manifest in the world. The 12 Houses should not be confused with the 12 signs of the zodiac. The houses are fixed and never move. The signs rotate around the wheel and can be found in any house and on any cusp of a chart.

The line dividing two houses is called a **CUSP**. The cusp of a house is where a house begins, it's the strongest part of a house. The closer a planet is to a cusp the stronger its energy is expressed. A chart is read beginning at the cusp of the first house, which is always on the eastern horizon at 9:00 o'clock.

First House - Personality, Physical Appearance, Temperament, the Ascendant

The first house rules one's personality. It reveals a person's temperament, disposition, physical attributes and appearance. It also describes their childhood environment.

The cusp of the first house is called the **Ascendant** and is one of the most critical "points" in the chart. The ascendant can be read almost like a planet. It describes the way a person sees the world, the "colored glasses" they look through. The combined influence of the Sun, Moon, Mercury and Ascendant reveals a person's personality, character, temperament and the way their mind works.

Planets in the first house have a definite affect on temperament and appearance, but if there are no planets in the first house, the ascendant alone describes personality, worldly outlook and disposition.

2nd House - Wealth, Possessions, Values, Finances, the Memory Track

The second house rules a person's financial affairs and possessions. It also reveals one's attitude toward money and worldly possessions. It indicates the potential for the loss and gain of "things," the capacity to enjoy comfort, and how one gives and receives. On a deeper spiritual level the 2nd house symbolizes one's true wealth – the knowledge one "possesses" and one's own memory track.

3rd House - Communication, Siblings, Neighbors, Short Journeys, the Conscious Mind

The third house reveals the expression of the everyday mind. It's concerned with brothers & sisters, neighbors and communications of all kinds, including reading, writing and general studies. It rules short journeys, a person's mental inclinations, and the way a person thinks, reasons, and speaks.

4th House - Mother, Home Environment, Land & Real Estate, The End of Things and Life

The 4th house rules the home environment, the mother (or inner linked parent), general conditions at the end of one's life, as well as conditions at the completion of events. It reveals a person's attitude toward lands, buildings and real estate, as well as the experience of safety or shelter and home life.

5th House - Creativity, Children, Romance, Speculation, Pleasure, God Consciousness

The fifth house is the house of creative self-expression and love. It's the house of romance and affairs. It rules speculation, gambling and creativity, which can be the creation of children, an idea, or a work of art. It also relates to pleasure, which in addition to the pleasure of love and sexuality includes games, sports, and all types of entertainment, especially those aimed at relaxation.

6th House - Work, Health, Sickness, Servants & Service, Relationship to Your Culture

The sixth house is sometimes referred to as the house of the triple-s: sickness, service and servants. It symbolizes a person's vocational abilities as well as their attitude toward work and job. It's the house of responsibilities, the "debt of service" one owes to other individuals and to one's culture.

The sixth house symbolizes a person's general health, as well as their moods and mental fixations, which easily affect one's health. Through its relationship to Mercury and the digestive system, it also relates to food, diet and hygiene, all of which impact physical health and mental well-being.

In the modern world service and servants implies those we serve and those who are responsible to serve us, such as employees, subordinates at work, bank tellers, waitresses, cab drivers and sales clerks. The sixth house rules those we help (serve) and those who help us in any capacity personally or professionally. It also rules small animals.

7th House - Marriage, Business Partnerships, General Public, Open Enemies, the Not-Self

The seventh house deals with partnerships, marriage, open enemies, opponents (legal or otherwise), and the general public. It also has a great deal to do with how you relate to other people. Opposite the first house, the seventh house represents the not-self...everyone you believe yourself not to be.

Seventh house people are the mirrors in which we come to see our reflections with greater clarity if we're willing to gaze into those mirrors with patience, compassion, and spiritual maturity.

8th House - Other People's Wealth, Death, Legacies, Astral Experiences, the Occult

Opposite the second house of personal wealth, the eighth house symbolizes other people's wealth and values. But the wealth of the eighth house is not just the wealth of the physical world. It also symbolizes the collective wealth of knowledge and memory that has accrued over generations.

The eighth house relates to death, dying, rebirth and regeneration. It concerns itself with all matters of death and dying, as well as the goods of the dead. It indicates inheritances, legacies, settlements, wills and other people's money, including wealth of a spouse or business partner. It symbolizes the death of the ego, a transformation that results in a "rebirth" to what lays beyond the ego personality's horizon of awareness, thus the eighth rules the bardo, the occult, dreams and astral experiences.

9th House - Higher Education, Philosophy, Religion, Law, Long Journeys, Foreign Lands

Opposite the third, the ninth house symbolizes collective thought and ideas, such as philosophy, religion and law. It rules long journeys (the kind where you can't sleep in your own bed) and foreign countries or communities. Places where people don't necessarily think the way you do!

The ninth house rules higher education, medicine, religion and spiritual ideals. It rules inspirational and philosophical thought, the occult, and metaphysics. It symbolizes the laws of man as well as the laws of physics and metaphysics. It indicates a person's dreams, visions and intuitional abilities.

10th House - Father, Fame, Reputation, Dharma, Responsibilities, Status, Profession

The tenth house indicates one's profession and place in society, as opposed to the home environment of the fourth house. It's called the house of destiny and ambition because it indicates the degree of fame, honor and success a person is likely to attain, and what that fame will potentially bring with it.

The tenth house symbolizes the personality of the employer and karma related to dealing with governments, powerful people, and those who have power or influence over the chart. The tenth house is also the house of beginnings, opposite the fourth house, which is the house of endings.

11th House - Friends, Aspirations, Hopes, Collective Creative Endeavors, Stepchildren

Opposite the fifth house of personal pleasure and creativity, the eleventh house rules the dreams, hopes and aspirations that can only be fulfilled through the collective effort of a group or society. Thus it rules one's friends, as well as clubs, organizations, and cultural associations one may belong to. It's also the house you examine to see if a person's hopes and aspirations will be realized.

The eleventh house is the house of collective creativity and pleasure. Most things we want to create in life require the help and support of those around us. This offers insight into why the eleventh rules the organizations we engage with. They are vehicles to the fulfillment of our dreams, hopes, and wishes. The eleventh also rules stepchildren, being the 5th house from the 7th house. (*spin the chart!*)

12th House - House of Egypt, Self-Help, Self-Confinement, Limitation, Hidden Enemies

Opposite the sixth house, the twelfth describes debts (karma) that have accumulated over time to or through groups of people you've served...or failed to serve. It relates to the health and well-being of the unconscious mind, a force that can imprison or liberate. Thus it symbolizes seclusion and exile, places of isolation and confinement where people come face to face with choices they've made in the past, such as hospitals, prisons, retreats, and institutions where people are confined or imprisoned.

The twelfth is the house of karma (self-created and self-sustained). It's called the house of unseen troubles, self-confinement, limitation, and secret sorrows. For better or worse it symbolizes the unconscious habit patterns of the mind that have accumulated over time and motivate so much of people's lives. But there is also a great deal of accumulated wisdom that can be drawn upon, which is why it should be stressed that the twelfth house is also the house of self-help and ultimate freedom.

The twelfth house indicates secret enemies and betrayals. Forces waiting in the tall grass for an opportunity to pounce. It's the house of self-sacrifice and self-undoing. But also the house where much is gained from captivity. It rules large animals (as opposed to small animals of the 6th house).

The Relationships Between the First Six Houses and the Second Six Houses

There's a direct relationship between the first six houses and the second six. The first six relate to individual development and experience. The second six relate to interpersonal/collective experience. Keep this in mind as you study and it will make memorizing the houses much easier. For example:

1 st House - Your Personality	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	7 th House - Spouse or Partner
2 nd House - Your Wealth	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	8 th House - Other People's Wealth
3 rd House - General Knowledge	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	9 th House - Higher Knowledge
4 th House - Mother/Home	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	10 th House - Father/Status in World
5 th House - Your Creations	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	11 th House - Collective Creations
6 th House - Personal Service	~ <i>is opposite</i> ~	12 th House - Collective Service