

# Astrology Terms

Here are some common astrology terms you'll hear in a reading:

**Aspect:** Planets are said to “throw” or “cast” aspects, which influence other signs and houses. Planets influence other houses or planets aspected by them favorably or unfavorably, depending upon their functional nature in a chart.

**Conjunction:** When two or more planets are in close proximity in the zodiac, they are said to be in conjunction with each other.

**Debilitation:** The planets are considered to be in the state of debilitation when occupying a particular sign. This makes them weak and they will fail to fully protect or promote the general significations ruled by them.

**Exaltation:** The planets are considered to be in the state of exaltation when occupying a particular sign. This gives good results by promoting their general significations and the houses ruled by them.

**Mooltrikona Sign:** A planet in its mooltrikona (MT) sign is treated as very powerful, provided it is otherwise strong. Under the Systems' Approach, the mooltrikona signs of various planets are as follows:

Sun - Leo

Moon - Cancer

Mars - Aries

Mercury - Virgo

Jupiter - Saturn

Venus - Libra

Saturn - Aquarius.

**Natal chart:** The natal (birth) chart, also known as a horoscope, reveals the constellation that was ascending on the eastern horizon at the exact

moment of your birth (rising sign/ascendent). The rising sign changes every 2 hours and this is based on the time of birth, place of birth and date of birth. It also reveals planets in various signs. Natal positions of planets are fixed and will never move.

**Own Sign:** A planet in its own sign is treated as strong and is capable of generating the expected results, provided it is otherwise strong. The own signs of various planets are as follows: Sun-Leo, Moon-Cancer, Mars-Aries & Scorpio, Mercury-Gemini & Virgo, Jupiter-Sagittarius & Pisces, Venus-Taurus & Libra, Saturn-Capricorn & Aquarius.

**Retrograde:** This is only a visionary phenomenon as it occurs due to different speeds of the planets in relation to the earth. Retrograde planets are to be treated in a normal way as per their longitudes, so far as the natal influences are concerned. To fully understand the impact of a transit retrograde planet, it is necessary that one learns predictive techniques and methodology for reading transit influences. The effects on a natal chart need to be studied for each particular person and cannot be easily generalized.

**Rahu and Ketu:** These are considered shadowy “planets” - they are the two points where the orbit of the Moon crosses the ecliptic. In Western astrology Rahu and Ketu are called the north and south node of the Moon, respectively.

The influence of Rahu and Ketu in the natal chart is very significant for the person. Rahu and Ketu are unfavorable planets as they can bring challenges and make the person vulnerable to anxiety, over-ambitiousness, sudden setbacks, undiagnosed health problems, loss of reputation, losses through cheating, professional setbacks, depression, strains in business relationships, persisting infections and losses through risky or speculative ventures. They make one vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, problems with litigation, sudden mishaps and challenges in marital relationships.

If, however, Rahu and Ketu are well-placed in a chart and are not causing any afflictions to any houses or planets, then they can promote their own significations. Rahu gives ambition, fame, fortune, charisma and magnetic personality; Ketu gives profound spiritual progress and experiences.

**Strong planets:** Strong planets bless the person with good health, happiness and success in life and are connected with the significations of that planet. For example, a strong and well-placed Sun will give the person a healthy, wealthy and educated father and support from father and authority figures in life, as well as make a person a leader instead of a follower.

**Transits:** Planets move through different signs at various speeds. For instance, here are the general or approximate periods of time, which can change if a planet goes into retrograde motion:

The Sun remains in one sign for one month.

The Moon remains in one sign for 54 hours.

Mars remains in one sign for 45 days.

Mercury remains in one sign for about 1 month.

Jupiter remains in one sign for 12 months.

Venus remains in one sign for 1 month.

Saturn remains in one sign for 30 months.

Rahu and Ketu remain in one sign for 18 months.

We can study the effects of these transits on our natal (birth) chart by looking at the transit chart for a particular period of time. Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are the slower moving planets.

**Weak planets:** The weak planets (in degrees, debilitation, or afflicted by the malefic planets) are not able to protect or promote their general significations.