TAROT AT A GLANCE

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Suits	Playing Cards	Element	Associations
Wands	Clubs	Air	the mind/its activity; beginnings, ideas, concepts and processes
Swords	Hearts	Fire	power, authority, urgency, action; the life of the spirit
Pentacles	Spades	Earth	the body/material plane, money, possessions; survival
Cups	Diamonds	Water	receptivity, mysteries, the unconscious; intuition and emotions

Number Cards	Significance	Court Cards	Significance
Aces	First causes; primary impulses	Kings	Experience, competence, ability
Twos	Balance; polarity	Queens	Grounded harmony, sacred authority
Threes	Synthesis; groups	Knights	Reason, outward activity, messages
Fours	Stability; inner/outer distinction	Pages	Intuition, eagerness, youth
Fives	Struggle; separation		
Sixes	Expansion; climax		In a deck of playing cards, you can count Jacks as Pages, and include Knights in Kings.
Sevens	Inner work		Please note that many professional readers reverse the Wands/Clubs and Swords/Hearts associations, and correspond Wands with Fire and Swords with Air. Be sure you are consistent in <i>your</i> readings. Remember that readings should be used for personal growth, <i>not</i> for control over other people.
Eights	Experience; change by inspiration		
Nines	Completion		
Tens	Transformation		

Major Arcana

The Fool: the creative void, all possibilities that exist when none is manifest; innocence, synchronicity, transformation, fearlessness & new beginnings

The Magician: visible transformations; solar, tool-making; shamanic; goal-oriented

The High Priestess: invisible transformations, altered perception; lunar, intuitive; Guardian at Gate, guide to personal/collective unconscious

The Empress: Great Mother, fertility, abundance, growth, harmony; sensual, gentle, aesthetic; interested in community and relationships

The Emperor: authoritarian, patriarchal; rational/izing, self-centered tendency to socio-political dominance; anger, fear

The Hierophant: spiritual authority/martial law; patriarchal morality/institutions (courts, churches, parents, etc.)

The Lovers: balance, union; relationship beyond physical; hieros gamos, the sacred marriage

The Chariot: victory; accomplishment; self-discipline

Justice: Laws of Nature, natural consequences; interconnectedness and responsibility to it

The Hermit: introspection, search for wisdom; exploration of unconscious through solitude and resulting renewal

The Wheel of Fortune: cycles of life; cycles, time, and inevitable

Strength: integrated consciousness

The Hanged One: acceptance of initiatory nature of life/experience; willing "death" and rebirth; loss of ego for interconnected consciousness

Death: change; metaphorical endings and beginnings (very rarely a physical death)

Temperance: balance and integration

The Devil: the bureaucracy; abuse of power, corruption; bondage

The Tower: catalytic change and gestalt (aha!) experiences

The Star: calm following a storm; passage to a new level of consciousness; justice (as above) at a spiritual level

The Moon: female mysteries; realm of the unconscious, intuitive understanding; the labyrinth

The Sun: rebirth; emergence from the labyrinth; full understanding of life's interconnectedness and the joy it brings

Judgment: responsible decision-making, a process, a healing of ourselves and the Earth

The World: All; life, the universe and everything; a mastery of mind, body and spirit, full integration

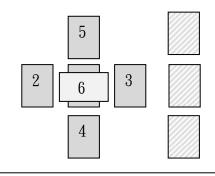
There are no playing card equivalents to the Major Arcana.

Ways to Read the Cards for Yourself

You can draw a single card to meditate on, or lay down three in a horizontal role to consider past, present, and future.

A very common layout is called the Celtic Cross. Lay the center card down first – it represents you (and in the illustration is under #6). Lay the next card down to the left, and the third one down to the right. These represent the past and the short-term future. Next, lay a card down at the bottom. That represents the underlying circumstances – the far past or psychological roots of what you are circumstances – the far past or psychological roots of what you are thinking about. The card at the top represents a direction of change. The card that crosses the center card is current obstacle to overcome.

Not all readers interpret the positions the same way. All agree, though, that no "future" is written in stone, and no reading is an excuse to give up on improving your life.



down the side are optional. top one is a longterm outcome, the middle one is your hopes and fears, and the bottom one is external forces that may be affecting the situation.