



# PERSONAL PLANETS & THE ASCENDANT

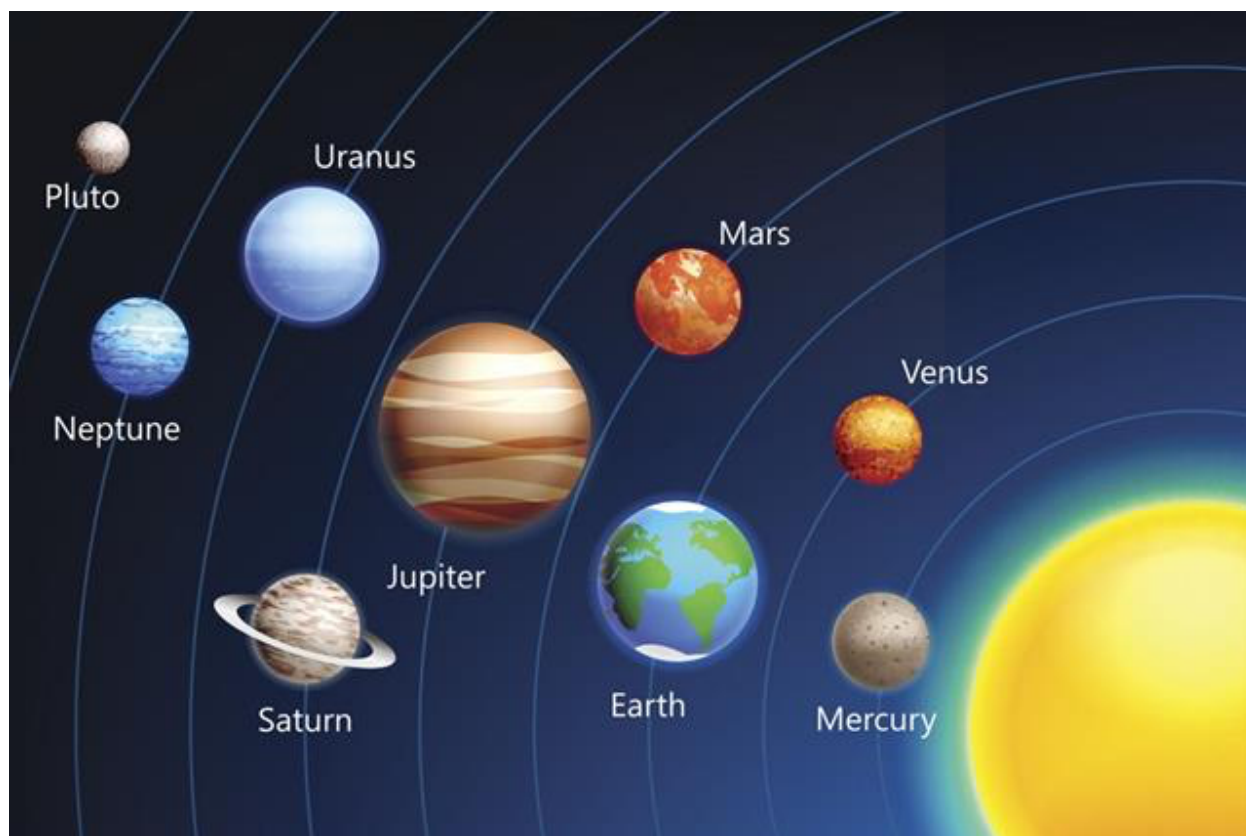
## PERSONAL PLANETS & THE ASCENDANT

**The cornerstone of Astrology is the planets.** The personal planets are those that are closest to Earth, which are Mercury, Venus and Mars as well as the Sun and Moon. As you've learned, the sun and moon are luminaries and play a central role in our chart; they are often included in the personal planets for succinctness.

The personal planets represent the main aspects of your personality. Everyone's chart includes all of the planets and depending on what sign and which house they are in, it will create a different pattern and therefore a different personality for each person.

The ascendant or rising sign is the zodiac sign that was rising in the eastern horizon at the time of your birth. Your ascendant is how the world sees you and sets the tone for all new beginnings.

In this session you will learn about the personal planets, their glyphs, how they function in your chart and how to work with their energy. We will focus on the placements of Mercury, Venus and Mars in your chart and the planet significance. We will also learn about the ascendant personal planets and how they function.



*Image from Universavvy*

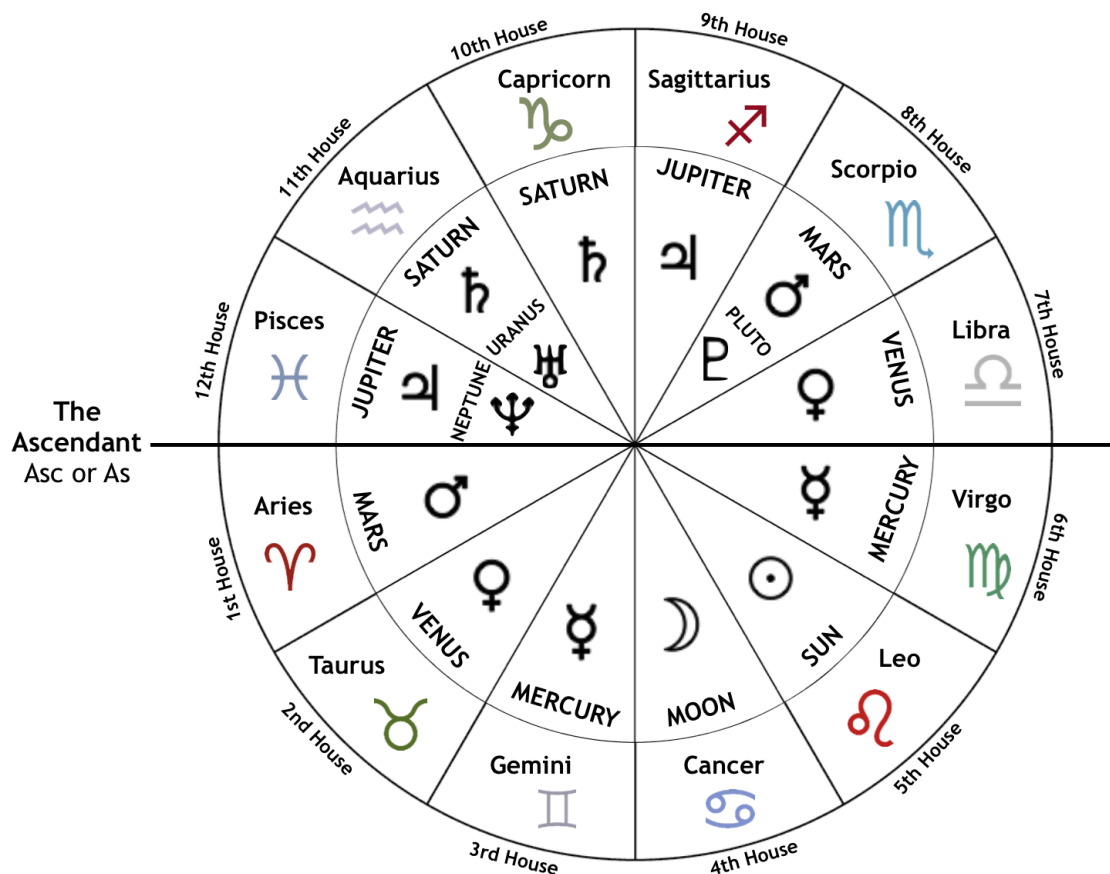
# Astrological Energies

Your chart is unique to you and is made up of three distinct and related energies: planets, signs and houses.

The **Planets** describe **WHAT** is affected. They represent different psychological functions or archetypes common to all people; **the kind of energy expressed**. Changes you see in your life, the personality you present to the world, the attitude and demeanor you reveal and the outward image you establish is because of planetary movement and where the planets are positioned in your horoscope. Each of the planets personify a particular human drive. The planets closest to us in the solar system affect us the most, they are our personal planets and include Mercury, Venus and Mars (as well as the Sun and Moon.)






The **Signs** show **HOW we are affected**. They are indicative of how we show ourselves to other people. Your Ascendant or rising sign reveals **how the energy is expressed** or how we appear to the world, not to be confused with your Sun sign which is who you are underneath or rather, your true character.

The **Houses** indicate **WHAT** is affected. They indicate which areas of life are important to you such as work or family, identity or creativity. The houses reveal **where the energy, or what area of life the energy will play out**. We will learn more about these later.



## Understanding the symbols

### What the personal planet glyphs mean

<b>Sun</b> 	<b>The Sun glyph represents</b>	The Sun represents your core identity. It's how you shine.
<b>Moon</b> 	<b>The Moon glyph represents</b>	The Moon represents your emotions and what you are sensitive to.
<b>Mercury</b> 	<b>The Mercury glyph represents</b>	Mercury represents your capacity to think, speak, learn and your reasoning faculty.
<b>Venus</b> 	<b>The Venus glyph represents</b>	Venus represents your capacity to attract people and things you love and value.
<b>Mars</b> 	<b>The Mars glyph represents</b>	Mars represents your ability to act and assert yourself based on what you want.

## Mercury Retrograde

Retrograde is when a planet appears, from Earth, to reverse direction. The planet Mercury goes retrograde 3 or 4 times a year and during this time, because Mercury is the planet of communication, how we think gets turns around. You will notice things going haywire or getting missed. There will be misunderstandings, delays and mixups in scheduling, technological mishaps; unexpected things that cause you to pause or stop in your life. Retrograde is a time for you to go back into that you've started, go into the past and visit things - including people, friends, ideas or projects. It is a time for fine-tuning, editing and finishing not starting something new. Big decisions especially should wait, buying a car or house, changing careers, moving or starting/ending relationships.

## The Personal Planets

The planets show where our energy is compelled and directed. Each planet's effect is influenced by the sign it occupies as well as its relationship to other planets. Let's explore how planets represent your basic psychological patterns and expressions:



The *Sun* is your core identity and central purpose.

My Sun is in:

The sign that my sun is in shows how you choose to lead and where you shine.



The *Moon* is your emotions, feels and daily habits.

My Moon is in:

The sign that my moon is in shows how you handle my feelings and what you are sensitive to.



*Mercury* is the way you think, speak, write and process information.

My Mercury is in:

The sign that Mercury is in shows how you focus, navigate learning and communicate with others.



*Venus* is what you value, how you love and relate to others.

My Venus is in:

The sign that Venus is in shows how you express yourself in relationships to yourself and others.



*Mars* is how you assert yourself based on what you want.

My Mars is in:

The sign that Mars is in shows you how you take action, express anger and passion.

## The Ascendant/Rising Sign

The characteristics of your ascendant or rising sign are by affected by the planets conjunct the ascendant and the position of the ascendant's ruling planet. For example, a person with a Taurus ascendant with its ruling planet, Venus, in Sagittarius will respond to a new situation a little differently than another person, also with a Virgo ascendant, but whose Venus is in Scorpio.

Your ascendant is the lens through which you are seen by others; your first impression or natural, instinctual reaction to new experiences or people.

Let's look at each of the personal planet and how they relate to the signs:



### THE ASCENDANT

#### Mercury: How I Think, Speak, and Learn

Mercury in Aries	
Mercury in Taurus	
Mercury Gemini	
Mercury in Cancer	
Mercury in Leo	
Mercury in Virgo	
Mercury in Libra	
Mercury in Scorpio	
Mercury in Sagittarius	
Mercury in Capricorn	
Mercury in Aquarius	
Mercury in Pisces	



## THE ASCENDANT

Venus: How I attract people, what I love and value

Venus in Aries	
Venus in Taurus	
Venus in Gemini	
Venus in Cancer	
Venus in Leo	
Venus in Virgo	
Venus in Libra	
Venus in Scorpio	
Venus in Sagittarius	
Venus in Capricorn	
Venus in Aquarius	
Venus in Pisces	



## THE ASCENDANT

Mars: How you act; your ability to assert yourself

Mars in Aries	
Mars in Taurus	
Mars in Gemini	
Mars in Cancer	
Mars in Leo	
Mars in Virgo	
Mars in Libra	
Mars in Scorpio	
Mars in Sagittarius	
Mars in Capricorn	
Mars in Aquarius	
Mars in Pisces	



# HOMEPLAY

It's not home"work" when it's fun

- Read about the personal planets (Mercury, Venus & Mars) in the Inner Sky by Steven Forrest; pages 127-135.
- Review the article: [Understanding the Planets' Role in Astrology by Lisa Anne](#), Nature's Pathways magazine.
- Prepare for next session by reading the article: [Astrology and the Houses by Lisa Anne](#), Nature's Pathways magazine.

## NOTE CARD HOMEPLAY:

### Learn the language of astrology

Apply basic astrology concepts to speaking the language of astrology by applying what you've learned about the **PERSONAL PLANETS**.

- Pull the Mercury, Venus and Mars notecard, from your "Planet Deck." Write three key words to describe what each planet represents in astrology on the back of the card.
- Using your previously made note cards, fill in the descriptions for each of the placements of Venus, Mercury and Mars. You may also want to use the Inner Sky Book for reference if needed.

*NOTE: Slowly we will add words to each note card. Always start slow, let it absorb before you jump into the next thing. Slowly read, discuss and repeat!*

## Read and discuss with your study buddy:

**Week 1:** Review your notes on the Ascendant and share with your buddy what your rising sign is.

**Discussion questions:** What did you learn about the ascendant? What does it mean for you?

**Week 2:** Review your notes on Mercury and share with your study buddy where your Mercury is placed.

**Discussion questions:** Where is your mercury placed? What does that tell you about the way you think and speak?

**Week 3:** Review your notes on Venus and share with your study buddy where your Venus is placed.

**Discussion questions:** What did you learn about Venus? Where is your Venus placed? What does that tell you about how you attract people or how you love others?

**Week 4:** Review your notes on Mars and share with your study buddy where your Mars is placed.

**Discussion questions:** What did you learn about Mars? Where is your Mars placed? What does that tell you about the way you act or assert yourself with others?

**Week 5:** Review The Inner Sky by Steven Forrest, Pages: 127-135 reading.

**Discussion questions:** What did you learn about Mercury, Venus and Mars? What questions do you have about the personal planets or the ascendant/rising sign?

**What questions do you have about the personal planets or the ascendant?**

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## FUN FACTS ABOUT MERCURY, VENUS & MARS

- Mercury was named for the Roman Messenger of the Gods and is the smallest (after Pluto) but the fastest planet in the solar system, lapping the sun every 88 days.
- Venus was named for the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty and is the brightest planet in the sky.
- Venus's days are longer than her years because she spins clockwise on her axis which is the opposite direction of the rest of the planets, except for Uranus.
- Mars was named for the Roman God of war and is called the red planet as it is red and is known for many volcanos and eruptions.
- Evidence suggests that there may have been life on Mars 3.7 billion years ago.



Ptolemy's Earth-centered universe with the moon, Mercury, Venus, the sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn orbiting our planet. (Andreas Cellarius, CC BY) [Smithsonian Magazine](https://www.smithsonianmagazine.com)