

Moon Signs: Background

If you have read your horoscope you have read your 'sun' sign. It takes around a month for the earth to cross through each of the 12 astrological signs of the zodiac as it orbits the sun. This makes working out your 'sun' sign pretty easy. The moon orbits the earth every 27.5 days, crossing into a new astrological sign every two and half days. So to obtain the correct moon sign requires us to work from your time of birth.

Though the sun is necessary for life as we know it, it does not operate outside of the co-operation of our moon. The gravitational force between the earth and the moon provides us with our tides and the closer the moon is to earth, the higher they are. The moon provides the reflection of silvery light on a dark night. This is why they say the sun sign acts but the moon sign reacts.

In Astrology the Moon is a symbol of our emotional wellbeing & fulfilment.

The moon gains its energy by reflecting back, or mirroring. In our emotional life this can show us how we are being responsive or sensitive to the needs of others. It is no wonder that it is the place it where we find or play out our mothering potential. It can also be a retreat when we need a rest from the process of self-awareness, self-actualisation and being alone as an individual. It shows where we have a need to belong, feel secure, safe, comforted, secure and contained. The moon can also signal where we are shaped by habit, where we are conditioned and our expectation of family and/or cultural values. *It has a similar influence to the zodiac sign cancer, of which the moons rules (or is the planetary domicile).*

The 3 most significant features of an astrology natal chart are your sun-sign, moon-sign and your ascendant (or rising) sign. Your sun-sign symbolizes the ways in which you radiate out to the world, the essence of your personality. Not everyone feels that they fully embrace their sun sign, though. Some fire sun-signs aren't particularly flamboyant and some water sun-signs may be more logical than emotional. As people have multi-faceted characters, just concentrating on one aspect of their being will not provide the full picture. Judging a person by their sun-sign alone is a bit like judging a beauty pageant just by looking at feet alone. It's important to find your inner rhythm by understanding how your moon sign is expressed and how it differs from your sun sign. Remember, we can be complex and contradictory beings and this can at times create inner discord. Your moon sign can influence how strongly your Sun sign is expressed.

The moon sign represents: your moods, your emotions, your soul – the inner you. It takes on the reflective qualities of the astrological sign it is in. It is how and where we express emotion. Another way of putting it is it is our emotional mode of operation. It also colours how our subconscious navigates below the surface—our deepest needs, and what helps us feel emotionally secure. If your moon sign is in a different element to your sun you may feel misunderstood whereas if it is in the same element as your sun sign you may find the element enhanced. If you were born on a new moon, where your sun and moon sign are the same – you may be committed to making your mark on the world after being born in the darkness. People whose moon signs are directly opposite their sun signs were born under a full moon and it will be their mission in life to integrate divergent energies. By cultivating a relationship to your moon sign you can reap the rewards of a deeper inner understanding.

Perhaps next time you are reading your horoscope (sun-sign) you could check out your moon sign against your emotional needs as well as your sun-sign.

If its cancer for instance, are you really craving an intimate chat with a friend?

Reading the Moon Signs: Your Emotional Lens

Aries Moon: *Our focus is to take action or start something.*

The first sign, fiery Aries is known for an impulsive and heated disposition. Those with this moon may be hot-headed and rash but they know their own minds. They need autonomy, adventure, action, novelty excitement, spontaneity, and victory, whatever that means to them. They like to feel challenged and alive though also like attention and to be attended to at times. Desires can feel like needs.

Taurus Moon: *Our focus is to seek comfort, security & indulge the senses.*

Earthy Taurus is a sensual sign and a creature of habit that will always prefer stability over change. Those with this moon sign crave cosy environments, delicious meals, and expressions of luxury. Those with this sign need constancy, material comfort, affection, and whatever they perceive as beauty. They want to build something lasting. They also want a return on their emotional investment so they don't feel taken for granted.

Gemini Moon: *Our focus is on communication and mental stimulation.*

Airy Gemini has a need for communication, facts and information. Those with this moon sign are drawn to like-minded souls who provide a "meeting of the minds" and people who can mirror or reflect things back to them. They need outlets for expression, constant dialogue, new ideas and stimulating conversations. If they celebrate their talkativeness and socialize in a variety of communities they will feel fulfilled.

Cancer Moon: *Our focus is on spending time with friends and family.*

Watery Cancer is sensitive to its surroundings and can read the energy of a room. This sign needs to nurture and be nurtured, to feel safe and supported and have their version of family and creature comforts around. They can become moody with fears of abandonment and require reassurance.

As Cancer is governed by the moon itself, as a sign, it is in what's called its planetary domicile.

Leo Moon: *Our focus is on being appreciated, by ourselves and others.*

Fiery Leo is creative, fuelled by warmth, generosity and an audience. They have a need for leadership, attention, glamour, affection, playfulness. They work best when they have a stage to share their gifts. They crave excitement, conquest and partnership.

As Leo is ruled by the sun, in a moon-sign it will need to work hard to make sure it's visible.

Virgo Moon: *Our focus is on the little things that make us happy.*

Earthy Virgo is the most analytical sign of the zodiac. Those with this sign are satisfied by logic, organization, and structure and excel at creating comprehensive, dynamic systems for themselves and for others. They have a need for order, mental stimulation, analysis and problem-solving. They can also become anxious and worrisome. They love to be helpful and are always fulfilled when contributing in practical ways.

Libra Moon: *Our focus is on finding compromise and harmony in our relationships.*

Airy Libra embodies balance, harmony, and union. Those with this moon sign have an emotional need for beauty, companionship and equality. They hate conflict have a strong sense of justice and crave a peaceful and aesthetically pleasing environment. They can be

natural mediators and may be happiest when keeping the peace. They also thrive in partnerships.

Scorpio Moon: *Our focus is on our desires and new experiences.*

Watery Scorpio is the most intense which desires deep connections and transformative experiences. This sign has sign a hard time trusting and opening up but if confidence is gained by another they will be rewarded with eternal loyalty. They have a need for deep understanding as well as privacy which should be honoured by creating and maintaining boundaries.

Sagittarius Moon: *Our focus is on our independence and exploration.*

The last fire sign Sagittarius craves adventure, variety, travel and new experiences. Known for their curiosity they are fulfilled by philosophy, intellectual expansion and gaining wisdom and are therefore attracted to worldly and open-minded people from all walks of life. They may bore easily and find it hard to finish projects. As they enjoy the quest they have a need for freedom to explore and embrace the unknown.

Capricorn Moon: *Our focus is on prioritizing long-term, realistic goals.*

Earthy Capricorn is fulfilled through working towards a goal and gaining success and achievement. They take responsibility seriously, are hardworking, industrious and renowned for a steadfast dedication. They have a need for creating a long-term legacy. They have a need for alone time to recharge and may appear melancholy or emotionally distant at times and find it hard to nurture.

Aquarius Moon: *Our focus is understanding which relationships & causes need deeper connections and which don't.*

Airy Aquarius is the most humanitarian sign of the zodiac, often emoting based on their values of equality. They often perceive the greater good more important than meeting their own needs. They have a need for *friendship, collaboration, a common cause as well as* individuality, freedom and autonomy. This sign can also become rebellious and want to subvert the powers that be or feel stuck by people pleasing.

Pisces Moon: *Our focus is on self-nurture.*

Watery Pisces is a dreamy, sensitive, empathetic and intuitive sign. It has a need for fantasy, compassion, escape and creative outlets. They can be artistic, sensual and spiritual. They can become powerful healers or have psychic potential. They may need to constantly absorb energy, work at not becoming flaky or feel that they are drifting without an anchor.