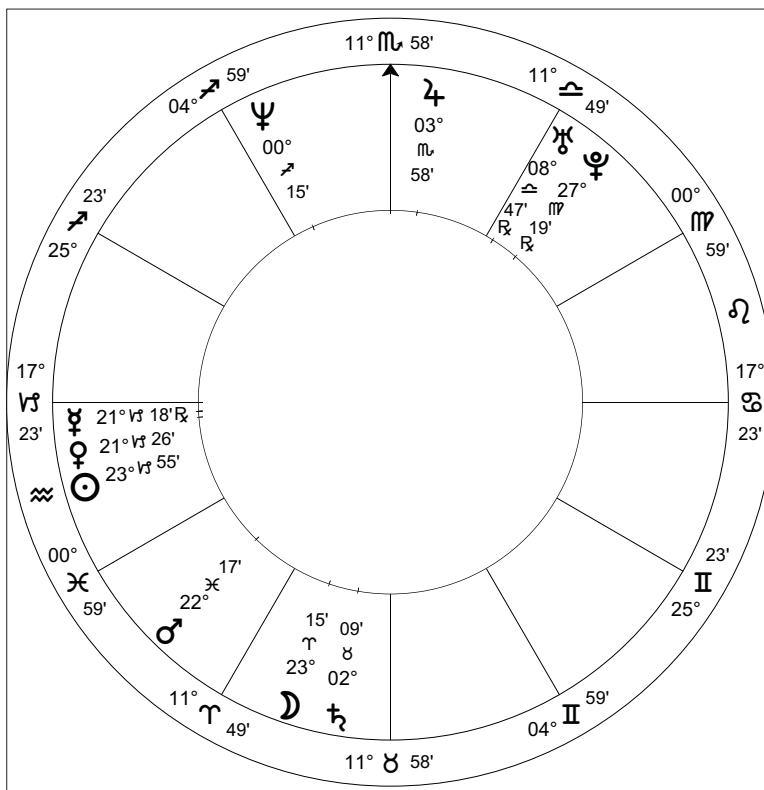


Lesson One

Perhaps the most appropriate first step in the thousand-mile journey you are just beginning is to show you how simple a subject astrology really is.

Below, in Figure 1-1, is a typical chart or horoscope. The horoscope is also referred to at times as a wheel—for obvious reasons—as well as a map. The horoscope is indeed a map: it is a map of the planets' positions, and of the Earth's position in relation to the planets, *at the precise moment of the native's birth* (the "native" is a term often used to designate the person for whom the map is drawn up). Whatever it may be called, the chart is the primary and essential tool the astrologer uses in his or her work.



To the uninitiated, a horoscope might look very much like a hopeless jumble of meaningless symbols. Yet, in that complex-looking chart there are only *three* basic components. They are:

1. The planets
2. The signs (of the zodiac)
3. The houses

In the computer-calculated chart in Figure 1-1, the houses are the twelve pie-shaped segments. The signs are the twelve symbols around the outside of the wheel, and the planets, also shown by their symbols, are inside, entered according to their positions in the zodiac.

You will find that a planet is always in a sign and always in a house. A basic axiom of astrology is that the planet is the active

force. Its energy is modified by the sign it happens to be in (as well as by certain combinations it makes with other planets, which are called *aspects*), and the planet's energy is focused in the area of life associated with the house in which it appears.

Sounds easy enough, doesn't it?

While simple in concept, however, there is, of course, a bit more to it than that. Indeed, although you may study astrology for the rest of your life, you will never learn it entirely. This, is only a reflection of its virtually endless versatility. Although not difficult, the subject can be complex, so be assured that you will be guided through the maze of detail, step by careful step, pausing at every turn to make sure you're right there and on track.

The majority of those starting this course already know something about astrology. If you are in this group, that's great. However, this course begins at the absolute beginning so that those who know absolutely nothing about astrology can gain just as much as those who have already studied a little. In this way, no beginner will ever miss a point.

However deep into astrology you may already be, please give just as much attention to the elementary parts here in the beginning. Look upon these first few lessons as a review, as a check on what knowledge you already have. Very shortly the course will get into the finer points of delineation, and you'll be working with one chart after another! In the meantime, send the neophyte a kind and helpful thought as he or she struggles to master the fundamentals that seem so simple to you now.

Here is another reassurance: this is a practical course with emphasis on the how-to-do-it rather than on the why or wherefore theory. As you get further into the course, you will be taking more and more of an active part—with pencil, paper, charts, tables, and reference books.

Let's go back now and take another look at those three basic components:

The PLANETS are those bodies that orbit around the Sun. Mars and Venus are two of the planets.

The SIGNS are segments of the zodiac—there are twelve of them. Aries and Scorpio are signs.

The HOUSES are areas of our earthly life; there are twelve of these too. The second house, for example, pertains to one's *possessions*, all the things one owns—often the *money* supply.

As you can see in the two tables, both planets and signs are numbered and are represented by symbols—or *glyphs* as they are more properly called. The houses have no special names or glyphs; they are referred to by their numbers, e.g., house number three, the tenth house, and so on.

In the planet row there appears to be a curious thing: both the Sun and Moon are in there too. "Come on, now," you might say, "everyone knows the Sun and Moon aren't planets!" Yes, and indeed astrologers know that too. But in astrology, they behave much like planets—kind of super-planets, actually. Also, it

The Ten Planets

1. ☉ Sun
2. ☾ Moon
3. ☿ Mercury
4. ♀ Venus
5. ♂ Mars
6. ♃ Jupiter
7. ♄ Saturn
8. ♅ Uranus
9. ♆ Neptune
10. ♇ Pluto

The Twelve Signs

1. ♈ Aries
2. ♉ Taurus
3. ♊ Gemini
4. ♋ Cancer
5. ♌ Leo
6. ♍ Virgo
7. ♎ Libra
8. ♏ Scorpio
9. ♐ Sagittarius
10. ♑ Capricorn
11. ♒ Aquarius
12. ♓ Pisces

saves the trouble of endlessly having to say, “Sun, Moon, and planets,” when just “planets” does quite as well. When referred to in their astrological sense, the Sun and Moon are usually capitalized.

Students frequently wonder what happened to our own planet, Earth; why isn't it in the list? Earth is there: it's right in the middle of the wheel, at the center of the chart. The chart, as noted, is a map of sorts, a picture of things at a particular moment in time—as seen from the Earth.

As for all those symbols or glyphs, these you *have to know*. You can no more work in astrology without them than you can add up your grocery bill without using the symbols called numbers. So you must learn these, and there is no better time to start than right now. Here's the best way to go about it.

Get a packet of 3 x 5 inch index cards. You can use them as is, but you might find them to be a little handier if you cut them in half once—ending up with cards 3 x 2.5 inches. On one side write the glyph as shown in the list, and on the other, the planet or sign it represents. First work with recognizing what the glyph represents, and then try to create the glyph from the name. Keep your flip cards with you so you can practice with them at odd moments.

There is considerable mystical significance in all the glyphs. Many books cover this admirably, we won't take time or space to go into that now; this, as said earlier, is a practical course. So let's continue and see how the Earth-centered horoscope is developed.

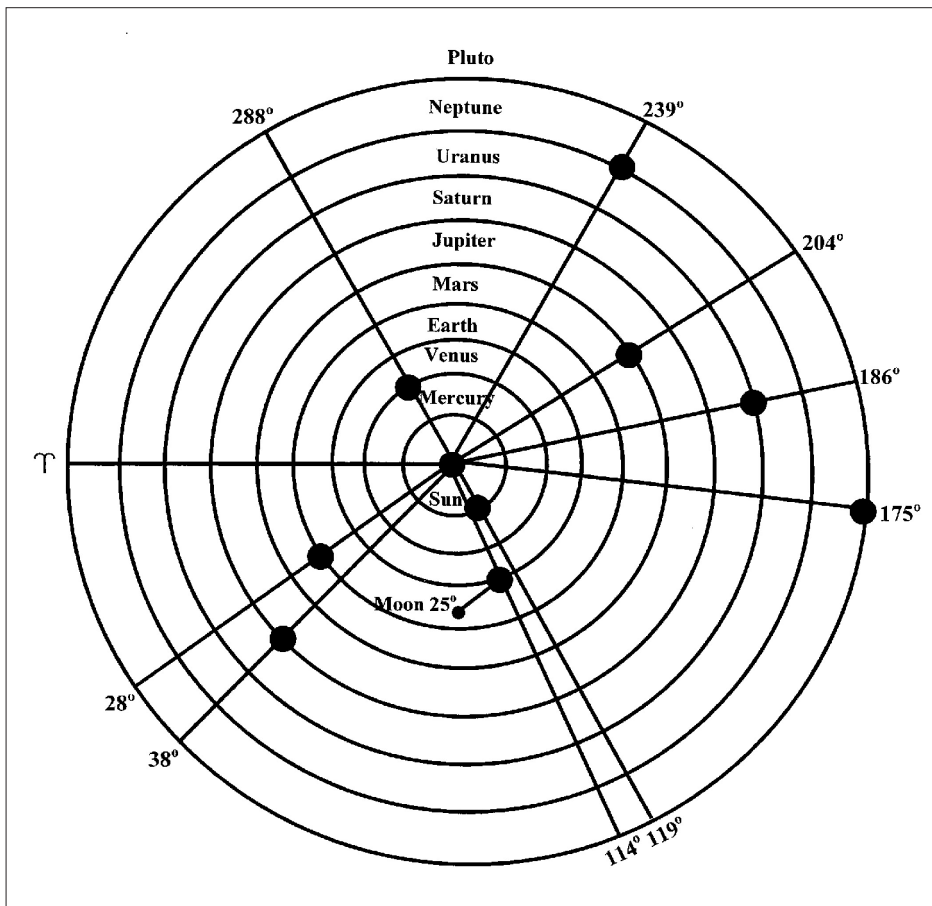


Figure 1-2

Figure 1-2 is an astronomical diagram of the solar system; this is where all the planets were on January 14, 1971. The Sun is the center of the solar system. Around it orbit the various planets. The Moon is shown in its correct place with respect to the Earth for that date too. Note how the planets on the list (beginning with Mercury) are in the same order as they are from the Sun outward in both the preceding list and the diagram. (There, see! I'll bet you already recognize the symbol for Aries up there at the left edge of the circle in the diagram.)

While this diagram may be useful to astronomers, it doesn't do a whole lot for

astrologers. We don't live on the Sun; we live on the Earth, so we need a diagram that represents *our point of view*. This is shown in Figure 1-3. Here the Earth is in the center, and the rest of the planets (including the Sun and Moon) are arranged so they are still in their same positions as in Figure 1-2, but now relative to the Earth, as we would see them from here. Now we can study the various planetary motions as they relate to us here on Earth, rather than to the Sun. The first was a *helio-centric*, or Sun-centered, diagram; this diagram is *geo-centric*, or Earth centered.

In actuality, of course, the planets aren't placed quite that neatly in the sky; neither do they make such perfectly circular orbits around the Sun. One nice thing, however, is that the orbits of all of the planets lie within a fairly flat plane. Let's say you have a scale model of the solar system, with the various planets attached to oval-shaped loops of wire indicating their orbits; if it measured, say, three feet across, then viewing the model edgewise, it would appear to be only three inches or so thick. The outermost planet, Pluto, has the greatest divergence from the rather flat plane in which the other planets orbit; also it makes the least circular path.

Zero degrees Aries is indicated on the left side of the diagram in Figure 1-3, and the planets are represented in their angular positions from this reference. This is not the way we'll be doing it normally. Instead, the planets are shown to be in certain signs of the zodiac.

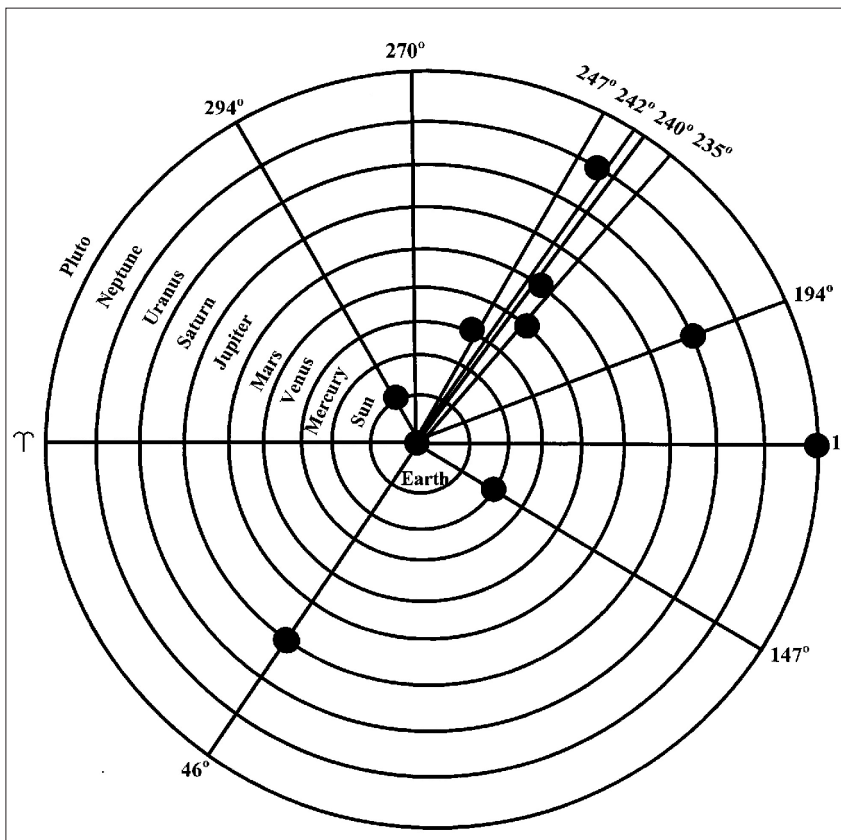


Figure 1-3

Just what is the zodiac? One way of thinking of the zodiac would be to go back to that three-foot model of the solar system just described, and imagine a ring or band big enough to encircle the entire model. The inner surface of the band would be marked off into twelve segments of equal length; each segment would represent one of the signs of the zodiac.

The zodiac is always in the same sequence: if the first sign is Aries, then the second will be Taurus, the third Gemini—and so on, just as shown on the list earlier in the lesson. This is why the numbers were included on that list; it is important that you know the sequence, and also the number of each sign. Virgo is number 6; sign number 10 is Capricorn, etc.

Let's take Figure 1-4, the schematic diagram of the solar system with the Earth at the center (geocentric), and add the zodiac. In Figure 1-4, the zodiac is properly divided into the twelve signs; the sequence of signs

runs counterclockwise from Aries. Now we can see that Saturn is “in” Taurus; Mars is “in” Scorpio. What does it mean for a planet to be “in” a particular sign? In Figure 1-4 we can see that from our vantage point on Earth the line (of sight) running from us through Saturn, if continued, would go on into Taurus.

The same would hold true in the actual sky. If we imagine being able to see the giant band representing the zodiac way, *way*, out there, far beyond the orbit of Pluto, then, when we locate Saturn (with the aid of an ephemeris, a star map, and perhaps some binoculars), we would see that the segment representing Taurus would be behind Saturn.

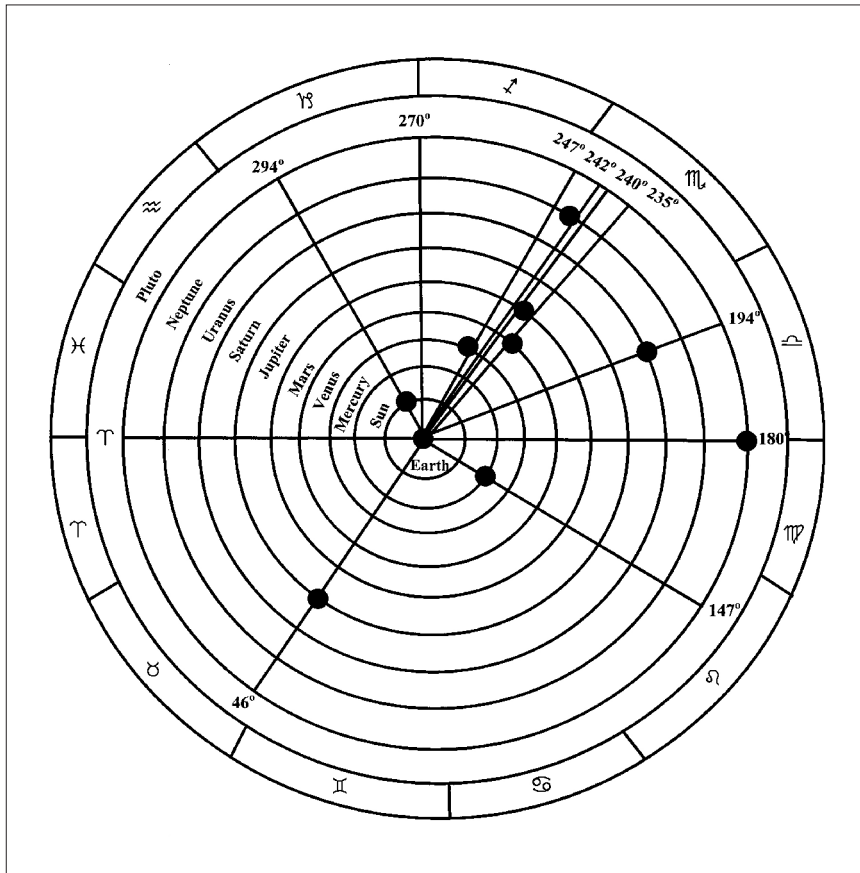


Figure 1-4

it’s merely a matter of convention to have it to the left of the wheel. In actual space, 0° Aries is fixed according to an Earth-Sun relationship at the moment of the spring equinox (more, a lot more, on this later).

For practical purposes, we assume that both the Earth and the zodiac are motionless in space with the Sun, Moon, and planets moving past the zodiac and around the Earth (as in Figure 1-4). Thus, the Sun would take a year to go around the Earth.

“But,” you say, “I thought it took a day, 24 hours!” Yes, of course it does. What we are looking at here is the motion the Sun *seems* to take as a result of the Earth’s *yearly orbit* around it. Then, when we set the Earth spinning in its normal manner, one revolution in 24 hours, the whole business, *including the zodiac*, will appear to be moving around the Earth, one complete turn in 24 hours.

It would be fabulous if there were actually such a thing out there. That would be of great aid to all astrologers. We saw earlier that the qualities the planet expresses are modified by the zodiacal sign in which it appears at the time. Some astrologers imagine the ring of the zodiac as encircling the Earth, so that the effects of the planets shine through the zodiac, and are thus modified that way.

All this still hasn’t really answered the question, what *is* the zodiac? To put it a bit more technically, then, the zodiac is a *symbolic* rendition of twelve equal areas of space; each area causes certain specific effects upon any planet or planets that may be in that area.

What determines the position of the zodiac? Why is 0° Aries at that particular place? On the diagram,

The Earth, you see, makes two major movements (and several minor ones, which happily we can ignore): it *orbits* around the Sun, taking a year, producing the seasons; and it *rotates* (or spins) on its own axis, once in 24 hours, producing day and night. These motions are very important, and we'll come back to them and study them in greater detail later when we get into the subject of time.

Note that we have used the term “orbit” for the Earth’s yearly trip around the Sun, and the term “rotation” for its once-every-24-hours spin. To avoid any confusion in the future, we will be consistent with the use of these two words.

In a year’s time the Sun appears to move through all the signs of the zodiac (as a result of the Earth’s yearly orbit). When a person says he’s a Capricorn, that means he was born during that part of the year (about December 21 to January 21) that the Sun, from the Earth’s point of view, appears against the segment of the zodiac called Capricorn.

If you are somewhat into astrology, you may know there’s a certain confusion regarding the actual constellations of stars that have the same names—Aries, Taurus, etc.—that are in the sky, but do not physically correspond with the zodiac we’ve been talking about (that starts with 0° Aries at the spring equinox). Indeed, there’s not only confusion, but quite a controversy over this. The astrology that deals with a zodiac that starts with 0° Aries at the spring equinox is called “tropical,” whereas “sidereal” astrology deals with the actual constellations. We use the tropical system in this course.

The Sun makes its yearly trip through the zodiac as a result of the Earth’s orbit around the Sun. The Earth’s rotation or spin makes the Sun appear to travel across the sky in its daily trip; the zodiac would move in a similar manner if we could see it.

Let’s say we are standing on a flat area near the Earth’s equator, and looking at the horizon due east of us. Again let’s assume that the huge band of the zodiac is visible. Thus, as the Earth makes its daily rotation, we could watch the zodiac slowly *rising* above the horizon in the east. (If the Earth were viewed from high above the North Pole, it would be rotating counterclockwise.) Every two hours a new sign would emerge, and at the end of a 24-hour period, we would have seen all twelve signs of the zodiac.

At any particular moment of time, some part of the zodiac would be rising at the eastern horizon. The point where the signs are rising is called the Ascendant (abbreviated as Asc); it has no glyph. Not only is the Ascendant the beginning of the system of houses—it is also the cusp of the first house—but in delineation it is one of the most important points in the entire chart.

You don’t of course have to be in the vicinity of the equator to “see” the Ascendant. If you are in the northern hemisphere, you would have to look at the horizon somewhat to the south of due east to find the zodiac; from the Southern Hemisphere you would look to the north of east. Whatever part of the zodiac is rising on the eastern horizon at a particular moment, whether it is a little to the north or south of due east, becomes the Ascendant.

To know and work with the zodiacal sign the Sun is in, as with Sun-sign astrology, it is merely necessary to have the date—or often merely the month—of birth. Because nearly everyone can immediately tell you their date of birth, the Sun sign’s importance and popularity is somewhat out of proportion to the rest of the chart.

However, to know the highly significant Ascendant, the *time* of birth must be determined as accurately as possible. Because the zodiac is continuously rising at the eastern horizon at the rate of a new sign every two hours, a timed horoscope must be erected. This will determine the Ascendant as well as the twelve areas of life called the houses.

Thus we see that the pattern of planets is always shifting in relation to our Earth perspective; everything is in constant motion. When we want to do a birth chart for someone we freeze all this movement, and draw a map of everything as it appeared *at the moment of birth and as viewed from Earth*. This horoscope is called the *natal* chart (sometimes the *nativity*), and the person for whom it is done or, more properly *erected*, is called the *native*.

Now you have some idea of the mechanics of how things work in our solar system. It's not a subject we're going to dwell on at any great length, but it is important for you to have a general idea of the physical nature of things. The main thrust of this course is in the interpretation—or delineation, to use the really proper term—of a chart.

Let's get going with some of that right now, so you can learn a little more about the planets and signs before we wind up this lesson.

We saw earlier that a planet's meaning is modified by a sign and is manifested in a house. Let's put this in somewhat clearer terms. Suppose we had a theatrical spotlight. The bulb of that lamp, then, would be analogous to the planet: it is the active element. In the spotlight we can insert different bulbs of various colors; these can represent the different planets.

In front of the spotlight is a slot in which to put filters of different colors. The filters, then, *modify* the light put out by the active element, the bulb. In this way the colored filter is analogous to the sign of the zodiac: the sign in which a planet is located modifies the action of the planet. If we had a blue bulb in the lamp, a red filter in front of it would modify the blue light to where it would be a reddish blue, or perhaps a violet light.

Finally, the beam of the spotlight shines upon some area of the stage. The stage represents our mundane, or Earthly, life, and its division into twelve areas represents the twelve houses.

Let's see how this works in a chart. Say we have Venus in Sagittarius in the second house. Venus represents *beauty* (among other things). It is the essence of beauty, the active principle of beauty.

Sagittarius represents *religion* (among other things), and thus modifies whatever planetary principle is working in this sign into something of a religious nature. Thus we could say that for Venus in Sagittarius, *beauty* is expressed in a *religious* manner. That in turn could mean anything from beautiful churches—or in a more abstract way, a beautiful philosophy—to beautiful miniature icons, or whatever else might fit that description.

From the location of this combination in the second house, this expression would be manifested in the realm of one's *possessions*. Now we could conclude that the native might *own* some beautiful religious article, anything from a stately temple to a pretty Christmas card. Quite possible, too, he or she could make money (second house) working with beautiful religious articles.

Immediately we can see from even this simple example that there are *several* ways of interpreting that particular combination. This becomes compounded many times over when we realize that Venus represents not only beauty but has a whole host of other meanings. Sagittarius, too, is not limited to only “religion”; it covers a wide variety of meanings.

In astrological language, “meaning,” “principle,” and all the other words I’ve been using, are usually boiled down to a simple term: *rule*. “Venus *rules* beauty” is the technical way of stating it. Under the *rulership* of Venus (as well as every sign, planet, and house) there are a great number of things.

The Rulership Book by Rex Bills is a definitive collection of rulerships, cross referenced, of all the components in a chart. Looking in the book under Venus, there are more than a dozen pages, two columns each, of meanings, or of things ruled by Venus. In the list is everything from actors to zest to boudoirs, chivalry, fragrance, love (of course!), protocol, vanity, and xylophones.

(Regarding books, there’s no need to buy any extra books with this course—with the possible exception of an ephemeris later on. However, if you want to start building your library now, you’ll benefit from the recommendations in this course. *The Rulership Book* is one of them.)

This brings up a question: how in heaven’s name do you know which one of these keywords to choose from when doing a delineation? Obviously you can’t include them all. But in a sense you do. You work with broad basic principles like beauty (or love or harmony or indolence, etc.) of which there are a comparative few; you get into specifics only when there is a particular need to. Also, the rest of the chart will usually tell you which of these principles are emphasized or played down.

The basic principles of a component, as you will see, are more or less related. They fall into two categories: positive principles (like harmony), and negative principles (like indolence—wasn’t it Venus herself that tried to talk Tannhauser into a life of *indolence* at the beginning of that Wagnerian opera?). The choice of positive *vs* negative is determined by the position of a planet, and particularly by the combinations—*aspects*—it forms with other planets.

At the beginning, learning astrology is somewhat like learning a foreign language. There’s the rather tedious business of absorbing a certain amount of vocabulary before you can begin to do anything with the language. Once this hurdle is past, then it starts to become interesting and fun. The time-honored method of learning to delineate a chart is to learn a few keywords for each of the components (like *harmony* for Venus).

No one has come up with anything better, so that’s what we’ll do here. However, once you know these and have developed a certain feel for them, you will replace the words with a mental picture that describes the component in much greater detail. The keywords you will have memorized will thus act like memory hooks upon which you can hang quite a few other words and concepts.

Make some more flash cards. Put the symbol on one side, the keyword on the other, and go to work with them. Be sure to use the symbol—you *do* know them by now?! And work with them! The instant you see the symbol, the keywords should pop into your mind without any hesitation. Learning by rote like this can be awfully boring, but there won’t be too much of it. It’s *so* important to get these few basic things firmly in mind here at the start, for they will serve as a foundation upon which you will ultimately build a very lofty and intricate structure.

Primary Keywords of the Planets

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| Sun | ☉ | Basic Character, Identity, Ego |
| Moon | ☾ | Emotion, Response |
| Mercury | ☿ | Communication, Intellect |
| Venus | ♀ | Harmony, Relationship, Love |
| Mars | ♂ | Energy, Action, Heat |
| Jupiter | ♃ | Abundance, Expansion |
| Saturn | ♄ | Structure, Limitation |
| Uranus | ♅ | Change, Individuality |
| Neptune | ♆ | Idealism, Illusion |
| Pluto | ♇ | Transformation, Degeneration |

However, don't make too much of a chore out of this, and certainly don't let it slow your progress in the course. You will be using these things from now on and that will surely impress it upon your mind as you go along. Plant the seed in your memory here, and it will flourish of its own as you progress.

To the left is a list of the primary keywords for the planets, along with the glyphs. Use your flip cards and work with them at odd moments; they are the foundation of your astrological knowledge, so learn them well.

We'll see later that the planets have another kind of rulership: each rules one or two of the zodiacal signs. A slightly different meaning of the word "rule," in this case it means there is a certain affinity between the sign and planet. The Moon rules Cancer, for example, signifying that of all the twelve signs of the zodiac, the principles of the Moon are most closely in tune with this sign.

Next we will take a brief look at the zodiac, sort of an overview. We will see that the signs fall into certain important groups in which a sign will share a particular attribute with the other signs in that group. From this we will find that a sign has a combination of basic features unique to itself. Then, when we add the influence of its ruling planet, we will have the complete characteristic of the sign.

First we'll study these sign groups. Then we'll return to the planets and study them in much more detail; mental pictures for each planet will help you remember their meanings far better than just a bunch of words. Finally we will add the planets to what we already know of the signs, and get a complete picture of each sign. We'll work with the signs and planets (including their aspects) for a while before getting to the houses.

ELEMENTS AND QUALITIES

The alchemists of old regarded the universe as being composed of four basic elements: fire, earth, air, water. Many of today's scientists consider these old timers pretty dumb for thinking such nonsense. However, if we stop to think about it for a moment, we might see in turn that that's a dumb conclusion for these brilliant scientists.

The four elements the alchemists were talking about had nothing to do with the elements we learn about in beginning chemistry: iron, hydrogen, sulfur, and all the rest of the hundred-plus elements in a modern periodic table.

What they must have been referring to was the four basic *modes* of matter: energy, solid, gas, liquid. The first, where a mode of matter was considered fire or *energy* (the primary keyword for the fire group, incidently), was a case of remarkable insight. It wasn't until several centuries later that scientific supermen like Einstein, Fermi, and others, finally came out with the concept that matter and energy are indeed different forms of the same thing.

We can thus say that the expression of the basic principle of matter can be modified in only four ways: fire, earth, air, water. There is no other way matter can be expressed. (And don't anyone suggest "life," for the principle of life is not physical, it's *metaphysical*.)

With this idea, we can consider the four "elements" of yore as modifiers, and see how they in turn characterize certain signs (which, remember, in turn modify the planets' energies). The twelve signs are first divided into four groups of three signs each. These groups are most often called the "elements."

The element FIRE pertains to the three signs, Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. The element EARTH, to Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn; AIR, to Gemini, Libra, Aquarius; and WATER, to Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces.

On the following page are four circles; all have twelve lines around the circumference. The signs of the zodiac are included on the first circle. Fill in the other three circles with the signs, just the way they are in the first one.

In the first circle, note the line drawn from Aries to Leo inside the first circle. Now take a ruler and draw another line from Leo to Sagittarius, and then one more line from Sagittarius back to Aries. You will have a perfect triangle, all sides and all angles equal. In the middle of this circle print FIRE in large letters.

Within the second circle, draw another triangle connecting Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn; label this one EARTH. In the third circle, connect Gemini, Libra and Aquarius; label it AIR. And in the fourth, connect Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces, and call this one WATER. These four diagrams illustrate how the elements are distributed throughout the zodiac.

The meanings of the elements are quite self-descriptive. Using a single keyword for each, we have:

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| Fire | Animation |
| Earth | Practicality |
| Air | Intellectualism |
| Water | Emotion |

These meanings are important: not only do they help to describe a sign but they are considered by themselves when delineating a chart. For example, a preponderance of planets in the water signs—Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces—would lead us to define the native as an *emotional* person.

There is another grouping where there are three categories of four signs each. These are the *qualities*. We are familiar with the word "cardinal" when referring, for example, to the cardinal points of the compass (in the sense they are the main or fundamental points), north, south, east, west. Likewise, in the wheel there are four cardinal points. Figure 1-5 is a diagram of the zodiac with lines connecting

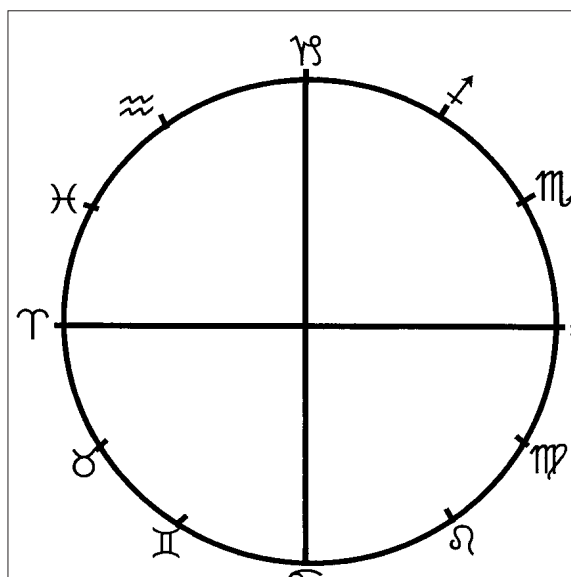
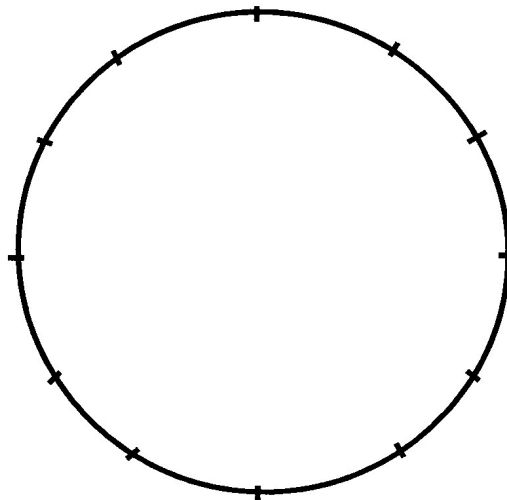
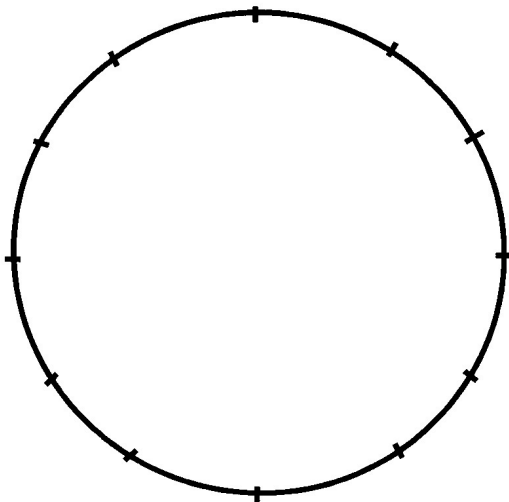
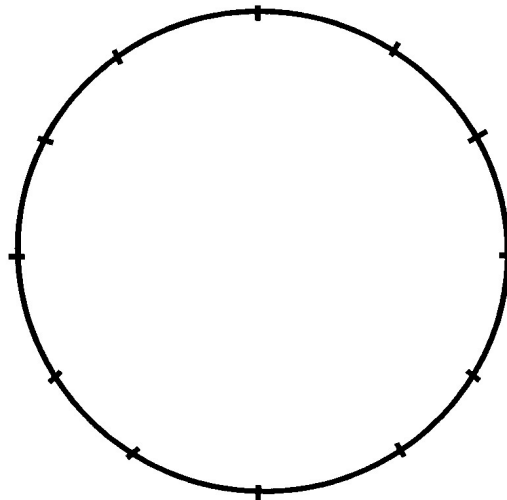
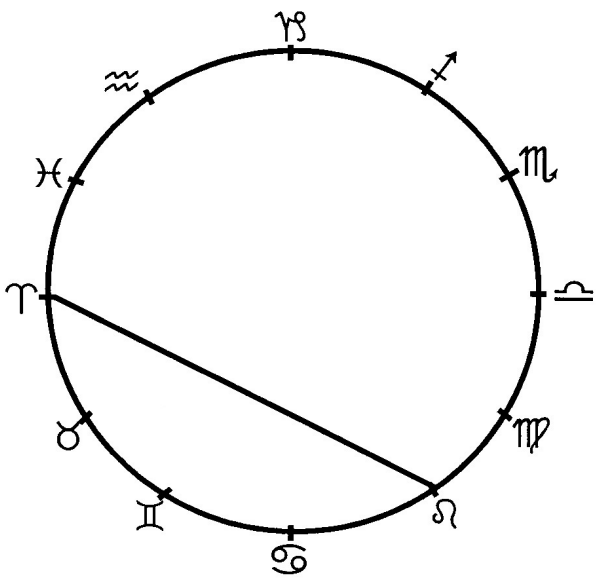


Figure 1-5



the four cardinal points; this can be called a “cardinal cross.” (Sometimes a number of the planets in a chart are so grouped to form such a cross; it is very significant.)

The four Cardinal signs are thus Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn. We will see later that these are also important points in the yearly cycle of the Sun’s passage through the zodiac. (Indeed, we’ve already found that our tropical zodiac begins when the Sun enters 0° Aries at the spring equinox.)

There are four more circles on the next page. The first three have twelve lines on their rims. Write in the signs, just as you did before. (Think you can do these from memory?) On the fourth circle there are six lines intersecting the circle; write in the signs on this one also.

Draw squares in the first three circles. In the first circle, take your ruler and draw a line between Aries and Cancer, then between Cancer and Libra, next Libra and Capricorn, and finally from Capricorn back to Aries; label this square CARDINAL. (You could have drawn two intersecting lines, as in Figure 1-5, but the concept of the square has much more visual significance, particularly when you start working with the aspects.)

In the next circle connect Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius; call this square FIXED. In the third circle connect Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces; call it MUTABLE. Let the fourth circle rest for the moment.

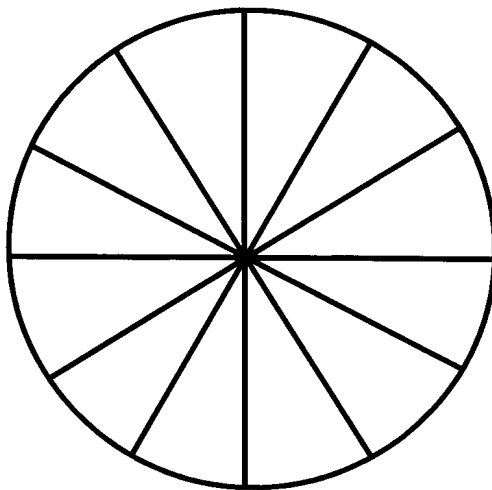
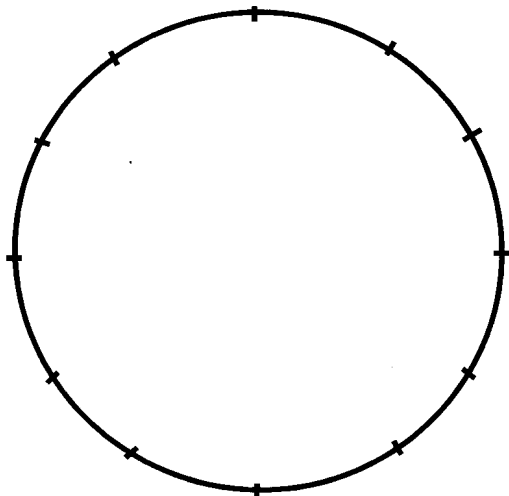
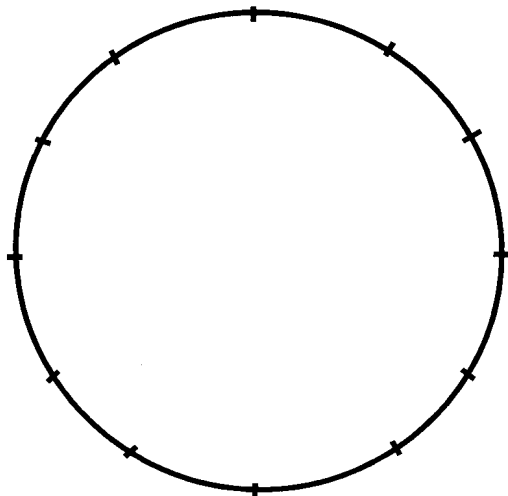
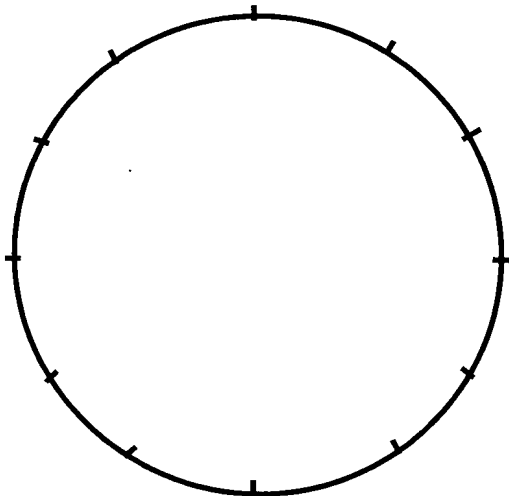
Keywords for these three groups are:

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Cardinal | Forceful |
| Fixed | Steadfast |
| Mutable | Adaptable |

The elements, the four groups of three signs each, are also referred to as the *triplicities*; the qualities, above, as the *quadruplicities*. File these tongue twisters in the back of your mind; you’ll run into them again.

A final division of the twelve signs puts them into two groups of six each; they are the male and female *polarities*—often called positive and negative. On the fourth circle on the page on which you drew the quadruplicities, shade or cross-hatch each of the feminine signs; begin by shading Taurus, then Cancer, and every *other* sign around the zodiac. That way Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn, and Pisces are the feminine signs. The other signs, the ones you left clear, are masculine.

It is important to understand that rather than actual sex or gender, the male and female connotation describes yet another mode where the male concept stands for *outgoing* or *expressive*, and the female stands for *passive* or *receptive*. An even more precise nomenclature would be *yang* for the masculine-positive and *yin* for the feminine-negative. These are entirely different from the more common usages of these words, which tend to confuse the meanings specified here. Yang implies an outpouring of energy; yin, a containment. However, the terms masculine and feminine are more popularly used among astrologers; just be sure you understand the connotation.



Save the eight drawings you made (do not send them to your teacher), and study them from time to time. Later, when we get into the aspects, you'll want to look at them again.

This has been an overview of the zodiacal signs, without attention to detail, in order to give you an overall picture as quickly as possible. To the right is a complete list of the signs, showing their properties.

Note that here again the signs are numbered according to their order in the zodiac. If you didn't learn these numbers from the first list near the beginning of this lesson, be sure to do so now. They will be of great help in a number of ways as you get deeper into the subject. And be sure to start learning the list presented on the right. Make some more flash cards and work with this list until eventually you know it backward and forward. Then you should be able to instantly say when you see, for example, Libra: "Cardinal, Air, Masculine."

Then of course you have to know what *that* means. To the right are the keywords for the triplicities and quadruplicities.

In spite of the exhortations to learn these latest lists and memorize the string of meanings, you actually shouldn't put forth more than a moderate amount of effort on them. This is because you probably won't impress your memory very deeply with all these dissociated facts—especially if you are completely new to astrology.

To be sure, the way the material has come at you—great gobs of stuff to remember all at once, enough to choke on—is not very conducive to easy learning. Therefore, you're not expected to thoroughly learn all the foregoing meanings. We're going to take a closer look at the planets in the next two lessons; after that we'll come back to these elements and qualities and really work with them. All you need do now is practice with those flash cards in order to lay a good solid foundation for the later more detailed study.

Concentrate, then, on learning the glyphs for all the planets and signs, as well as the sequence and numbers of the signs in the zodiac. Also, start learning the opposites of the signs: when you hear Cancer, for example, you should be able to immediately name Capricorn as its opposite across the wheel (you can find these on page 11, where you drew all those triangles); there are only six pairs, so this is not a very big task.

Keywords of the Signs

| | | | |
|----|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Aries | ♈ | Cardinal, Fire, Masculine |
| 2 | Taurus | ♉ | Fixed, Earth, Feminine |
| 3 | Gemini | ♊ | Mutable, Air, Masculine |
| 4 | Cancer | ♋ | Cardinal, Water, Feminine |
| 5 | Leo | ♌ | Fixed, Fire, Masculine |
| 6 | Virgo | ♍ | Mutable, Earth, Feminine |
| 7 | Libra | ♎ | Cardinal, Air, Masculine |
| 8 | Scorpio | ♏ | Fixed, Water, Feminine |
| 9 | Sagittarius | ♐ | Mutable, Fire, Masculine |
| 10 | Capricorn | ♑ | Cardinal, Earth, Feminine |
| 11 | Aquarius | ♒ | Fixed, Air, Masculine |
| 12 | Pisces | ♓ | Mutable, Water, Feminine |

Basic Keywords

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Mutable | Adaptable |
| Fire | Animation |
| Earth | Practicality |
| Air | Intellect |
| Water | Emotion |
| Masculine | Outgoing |
| Feminine | Receptive |

Programmed Learning Instructions

Programmed Learning is an educational process that utilizes the neat psychological trick of creating a *need to know* and then immediately *satisfying that need*. The blanks in the following series of statements are what create that need. You fill in the blank with what you think is the correct word or phrase, fulfilling the need of the moment with your own action.

Unless you are positive about a particular statement—and this should not be the case every time—then a new need to know arises: is your answer correct? This is instantly satisfied when you pull the Programmed Learning strip up to reveal the proper word or phrase. If you were right, fine; reread that part of the statement with the answer you wrote in to help set it into your mind. Since you actually participated in making the statement, it is yours and will stay in your memory far better than if the statement were one among many on an ordinary printed page.

Now, if you were wrong, if the word or words on the strip don't match what you wrote in, immediately erase your answer and write in the correct one. (Hence, you must have a pencil with a decent eraser to properly work with the Programmed Learning sections.) The physical act of erasing will to a large degree have its counterpart in the mind; writing in the correct answer will likewise impress itself mentally in the area of your memory.

Therefore, for every numbered blank you fill in, immediately check the strip. If you got it correct, feel good and read that statement again with your word or words in it. If wrong, then erase and fill in the right one, and then reread it. The Programmed Learning sections are not tests. At no time will you be asked to send them or their results to your teacher.

The Programmed Learning sections cover the material you just studied, and many of the required answers will result from your memory of them. It is important for your confidence that you do know a certain part of the material. However, it is primarily a learning device, and there will be statements at times you don't know how to complete, or even don't understand. *Try* to write in something. The odds are that you'll reach into some far corner of your mind and indeed come up with the right answer, and the fact that you tried, that you exerted your mind, will add to the learning process.

But don't feel dismayed if you don't. You are not supposed to get a perfect score, 100 percent, or an "A." As you have seen already, even a wrong answer will, if handled as instructed, result in learning. So tackle these with the spirit of adventure. If you get a resounding proportion of them right, then rate yourself as "genius, first class." If you don't, then maybe you're not a genius just yet—and they can be awful bores at times, anyway!—rather pat yourself on the back for having learned so much and in such an absolutely painless way.

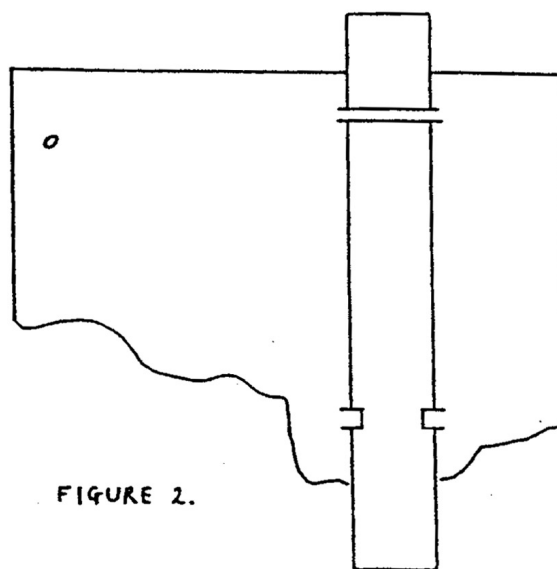
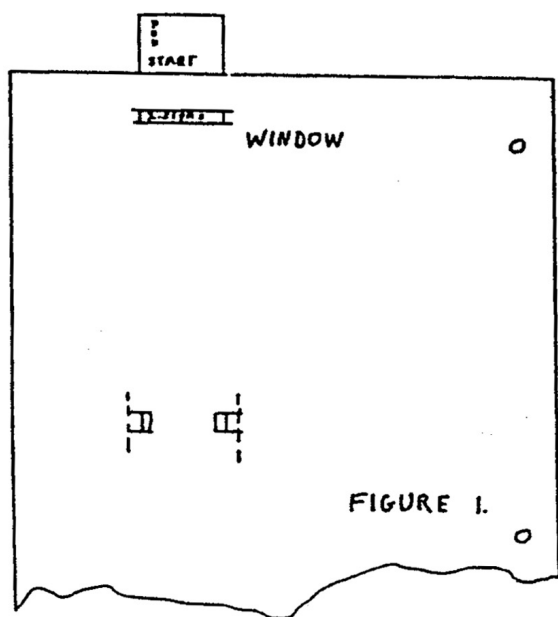
Let's go over how to use the Programmed Learning strip in a bit more detail. First, to insert the strip. Since a picture is usually worth a thousand words, look at Figure 1. This is the view of the face, where all the writing is. When the strip is inserted properly, a single word (or sometimes a phrase) will appear in the "window" at the top. Figure 2 shows it from the back. Note how the lower part of the strip is held steady by the two "ears."

In Figure 1 the binder holes are on the right, opposite from where they would usually be. This is so the card can be put in the binder to where it is face up on the left side as you are working with a Programmed Learning page on the right side of the binder.

To use it is very simple. Look at the first Programmed Learning Session. Note that you are to pencil in a completion of the first sentence, beginning at the figure (1). If you had studied the lesson, you would likely write in "planets, signs, and houses." Then you pull up on the strip past the stars, past the word START, until (1) appears in the window at the top of the card. There you will see "planets, signs, houses." Having done it correctly, feel good, and go on to the next sentence on the page; write in "signs," check the answer on the strip: see "signs" in the window; since that's the correct answer, feel good, and so on.

They won't all be easy. Remember, this is not a test; there will be things from time to time that you just don't know. Their purpose is to make your mind work, to stretch it a bit, and certainly not so that you can get an "A" on it.

Learn and enjoy!



Programmed Learning for Lesson One

The three basic components in a chart are the (1) _____, _____ and _____.
Aries is an example of a (2) _____; Pluto is a (3) _____. The houses have no special names; they are referred to according to their (4) _____. The Sun, though actually a star, is called a (5) _____ by astrologers. Another body that is technically not a planet, but still called one, is (6) _____. The kind of astrology that uses zero degrees (7) _____ at the spring equinox as the beginning of the (8) _____ is called (9) _____; the kind that uses the actual constellations in the sky is called (10) _____. We will study (11) _____ astrology in this course.

Aries is one of the signs of the (12) _____; Gemini is a (13) _____ and Mars is a (14) _____. There are (15) _____ signs in the zodiac. A heliocentric chart would have the (16) _____ in the center with the planets orbiting around it. A chart that has the Earth in the center is a (17) _____ one.

In a geocentric chart, we assume for convenience that the (18) _____ orbits around the Earth. The Sun passes through all (19) _____ signs of the zodiac in the time of one (20) _____. This produces the four (21) _____ of the year. The Earth (22) _____ on its axis, producing day and night, and taking (23) _____ hours for one complete rotation.

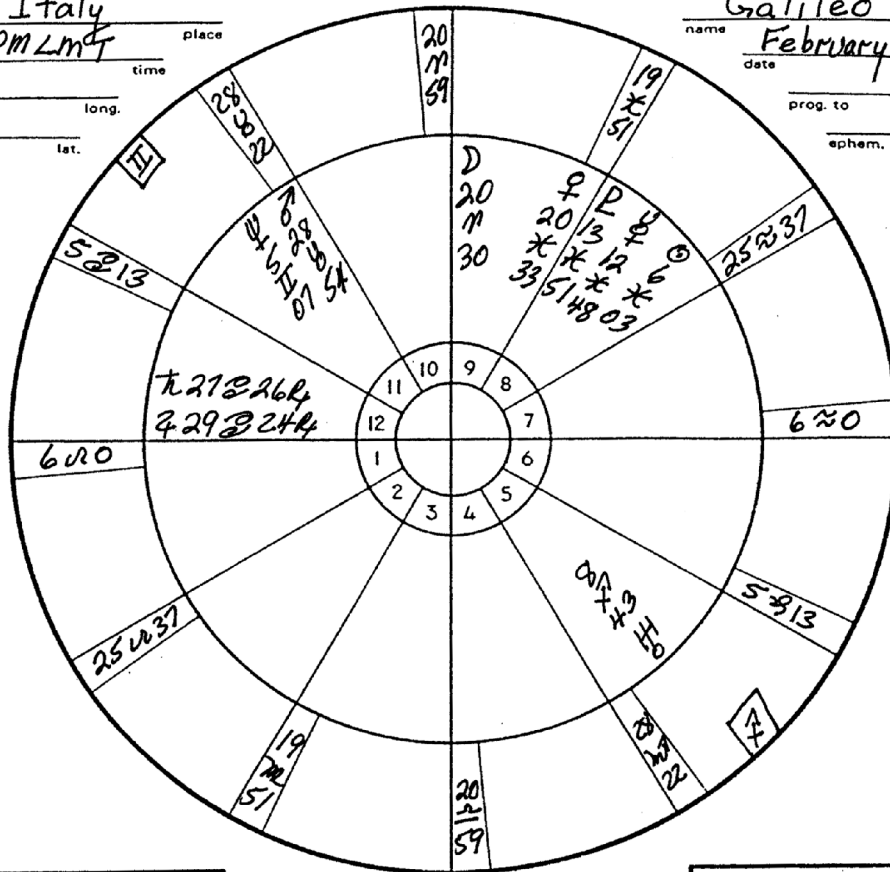
The Ascendant is that point on the (24) _____ horizon at which the zodiac could be seen if it were visible. During one complete rotation of the Earth all (25) _____ signs of the (26) _____ will appear at the (27) _____; a new sign (28) _____ every (29) _____ hours. The Asc is the cusp of the (30) _____ house.

If someone told you he is a Virgo, that generally means his (31) _____ is in that part of the zodiac called Virgo. To know your Sun-sign you merely have to know the (32) _____. However, to know that very important Ascendant—as well as the other houses—you have to have the (33) _____ of birth as well. In Galileo's computer-calculated chart on the next page, we see that his Sun-sign is (34) _____, and that he has (35) _____ rising.

Let's pause a second to review how Programmed Learning works. You will not necessarily know all of the answers, and you're really not supposed to. The idea behind them is twofold: to teach, and to stretch your mind. Hence, if there's something you just don't know, don't feel disturbed that you're a beginner and haven't had that material yet; rather, take a try at it, put something down, however farfetched it may seem. Check your answer with the strip. If it's wrong, as it likely may be, change it to the correct answer. By doing this you are learning—and that's the whole idea! For the balance of this session we'll be using Galileo's horoscope; it follows on the next page.

Pisa, Italy
3:00 PM LMT

Galileo
February 25, 1564



| E.G.M.T. _____ time date | | ZERO P.E.D. _____ month day year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------|--------|-----------|----------------|------|---|--------------|-------|---|-----------|---|--------|-----|-------|------|
| E.G.M.T. INT. _____ | | TYPE EPHEM: NOON MIDNITE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E.PHEM. EQUIV. _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DECLINATIONS | | | A S P E C T S | | | | | | | | | | | DIGNITIES | | YEARLY | | | |
| PROG. | RATE | NATAL | ☉ | ☾ | ♃ | ♄ | ♅ | ♆ | ♇ | ♈ | ♉ | ♊ | ♋ | ♌ | ♍ | MC | ASC | PROG. | MOT. |
| | | | ☉ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ☉ | |
| | | | ☾ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ☾ | |
| | | | ♃ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ♃ | |
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| | | | MC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | MC | |
| | | | ASC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ASC | |
| ASC RULER _____ | | | PARALLELS | | | | MUT. REC. | | | | RETRO. _____ | | | | | | | | |
| SIGNS | CARD. | FIX. | MUT. | FIRE | EARTH | AIR | WATER | MOST PROMINENT | | | BEST | WORST | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | PLANET | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HOUSES | ANG. | SUC. | CAD. | LIFE | WEALTH | ASSOC. | ABSTR. | SIGN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | HOUSE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PLANETS | | | ABOVE | | | BELOW | | | EAST | | | WEST | | | | | | | |

Whenever there are three or more planets grouped together in the same sign, this is called a “stellium.” In Galileo’s chart there is a stellium in (36) _____ in which there are (37) _____ planets. In addition to the Sun in Pisces, there are (38) _____, _____ and _____.

In Galileo’s chart we see that his rising sign is (39) _____. At the same time, opposite the Ascendant is the Descendant, or Des, which is the cusp of the (40) _____ house. The sign on the Des is (41) _____. At the highest point in the sky is the Midheaven, or MC (which stands for the Latin, *Medium Coeli*). This is the cusp of the (42) _____ house and in this chart (43) _____ is on the MC. The highest planet in the chart is (44) _____. It makes a nearly exact conjunction with the MC—both are at (45) _____ degrees of Aries. This makes the Moon very important.

We see that Galileo has (46) _____ planets in water signs. The water sign in which he does NOT have any planets is (47) _____. With more than half of his planets in water signs, we would assume Galileo was a rather (48) _____ person. By the same token, we note he has but one planet in (49) _____ signs, and one in (50) _____. We might assume from this that he was neither very (51) _____ nor an (52) _____.

History tells us otherwise. Does this mean astrology failed us? (And we’re not even past the first lesson!) Not at all; we merely placed too much emphasis on one single factor in the chart by counting how many planets there are in particular groups of signs. There are many other things in the chart to consider. For example, look at Uranus: it is the planet of (53) _____ and _____. Mr. Galileo certainly helped bring about some profound (54) _____ in scientific thought, and he was almost stretched on the rack for his (55) _____ and revolutionary ideas. Uranus is also the planet of invention and, in his chart, it is in the sign of (56) _____ and in the (57) _____ house, the house of creativity. Because it sits alone the way it does, sort of opposing all the other planets, it is extremely powerful and important.

In Galileo’s chart, the single planet in earth is (58) _____, and is in the sign (59) _____. The single planet in air is (60) _____ in (61) _____. We saw that Uranus is in the fire sign (62) _____; the only other planet in a fire sign in the chart is (63) _____ in (64) _____. In addition to being a fire sign, Aries is also a (65) _____ sign; Sagittarius is a (66) _____ sign. The Sun is in a water sign that is also a (67) _____ sign; the entire stellium is in a (68) _____ sign.

Examination for Lesson One

- Write the symbol or glyph after each of the following: Sun_____, Pisces_____, Gemini_____, Jupiter_____, Aries_____, Neptune_____, Leo_____, Saturn_____, Cancer_____, Sagittarius_____.
- (a) How long does the Sun take to move through all the signs of the zodiac? _____ (b) How many signs are there in the zodiac? _____
- (a) In which direction would you be facing in order to “see” the signs of the zodiac rising? _____. (b) How long does it take for one sign of the zodiac to rise? _____ (c) What is name of the point on the horizon where this occurs? _____.
- What are the four basic “modes” of matter in astrology? _____, _____, _____, _____. (b) These are called the four _____.
- (a) What are the three “qualities?” _____, _____, _____. (b) which quality has the keyword ADAPTABLE? _____
- (a) What is another name for the positive polarity? _____ (b) for the negative polarity? _____.
- Write the symbols (glyphs) for each of the following signs; include the sign’s position number in the zodiac (e.g., Cardinal Fire Υ 1): Fixed Water_____, Cardinal Air _____, Mutable Earth _____, Fixed Air_____, Mutable Fire _____.
- List the “quality” or mode or polarity that pertains to the following keywords: EMOTION _____, ANIMATION _____, FORCEFUL _____, RECEPTIVE _____, STEADFAST _____.
- Write the name of the geometric figure you drew in the circles when you connected all the points (signs of the zodiac) for the following: earth signs _____, cardinal signs _____, mutable signs _____, fire signs _____, air signs _____.
- Write in the glyphs for the planets as represented by the following keywords: ABUNDANCE _____, HARMONY _____, ENERGY _____, LIMITATION _____, BASIC CHARACTER _____.

Send your completed exam to your teacher.

