



INTERPRETING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ASTROLOGY

The Dark Pixie
ASTROLOGY

Class 1: Synastry

When you want to get a gauge on compatibility with someone, you use synastry, which is comparing your chart to the chart of someone else's. Comparing the two charts can give you an idea of what kind of compatibility you have with each other.

The Sun rules your true identity, the Moon rules your emotional self, and the Ascendant rules your outer self, and this trio is the astrological triad in your natal chart. You will often find that you're drawn to people who link to your Sun, Moon, or Ascendant sign in their own Sun, Moon, or Ascendant sign, and this can be excellent for compatibility. This trio is so closely linked to who we are, the building blocks for our entirely personality, so having this link shows an innate understanding of who each of you are.

A classic - and crazy strong! - example of the importance of the triad connections is Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. They were married for decades and seen as one of the most successful Hollywood marriages. Their triad? Both were Capricorn Risings, his Sun was Aquarius and her Moon was Aquarius, and her Sun was Pisces and his Moon was Pisces. Oddly, Joanne said that the two didn't have many common interests and gave each other a lot of space, but their triad connections were so strong, they just fit right together.

You can compare each personal planet in your chart to the same planet in their chart, and get a quick idea of how harmonious or challenging whatever that planet rules is between the two of you. It can be considered harmonious when they're in the same sign or the same element. Signs of the same element have natural harmony. The elements are:

Fire: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

Earth: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn

Air: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius

Water: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

You can also have a harmonious pairing when one person has a planet in a sign, and the other person has the natural ruler of that sign conjunct their planet (so say, you have Venus in Sagittarius and they have Venus conjunct Jupiter, the natural ruler of Sagittarius). When you have a planet conjunct another in your chart, they each bring their own natural energy to the other, almost making it like the planet is in the sign the other planet rules rather than the sign it's actually in. So in the example, if you have Venus conjunct Jupiter, Venus will feel like Venus in Sagittarius at times and Jupiter will feel like Jupiter in Taurus or Libra at times. The natural rulers of the signs are:

Sun: Leo

Moon: Cancer

Mercury: Gemini, Virgo

Venus: Taurus, Libra

Mars: Aries

Jupiter: Sagittarius

Saturn: Capricorn

Uranus: Aquarius

Neptune: Pisces

Pluto: Scorpio

Another option for a harmonious connection is through the houses. Each sign pairs up naturally with one house, and this can bring compatibility that may not seem obvious via the signs. The sign-house pairings are:

Aries - 1st house

Taurus - 2nd house

Gemini - 3rd house

Cancer - 4th house

Leo - 5th house

Virgo - 6th house

Libra - 7th house

Scorpio - 8th house

Sagittarius - 9th house

Capricorn - 10th house

Aquarius - 11th house

Pisces - 12th house

So, let's say one person has Sun in Gemini and the other person has Sun in Scorpio. These would not seem compatible by the signs, but if the Gemini has Sun in the 8th house, or the Scorpio has Sun in the 3rd house, this can provide a powerful link. You can make the same kind of link with any of the planets.

Planets that are in the 1st house can make someone seem like they have the sign that planet rules as their Rising, and this can also provide a strong link (so say you have Uranus in the 1st house in Scorpio; you could connect with someone through the Scorpio energy or through Aquarius, the sign Uranus rules).

Mercury is the planet of communication, so having harmonious Mercurys helps with your ability to communicate with one another and see eye-to-eye. If you don't have harmonious Mercurys, communication may be difficult at times. If one person's Mercury conjuncts another person's planet, this can also impact communication: conjunct the Sun or Moon can make communication much easier and free-flowing; conjunct Venus can make communications pleasant between you and stimulate affection, conjunct Mars can make you super engaging; conjunct Jupiter can help you enjoy communication; conjunct Saturn can make communication difficult and you may not open up as much; conjunct Uranus can make communication a little erratic and one of you

may think the other is brilliant or cuckoo; conjunct Neptune can bring misunderstandings and one of you may feel a bit drowned out by the other, but it can help with subconscious understanding; and conjunct Pluto, communication can be intense but sometimes one may try to dominate the other mentally.

Venus is the planet of love and relationships, so having harmonious Venuses is suuuper helpful for compatibility. It shows you both have the same approach and want the same things naturally in love and relationships. If one person's Venus conjunct another person's planet, this can impact the love: conjunct the Sun or Moon is excellent, and you can have strong loving feelings between you; conjunct Mars can bring a lot of passion and sizzle; conjunct Jupiter can bring great affection and genuine connection; conjunct Saturn can make it difficult to express affection, and you may not want to share; conjunct Uranus can bring some erratic energy into the relationship overall, and it may be a connection that starts fast and ends faster; conjunct Neptune can show a spiritual connection on the positive side, but can also make it difficult to be open with feelings; and conjunct Pluto can show intense passion, but also some fighting over power and control in the relationship.

Mars is the planet of energy and drive, so having harmonious Mars shows you both can be motivated by the same things and take action in similar ways. If one person's Mars conjuncts the other's Sun or Moon, this can be a pairing that energizes and spurs action; conjunct Jupiter

can bring a little luck in the pairing and you can create big things together; conjunct Saturn can stifle energy, but can also help you to be more productive together (and good for business pairings); conjunct Uranus can help you respect each other's individuality, but also bring out impulsive behavior; conjunct Neptune can bring more spiritual connection; and conjunct Pluto can create a powerful pairing, but you may have to work on managing strong energy that can quickly become destructive.

Jupiter is the happy planet, and Jupiter connections in synastry can show a genuine like between you. This is a great thing to see for any relationship where you really need to get along, and it's one of my favorite things to see. Saturn is the planet of restriction, so Saturn connections can bring some challenges as one person may feel stifled and limited by the other. It can be good for professional connections though since Saturn is natural ruler of goals and ambitions. Saturn can also be helpful for commitment, so you may take a relationship with someone more seriously if you have a Saturn connection, and can stick with it through hard times (though sometimes it means you stick with it even when it's terrible and you should leave). Though I tend to find that many people struggle with someone who connects to their Saturn, and you just may not like them at all (unlike with Jupiter). This tends to be more often with a conjunction to Saturn.

Uranus connections can bring out a feeling of instability and inability to count on each other or the relationship; since Uranus is the natural ruler of friendships, this can be a good link with a friend since you're more likely to give each other space and respect each other's individual expression. Uranus also can be in play with a connection that is unusual in some way. Neptune connections can show you have a spiritual connection, and this may come from past lives (if you believe in past lives) or be karmic in nature. There can be extra empathy and compassion, but care needs to be taken that boundaries remain solid and healthy so one doesn't take advantage of the other, which can happen all too often. Pluto connections can bring on power struggles and control issues as one wants to dominate and control the other. There is capability for great transformations and great passion, but you need to respect each other and not try to take power away from each other.

The Lunar Nodes are the points in the Moon's orbit where the Moon crosses the ecliptic, and are spiritual/karmic in nature. There's a North Node and a South Node, and they exactly oppose one another. Having a North Node connection can show you two are meant to come together for a reason, to help one another grow and find your potential. It can feel uncomfortable at times though, because this is unfamiliar energy that we can resist if we're not ready. You may run from someone you have a North Node connection with if you're not ready (Sun-Moon-Rising and Jupiter connections can help). Having a South Node connection can help you feel like you've known each other before (or did in a past life, if

you believe in past lives). There is familiarity that helps you to feel at ease with each other, but you can outgrow each other with the South Node because it represents the past. If you have a South Node connection, you generally also want to have a North Node connection and other strong connections to lower the chances that you will outgrow each other.

Chiron is an asteroid representing our greatest wounds and how to heal from them. Having a Chiron connection can show you either help each other to heal or hurt each other and cause more wounds. Chiron doesn't move very fast, so having Chiron in same or compatible signs is pretty normal (unless you have a massive age difference), so you're mostly going to look at Chiron aspects to the personal planets, Jupiter, Saturn, and the Lunar Nodes. Hard aspects (squares and oppositions) can bring out greater ability to wound, while easy aspects (sextiles and trines) can bring out greater ability to heal. Conjunct the Sun or Moon can go either way; conjunct Mercury, Venus, or Jupiter tends to be more positive, while conjunct Mars, Saturn, or Pluto tends to be more challenging.

Then we have chart overlay. To overlay the chart means to take the planets and house cusps from one person's chart and see where they fall in the other person's chart. This shows what you (your chart) does to them (their chart) in a more direct way. Where your Sun falls, you shine a light and bring attention in their life; where your Moon falls, you bring out emotion and stimulate their needs; where your Mercury falls, you

generate lots of activity and a desire for variety; where your Venus falls, you bring out the love; where your Mars falls, you motivate and inspire; where your Jupiter falls, you help them expand; where your Saturn falls, you restrict them; where your Uranus falls, you bring change and push outside of their comfort zone; where your Neptune falls, you bring a little cloud haziness and need for intuitive guidance; and where your Pluto falls, you bring intensity and fight them for power.

In romantic relationships, it's helpful to have planets falling in the 5th house of love and 7th house of relationship; planets in the 12th house can be challenging, especially a personal planet as it can cause you or your partner to hide your true self (Sun), your emotions (Moon), your opinions (Mercury), your affections (Venus), or your desires (Mars). Friendships are ruled by the 11th house, so it's helpful to have planets fall in the 11th house with a friend (3rd house is also helpful for friendships; 11th house can also help with the foundation of friendship in a romantic relationship). The professional houses are the 2nd (money), 6th (work), and 10th (career) houses, so planets falling in these houses can be helpful for professional relationships; the 8th house rules mutually beneficial relationships, so business partnerships can benefit from planets falling in the 8th house. Family relationships can benefit from planets falling in the 4th house of home and family. I also often find with siblings that are close that you'll have 3rd and/or 4th houses or rulers aligned.

One thing I love to see is overlay between the 5th, 7th, or 8th houses in romantic relationships. The 5th house rules love, the 7th house rules relationships, and the 8th house rules intimacy, so when your 5th, 7th, or 8th house overlaps with your partner's 5th, 7th, or 8th house, this means that when a transit (moving) planet is going through your house, it's going through theirs at the same time, and this naturally brings both of your attentions to your relationship and each other. No forcing, no having to try consciously, it just happens. The only downside is when it's Saturn touring them at the same time - that can signal a difficult period!

I want to list the things that I look for in synastry most for strong connections:

Triad connections (Sun-Moon-Rising)

Venus conjunct the Sun, Moon, or angle (1st, 4th, 7th, or 10th house cusp)

Jupiter conjunct a personal planet or angle

North Node conjunct a personal planet or Jupiter

Personal planets falling in the 7th house

Overlap of the 5th-7th-8th houses

And these are connections that can prove challenging or show red flags:

Mars conjunct, square, or opposite Pluto

Venus conjunct, square, or opposite Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto

Saturn conjunct, square or opposite Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, or an angle

Planets in the 12th house

Chiron square the personal planets, conjunct one of the Lunar Nodes, or square the Lunar Nodes

One extra little quirky thing you can assess is asteroid connections. There are love asteroids you can look up and if one of their personal planets or Jupiter is conjunct (or one of your personal planets or Jupiter is conjunct one of their love asteroid), that can be helpful (but orbs are small with asteroids, so under 3 degrees, and many believe under 2 degrees). Love asteroids you can check: Amor (number 1221), Juno (number 3), Cupido (number 763), Valentine (number 447), Aphrodite (number 1388), Lust (number 4386), Sappho (number 80), and Nympe (number 875).

Since there are so many asteroids (thousands of them), you can also usually find an asteroid for each of your names (first, middle, or last, and if not spelled exactly, then sounds alike). You can look up the asteroid of each other's names and see where their name falls in your natal chart, your name falls in their natal chart, and compare to each other's charts. I find that when set off by transit planets or by progressions, this can trigger the person coming into your life (so if you dig back to around when you met and look at transits and progressions, you'll usually find the name asteroids involved at the time being aspected in the natal or progressed charts, or making aspects as transit asteroids).

A few other asteroid connections you can evaluate:

- Asteroid Nemesis (number 128) connections can show you're essentially enemies in some way, at odds to one another, or one of you may view the other as your nemesis
- Asteroid Pandora (number 55) connections can show someone who gets under your skin, who may annoy you but you're still drawn to them for some reason, or who points out the things you don't want to see (or you do that for them)
- Asteroid Nessus (number 7066) is the asteroid of abuse, so Nessus connections may be red flags to avoid, especially close conjunctions
- Asteroid Achilles (number 588) connections can show someone who is your Achilles heel, or you are theirs