

## House Cusps: What They Are & How They Impact You

To start with the basics, the cusp of a house is the very beginning of that house. It's the point in the Zodiac that the house starts. How exactly this is derived depends on the house system you use (there are many!), but the most common is usually Placidus, Koch, or Equal (Placidus is the default house system used by astro.com).

House cusps go from one end of one sign to the other end of the opposing sign, so opposing houses sit on an axis. The 1st and 7th house cusps are the axis of relationships, with the self (1st) and others (7th). In the natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact how you come across around others and approach your relationships, and that planet can be a dominant energy in your relationships and dealings with others. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this can impact energies around relationships at the moment, for better (sextiles and trines) or worse (squares).

The 2nd and 8th house cusps are the axis of money and resources, both your own (2nd) and shared (8th). In the natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact how you handle finances and resources, how you share what you have and use what's available to you. This can impact finances in your relationships (personal and business), and well as how you make money. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this

can impact your financial life and resources in beneficial (sextiles and trines) or challenging (squares) ways.

The 3rd and 9th house cusps are the axis of communication and movement, personal and close (3rd) and broad and far (9th). In the natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact how you communicate and express yourself in your world, and expand your world to open up to more. This can impact your approach to movement, travel, to being busy, and connecting. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this can impact your ability to openly communicate and move around (sextiles and trines), or present difficulties with being understood, open, and scattered (squares).

The 4th and 10th house cusps are the axis of foundation, personal and internal (4th), and professional and external (10th). In the natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact what you need to create a solid foundation in your life, and how you find balance between the internal and external, personal and professional. The planet can be a dominant energy in your home and professional lives. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this can impact your ability to secure your life's foundation and improve it (sextiles and trines) or feel that it's shaky (squares).

The 5th and 11th house cusps are the axis of love and social connections, in a personal way (5th) and in a casual way (11th). In the

natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact how you connect with others in love, friendships, those you're close to and those you know casually. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this can impact your ability to connect with others and be more open to connecting (sextiles and trines) or find connections a challenge (squares).

The 6th and 12th house cusps are the axis of service, in a physical and tangible way (6th), and in a spiritual and sacrificing way (12th). In the natal chart, any planets aspecting this axis can impact how you serve, how you work, how you help, and how you manage the balance between the physical and spiritual. When transit aspects are being made to this axis, this can impact your ability to get things done and find the balance (sextiles and trines), or make you feel rundown, overwhelmed, and overly sacrificing (squares).

There is some debate about whether or not you consider aspects being made to the house cusps, and some believe you should only consider aspects made to the angles (Ascendant, Descendant, Midheaven, Immum Coeli). This is because the Ascendant and Midheaven (and therefore their opposing positions, the Descendant and Immum Coeli) aren't \*exactly\* the same as house cusps depending on the house system, and it's the other positions that change (the 1st and 7th house cusps aren't the Ascendant and Descendant in some house systems; the 4th and 10th house cusps aren't the Immum Coeli and Midheaven in

some house systems - they are separate). It can get a little confusing, I know! But basically, the exact positions of the house cusps can vary across house systems (and remember there are a lot of them!). So it can become a personal choice whether or not you consider natal or transit aspects being made to the house cusps. I do personally, but that's just me!

## Chiron Retrograde in Aries

One of you cleared up what you meant in the submission for suggestions, so I'll throw in a little now! Chiron, an asteroid dubbed the wounded healer, is currently retrograde (appearing to move backward) in Aries until mid-December. Retrogrades tend to slow things down, and that's no different with Chiron. That may especially feel true with Chiron in Aries, which can be more take charge and go full force into healing and growth. With Chiron retrograde, we can slow that down and work on being more reflective.

Retrogrades are times of redos and to look back, so we may focus on old issues from the past and work to gain more understanding. Old wounds and hurts may come back around, but not just to hurt us, they want us to deal with the things we haven't dealt with yet. Chiron represents our greatest wounds and shows us how we can heal from them and grow. Now can be the time to be more thoughtful about what we're doing when it comes to the wounds we're focused on and the ways we're trying to heal.

In the 1st house, this can feel more obvious to you, more personal and more important for you you are as a person; in the 2nd house, you may focus on issues related to your values, self-esteem, and security; in the 3rd house, you may focus on issues related to communication, to feeling understood, or to how you connect in your immediate

environment; in the 4th house, you may focus on issues of the home, family, and emotionally at your inner core; in the 5th house, you may focus on issues of love and creative expression; in the 6th house, you may focus on issues relating to work, to productivity, or that impact your health (or your health itself), in the 7th house, you may focus on issues in relationships and with others; in the 8th house, you may focus on issues with intimacy, sharing, or that are deeply-held or tackle the darker parts of yourself; in the 9th house, you may focus on issues relating to expansion, to how you connect with the world, or to your beliefs; in the 10th house, you may focus on issues impacting your goals and ambitions, your responsibilities, or your ability to know where you're going; in the 11th house, you may focus on issues with friends or groups, that impact your dreams, or your independence; and in the 12th house, you may focus on issues from the past, that are karmic, or that have held you back (or made you hold yourself back).

2 articles to check out (not mine but still good!):

[Chiron Retrograde in Aries](#)

[Everything You Need to Know About Chiron in Aries](#)