



TRILLIUM TAROT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Summary of Tarot Keywords, Notes, and Symbolism



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General Tarot Information

Tarot does not tell you what to do. It tells you what could happen if you do not change your current course.

You do not have to read on everything (such as missing people, or someone's health, etc.).

Reading reversals are a personal preference, can simply flip them upright if preferred.

There is no magic way to shuffle cards.

Card association is the biggest part of reading tarot.

You can create any spread that you want. Simply figure out what information you're seeking, and then create the spread that gives you the answers. You "can" purchase books about tarot spreads, but it isn't something you "have to" do.

When drawing for yes/no answers, limit the number of cards drawn AND be precise.

Go with a deck that jogs your memory (at least to start).

If you get stuck in a reading, string two cards at a time.

Use synonyms to find the "right" reading.

Start small and build a sentence from the story that the cards are telling.

Remember to pull clarifiers if needed.

Read daily for yourself and keep track – you may notice a recurring theme.

Don't use the word "SHOULD" in a reading. Instead, phrase it as "If I continue doing ____, what will be the result?" -OR- as a simple Yes/No question.

Can choose to use a signifier or not; it's a personal preference.

Keep an eye on the overall weather that's represented in the spread.

Check to see if there's a predominant suit in the spread.

Does one card jump out to you as out of place or hard to understand?

Make each card into a movie poster to help decipher the meaning. What would you name that card for the movie? What is the coming attraction?

Look to see how the cards are interacting with each other. Are they facing each other? What's the weather?



2 – High Priestess (“I am Knowing”)

Keywords:

- Intuition
- Mystery (hidden answers)
- Secrets (lies)
- Potential
- Neutral
- Psychic
- Divine Wisdom
- Strength
- Feminine
- Keeper of Secrets – won’t give you all the info
- Silence
- Subconscious
- Going deep within

Notes:

- Modeled after Mother Mary
- In Greek mythology, represented by Demeter
- Can represent someone who has knowledge that you don’t have
- Not secret because they’re keeping it from you – it can mean that you simply haven’t yet asked the right questions
- Has knowledge already inside
- Something secret is coming forth
- Need to pay attention to intuition and instincts
- Can represent secret self wants to come forth

Symbolism:

- Boaz and Jachin (or Jakim) – pillars of the Temple of Solomon = wisdom
- Veil - secrets
- Pomegranate – forbidden fruit (also the symbol of forbidden knowledge)
- Triple moon crown – goddess religions
- Cross – Christian religions
- Torah – Jewish religions

Upright / Positive:

- You’re aware of something before it manifests
- Can use this awareness before it happens

Reversed / Negative:





Reversed / Negative:

- You're putting off sorting out life and issues you're confronting
- Time to evaluate goals, relationships, career, life path
- Stop avoiding

10 – Wheel of Fortune (“I am Changing”)

Keywords:

- Sign: None
- Karma
- Destiny (inevitability, fate)
- Time
- **Natural** change
- Good luck / good fortune
- Fate
- Change
- Riddles
- Gambling
- What goes around, comes around

Notes:

- Timing is QUICK
- Major decision
- “Fortune-telling” prophecy
- Impending completion
- Gambling / chance
- Karma
- Technology
- Something is in motion that you have little or no control over
- Good fortune is coming (job, new person, new romance)
- New phase starting
- Forced to accept actions
- Changes are for the better, will promote growth and advancement
- Usually a positive card, but is lessened if surrounded by negative cards
- If asking about money, could indicate gambling

Symbolism:

- Corners of the card – four fixed astrological signs (Taurus – earth, Leo – fire, Scorpio – water, Aquarius – air)





Two of Cups

Keywords:

- The pledge; trust
- Harmony
- Equality
- Cooperation
- Union
- Partnership or bond (individual)
- Creative plans
- Level playing field
- Pledge of love, friendship, partnership
- You are not alone
- Blessed union

Notes:

- Not a love card per se, but can be used that way
- Two different walks of life but on the same level
- Marriage, partnership
- New stage of happiness and harmony
- Growth in a relationship
- Lesser card to the Lovers card (a bit less intense)
- The characters travel through the deck

Symbolism:

- Caduceus (symbolizes Hermes/Mercury) – communication
- Caduceus (sign of Hermes) – balance and peace
- Red chimera – two things coming together as one
- One of the figures is dressed as nobility, the other as a merchant – represents two groups working together
- Lion – sexuality
- Wings – spirit

Upright / Positive:

- Plenty of accord
- Mutual admiration and good will toward each other
- Can mean a partnership of some sort
- Can bring reconciliation and rediscovery of emotions
- Negotiations will go in your favor
- Beginnings of love before you know that the other person has flaws
- You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours





Suit of Wands

[Ace](#) – [Two](#) – [Three](#) – [Four](#) – [Five](#) – [Six](#) – [Seven](#) – [Eight](#) – [Nine](#) – [Ten](#) – [Page](#) – [Knight](#) – [Queen](#) – [King](#)

- Creation / action / passion / energy / sexuality / fire / power / spark / beginning of something / entrepreneurial
- Element: Fire
- Color: Red
- Direction: South
- Astrological Signs: Aries (cardinal), Leo (fixed), Sagittarius (mutable)
- Physical Description: slightly darker skin / red-headed, medium to dark brown hair with slight auburn tint, fairer side (but medium tones)
- Vocations: hands-on, construction, retail, assembly, physical actions
- Suggest growth, expansion, personal power (some sort of action or growth afoot)
- Can suggest using intuition instead of logic
- Can suggest being aware of what you are passionate about and how to creatively make it happen

Ace of Wands

Keywords:

- New idea
- New action
- Fresh start
- Action
- Power
- Beginnings
- *Weapons (p)*
- *Force (p)*
- Magic wand
- Spark
- Thought
- Inspiration / idea
- Ambition

Notes:

- Brand new, just brought to life
- New beginning for business or finance
- New way of life
- New relationship
- Big “winky” card (phallic)
- Look at surrounding cards to see if it is around a lot of darker cards





Six of Swords

Keywords:

- Travel over water
- Long journey
- Painful transition
- Carry baggage or past burdens
- Tough progress
- Emotional progress / therapy
- Baggage
- Change / time of transition

Notes:

- Moving into calmer water (better patch) after a rough time
- You have the strength to get there
- Ferryman is carrying them to the other side
- Turbulent water in front of picture (behind the boat), calmer water is ahead of the boat
- Things are getting better, so look on the bright side
- Moving away from past troubles
- Beginning a new phase after a time of upheaval
- Period of smooth sailing
- Swords are in the boat, not in the water
- Helper is ferrying the passengers – wants to help
- TIMING – here and now (distance is needed)
- Passengers are hunched over because they realize their plan didn't work



Symbolism:

- Swords in boat – baggage
- Ferry on River Styx (depending on surrounding cards)

Upright / Positive:

- Harmony and ease prevail
- New people you can trust come into your life
- You feel optimistic and balanced
- Can indicate a move or journey over water
- Any change will go smoothly
- Matters will improve
- Represents life lessons you have encountered



Queen of Pentacles

Keywords:

- (trait – positive) Loyal
- (trait – positive) Nurturing / nurturer
- (trait – positive) Practical
- (trait – positive) Earth Momma
- (trait – positive) Green thumb
- (trait – positive) Homes and places to live
- (trait – positive) Nature
- (trait – positive) Stable
- (trait – negative) Stubborn
- (trait – negative) Materialistic
- (trait – negative) Aloof or unapproachable

Notes:

- Content / secure
- Surrounded by everything she wants or needs
- Dark eyes / dark hair / dark skin (not black)
- Money, property, and practical concerns
- Woman in your life or about to come into your orbit
- Expect help from a serious, skilled, intelligent woman
- Usually good with computers or medicine
- Likes security
- Very reliable person, does what she says
- Very classic and elegant (no fads, simple designs)
- Knows herbs
- Can cook
- Takes you to the doctor then makes homemade soup
- Not a nurturer like Queen of Cups

Symbolism:

- Border – Element of Earth / abundance
- Chair – Element of Earth (bulls and rams)
- Bunny – fertility and/or children
- Red – passion and actions
- Black chair – status

Upright / Positive:

- Excellent manager in practical and financial areas
- Someone fair, pragmatic, and realistic
- Wants money to produce tangible results





Numbers (Pip Cards)

[One](#) – [Two](#) – [Three](#) – [Four](#) – [Five](#) – [Six](#) – [Seven](#) – [Eight](#) – [Nine](#) – [Ten](#)

1 (Ace) – Something new

- Chance to start anew and realize possibilities and potential
- Seed has been planted
- Self-development, creativity, progress, and action
- Starting point of new cycle or something new
- A new chance or rebirth
- New opportunity, won't happen automatically – you need to follow through
- Choice to initiate something
- Clarity of purpose
- Focus and concentrated energy
- May indicate being alone or withdrawing into isolation to nurture a new idea or project before going public with it

2 – Planning or decision

- Union or partnership
- Balance of polarities (such as yin and yang, or male and female)
- Stabilizing and affirming new opportunity
- Need to achieve balance
- Will indicate either increased chances for a desirable outcome or greater obstacles involved
- Sensitivity to others
- Can mean immersing yourself in another person's idea or project

3 – Collaborative efforts

- Self-expression and communication
- Expansion, openness, optimism, and clarity
- Begin to see the big picture
- Ideas, projects, or relationships begin to take form
- Go forward, but use caution if unfavorable factors are involved
- Movement, action, and growth
- Tendency to leap before you look
- Properly channeled, the vibration is cheerful, optimistic, and pleasant (as long as you pay attention to what you are doing)

4 – Somewhat of a time-out

- Foundation, totality, stability, security
- Time for self-discipline through work and service (productivity, organization, and pragmatism to establish a sound foundation)



Spreads

Three-Card Spreads



Four-Card Spreads

Multiple layouts are okay, just remember what the card positions mean.

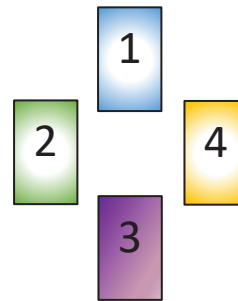
Spread A

Card 1: Subject / querent / situation

Card 2: What is positively influencing

Card 3: What is negatively influencing

Card 4: Outcome



Spread B

Card 1: You or the situation

Card 2: Something you should do more of or pay more attention to

Card 3: Something you should do less or worry about less

Card 4: Outcome