

Learning the Tarot Card Meanings



by

The Daily Tarot Girl

Learn the Tarot Card Meanings: Notes

A) Why do we need to learn the “traditional” Tarot meanings?

- Tarot is a language. When you learn the meanings, you are able to speak the language.
 - Think of the traditional Tarot meanings as a **pot** or a **canvas**. It acts as a base for the reading. But just as it's the artist's job to create the painting and bring their own vision and skill to the canvas, it's the Tarot readers job to bring their own intuition and creativity to the interpretation of a card.
 - Tarot meanings are not static/fixed – they are flexible and change based on spread, issue, surrounding cards.
 - It's more important to get a sense of the “essence” of the card, rather than a specific definition.
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B) Tarot Structure

78 cards (Arcana=arcane, secrets), majors(22), minors (56) – 5 suits: majors, and the 4 suits of the minor arcana, court cards

Majors – spiritual, major events, turning points, passages, opportunitites, life phases, challenges

Minors – everyday, mundane issues

Courts – people, personalities, character traits

The Major Arcana illustrates the journey the spirit makes.

Death analogy – pretend your dead and you're looking at your life from a “big picture” perspective – all the major events/spiritual turning points are represented by Major Arcana cards, and all the minor stuff is Minor Arcana. All the people in your life can be represented by Court Cards.

Suit Qualities – each suit represents an element and an area of everyday life

Pentacles – earth, physical/material (body, health, money)

Wands – fire, energy, passion, creativity, drive

Cups – water, emotion, feelings, relationships

Swords – air, thoughts, mind, communication

C) The Exercises!

1. Notice what's going on in the card

Write down: what is happening?

*After, you can look up the meaning in your book

1a) Side note: there is a *literal/external* meaning and an *metaphorical/internal* meaning (see internal vs external worksheet for more details on this)

2. **Feel into the card**

Pretend you are the character in the card – actually get into the physical position or imagine it. Notice surroundings, etc.

write down: what do you feel, notice?

In this exercise you're making a physical and emotional connection with the card

**understanding it's essence!*

3. **Think of someone you know who is represented by this card**

This acts as a memory trigger!

4. **Each Tarot card represents something you have experienced in your own life (or a part of yourself)**

Connect the card to an aspect of your own life.

-This makes each card personal (connection to the deck)

-makes the Tarot feel relevant to our own lives

5. **Creating a story/character**

Choose a card, read the meaning in your book and then add your own character details and story

-your taking the “traditional” meaning and adding your own twist, your own flair!

-makes the people of the Tarot real, creates context & engages your own creativity!

6. **Symbols as triggers**

Choose a symbol on the card & connect it to the “traditional” meaning

Choose a symbol on the card to represent the cards meaning (or “essence”)

-this acts as a trigger, powerful way to use the symbols on the card

7. **What *advice* does your Tarot card give you?**

Instead of seeing the cards as having “meanings”, see them as giving *advice*.

While each card does mean something, it also as a sage bit of advice for you.

*People get confused when they want the cards to give them “facts”

-Expecting the cards to give a snapshot of what's going on now (or the future) – can be confusing, especially if it doesn't mesh with reality.

Often, the Tarot cards give you solutions, suggestions, ideas, messages – but not always “facts”

What does this card mean? VS What is this card telling me?



Tarot Deck Structure

Major Arcana (22 cards)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
The Fool	Magician	High Priestess	Empress	Emperor	Hierophant	Lovers	Chariot	Strength	Hermit	Wheel of Fortune	Justice	Hanged Man	Death	Temperance	Devil	Tower	Star	Noon	Sun	Judgement	The World



Minor Arcana (56 cards)

Suit of Pentacles

Ace	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									



element = Earth
 material world
 money / Food
 Body / Health

Suit of Swords

Ace	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									



element = Air
 The mind
 Thoughts
 Communication

Suit of Cups

Ace									10
									

element = Water
 emotions / feelings
 Relationships

Suit of Wands





Ace									10
									





element = Fire!
 Passion / energy
 Creativity
 drive

Court Cards

People, personality traits, characteristics

King 	Queen 
Knight 	Page 

King 	Queen 
Knight 	Page 

King 	Queen 
Knight 	Page 

King 	Queen 
Knight 	Page 

~daily~tarot~girl~

Tarot Meanings Cheatsheet

Major Arcana

- 0 The Fool - New beginnings, optimism, trust in life
- 1 The Magician - Action, the power to manifest
- 2 The High Priestess - Inaction, going within, the subconscious
- 3 The Empress - Abundance, nurturing, fertility, life in bloom!
- 4 The Emperor - Structure, stability, rules and power
- 5 The Hierophant - Institutions, tradition, society and its rules
- 6 The Lovers - Sexuality, passion, choice, uniting
- 7 The Chariot - Movement, progress, integration
- 8 Strength - Courage, subtle power, integration of animal self
- 9 The Hermit - Meditation, solitude, consciousness
- 10 Wheel of Fortune - Cycles, change, ups and downs
- 11 Justice - fairness, equality, balance
- 12 The Hanged Man - Surrender, new perspective, enlightenment
- 13 Death - The end of something, change, the impermeability of all things
- 14 Temperance - Balance, moderation, being sensible
- 15 The Devil - Destructive patterns, addiction, giving away your power

16 The Tower - Collapse of stable structures, release, sudden insight

17 The Star - Hope, calm, a good omen!

18 The Moon - Mystery, that which is hidden the subconscious, dreams

19 The Sun - Success, happiness, all will be well

20 Judgment - Rebirth, a new phase, inner calling

21 The World - Completion, wholeness, attainment, celebration of life



Notes

Minor Arcana

Suit of Swords

King - Serious, controlling, rational and mind/intellect-focused

Queen - Intelligent, writer, communicative yet cold - cuts through B.S.

Knight - Fierce, determined, aggressively pursues goals

Page - mentally unstable or intellectually immature, acts without thinking

Ace of Swords - A fresh start, a sudden opportunity or idea, clarity

2 - Indecision

3- heartbreak, betrayal

4 - meditation, rest, retreat

5 - mind games, hostility

6 - leaving, accepting help, going somewhere better

7 - secret plans, abandoning ship

8 - feeling powerless and stuck

9 - Overactive mind, anxiety

10 - feeling defeated, self sabotage



Suit of Cups

King - Repression of deep feelings, possible alcoholism

Queen - Emotionally nurturing, intuitive, sensitive

Knight - Romantic, adventurous, following one's heart

Page - Creative, inspired, learning artistic skill

Ace of Cups - emotional fulfillment, joy

2 - partnership, mutual attraction, compatibility

3 - celebration, fun with friends, laughter

4 - boredom, dissatisfaction with what is being offered

5 - dwelling on the negative, self pity

6 - sentimentality, kindness, help

7 - so many choices! Indecision, getting lost in fantasy

8 - abandoning something in search of something better

9 - indulgence, self-satisfaction

10 - emotional bliss, happiness, attainment



Suit of Wands

King - Career focused, mature, passionate

Queen - Confidant, focused, has zest for life

Knight - An adventurous risk taker who follows his passions

Page - newly inspired, excited about life and work

Ace of Wands - New beginnings, creative spark, fertile ideas

2 - Contemplation, assessing ones life direction

3 - Reaping the rewards of your efforts

4 - Celebration, safety, the home

5 - Competition, minor struggles or disagreements

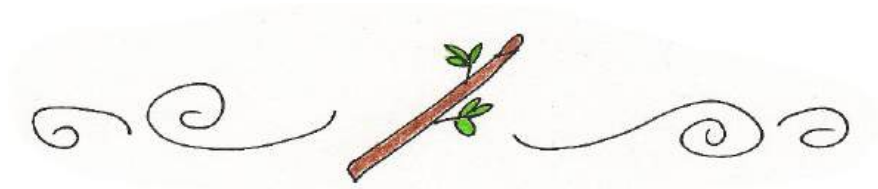
6 - Success, accolades and achievement

7 - Feeling defensive and on guard

8 - Speed, things manifesting quickly

9 - Pessimism, gearing up for the worst

10 - Feeling oppressed, exhaustion, too many responsibilities



Suit of Pentacles

King - Enjoys the good life (food, drink and leisure), financially secure

Queen - Healthy in body and finances, grounded and calm

Knight - Cautious, sensible and slow to progress

Page - Student, commitment to learning

Ace of Pentacles - Financial reward, clarity of life purpose, goals

2 - Balance, multitasking

3 - Meaningful work, enjoying one's work, suitable career

4 - Hoarding, feeling poor, holding self back out of fear

5 - Minor money troubles, health problems, feeling like an outsider

6 - Charity, accepting and giving help

7 - Patience, waiting for your plans to bear fruit

8 - Hard work, focused efforts, laying the groundwork

9 - Luxury, rest, financial and material comforts

10 - Financial success, strong business relationships



Crafty Ways to Study Your Tarot Cards



1. Notice what's going on in the card. Write down what is actually happening physically.

2. Feel into the Tarot card. Pretend you are the character in the card and imagine being in that same physical position. What do you feel and notice?

3. In your own life, when have you experienced what this Tarot card represents? (Or perhaps this card represents an aspect of your self)

4. Does this Tarot card remind you of anyone you know?

5. Choose one symbol on the card that clearly illustrates the card's meaning. This will act as a memory trigger next time this card comes up in a reading.

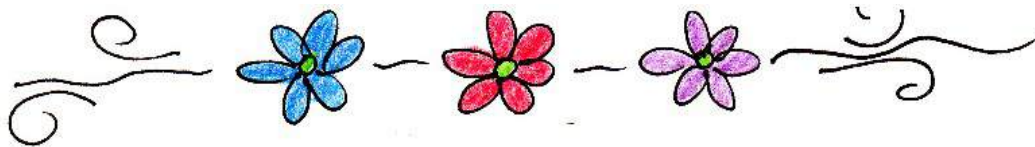
Symbol: _____

Meaning: _____



External vs Internal Meanings

What might the following cards mean *externally* and *internally*?
Make sure you first look up the meaning of each card in your Tarot book or on the meanings cheatsheet in this booklet.
(Answer key is on the following page – but don't cheat!)



Ten of Wands

External: Your taking on too many responsibilities and tasks!

Internal: Your feeling exhausted and burdened because you put a lot of pressure on yourself.

The High Priestess

External: _____

Internal: _____

Six of Pentacles

External: _____

Internal: _____

Page of Cups

External: _____

Internal: _____

Judgement

External: _____

Internal: _____

Ace of Swords

External: _____

Internal: _____

Four of Cups

External: _____

Internal: _____

Two of Pentacles

External: _____

Internal: _____

The Tower

External: _____

Internal: _____

Knight of Pentacles

External: _____

Internal: _____

The Devil

External: _____

Internal: _____

7 of Wands

External: _____

Internal: _____

Answer Key

Please keep in mind that there is no ONE right answer here. There are many possibilities. The Answer key is just to give you an idea of the different ways of seeing a Tarot card's meaning.

The High Priestess

<i>External:</i> Studying secret knowledge, perhaps taking a course in Tarot!	<i>Internal:</i> Opening to intuition and having very profound dreams
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Six of Pentacles

<i>External:</i> Receiving or giving financial help	<i>Internal:</i> Opening to abundance, feeling generous
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Page of Cups

<i>External:</i> Taking an art or writing class	<i>Internal:</i> Feeling inspired!
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Judgement

<i>External:</i> Entering a new phase of your life. Maybe a new job, new location – it's like a rebirth of sorts	<i>Internal:</i> Becoming more conscious and spiritually awakened, listening to your inner callings
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Ace of Swords

<i>External:</i> The start of something, applying for a new job, writing down your goals, telling someone your big idea	<i>Internal:</i> A new idea! Sudden clarity.
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Four of Cups

<i>External:</i> Continually being offered boring, crappy jobs that you don't want	<i>Internal:</i> Feeling totally unenthused with everyone and everything
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Two of Pentacles

<i>External:</i> Juggling a career and family	<i>Internal:</i> Trying to balance two aspects of yourself – your spiritual nature with your sense of humor
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The Tower

<i>External:</i> Losing your job, an earthquake, your partner leaving you for someone way hotter	<i>Internal:</i> Feeling your belief system crumbling
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Knight of Pentacles

<i>External:</i> Doing your research before making any decisions, procrastinating	<i>Internal:</i> Feeling overly cautious and hesitant about moving forward and taking risks
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The Devil

<i>External:</i> Having loads of credit card debt which prevents you from switching careers and moving to Hawaii	<i>Internal:</i> believing that your powerless, stuck and enslaved
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7 of Wands

<i>External:</i> Competitive colleagues trying to steal your job	<i>Internal:</i> feeling insecure and defensive
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Create a Character & Tell a Story

Choose a card, read about its meaning in your Tarot book and then fill in the blanks with your own character details and storyline

*Tip: make the character seem as real and human as you can!



Tarot Card: _____

What personality quirks might the figure in this card have?

What kind of books & movies do they like?

Favorite foods?

Fantasy vacation?

Career?

What is this characters story? How did they get here?

Where are they going?

What are their hopes & dreams?

Greatest fears?

What kind of lover is he/she?

Advice vs Meaning

Instead of asking “what does this card mean?”, try asking “what advice does this card have for me?”

Answer key on next page

The Chariot

Meaning: Victory, confidence, success and moving onward and upward

Possible Advice: stay focused and keep your goals in sight, take action, have confidence

Three of Cups

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Eight of Pentacles

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The Star

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Queen of Wands

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Five of Cups

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Answer Key

There are many different ways to see the “advice” in a card.
Below are my simply my own interpretations.

Three of Cups

Meaning: Celebration, friends coming together	Possible Advice: Lighten up and go out and have some fun! Connect with friends.
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Eight of Pentacles

Meaning: hard work, learning a skill, nose to the grindstone	Possible Advice: Right now it's important to keep busy
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The Star

Meaning: hope, peace and having faith that everything will work out	Possible Advice: Relax! Everything is working out as it should. Keep this card on your nightstand to remind yourself of this.
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Queen of Wands

Meaning: A woman who is strong, capable and creative. She can achieve anything with the focus of her intent and energy.	Possible Advice: Now is the right time for you to channel your inner Queen of Wands. Follow your passions and be direct in approaching your goals.
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Five of Cups

Meaning: grief, loss, disappointment	Possible Advice: Don't dwell too long on what didn't work out. Focus on the positive in order to move on.
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Studying Tarot Cards by Number

Group your Minor Arcana cards according to their number. Each grouping will illustrate how each number is expressed through the four different suits.

Wands = energy, passion, creativity

Cups = emotion, relationships

Swords = thoughts, communication

Pentacles = money, health

Ace

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

2

Wands <i>contemplating where to put ones energy</i>	Cups <i>relationship, coming together</i>
Swords <i>deciding between two things</i>	Pentacles <i>balancing, juggling two things</i>

3

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

4

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

5

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

6

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

7

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

8

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

9

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles

10

Wands	Cups
Swords	Pentacles



Studying Tarot Cards by Suit

Group your Tarot cards according to their suit and lay them out numbers 1-10 in order. You will have four groups of ten. Spend some time studying the progression of each suit.

Wands = shows us all the ways that energy, passion and creativity operate in our lives

Cups = shows us all the different ways we experience emotion and relationships

Swords = illustrates the various roles that mind & thoughts play in everyday life

Pentacles = shows us the different ways we experience money and health



1. Pay attention to the vibe/feeling you get from each suit.

Pretend each suit is like a magical land that you are exploring. You might notice that the Suit of Swords feels very serious or that Pentacles feels very lush and sensual. This will give you a good sense of each suit and what it represents.

2. Notice the different colour schemes of each suit.

The Suit of Wands for example, tends to have a lot of oranges and reds, which reflect it's fiery, passionate energy!

3. Ask yourself where you are at in each suit.

Which card do you relate with most closely right now? Studying the Tarot is all about self-study as well and this is a great way to do that.

Tarot Resources for Further Study

These are my favorite Tarot books that have helped me with my Tarot studies over the years



A Magical Course in Tarot by Michele Morgan

This book is excellent for beginners as its very simple to understand and doesn't overwhelm. If I need to look up a Tarot meaning (sometimes I do!), I almost always use this book because the way she explains each meaning just makes total sense to me.

This book stands out to me because of the author's encouragement and tips on reading the cards intuitively.

Learning the Tarot by Joan Bunning

Another great book for beginners that includes everything you need to know when first learning Tarot – the basics and then some in a simple, easy to understand format. This book is packed with Tarot exercises and a very detailed explanation of the Celtic Cross Spread.

Tarot for your Self by Mary K Greer

This book is one of my all time favorites! It is kind of like a book mixed with a workbook since there are so many fun exercises in here. I have had this book for years and still haven't done all the exercises in it. This book was a turning point for me – when I started working with it I finally began to really understand what Tarot was all about! Highly recommended.

Tarot Wisdom by Rachel Pollack

If you want to dive deeper into the Tarot, I highly recommend this book. Rachel explains each card, its symbolism and history in a way that's both detailed and fascinating. You will never look at your cards the same way again.

Tarot: History, Symbolism and Divination by Robert M. Place

If you want to learn more about the history and symbols of Tarot, this is the book to get. There is also explanations of each card at the end.

Druidcraft Tarot

This is a gorgeous pagan deck that is very special and wonderful to read with. I recommend getting the deck and book set as the book provides an excellent explanation of each card as well as a good selection of pagan-inspired Tarot spreads.

Osho Zen Tarot

This deck is a bit of a different take on the Tarot. I find that many people who have a hard time reading Tarot, have an easier time with this deck. These cards are excellent at getting to the real meat of a situation - the deep, underlying issues that need to be recognized.

If your into things like Eckhart Tolle, Eastern spirituality and meditation, then you will really enjoy working with this deck.

See my review [right here](#).

Universal Waite Tarot

I always recommend this deck as the best deck to learn Tarot on. It is the classic Rider-Waite-Smith deck but it's been recoloured so it is more visually appealing (in my opinion!)

See my review [right here](#).



About Kate (aka The Daily Tarot Girl)



Hello there!

I'm Kate and I love reading the Tarot intuitively and teaching others to do the same. I also love to write, bellydance, paint and read lots and lots of books!

If you love Tarot as much as me, and especially if your totally new to Tarot, check out my website [daily-tarot-girl.com](http://www.daily-tarot-girl.com) – it's packed with tons of great learning resources like videos, exercises, articles, tarot spreads and more.

I also teach private Tarot lessons via telephone or Skype, so if you would like to work 1-on-1 with me and take your reading skills to the next level, then you can check out my <http://www.daily-tarot-girl.com/work-with-me/tarot-mentoring/> or contact me directly at kate@daily-tarot-girl.com

Happy Tarot Reading!

xoxo

Kate