

International Tarot Foundation Guide to Easy Tarot Reading



BY LARA HOUSTON

The Straightforward Guide of Tarot Basics



Interacting with your cards and Journaling on a daily basis is a wonderful way to develop your own understanding of the card meanings. You can learn to look for visual clues within the cards.

Start with a simple daily reading of one card and journal it

Question: '

What do I most need to know about today?

Choose a card from your deck after shuffling and then lay a card.

Then add the following observations to your journal.

1. Write down the first initial feeling that the card gives you because this is your intuition speaking to you.
2. Is it a Minor or Major Arcana card?

A Major is more concerned with the bigger scheme of life issues and Minors are more involved with daily life and interactions.

3. What element is your card?

Minors have a suit and Majors have an element. Each suit has its own element and there are 4 elements in total.

Wands are Fire Cups are Fire Pentacles are Earth Swords are Air



4. What number is the card?

Even numbers are more passive and odd numbers are more active. If your card is a minor-take the Major card of the same number and look for similarities and note them.

4. Look at the colors within the imagery.

	Red = Passion, action
	Green= Balance, growth, nurture
	Blue = Intuition, emotions, spirituality
	Yellow = Intellect, clarity, enlightened
	Orange = Optimism, intellect
	Purple = Creative, intuition, trust
	Grey = Communication, dull, confusion
	White = Purity, innocence, protection

Keywords for the Numbers

1. Beginnings, independent, leadership
2. Duality, partnerships, stable, balance
3. Creative, group's, growth
4. Stability, rest, structure
5. Struggle, conflict, learning
6. Harmony, peaceful, balance
7. Determined, spiritual, defensive
8. Success, strength, confidence
9. Knowledge, alone, attainment
10. Completion, fulfillment

Elements and Keywords



Wands are of the Fire element and represent: energy, movement, passion, drive, decisiveness.

Pentacles are of the Earth element and represent: Grounding, stability, growth, abundance. Movement is slow and steady and sometimes hardly noticeable.

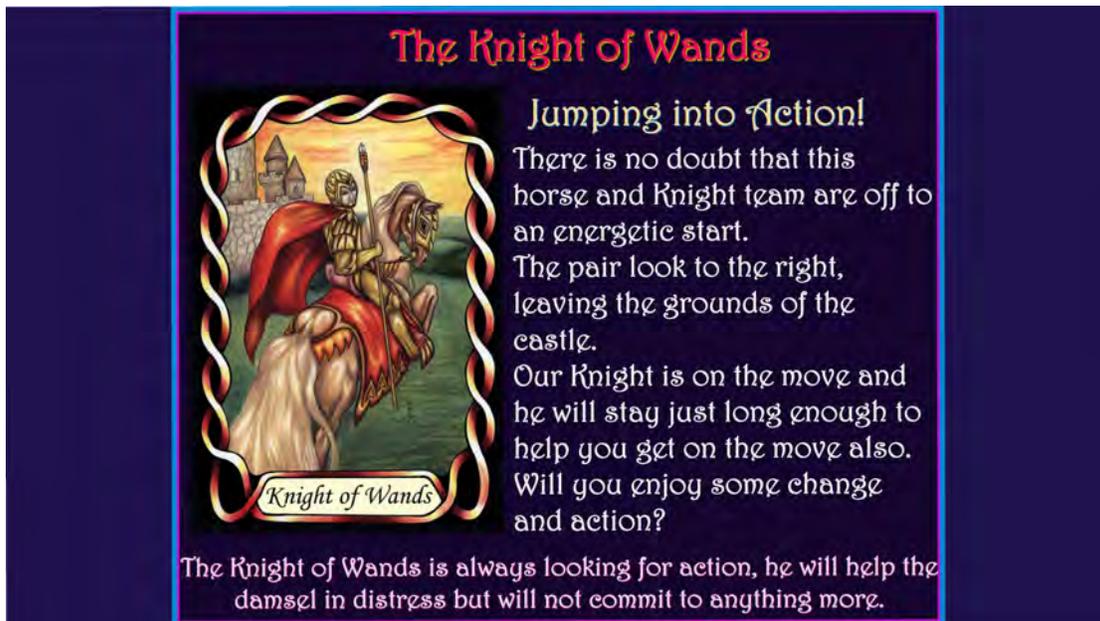


Swords are of the Air element and represent: Communication, intellect, reason, logic . Movement can be fast and hurried or steadily direct.

Cups are of the Water element and represent: Emotions, love, spirituality, intuition Movement can be intense or gentle.



Consider the suit of any Court cards and the characteristics of their suit



Steele Wizards Tarot: Image by kind permission of Pamela Steele

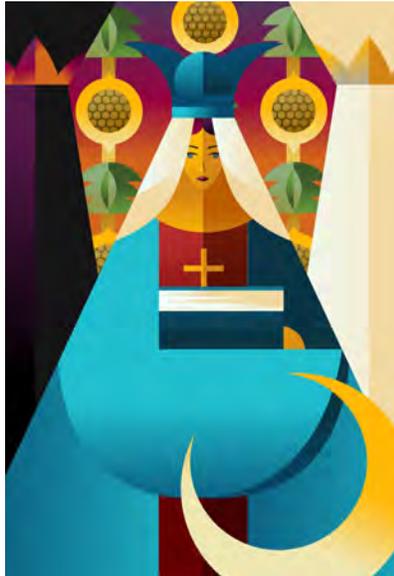
Tips

- ❖ Use a symbolic and traditional deck that will help you with your meanings.
- ❖ Look at the card and its imagery and make a note of what you think the message of the card is for you.
- ❖ Later that day-revisit your journal and make a note if your interpretation of the card held meaning for you.
- ❖ Make notes underneath as to what kind of day you had and any significant aspects there were about the day.
You can cross reference this.



This is your Tarot journey, your journal is your 'Bible' and your repertoire of insights

Higher Understanding in 5 Easy Steps



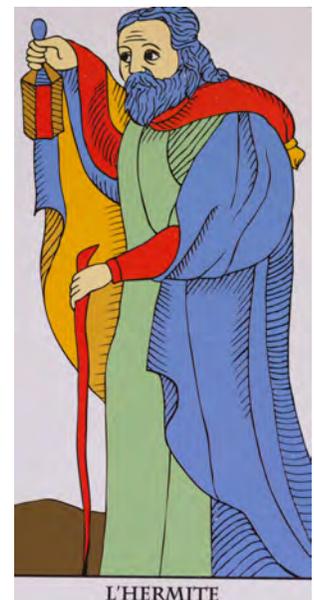
Step 1: Intuition; what do you feel?

Step 2 : Imagery; what do you see?

Step 3: Experience ; what do you know?

Step 4: Discovery ; what do you need to know?

Step 5: Attainment; what is the message?



1 **Intuition:** Your first feeling when you look at a card or a reading is the most important one. is it a positive feel or negative ?

2 **Imagery:** Make a note of what you see within the imagery of the card. What is the story within the imagery or symbolism ?

3. **Experience:** Does the card remind you of an experience or a person, what is your understanding of the name of the card ?

4. **Discovery:** Journal your readings, discuss with others, look for insights, explore options and keep an open mind.

5. **Attainment:** You will know this card more from just following these 5 easy steps. Implement your higher understanding into your readings !



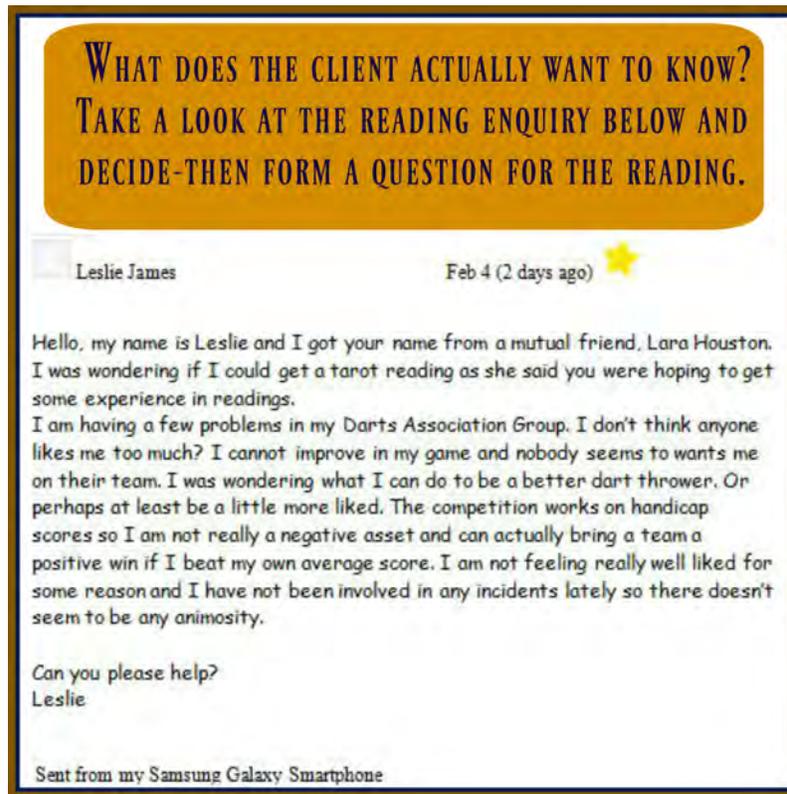
Page of Wands

Tower

Ace of Swords

Deck Images from the Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery

Formulating the Successful Tarot Question



Carefully consider your question.: Establish exactly what it is that you or your client are wanting to find out.

Focus on one piece of information at one time. Asking a two part question or more will bring confusion to your interpretation.

Avoid a closed question that offers only a yes or no reply.

Choose an open ended question as it will offer more depth and information about a situation.

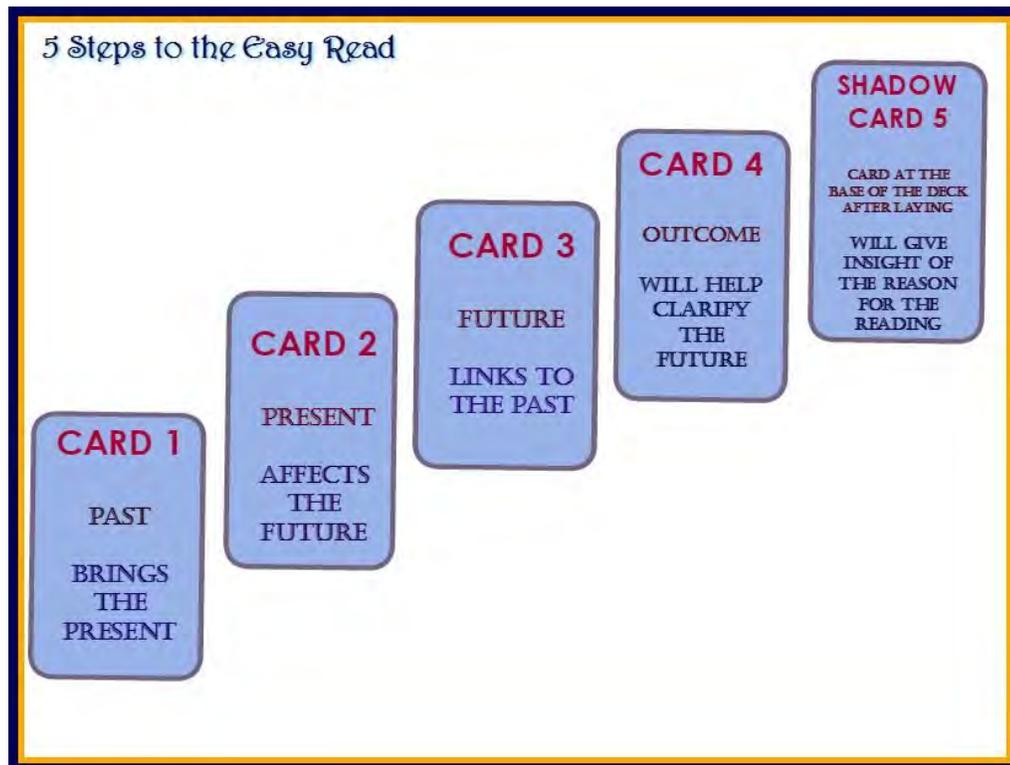
Example:

Will I be happy with my new romantic partner? (Closed)

What qualities will my new romantic partner bring to the relationship? (Open)

Remember to read back your interpretation with your question in mind- Have you actually answered the question and not had a diversion?

The Simple 5 Step Insight Spread



Making Easy Work of Your Interpretation

The Rule of Three

1. Organization

Make sure that you have a layout for your reading interpretation that is organized and set out clearly.

A template is a great idea for your written interpretations and will save you time. It will help you to organize your thoughts for your face to face readings or telephone readings. Take your time when looking over your initial reading, take in the imagery and the subtle messages offered within the cards.

Have your template on hand for reference or written prompts.

2. Build Your Interpretation

Once you have identified the links in between your cards, paint your picture-tell the story. Begin at card 1 and form the basis of your reading from this, it is your foundation (In regards to the spread above and similar spreads).

Move towards the likely, potential outcome and then refer to the initial question (if there is one).

If you did not use a question then refer to the main point of the reading to emphasize the message.

3. Understandable Interpretation

It is essential that your 'sitter' actually understands what you are portraying to them in the message from the cards.

The study of Tarot can take on many forms and depths but skill is also in the art of being able to present an interpretation in easy to understand language. Use the everyday language and decide whether you are going to name the cards or simply give the reading.

Interpretation Layout for Written Readings

Title: I often add the sitter's name here and the reading they have requested

(If reading for another)

Example: A General Finances Insight Tarot Reading for Jane Smith

Date Your Reading: It is important for the sitter (and reader) to be able to refer back to the original date for the time line of the reading and events.

Layout: Keep to a layout that is simple and clear. Some readers prefer to 'chunk' their interpretation per card and others like their interpretation to 'flow'.

Some readers also mention the card names and many do not, it really is personal choice.

Unless I am reading for another Tarot reader, I tend to not mention the cards as this information can add some confusion rather than adding understanding.

Some 'sitters' may be tempted to Google the Tarot card meanings and the results can lead to unnecessary concern for them. So many different interpretations are available on the Internet.

It is important that as a reader, we give the reading as we see it.

Keep to the main points and expand on important aspects.

Introducing the reading, start at the beginning with the first card and then progress through the cards.

You can piece the reading card by card but not making it obviously so.

It may be an idea to section into the cards and then remove the titles to bring the reading together.

Remember to consider ethics when you are reading for others.

*You will find a layout idea on the next page

Title of Your Reading and Who it is For

Date:

Card Positions and cards laid (Optional and Image optional also)

Card 1 Interpretation

Card 2 Interpretation

Card 3 Interpretation

Card 4 Interpretation

Card 5 Interpretation

Concluding comments

Finally, return back to the original question of topic and bring the reading to a conclusion.

Closing Comments

Thank the 'sitter', for the opportunity of reading for them and offer the option of asking a question or two.

Activities

Both cards are related to the number 6
Find 6 similarities!



THE LOVERS. THE DEVIL .

What card would you say is the closest insight to the opposite of Justice?

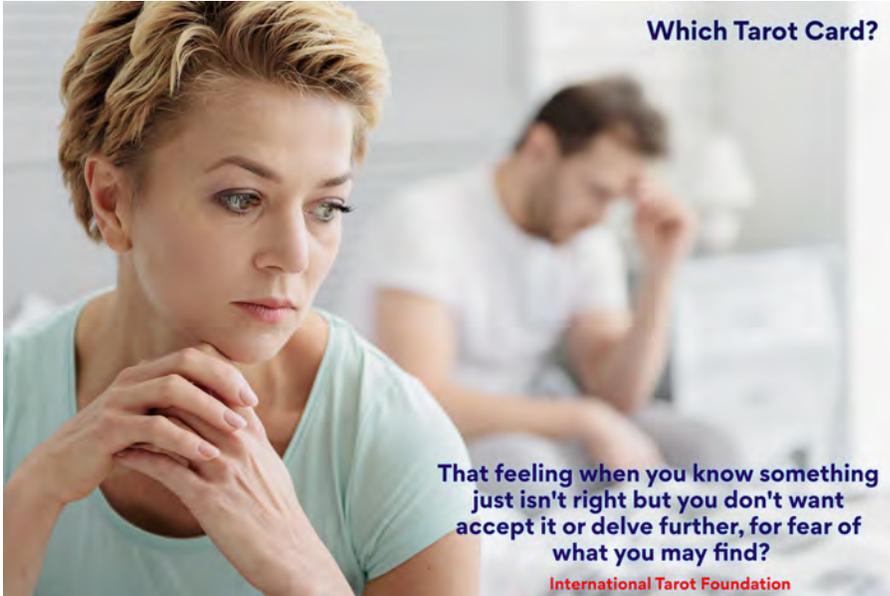


JUSTICE .



Deck Image from the Waite Smith Tarot with Kind permission of US Games

Which Tarot Card?



That feeling when you know something just isn't right but you don't want to accept it or delve further, for fear of what you may find?

International Tarot Foundation