

TAROT PASSPORT



*all you need to read the cards
with confidence in just one day*

Welcome to the first steps of your tarot journey!

TAROT IS A BEAUTIFUL & WISE SYSTEM THAT CONNECTS YOU TO YOUR INTUITION

If you're a bit intimidated, don't worry. At it's simplest, tarot is about you and your connection with the cards. In this little book we'll cover all the basics of the tarot deck and focus ways to open up your personal magic. By the end you'll be feeling empowered and ready to start reading for yourself. Before we dive in, here are a few guiding points:



You don't need to believe in any one system to read tarot



Tarot can be used in many ways: for self-discovery, guidance, and more



Tarot shows you energies active in your life, not a certain future



Each tarot reader has their own unique style



There are no right or wrong "answers" in tarot

WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND, LETS GET OUT OUR DECKS AND TAKE A PEEK AT THE CARDS

We'll be working with the Rider-Waite system. What's this, you ask? This is the mother of all modern tarot decks (and my personal favorite), first created in 1910. You'll recognize it in the pictures below:

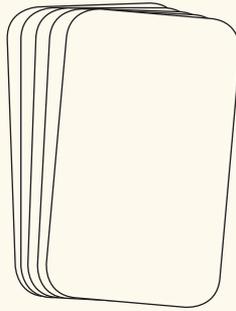


Many other tarot decks are based on this system, so don't despair if your deck doesn't look like this exactly! You'll know that you have a RWS-based deck if all the cards are illustrated with evocative scenes, not just the major arcana (The Fool, Death, etc.) So the Four of Wands we see above has a happy couple in front of a castle, not just four wands on a blank background.

78 cards with unique illustrations and meanings might seem overwhelming, but they're arranged in groups that can help us read them quickly. You can also use your intuition to guide you and I think this approach is the secret advantage that new tarot explorers have.

Let the cards speak directly to you & trust their messages

Anatomy of a Tarot Deck



78

CARDS

22

MAJOR
ARCANA

- Large Life Events
- Archetypes
- Powerful Energies
- "Big Picture"
- Life Path
- Hero's Journey

MINOR
ARCANA

56

- Everyday life
- Mundane Events & Struggles
- Interpersonal Issues
- Your Life & How You Lead It

MINOR ARCANA

4

SUITS

WANDS

CUPS

SWORDS

PENT-
ACLES

10

PIP
CARDS

- Num-bered Ace through Ten
- Depict scenes of everyday life

4

COURT
CARDS

- Page, Knight, Queen, & King
- People, person-ality, out-looks

Finding Meaning in Tarot Cards

Tarot cards are bursting with meaning, both traditional and new. While it's important to get a basic lay of the land when learning tarot, you don't need to have an encyclopedic knowledge of each card, its history, traditional meaning, astrological correspondences, etc., before you start reading

Learning tarot by doing readings allows you to create a relationship with the cards and, most importantly, explore.



A card's meaning is a combination of its traditional meaning, context, and the reader's intuition



There are no good or bad cards; we get to choose how to embody their energy



No card's meaning is fixed

Return to your deck and look at the cards. What do you notice about their similarities and differences? Is there a group that jumps out to you? A card that you especially love? Feel the energy of the deck - does it make you feel excited about all the readings you'll do?

In the next pages we'll look at the Majors and Minors in-depth to uncover their traditional meanings.

MAJOR ARCANA

At their most basic, Major Arcana cards speak to the larger currents at work in our lives: our life calling, inner-truth, fundamental personality traits, and our hopes and desires. In other words, the big stuff.

I like to think of the Majors as stages we cycle through in life. The cards that appear to us in a reading show us where we are - what's most important to use on a deeper level at the present moment. We are constantly cycling through the twenty two cards, making the journey many times over, but each time learning something new.

Many refer to this as "The Fool's Journey," imagining The Fool as the hero to a story that travels through the rest of the majors. In this system, the remaining 21 cards are divided as follows:

- 1-7 (Magician through Chariot): The Physical Plane
- 8-14 (Strength through Temperance): The Mental Plane
- 15-21 (Devil through The World): The Spiritual Plane

Of course, this is a lot to remember with the card meanings themselves. As with anything in tarot, use this approach if it's helpful and resonates with you. You can also bookmark The Fool's Journey and come back to it later in your studies.

Just remember, with Majors "think big." Big patterns, themes, roles, and beliefs.

MINOR ARCANA

Now we move to the rich world of the Minor Arcana, 56 cards that illustrate the ins-and-outs of daily life.

In many ways these cards are more straightforward. Divided into four suits like a deck of playing cards, each is tied to one of the four elements (Earth, Air, Water, Fire).

Using the elemental associations we can interpret the cards as follows

- **Cups = Water** - emotions, relationships, intuition
- **Wands = Fire** - action, ambition, creativity
- **Swords = Air** - intellect, thought, communication
- **Pentacles: Earth** - practicality, money, sensuality

These cards provide us with information about life as it is unfolding. The numbered cards show us what trends, events, and situations we can expect to be focusing on in the near future.

Each suit also has four court cards:

- **Pages:** youthful attitude, new beginnings, student, arrival of news
- **Knights:** Impulsive and passionate, single-minded, "tarot teenagers"
- **Queens:** Established, flexible, confident, dynamic, innovative
- **Kings:** Masterful, powerful, commanding, outward-facing.

Let's start reading!

Take a deep breath and get your cards ready, it's time to do our first tarot reading! We'll be letting our intuition lead the way as we begin.

1. Set the scene

Take a moment to make your environment as comfortable and magical as you'd like, whether it's through candlelight, incense, or a beautiful reading cloth.

2. Connect with your body

Intuition is all about feeling over thinking. Take the time to center yourself before you begin. Breathe deeply, notice how you're feeling, and imagine opening up to new sources of wisdom.



3. Set an Intention

Decide what you want to read for. Do you have a question or would you like a general outlook? The best questions to ask are expansive, not yes or no. Think, "What do I need to know about ____?"

4. Shuffle!

Hold the question in your mind as you shuffle the cards. Get lost in the rhythm and have fun moving the cards around. Don't worry if traditional shuffling is difficult - tarot cards can be awkwardly sized.

3-Card Spread

EXPLORING PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE

One of the most commonly used tarot spreads, the three card “past-present-future” layout is deceptively simple.

We’ll begin with this configuration because not only is it the perfect layout for interpreting the story the cards tell, it also is flexible enough to experiment with intuitive reading techniques.

To begin, we lay out three cards from the top of our deck in a straight line and read them as follows:



- Past
- History
- Receding influence
- To Let Go



- Present
- Heart of the Matter
- Key Issue



- Future
- Incoming Influence
- Upcoming Event

Pulling the Reading Together



TELLING A STORY

At their most simple, tarot readings are stories. We look at the cards for themes and tie them together, creating a narrative thread. What's happening in our lives now? Who are the characters at play? What are the motivations, memories, and emotions fueling the action?

The images in tarot make creating stories easy. We can place ourselves in the perspective of each figure depicted in the cards. What might they be feeling? What are they're doing?

The easiest way to do this is to look at the cards as if they're telling a story about someone you don't know. This can eliminate some of the pressure and nerves that come up, creating healthy distance.

After you find a story that resonates, run through it again: how does it relate to your life?

LOOKING FOR THEMES

Now that you have a story, start examining the cards more deeply. What patterns do you see? The following are some common threads you can follow to expand into your readings.

- **Major Arcana vs. Minor Arcana**

Note how many Major Arcana cards there are vs Minors.

Readings that skew towards Majors tend to reflect big changes in a person's life, personality, and development. These moments will have a deep and lasting effect.

A majority of Minor Arcana cards reflect the hustle and bustle of daily life. Half and half show that the events of daily life are important/going to be important for personal development.

- **Suits**

See how many cards from each suit are present in the reading. Does one dominate? Which suits are not present? Use the meanings associated with each group of cards to discern what energies are in play and which ones are missing. For example, a majority of cup cards would suggest an emotional time with a focus on relationships.

- **Colors**

See if a color dominates a reading. Does one color show up in cards representing the past? The future? Typical color associations can either be intuitive (how you react to green, for example) or more traditional like the following:

Red: Passion, conflict, creativity, sensuality

Yellow: Energy, inspiration, positivity

Green: Growth, plenty, prosperity, jealousy

Black: Mystery, intuition, the unknown

White: Magic, innocence, potential

Blue: Healing, subconscious, peace

- **Numbers**

Look at the numbers in the Minor Arcana cards. Are there multiples of a certain number? Are they mostly smaller numbers or larger? Below are a list of typical numerical associations in tarot

Aces: Beginnings, messages, emerging energies

Twos: Coming together, partnerships, crossroads

Threes: Creating, beginning projects, manifesting

Fours: Bonding, community, structure

Fives: Conflict, challenges, tests

Sixes: Communication, harmony, joy

Sevens: Moving on, honing vision, reflection

Eights: Work, determination, action

Nines: Satisfaction, respite, enjoyment

Tens: Completion, plenty, ultimate expression

Wrapping it up



After looking at all the connections between your cards, return to your question or, if you're doing a general reading, zoom out to your current perspective. How does the reading look to you now? What insights have you gained? Are there cards you're still unsure of? Now is a good time to consult a book or website if you have lingering questions or would like to fill in the blanks. (Hint: I offer a free dictionary of card meanings [here](#).)

Take some time to process the cards you've pulled. I highly recommend journaling about them so you can revisit them later. Tarot readings unfold over time. Some cards that seemed difficult to interpret might show up in your daily life and become clear.

Most importantly, take a moment to congratulate yourself! You'd just done your first tarot reading!

Further resources



I hope this book has helped you in your tarot journey. For more information visit my website incandescenttarot.com. I have a bevy of tools, tips, and spreads waiting for you. Looking for one-on-one guidance? I offer [individualized mentoring](#) that ranges from self-guided sessions where you can ask me all your tarot questions to in-depth, structured courses.

And if you feel inspired, tell me about your experiences and/or tarot adventures at info@incandescenttarot.com. I'd love to hear from you!

*Best Always,
Gina*

About Me



Thank you so much for joining me in this beginning exploration into tarot! As you can probably tell, I'm deeply enthusiastic about tarot's transformative power. What's more freeing and expansive than seeing our life's events, energies, and callings reflected in the cards?

My journey with tarot started when I was twelve and found myself obsessed with a Rider-Waite deck in a local new age bookstore. My mother, who used to read tarot, was kind enough to get me that deck, and I still use it in readings today. Fast forward seventeen years and I'm tickled pink that I'm able to share this magic with clients, students, and anyone curious about the cards..

When not reading or writing about tarot you can find me tending to my menagerie of creature companions, painting bizarre landscapes, and figuring out how to fit more plants into my house.

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TAROT

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