TAROT KEYS
Keywords for all 78 Cards & 9 Spreads

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FREE TAROT CARD KEYWORDS & SPREADS FROM ANDREA GREEN AT MYTAROTCARDMEANINGS.COM

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Introduction

My keywords for each of the cards are written to allow for you to be flexible in your reading of the Tarot. They are specific to each card, to give good meanings, however, general enough to allow you to apply them to any question; whether relationship, career, relocation, travel, health, etc.

My book, True Tarot Card Meanings, gives more information on each card and applying them to different questions, based on my years of experience. I also cover reversals in the book, as here I only give upright meanings for beginners!

In the meantime, I hope you will be able to start reading tarot straight out of the box with these keywords and spreads. You can also check out my blog to read about different tarot decks you can get for the best readings.

My FREE Book on tarot Card Meanings true to the cards coming soon!
The Major Arcana

0. Fool: Freedom, Inspiration, Risk, Adventure, Innocence.

1. Magician: Success, Skill, Trickery.


4. Emperor: Power, control, dominance, energy.

5. Hierophant: Professional, advice, wisdom, revelation.


7. The Chariot: Driving, ambition, control, force.


10. The Wheel: Luck, chance, cycles, habits, patterns, ups and downs.


12. The Hanged Man: Reversal, betrayal, lack of dignity.


15. The Devil: Ignorance, attachment, secrets, darkness.


17. The Star: Vision, hope, guidance, seeking a direction, following.

18. The Moon: Changes, dreams, fear (unnecessary).

19. The Sun: Light, energy, power, growth, radiance.

20. The Last Judgement: Decisions, a calling, invitation, new life.

21. The World: Time, coming together, resolution, closing one door.
The Minor Arcana

The Suit of Pentacles

The Pentacles, disks or coins suit are all about the material things in life, be it money, resources or your time. They show us all the different stages of financial issues, from investing (Ace of Pentacles), saving (4 of Pentacles), through poverty (5 of Pentacles) to retirement (10 of Pentacles).

1p. The Ace of Pentacles: Investment, Seed.

2p. The Two of Pentacles: Juggling, uncertainty.


4p. The Four of Pentacles: Saving, holding, possessing.

5p. The Five of Pentacles: Holding back income, dispossession, poverty.

6p. The Six of Pentacles: Charity, give and take, work/life balance.

7p. The Seven of Pentacles: Review, assessment, taking stock.

8p. The Eight of Pentacles: Work for its own sake, constant labour, skill.

9p. The Nine of Pentacles: Things being good, but suffocating.


12p. The Knight of Pentacles: Solid work, consistency, trust, steady action.

13p. The Queen of Pentacles: Nurturing, rewarding, holding.

The Suit of Cups

The Suit of Cups are the dreamy, emotional aspects of our life, and all to do with relationships. Actually, all the cards show relationships, and lessons, but the Cups are specific; so we have the partnership of the 2 of Cups all the way to the happy family of the 10 of Cups.

1c. The Ace of Cups: Overflowing, abounding, joy, delight.

2c. The Two of Cups: Equality, partnership, meeting of hearts and vision.

3c. The Three of Cups: Celebration, party, support of friends.

4c. The Four of Cups: Missing a trick, being stubborn.

5c. The Five of Cups: Sorrow, loss, disappointment.

6c. The Six of Cups: Gifts, freely given, childhood, nostalgia.

7c. The Seven of Cups: Getting distracted.

8c. The Eight of Cups: Moving away from a long outworn situation.

9c. The Nine of Cups: Smugness, satisfaction, accomplishment, showing off.

10c. The Ten of Cups: Family, Deserving, Reward, contentment.

11c. The Page of Cups: Novelty, surprise, creativity.

12c. The Knight of Cups: Vision, questing, on a mission.

13c. The Queen of Cups: Deep emotional understanding, contemplation.

14c. The King of Cups: Hidden depths, connection, wisdom.
The Suit of Wands

With Wands, we look at our lifestyle; our ambitions and decisions in the world. They are like the walking staff that supports us in our journey in life, they show us our beliefs and intentions, that guide us in our behaviour. So they are connected to the other suits, as they provide the foundations of all our thoughts (Swords), feelings (Cups) and actions (Pentacles).

1w. The Ace of Wands: Power, control, energy, will, direction, explosion!

2w. The Two of Wands: Planning, comparison, strategy.

3w. The Three of Wands: Setting things in motion, going ahead.

4w. The Four of Wands: Invitation, friendship, mutual benefit.

5w. The Five of Wands: Confusion, argument, re-arrangement.

6w. The Six of Wands: Success, but beware of pride, leadership.

7w. The Seven of Wands: Standing your ground, fighting off others.

8w. The Eight of Wands: Swiftness, movement, travel, news.

9w. The Nine of Wands: Holding fast, ignoring other opinions.

10w. The Ten of Wands: Overburden, responsibilities, overload.

11w. The Page of Wands: Journeying, adventure, following a calling.

12w. The Knight of Wands: Activist, doer, fiery passion.

13w. The Queen of Wands: Wisdom, experience, confidence.

14w. The King of Wands: Dignity, honour, living to one’s word.
The Suit of Swords

The Swords are the Suit of the Mind, all our thoughts and plans. As a result, they show us our worries, our concerns, and matters of knowledge and education.

1s. The Ace of Swords: Decision, cutting, black and white.

2s. The Two of Swords: Denial, holding off, avoidance.

3s. The Three of Swords: Separation, judgement, sorrow.

4s. The Four of Swords: Rest, respite, recuperation, removal.

5s. The Five of Swords: Putting arguments aside, regrets.

6s. The Six of Swords: Movement, assistance, travel.

7s. The Seven of Swords: Treachery, sneaking, underhand action.

8s. The Eight of Swords: Holding yourself back, an old habit of thought.

9s. The Nine of Swords: Pity, grief, sorrow, and worries. Not thinking through.

10s. The Ten of Swords: Pinning something down, everything out in the open.

11s. The Page of Swords: Watch and wait, spying the land before action.

12s. The Knight of Swords: Rushing ahead, entering the discussion.

13s. The Queen of Swords: Calm but swift action, decisiveness.

14s. The King of Swords: Wisdom of experience, applied to fair decisions.
Basic Spreads

The following spreads are intended to be useful to divine for the majority of questions asked of a Tarot reader. I have provided my own slight variations and clarifications of some of the standard spreads based on my experience. You may wish to make your own slight adjustments.

This reference sheet is divided into two sections, one for seven generic spreads, arranged in order of number of cards being used, and the second section for two of my special Spreads.

General Spreads

3-card Straight Spread

5-card Star Spread

7-card Horseshow Spread

Celtic Cross (10 cards)

Tree of Life Spread (10 cards)

Horoscope Spread/Zodiac Spread (12 cards)

Thoth/Crowley/Golden Dawn/English Spread (15 cards)

Specific Spreads for Career & Healing

Open Door New Job Spread (6 cards)

Healing Cross Spread (9 cards)
General Spreads

3-card Straight Spread

1. Past
2. Present
3. Future

One of the simplest spreads other than a one-card reading, yet often the more difficult to divine with so few cards. As this spread is time-based, moving from the past to the future, you can also look at the type of cards that fall into the three positions. If you had two Minor cards, then a Major card, something major is ahead! All three being Court cards might indicate that this situation remains in the hands of others.

If you need clarification on any of the positions and meanings, you can always draw an extra card.

Optionally

1. What to Do
2. Safe Bet/Middle Course
3. What Not to Do

This is my trusty three-card method, which gives advice with one card, a warning with another, and a safe path between the two extremes. You are really placing yourself in the hands of the cards with this one, as there are so few cards from which to divine! However, if you want a direct answer and are prepared to listen to it, then this spread is very appropriate.
5-card Star Spread

1. Earth – the Practical
2. Air – the Mental
3. Water – the Emotional
4. Fire – the Magical/Transformative
5. Spirit – the Spiritual

So as an example, a question asked might be, “What do I need to know to get the best out of my new relationship?”

The Five Cards pulled might be:

1. Practical – 8 of Swords (reversed)
2. Mental – Knight of Swords (reversed)
3. Emotional – 7 of Swords
4. Magical – Empress (III)
5. Spiritual – King of Swords
Here is a brief outline of how I would personally read this example:

“On the practical level of this new relationship, don't believe how things are going - doubt may uncover problems not yet apparent. Your ideas may be getting the best of you - it is time to make an orderly retreat from the situation; it is suggested by this card. (8 Swords rev/Knight of Swords rev).

With regard to the spiritual aspects of the new relationship, The King of Swords is at the top of his game and counsels that you take time to deliberate your options before acting. Again, this is a card of caution.

On the other side of the Pentagram, we see in the Seven of Swords, we see in the situation for which we are reading some indication of deceit - someone is breaking the agreement.

From a magical perspective, in terms of how this will transform you, the Empress brings gradual growth to your life.”

Obviously, this reading - being mainly of Swords and cards of caution and concern, counsels the Querent to think before acting in the new relationship.
7-card Horseshoe Spread

1. What is behind you
2. What you might learn
3. What resources are available
4. What is the Outcome
5. Where you should aim
6. What warning and advice you receive
7. What is happening elsewhere

This is a general horseshoe pattern for when the client has no particular question or needs a starting block to divine their life. You can follow this spread with another more specific three-card reading for any aspect of the horseshoe reading.

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Celtic Cross (10 cards)

1. The Situation
2. The Challenge
3. The Past Current
4. The Future Current
5. Resources
6. Aim
7. How You See Yourself
8. How Others See You
9. Concerns (Hopes/Fears)
10. Outcome
I particularly pair together cards 7 & 8 which often explain a lot about other people’s support or otherwise in the situation, and cards 6 (aim) & 5 (resources) which is a reality check! You can use card 9 to illustrate what is concerning but not likely to manifest.
Tree of Life Spread (10 cards)
This is a slightly more complex spread in that it uses 10 cards and each of which divine a different aspect of life and creativity. It is a useful spread to see how things are blocked or out of balance.

The positions and their meaning in a reading are:

1. Kether
   The source of the situation, the seed. The highest spiritual root of the event.

2. Chockmah
   How the situation is energised, what is forcing it into play.

3. Binah
   How the situation is structured, what is holding it together.

4. Chesed
   The possibilities for expansion and growth.

5. Geburah
   The necessary controls and constraints on the situation and all within it.

6. Tiphareth
   Where balance and equilibrium may be found, the happy medium.

7. Netzach
   The emotions at play, the habits, natural cycles and routines at work.

8. Hod
   The story of the situation, how it is being made into sense.

9. Yesod
   The foundation of the event and how it is impacting on the personalities.

10. Malkuth
    The manner in which the situation is acting in the world of events.
There are two ways of performing a 12-card Astrological spread, one using the signs of the Zodiac, and the other the Twelve houses.

1. Aries - DOING - what action to take
2. Taurus - STABALIZING - where to find balance
3. Gemini - COMMUNICATING - what can be said
4. Cancer – NUTURING – what must be looked after
5. Leo – CREATING – where joy can be discovered
6. Virgo – ANALYSING – what is really going on
7. Libra – RELATING – how it is with others
8. Scorpio – DESIRING – what is truly wished for
10. Capricorn – BUILDING – what will come to pass
11. Aquarius – LIBERATING – what is outside of the box
12. Pisces – ACCEPTING – the Outcome if nothing changes

Optionally, you can use the Houses:

1. First House – Physical Health, the Body
2. Second House – Possessions & Money
3. Third House – Siblings & Daily Knowledge
4. Fourth House – Father, Parents, Ancestry, Houses & Property
5. Fifth House – Pleasure, parties, children
6. Sixth House – Those who work for you, illness & misfortunes
7. Seventh House – Partners, Open Enemies
8. Eighth House – Legacies, death, partners esteem
9. Ninth House – Spiritual, Religion & Special Journies
10. Tenth House – Authority
11. Eleventh House – Hopes & Wishes
12. Twelfth House – Secret Enemies
In this spread, we consider the nature of a situation and look to divine if it is entirely out of the hands of the Querent. If the cards 4, 8 and 12 in the upper right show a very powerful force, then the situation is out of the hands of the Querent. If the cards are viewed as weak then we look to cards 13, 9 and 5 to show alternative action.

The central cards show the nature of the situation and the personality of the Querent (or oneself) and how they relate in this issue. These are further explored by looking to cards 14, 10 and 6 to show the deeper psychological basis of the event.

1. Querent and Nature of Problem
2. Nature of Situation
3. Personality of Querent
13., 9. & 5. Possibilities of Alternative Action
4., 8., & 12. Direction of Life
6., 10. & 14. Psychological Basis & Implications
7., 11. & 15. Forces beyond Querents Control. Advice.
New Door Career Spread (6 cards)

A nice simple 6-card spread for career and employment questions and situations.

YOU
1. What you gain from your career
2. What you learn from your mistakes
3. What calls most to you and from you

ENVIRONMENT
4. What the present situation holds
5. Where the Door is Open
6. What you can Expect by Taking a Risk
Holistic Cross Spread (9 cards)

1. The nature of the Problem/Pain
2. The Lesson
3. Where it will go
4. Where Comfort can be found
5. What must be put to rest
6. Highest Hope
7. What can change
8. What must be endured
9. The Souls Memory
Conclusion

I hope you find these spreads and keywords useful to take your Tarot out of the box and get reading. I’d be delighted if you shared any of your experiences and readings on my blog and I can perhaps help you get even further insight from your cards.

Don’t forget you’ll be receiving a free weekly “My Tarot Card Meaning” email from me, with new insights to every card – the learning always continues, even after many years!

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