**5 EASY STEPS TO BEGIN YOUR TAROT CARD READINGS**

Reading tarot can feel daunting because of how much you have to memorize and learn. But the good news is that it doesn’t have to be that way – especially when you begin – if you follow these 5 easy steps.

1. **Use just the Major Arcana first**

Start with the Major Arcana cards and progress to the full seventy-eight-card deck when you’re more confident.

The Major Arcana are the prime energies, whereas the Minor Arcana are more incidental influences.

As many minor cards are dilutions of the majors, you won’t be missing out on any vital information by beginning with majors-only readings. The majors will give you or the person you are reading for the essential messages.

1. **Ignore reversed card meanings**

As you’re learning, work with the upright card meanings.

If you get reversed cards, turn them the right way up and focus on your responses to the card in this position.

Some tarot readers use reversals religiously, while others do not – no matter how great their experience and knowledge.

In the end, it’s a matter of preference, so go with what feels right for you.

1. **Read the Suit Cards by their element**

Try this minor arcana shortcut: learn just the meaning of the element of each of the four suits.

For example, Pentacles (or Coins), the Earth element, tells you that security (home and finances, structure and planning) is the focus; Wands, for Fire, reveals talking, creating, and action; Cup cards, of the element Water, ask us to tend to our emotions and relationships; Swords, of the element Air, ask for mental clarity and the need for resolution and clear decisions.

1. **Read the Suit Cards by their numbers**

In numerology, the ancient art of mystical number interpretation, numbers have the following meanings, which correspond to the suit cards:

* Ones (Aces): Beginnings; new energy
* Twos: Partnerships, balance, and division
* Threes: Acknowledgment
* Fours: Stability and boundaries
* Fives: Instability and challenges
* Sixes: Harmony and improvement
* Sevens: Potential and ambitions
* Eights: Rewards and progress
* Nines: Intensity
* Tens: Culmination; endings, but also beginnings; and completion

The numbers are modified by the element of the suit – so the Three of Swords, in the sharp suit of Swords, means sorrow or betrayal (three swords compete against one another), while the Three of Cups, in the loving suit of Cups, means celebration (three people make a happy crowd). Put together the suit element and the number and make your very own interpretation.

1. **Read any card by its colors**

You may be drawn to one or more colors on a card when you are interpreting it. Here’s a general guide to color meanings:

* Red: Energy, passion, and the material world
* Yellow: Consciousness, illumination, and self-expression
* Blue: Truth and clarity
* Green: Nature and growth
* Gray: Neutral; unknown outcomes
* Purple: Intuition and spirituality
* Black: Protection; oppression
* White: Purity and innocence
* Orange: Creativity and impulse