

ASTROLOGY WITHOUT TEARS – The Ascendant: How Do People See You?

There are many facets to Astrology, and most people are aware of their Sun sign. Most of the time though, when you meet someone you are seeing their Rising Sign, or the sign on the Ascendant.

The sign on the Ascendant is the one coming over the horizon ('rising') at the time you were born. The Ascendant defines the personality, what you show to the world. It is on the cusp of the first house in your birth chart, the house of the self, what you show to others, how other people see you.

If you were born between 6 and 8 o'clock in the morning, it is possible you have the same sign on your Ascendant as your Sun sign. That could make balance in your life quite difficult.

Psychologically, the idea is to balance all aspects of your birth chart, especially the Ascendant, Sun and Moon – only then will you be able to fulfil your personal potential.

So ... lets play a game - we'll go through the Ascendant in the signs, and you can guess which one you are. If you already have a chart drawn up, you can see whether it is your Ascendant you show to the world.

Aries Ascendant: When working on the positive, this person is seen as being confident and assertive, striving to be a leader and innovator (eg. pioneering dancer Isadora Duncan). If working on the negative, Aries Ascendant can be aggressive and over-bearing, or it can be the complete opposite – the person needs to learn to be assertive without being aggressive.

Taurus Ascendant: Sometimes you can tell a Taurus Ascendant by a stocky, bull-like appearance. On the positive, this person would be seen as being very practical, loyal and good with money. On the negative, they could be too money-oriented ('I am defined by my material assets'), as well as stubborn and stuck in their ways.

Gemini Ascendant: There are two sides to this placement – the person will either be seen as the intellectual (Gemini rules the intellect), or the social butterfly (Gemini also rules all forms of social interaction and communication). The intellectual should be careful to balance their life by not relying too much on the intellect. The social butterfly should work on the intellect a little more so they don't become too shallow, flitting about without getting anything done!

Cancer Ascendant: This person is seen as the home-maker, the domestic god/goddess, lover of home and family. Most people don't realise that Cancer is also one of the most creative signs. On the positive, this person would be seen as being very warm and caring, motherly and nurturing. On the negative, they could be seen as being a clingy person, holding on to the past and not moving on.

Leo Ascendant: If working on the negative, Leo is very egotistical and attention-seeking – 'see what I have done, look at me!' – since Leo is ruled by the Sun, self-confidence (or lack thereof) is very important. On the positive, Leo is seen as theatrical and loud, generous and kind – many good actors have Leo Ascendants.

Virgo Ascendant: Virgo is an earthy, practical sign. If working on the positive, this person would be seen as a logical, practical problem solver who strives for perfection (eg. writer Virginia Woolf). If negative, they would be seen as a worrier, and someone who criticises and picks on people for their imperfections.

Libra Ascendant: On the positive, this person would be seen as being charming, charismatic, attractive, creative and refined. On the negative, they could be seen as trying to 'keep the peace' in relationships, or being indecisive.

Scorpio Ascendant: This is a very intense Ascendant – if working on the positive, this person is powerful, intense, a deep thinker, and sexually attractive (eg. French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir). On the negative side however, this sign can be nasty, violent and secretive – many serial killers have this placement!

Sagittarius Ascendant: These people are seen as being very easy-going and optimistic – sometimes overly so! On the positive, this person is seen as spiritual, looking for wisdom and truth, especially in nature-based philosophies (eg. author Herman Hesse). On the negative, Sagittarius is seen as being irresponsible, overly-optimistic, and prone to gambling.

Capricorn Ascendant: This is the placement of the businessperson – on the positive side, this person would be seen as being practical, hard-working and ambitious. Their profile in the community would be high due to their professionalism. If working on the negative, this is the sign of the workaholic, or someone for whom prestige and social standing is the only thing that matters. Balance, people!

Aquarius Ascendant: On the positive side, this person is seen as being unconventional, forward-thinking, intellectual, scientific and interested in causes that benefit the community as a whole (eg. Carl Jung). On the negative side, Aquarius Ascendants could see themselves as the underdog, or be so tied up in 'mad professor' type schemes that they don't see the bigger picture.

Pisces Ascendant: There are two very different sides of this Ascendant. If working on the negative, this person would be seen as the victim, the martyr for a cause who puts themselves in this position so others can feel sorry for them, or someone overly dreamy with their head in the clouds. Pisces also rules escapism through drugs and alcohol (or various other addictions). On the other hand, the positive side of Pisces is very spiritual, psychic, capable of deep thought and creativity. When I was learning Astrology, I was taught that a person with this placement was likely to be wearing two different coloured socks, because they were so dreamy they didn't notice!

Did you find yourself in there? Of course, these are very brief descriptions – it's difficult to sum up the flavour of each Ascendant in a couple of sentences. But I hope it has inspired you to research further ...

