

# Learn to Read Tarot With The Tarot House Deck



An easy beginner's guide on how to read tarot

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# Introduction



When you start researching anything about Tarot there is a wealth of information about meanings, readings, symbolism and spreads. There are forums and sites that go into deep and meaningful discussions about symbolism and individual cards. There are schools and courses galore on how to read tarot. Of course there are. Those people that are passionate about tarot will have a perfectly good understanding and experience skill-set under their belt. That's great. But it can be very overwhelming and off putting when considering reading tarot yourself. The mystery that all these other people seem to know of, and be included in, is unattainable for you, you feel.

Please let me reassure you that, despite what is out there to confuse and dispirit you, the truth is that you CAN read tarot cards. Anyone can read tarot cards. **Fact.**

Let's blow out the myth that you need any sort of psychic ability. **You don't.**

Let's blow out the myth that you need qualifications or training. **You don't.**

Let's blow out the myth that your tarot decks should be given to you by someone else. You can buy any deck that appeals to you. And there are hundreds of them.

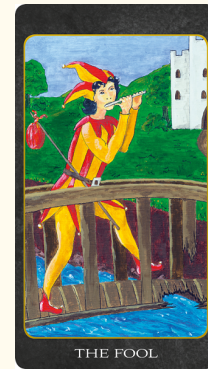
But please do understand that tarot readings can have a powerful affect on yourself and other people. You just need to have an ethical approach. Respect those you read for, and respect the cards themselves. They can be fun to use, but they are not a joke. People will take what they say as set in stone, be careful.

But let's take this simple step first. You've bought yourself a tarot deck, now read on.



## CHAPTER

# 1



Your new deck will be sealed. Open the deck, loosen up the cards and look through the deck at each of the images. The deck will have 22 Major Arcana cards (these cards represent major impact in a reading) and 56 Minor Arcana cards (these cards reflect day to day attitudes and smaller issues).

Think of the tarot deck as a journey starting with The Fool who is naïve and inexperienced starting out, working through the Major Arcana learning lessons along the way, until the final card is reached – The World. The World card represents that we have reached the stage where we have achieved all the skills to make our lives (or project) a success. The Minor Arcana will give us pointers to every day attitudes and behaviours we need to adopt to succeed. The Court Cards (Pages, Knights, Queens and Kings) will indicate people in our lives or demonstrate the need to be like them to achieve what we want.

Each card has a name and a corresponding meaning on the leaflet accompanying the deck. These are short meanings to give you the gist of the card, but this is all you need to know for now.

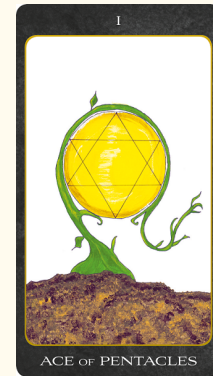
Shuffle the cards very thoroughly as they are printed in order and we want the cards to be chosen at random.

If you wish, you can ask (according to your religious beliefs) for the cards to be cleared of any energies that may affect your reading. This is not necessary, but I believe it engenders respect for your deck anyway. You can also mentally ask that this reading will be from the higher self and not from the ego. But if you are not religious, some people give the cards a sharp knock with the knuckles and this should suffice. Some people don't do any of this, so just trust your instincts on what you want to do.



## CHAPTER

# 2



Let's assume you are doing a reading for yourself to start with. You may want to think of a **specific question** and see what the cards have to say about it. You may just want a reading on your **general situation**.

The best spread to use is the Celtic Cross, at this stage, because it gives a fuller reading. You can use any other spreads for specific details later if you wish.

After shuffling the deck, cut the cards into three piles, mix up and put together again, shuffle again if you wish – it is all about what *you* feel is right.

Spread the cards *face down* in a line in front of you. Use the Celtic Cross spread card to prompt. Pull a card for position 1 thinking 'Situation' as you choose the card and place, *face down*, in the position as the spread card indicates, choose card 2 thinking 'conflict' as you choose and place across the first card as indicated on the spread card, choose card three thinking 'mind' as you choose it then put in the position indicated on the spread card and so on, until all 10 cards have been chosen and placed correctly in the Celtic Cross. All cards should be face down. Turn each card face up starting with position 1, 2, 3 until all the cards are visible.

Read the short meanings for each of the cards starting with card 1 and go through them all, bearing in mind what position they are - situation, conflict, mind, drive etc.

As the meanings come out you should recognise that some of the cards match up with real situations for you, people you might identify with, what your thoughts (mind) are and what your motivation (drive) is. Don't worry if some don't make any sense to you right now, just get the overall feel of whether the cards are reflecting what is going on in your life right now.







## CHAPTER

# 3

Was the reading basically correct? Did it hit the nail on the head in some respects? The answer is likely to be yes. Don't worry if some of the cards don't make any sense in a position just now, it's early days; if you get an *overall* feeling that it makes sense to you then that's great.

If there are one or two cards that you need more validation for, because you don't understand what they are trying to say at all, you can pull another one or two cards from the deck thinking 'what is this card referring to'? It may or may not help but it's fine.

**Congratulations! You have done your first tarot reading.**

Keep doing readings for yourself (little hint: although you can read for yourself as often as you like, you are likely to get pretty confused if you do it too many times). Try asking different questions. But don't overwhelm yourself. Just practice using the cards two or three times a day if you can. Soon the short meanings just won't be enough and you will start craving more information on the cards and their positions. *You are moving on.*

So, now in a reading you want *more* information. If you go to our website [www.simplytarot.com](http://www.simplytarot.com) you can find the in-depth meaning for the card you are looking at. This will take you a little deeper into the reading and the meanings of the cards, you then practice this step a little longer. And don't worry that you have to keep referring to the meanings on the leaflet or the website, this is normal.

It is probably about this time that you may have done the odd reading for a friend or family member. What did they think of it? Were they surprised?

If you continue to read for other people you will get more and more confident in reading tarot, it is now up to you to decide whether you are happy keeping it on a fairly basic level or whether you want more. Read on.



## CHAPTER

# 4



This is going to be a little exercise just to show you how you are developing your tarot skills. Don't worry, I suspect you will be as surprised as I was when I first did this.

It's good to try and write a couple of paragraphs on a reading - or let's call it a blog, it's more fun and light hearted. You are writing this with the intention of getting the meaning of the reading across to *other people* but this is just for your own use.

Shuffle your deck and choose three cards. Read the SHORT meanings for the cards and ponder what they are telling you, look at the images and meanings until thoughts pop into your head. Think how to make this into an interesting read.

Make sure, at the top of the page, you write the names of the three cards you have picked, so that if you, or someone else, reads it later they will know what the cards were. What are the cards making you think of? Some aspect of life that you have had experience of? This reading is not for you, or about you, but try to equate your experience in what you are going to write down. Start the blog with the words (or similar to) 'The cards I have picked today made me think of .....'. Start writing and see where it takes you. Keep looking at the cards occasionally and their meanings and, if you get other ideas shooting at you, try to incorporate that into your narrative (make notes if things crop up that don't seem relevant right now and check up on them as you go along). Make sure it has a beginning, a middle and an ending - what the cards made you think of, what situation/thoughts it brought up, what the cards seem to be telling you how to deal with it. It doesn't matter how many words are in it, but let's say it should be between half a page to three quarters of A4 size. Reread inserting any additional thoughts as you go along. Go over it again checking spelling mistakes and grammar till you feel it reads well. Are you pleased with it? Did it put something across that you wanted to say? Does it seem to portray a story or some advice?

***The cards prompted your intuition.***

Well done!

If you show your writing to someone else and they like it (taking into account they might correct your spelling or something) then you have taken a very important step. The cards are now 'speaking' to you.



## CHAPTER

# 5



So what do you do now?

This very much depends on the level of your confidence, but I suggest you try reading for people you don't really know.

Friends of friends are good to read for, these are people you don't know a whole lot about.

If you are on a social network site, like Facebook, you could offer an online (private through the **message system**) reading to someone you don't know very well - just say you are practicing, you are happy to do a *free* reading but you would value their feedback. If you expose a private reading publicly you will anger/embarrass your client and expose yourself to public criticism if the reading does not hit the mark for that person.

There are sites online that allow you to do free readings - with feedback as pay, please don't skimp on your research, please make sure whichever site you use appears to have a solid reputation.

If you are really confident you could try setting up an Etsy.com shop (which is not expensive) and charge for your readings - BUT be prepared for no feedback, bad feedback or no sales until you get a bit more known.

Perhaps you could have little 'Tarot Parties' and with a small charge for attendance or readings.

At the end of this book there is a list of additional bits and pieces to look through but hopefully you are well on your way to reading Tarot!!





## Vital Pointers

Take tarot reading seriously and don't be flippant!

\*Do not give **online** readings in full view unless it is with the permission of the Sitter.

\*If you don't get feedback on certain readings online (through a shop or as a response to a social feedback offer) don't be dispirited or offended. Let it go. Often people are happy to get a reading and forget the Reader's needs.

\*Don't be disappointed if you don't get good feedback - it might be that you just need more practice. Allow yourself to grow.

\*Don't think you are doing anything 'wrong' - some people just don't want to hear what the tarot is telling them (at the moment). Occasionally you will come across people who are not happy with *anything* and griping is their middle name.

\*A tarot reading covers approximately six months. The outcome may not be known for a while.

\*An 'outcome' is not set in stone. The 'outcome' card will tell what will happen if the Sitter continues to behave in the same way the reading has indicated. If attitudes/behaviours are changed the 'outcome' will change. **MAKE THIS KNOWN TO YOUR SITTERS.**

\*The Death card does NOT mean someone is going to die. It means *something* has ended - a relationship, a situation, a job or an ambition.

\*The tarot is a wonderful guidance tool to help us through the difficulties of life. It is common sense. Remember, we all have free will, if a reading is given with good heart and good will, with love and understanding it is unlikely to have an adverse affect.

\*Try not to read for people who want to know whether their partner is having an affair - you are the person they will blame whether you are right or wrong. Be savvy about who, and what, readings are for.....you need to be as comfortable as the Sitter.

You can read Tarot! Whether you go on to learn other interpretations, join guilds or tarot forums to build on what you've learnt is up to you. Whether you want to pay for a tarot course or buy books on other meanings and other decks is also up to you. *Your* input to the tarot world is as important as anyone else's. There are people to admire with lots of experience and that's wonderful, but don't underestimate your own ability. *Believe in yourself* first and foremost! And have fun.

Love and Light to you and your endeavour.

Patricia x

[www.simplytarot.com](http://www.simplytarot.com)

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