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In astrology, the aspects, the angles (angular relationships) formed between the planets (the Sun, Moon and the eight planets, excluding the Earth) themselves and other points in the horoscope measured by the angular distance in degrees and minutes of ecliptic longitude between two points, as viewed from Earth, are used in establishing how the planets combine to stimulate and moderate each other's influence; thus, foretelling the type of energy generated by the planets in the house which is being occupied and indicating the timing of transitions and developmental changes in the lives of people and affairs relative to the Earth.

The aspects are divided into two categories, the major aspects and minor aspects.

Generally, major aspects are much more powerful than the minor. The more exact that an aspect is the stronger or more dominant it is said to be in shaping character or manifesting change.

Also, only certain angular relationships are considered as aspects, and these are said to possess intrinsic qualities, which are "œharmonic", "œdynamic" or "œneutral". These relationships influence how the planets work together.

Major Aspects

The major aspects are those that can be used to divide 360 evenly and are divisible by 10 (with the exception of the semi-sextile). They are essentially based on the first four harmonics and are in some ways analogous to the experience of the first four signs and houses (from a developmental perspective).

Conjunction. This has an angle of approximately 0-10°. Is said to be the most powerful aspect and combines two planets in a single force, intensifying the effects of the involved planets mutually, yet the conjunction is a major point in the chart and the easiest aspect to note in a chart as the planets are unusually in the same sign, although planets can be conjunct if one planet is at the end of a sign (28 degrees) and the other at the beginning of the next sign (3 degrees).

A conjunction also tends to be a harmonious aspect, with its quality that depends greatly on the planets involved, as well as on how close the aspect is.

Generally, the conjunction is said to showcase an immediate connection which usually works in one way or another. If planets and points form a conjunction, their energies that are united and blended; therefore, they act together. The closer they are to conjunction, the more these combined energies become more subjective.

Planets and points in conjunction don't stand alone and have a difficult time truly acknowledging each other as distinct or separate. In effect, conjunctions can be a blind spot.

Sextile. This is an intermediate major/minor aspect that has an angle of 60° and is a strong harmonious aspect, but less powerful than the trine.

Communicative and relationship-friendly aspects, planets and points in the sextile indicate ease of communication between the two elements involved, with compatibility and harmony between them, but only provides opportunity, requiring effort to gain its benefits.

The sextile is one of the most beneficial aspects as the planets involved are usually in elementally compatible signs to one another. Sextile points to energies that are capable of being directed and reveal the potential for intelligent use of the energies.

Sextile also usually represents opportunity and talents that are well utilized.

Square. This has an angle of 90° and creates friction between planets.

The most potent aspect after the conjunction but less powerful than opposition, planets and points in the square usually show the outer or superior planet that has an effect on the inner or inferior one.

Basically, the square's energy, though similar to that of a trine, is intensified to such an extent that the energy is said to be stressful.

It is said that the square can be difficult; however, if overcome, it would result to things that prove to be quite beneficial in time and with patience.

Trine. The most powerful harmonious aspect, bringing the planets together in an easy combination, the trine usually occurs between signs of the same element (Water, Earth, Air and Fire) as well as between incompatible signs that form an angle of 120° .

A harmonious aspect, the planets involved work together in a complementary fashion, enriching one another. Thus, a trine indicates harmony, and ease of expression, with the two elements reinforcing each other.

The trine is a source of artistic and creative talent, which is innate, showing great natural talent or opportunity when the person is motivated.

Opposition. The second most powerful aspect, opposition has an angle of 180° .

Causing us to swing from one side to the other, oppositions represent a state of divided loyalties, resulting in inner discontent, uncertainty, and insecurity and feeling torn.

Opposition also creates a dynamic and exalted energy between the planets involved. But this is not as clearly negative as for instance the square, but can be indicative of tension, conflict or confrontation with each other, producing difficulties, but increasing the range of possibilities open to the individual. This is due to the polarity between the two signs involved if not channeled constructively.

Minor Aspects

The minor aspects are said to add depth and detail to the general picture.

Quincunx. This aspect has an angle of 150° and is said have moderate but somewhat unpredictable influence, bringing strain.

The quincunx indicates difficulty and stress, which is due to incompatible elements being forced together.

A quincunx can represent an area of self neglect in a person's life (especially health), or obligations being forced on a person.

Thought to be one of the most difficult aspects to work with, a quincunx will not allow for retreat, challenging you to trust your own intuition.

Semi-square. This aspect has an angle of 45° and sometimes known as the octile or semiquartile.

Considered a weaker version of the square, this aspect indicates somewhat difficult circumstance.

A semisquare reveals an area of inflexibility, showing obstacles keeping one from changing and adapting to new or different situations, but it also is teaching persistence and patience.

Sesquiquadrate. This aspect has an angle of 135° and is sometimes called a sesquisquare, square-and-a-half, quartile-and-a-half, and/or trioctile.

Considered having similar in influence to the semisquare, the sesquiquadrate also indicates somewhat stressful conditions. However, unlike the square, which eventually brings solutions through practical experience, the sesquiquadrates often point to issues, problems and energies that are irresolvable, and that we must learn to live with and cope with.

Semi-sextile. This aspect has an angle of 30°

The basis of all the major aspects aside from the conjunction and the quintile, this aspect signifies a moderate rapport with the involved planets, where both support the cause of the other but might not have enough of a realistic understanding of that same cause to contribute much.

Quintile. This aspect has an angle of 72° .

The quintile is considered somewhat similar to a semisextile that is moderately beneficial, but effort is not needed to reap its benefits.

Linked to great creativity, and, being a 5th harmonic, also to a need for freedom and change, Quintiles indicate talent and vaguely fortunate circumstances.

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[Jackson Swift](#) - About Author:

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