

2016 On a Page

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Janet's
Plan-its™



Dates based on North American time zones. May differ from calendars using Greenwich Mean Time.

AR	Aries
TA	Taurus
GE	Gemini
CN	Cancer
LE	Leo
VI	Virgo
LI	Libra
SC	Scorpio
SG	Sagittarius
CP	Capricorn
AQ	Aquarius
PI	Pisces

RETROGRADE MOTION

As we spin, the signs along the zodiac belt and the planets appear to move east to west hour by hour. But over time, the planets move through the signs west to east. The Moon takes two to three days to traverse a sign while Pluto takes over a decade! Each planet (other than the Sun or Moon) appears to stop and reverse its direction from time to time. This is an optical illusion called "Retrograde" motion. Later, it stops a second time and resumes forward (Direct) motion. It hangs out longer at the degrees of these stopping points, called "stations." When that planet, or even another planet, later makes connections ("aspects") to the station degrees, issues that emerged during that Retrograde period are re-visited. Matters associated with the planet are more difficult during the Retrograde phase and are more intense for a few days around the stations.

Planets move through the Retrograde range three times. First they proceed forward through the range of degrees where the backtracking will occur. This is called the entry "shadow" (shaded on the graph). Next, they back up over that degree range in the Retrograde portion of the cycle (marked in black on the graph). Finally, they go forward again through the backtracking range in the exit "shadow" (shaded). Related events can occur during these three phases. We don't feel the effect of the shadows as much as we do the Retrograde itself, but we often sense the slow-down at the stations.

Many people notice the Retrograde of Mercury since it's linked to mix-ups in all forms of communication and local transportation. Anything begun then (or in the entry shadow) is subject to mistakes or revisions. A safer time for contracts, major decisions or beginning new activities is when Mercury is not in the entry shadow or Retrograde. There's less likelihood for revision later for activities initiated during the exit shadow.

Looking at the 2016 Retrograde graph, you can see there is usually one planet (or more) in Retrograde motion. Shadows are always in progress (which is typical). Times of "least resistance" are when no heavenly bodies are Retrograde

(which doesn't happen in 2016) or only one is Retrograde: 12/26/15 - 1/4/16 and 1/26 - 3/24. Two are Retrograde 1/5 - 1/6, 1/10 - 1/25, 3/25 - 4/16, 12/10 - 12/18 and 12/30/16 - 1/8/17. At all other times, three or more are Retrograde. The more that are Retrograde, the more progress is impeded. The highest numbers are seven 8/31 - 9/22 and six: 7/29 - 8/13, 8/30 and 9/23 - 9/26. (These numbers include Eris, not shown on the bar chart.)

MOON GROOVES

From September 2015 through April 2016, New Moons occur around 19° of the signs and Full Moons are around 3° of the signs (within one degree). In the next groove, New Moons occur near 7° of the signs and Full Moons are near 22° of the signs (within one degree) from October 2016 through April 2017.

New Moons occur within one degree of 0° of the signs from September 2014 through March 2015. Full Moons are within one degree of 14° from October 2014 through May 2015. In the next groove, New Moons occur within one degree of 19° of the signs from September 2015 through April 2016 and Full Moons are within one degree of 3° from September 2015 through April 2016.

If you have a planet in your birth chart at a moon groove degree, it receives extra attention during a groove period. If it's accentuated by New Moons, take new action in the area of your life represented by that planet. If Full Moons spotlight your natal planet, matters culminate in a big way over several months regarding the affairs of that planet. In interpreting effects, consider your birth planet's sign, house and aspects. If a New or Full Moon is on your birthday, that's important! If it falls within the period of a moon groove, the emphasis will likely affect you throughout the entire moon groove time frame.

Learn more about Retrogrades and Moon Cycles in Janet's Plan-its astrology calendars.

● New Moon ○ Full Moon (E) Eclipse B Shadow begins R Retrograde D Direct E Shadow ends

