

# 2024 Janet's Plan-its™ On a Page

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

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## RETROGRADE MOTION

As the earth spins, 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 Neptune and Pluto take 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 a Retrograde and more intense at 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, but may sense a slow-down at stations.

Many people keep an eye out for [Mercury Retrograde](#) 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 in the clear between Retrograde cycles or at least in the exit shadow, when there's less likelihood for revision later.

Times of "least resistance" are when the fewest heavenly bodies travel backward. The higher the number backtracking, the more that progress is impeded. The first half of 2024 has two or fewer planets in reverse, and within this stretch, no planets are retrograde from 1/28 to 3/31. Beginning 6/29, there are always three or more planets retrograde. The most difficult time is 8/5 to 8/26, when seven planets are in reverse, as is the case briefly 10/9 to 10/11 and 12/6 to 12/8. (Although not shown on the chart, these numbers include Eris.)

Planetary stations are hard enough on their own and even more challenging when they happen nearly simultaneously. Three times, two occur only two days apart: Ceres 8/26 and Mercury 8/28; Jupiter 10/9 and Pluto 10/11; and Mars 12/6 and Neptune 12/8. Stations near a New or Full Moon have extra impact, such as Eris at the 1/11 New Moon and 7/21 Full Moon, Mercury near the 8/4 New Moon, Uranus near the 9/2 New Moon, Saturn at the 11/15 Full Moon, Mercury at the 12/15 Full Moon and Chiron near the 12/30 New Moon. It's best to avoid major decisions and actions around any of these times.

See if any station degree makes a strong connection to your chart (within 2° of being exact). In that case, the entire Retrograde cycle, including shadows, presents challenges for the part of your life related to the affected item(s) in your chart. The impact is most noticeable a few days around the stations. The Retrograde planet simulates the matters of the house the contacted natal planet occupies and any house where it rules the sign on the cusp.

## MOON GROOVES

For about six months from each autumn to the next spring, New and Full Moon degrees repeat, shifting through consecutive signs. (I coined the term "moon groove" for this phenomenon.) For the next six months or so, the degree of each New and Full Moon decreases 1-2° per month until another groove ensues. Such an emphasis extends the usual influence of New and Full Moons.

New Moons occur within one degree of 20° of the signs from October 2023 through March 2024. Full Moons during the same time frame are within one degree of 5°. In the next groove, from October 2024 through March 2025, New Moons occur within one degree of 9° of the signs and Full Moons are within one degree of 24°.

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, do something new 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 falls on your birthday, that's significant, even more so if it's within the period of a moon groove.

For keywords describing planets, signs and aspects, see my handy "[Astrologer's Apprentice Cheat Sheet](#)."

