

The Stellium Handbook

An Owner's Manual For People With Stelliums Or Triple Conjunctions

Part Two of Two



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About the Author: Donna Cunningham is an award-winning astrologer with a Master's Degree in Social Work, over 40 years experience as a professional astrologer, and a solid background in flower essences and other healing tools. Donna is the internationally-known author of 15 well-received astrology books, 20 years of advice columns for *Dell Horoscope*, and thousands of astrology articles. Born in 1942, she has over 70 years of hands-on experience in managing her own Gemini stellium. She has written the only known reference works on stelliums—*The Stellium Handbook* and the no longer available companion workbook, *The Stellium Tool Kit*.

This book is dedicated to my beloved friend, Lynne Herlacher, for understanding and enjoying every part of me, including the bitchy ones, and for 20 years of laughter, heart to heart talks, and companionship on the spiritual path.

Thanks are due to much loved and admired colleagues who have passed on, yet who continue to influence my work after all these years: Isabel Hickey, Betty Lundsted, and a German astrologer of the 1920s-30s known only as Gretel.

Thanks are also due to my editors for years of support and excellent editing: Tem Tarrikter and Nan Geary of *The Mountain Astrologer* and *Dell Horoscope's* Editors, Ronnie Grishman and Ed Kajkowski.

Donna's Books that Are Useful in Studying Stelliums The Outer Planet Trilogy of Ebooks \$15 each, 3/\$35.

The Outer Planets and Inner Life, v.1: Outer Planets as Vocational Indicators. Chapters on the effects of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto on career choices and challenges.

The Outer Planets and Inner Life, v. 2: Outer Planet Aspects to Venus and Mars. Effects of the outer planets on relationship patterns.

The Outer Planets and Inner Life, v.3: Aspects between the Outer Planets. Chapters on these aspects: Saturn-Uranus; Saturn-Neptune; Saturn-Pluto; Uranus-Neptune; and Uranus-Pluto.

To order these books, go to PayPal.com and tell them which books you want, the amount you want to send, and this email address: moonmave@spiritone.com. You'll receive the books from Donna as email attachments.

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Chapter 9: Your Stellium Worksheet and Planetary Strength Tests

We've now gone through the stages of analyzing the sign, house, and planets in your stellium. If you've copied and pasted the self-help tests that apply to you into a separate file, then you already have all but one of the pieces you need for a self-inventory worksheet.

The feature you haven't met up to now, but will in this chapter, are my Planetary Strength Tests. They create a numerical value for each planet in your chart so you can gauge which ones are most influential. **Points awarded for various features aren't an exact measurement**, but are based on more than 40 years of observing how clients' lives are reflected in their charts.

Shown on the next page is a sample worksheet, and following that is a blank template to use in **creating your own worksheet**. It's a way to arrange stellium pieces in a concise, visual fashion. (If you're not that knowledgeable about computers, I can supply names of some astrologers who'd create your worksheet for a reasonable fee.)

Used regularly, this tool can be a great boost for learning to use your stellium well. It would help you make the most of its gifts and potentials.

Self-awareness helps avoid self-sabotage and costly mistakes that arise from undesirable expressions of the planets and signs in the combination. Consider both the positive and the difficult traits listed on each self-help test. Keep track of the ones that apply to you by highlighting or circling them, just as you've done for self-tests in previous chapters.

Download a file with all the necessary tables: [Stellium worksheet d—all tables needed plus template](#). **Here are the pieces to paste into the template two pages from here:**

- The self-test for your stellium's sign, copied from the file.
- The self-test for your stellium's house, copied from file.
- If your stellium includes more than one sign or house, copy and paste the two that apply.
- Copy and paste self-tests for your stellium planets from the file. Make sure to paste those strips onto the worksheet in zodiac order, just as they appear in your chart.
- The scores refer to the Planetary Strength Tests in the Appendix. More about that later.

As you'll learn in Chapter 10, **putting the self-tests for your stellium planets in zodiac order reveals quite a tale** about your response to new situations, events, and people in the areas of life the stellium affects. It helps you learn from **repeated patterns that can become a story arc**.

If you're doing a worksheet for someone with a Capricorn stellium from 1988-9, the sample worksheet on the next page can serve as a template. The strips with the sign and the order of the Uranus-Saturn-Neptune conjunction are the same for all births those years. Change the house position, delete Mars and the Sun, and add any additional Capricorn planets.

When you score your worksheet, avoid judging and blaming yourself for the less desirable traits or feeling inadequate if you're not strong yet on some of the positive ones.

Nobody with a stellium can juggle all those different energies perfectly. Remember, this is a lifetime learning curve rather than a four-year university degree. However, the insight we gain from regular self-evaluation is a boost to growth. As time goes on, it helps us learn from our mistakes and become more and more successful in our missions.

A Sample Self-Help Worksheet for a Capricorn Stellium Individual

Date: / / Highlight Colors: **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Depends Who You Ask**

Capricorn: ruled by Saturn, similar to the 10th, Cardinal Earth sign.

Interests: career, accomplishments, status, management, history, perfection, propriety.

Roles: planner, supervisor, authority, parent, troubleshooter, organizer, manager, mentor.

Constructive traits: hard working, able to delay gratification, businesslike, serious, realistic, disciplined, organized, reliable, responsible, high standards, foresightful, cautious, resourceful.

Difficult Traits: bossy, conservative, stuck in the past, rigid, over-ambitious, insecure, anxious, unimaginative, opportunistic, inhibited, snobbish, skeptical, pessimistic, gloomy, workaholic.

House: Highlight Colors: **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Maybe Some Other Time**

Eleventh: Friendship; how you fit in with your peers; group and organization membership; networking, astrology; social causes; aspirations. **Issues to Work on:** Problems with peers; how important friends are and what role they play in your life. When this house is strong, person may be concerned with social causes and getting involved in causes may be healing. **People**

Represented: Friends, associates, members of your peer group, your social circle. Respected colleagues. Members of groups and organizations you join. Social activists.

Highlight Colors: **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Depends Who You Ask**

URANUS: Sign: Capricorn Degree: 3 House: 11 Score: 40	Uranus's roles: inventor, scientist, tech support, trendsetter, maverick, activist, adolescent. Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.
SATURN: Sign: Capricorn Degree: 5 House: 11 Score: 50	Saturn's roles: planner, supervisor, parent, troubleshooter, organizer, manager, authority. Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, prudent, structured, reliable, responsible, painstaking, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, cold, unimaginative, demanding, authoritarian, stern, conservative, stingy.
NEPTUNE: Sign: Capricorn Degree: 7 House: 11 Score: 32	Neptune's roles: spiritual seeker, dreamer, visionary, poet, artist, dedicated helper, martyr. Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, devoted, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.
SUN: Sign: Capricorn Degree: 7 House: 11 Score: 36	The Sun's roles: shining star, King or Queen, golden girl or boy, center of action. Constructive traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, selfish, narcissistic, melodramatic.
MARS: Sign: Capricorn Degree: 7 House: 11 Score: 29	Mars' roles: leader, explorer, warrior, advocate, athlete, bully, competitor, initiator, pioneer. Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others' needs and wants, driven.

Stellium Worksheet Template

Name: _____ **Birth Data:** _____
Date: / / **Highlight Colors:** **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Depends Who You Ask**

Stellium Sign: *(If 2 signs are involved, make 2 strips.)*

Constructive traits:

Difficult Traits:

House: **Highlight Colors:** **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Maybe Some Other Time**

Stellium House: *(If 2 houses are involved, make 2 strips.)*

Matters of the House:

Issues to work with:

People or Roles Involved:

Planets: **Highlight Colors:** **Often** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never** **Depends Who You Ask**

Planet: Sign: Degree: House: Score:	Planet's roles: <i>LIST THE PLANETS IN DEGREE ORDER.</i> Constructive traits: Difficult Traits:
Planet: Sign: Degree: House: Score:	Planet's roles: Constructive traits: Difficult Traits:
Planet: Sign: Degree: House: Score:	Planet's roles: Constructive traits: Difficult Traits:
Planet: Sign: Degree: House: Score:	Planet's roles: Constructive traits: Difficult Traits:
Planet: Sign: Degree: House: Score:	Planet's roles: Constructive traits: Difficult Traits: <i>(If more than 5 planets are involved, copy and paste more strips.)</i>

Tests to Measure your Stellium Planets' Relative Strength

Looking at the strips for the individual planets on the sample worksheet, there's a note at the bottom of each box that says something like "**Score: 29**". It refers to the score on my **Tests for Planetary Strength** that appear in the Appendix in Part 2 of this ebook.

A perennial favorite on my blog, Skywriter, the tests are a way to learn which planets in your chart are strongest. They let you know which are the most highlighted—and most influential parts of your personality—and which are relatively low key. For our purposes here, you can just do the tests for your stellium planets.

The planetary strengths tests create number values for each planet, by scoring features like having the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven in that planet's sign or the associated house or having many aspects between that planet and others.

Recall that the planets have related houses and signs. For instance, Scorpio is related to the 8th house and Pluto; Sagittarius is related to the 9th and Jupiter; and so on. In finding the scores, the tests tell you how many points to add for chart features associated with that planet.

Suppose your stellium is in Scorpio, you have several planets in the 8th, and Pluto in Scorpio is part of the group. Pluto might well earn the highest score. **It could even be the dominant factor**—something I call the Alpha Dog planet. As you'll learn in the next chapter, managing that planet well is a key to making the best of a stellium.

Don't worry, astrology students; it's simple arithmetic, and the directions are quite clear. **Can you evaluate the planets in your combo without doing the math?** Sure, and the sections for your stellium planets in Chapters 7 or 8 list several ways they gain strength and importance. The numerical totals do help you determine which of two strong planets is Alpha and which planets in the combination are the least influential, so they're worth doing.

Beginners: For the scores, you'd need to be at least an intermediate to advanced astrology student, and it's too advanced a topic to deal with in this book, so most likely you'll need help.

While the scores aren't absolutely necessary, at some point, you might want to know which stellium planets are strongest. **The table on the next page can help.** Or, perhaps you know someone who would do them for you—though the calculations can take quite a while—or perhaps you'll find an astrologer or astrology student who needs some of your own particular skills and would do a trade. Or, ask me for names of astrologers who'll do it for a reasonable fee.

Your Dominant Planets and What They Tell about You

Read the descriptions given below of your highest scoring planets to see which ones you identify with most. As you'll learn a bit later, the stellium planet with the earliest zodiac degree is known as the **Lead Planet** and is a very strong influence.

In using the table below to rate your stellium planets, recall what I said earlier about not agreeing with all the traditional house/sign/planet associations, such as Aries and Mars for the 1st and Venus for Taurus and the 2nd.

Sun Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Leo: # of stellium planets in the 5 th : Is the Sun part of the stellium? Is the Sun the lead planet in the stellium?	Moon Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Cancer: # of stellium planets in the 4 th : Is the Moon part of the stellium? Is the Moon the lead planet in the stellium?
Mercury Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Gemini or Virgo: # of stellium planets in the 3 rd or 6 th : Is Mercury part of the stellium? Is Mercury the lead planet in the stellium?	Venus Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Libra: # of the stellium planets in the 7 th : Is Venus part of the stellium? Is Venus the lead planet in the stellium?
Mars Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Aries: # of stellium planets in the 1 st : Is Mars part of the stellium? Is Mars the lead planet in the stellium?	Jupiter Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Sagittarius: # of stellium planets in the 9 th : Is Jupiter part of the stellium? Is Jupiter the lead planet in the stellium?
Saturn Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Capricorn: # of stellium planets in the 10 th : Is Saturn part of the stellium: Is Saturn the lead planet in the stellium?	Uranus Dominant: Score on the planetary strength test: # of stellium planets in Aquarius: # of stellium planets in the 11 th : Is Uranus part of the stellium: Is Uranus the lead planet in the stellium?
Neptune Dominant: Score on the planetary test: # of stellium planets in Pisces: # of stellium planets in the 12 th : Is Neptune part of the stellium? Is Neptune the lead planet in the stellium?	Pluto Dominant: Score on the planetary test: # of stellium planets in Scorpio: # of stellium planets in the 8 th : Is Pluto part of the stellium? Is Pluto the lead planet in the stellium?

Sun Dominant: if the Sun is part of your stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or the stellium is in Leo, you're a Solar type. You're likely to have a strong presence and be bigger than life. Depending on the sign and other planets in the mix, activities of the stellium house may be ways of refining your self-concept, identity, self-expression, self-worth, and self-confidence.

Moon Dominant: if the Moon is part of your stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet in the stellium, or is in the sign Cancer or the 4th house, then you're a lunar type. Depending on the sign and other planets in the combination, there can be a major focus on nurturing the self and others, the home and family, women, and the emotions. You can be overly invested in the past and family issues, and there may be many emotional ups and downs. You're likely to create a family of choice around you in the course of fulfilling your mission.

Mercury Dominant: if Mercury is part of stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or the stellium is in Gemini or Virgo, or the 3rd or 6th house, then you're a mercurial type. You may excel at communication, learning, thinking, writing, or manual dexterity. Depending on the sign and other planets in the stellium, the mission can focus on communication and forming a network of connected individuals.

Venus Dominant: if Venus is part of the stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or if the stellium is in Libra or the 7th, then you're a Venusian type. Depending on the sign and other

planets in the combination, the mission can focus on relating--loving, sharing, and intimacy; making yourself and your surroundings beautiful and harmonious.

Mars Dominant: if Mars is part of the mix, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or if the stellium is in Aries, then you're a martial type. Depending on the sign and other planets in stellium, there can be a focus on self-assertion, anger, competition, right use of energy, sexual desire, initiative, and the extent to which we are able to tolerate frustration.

Jupiter Dominant: Jupiter is part of the combination, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet or if the stellium is in Sagittarius or the 9th, then you're a Jupiterian type. Depending on the sign and other planets in the mix, the mission can focus on a desire for growth and expansion, to explore life and our world to its fullest and the wish to seek wisdom and transmit it to others.

Saturn Dominant: if Saturn is part of the stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet or the stellium is in Capricorn or the 10th house, then you're a Saturnian type. Depending on the sign and other planets in the group, the mission can focus on structure, discipline, and a desire for quality and accomplishment.

Uranus Dominant: if Uranus is part of the stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or the combination is in Aquarius or the 11th, then you're a Uranian type. Depending on the sign and other planets involved, the mission can focus on finding your uniqueness and where you fit into groups, or on being part of a community and becoming your own authority.

Neptune Dominant: if Neptune is part of the stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or if the stellium is in Pisces or the 12th, then you're a Neptunian type and may be known for your service, psychic abilities, creativity, compassion, or spirituality. Depending on the sign and other planets in the mix, the mission can focus on the desire to transcend the self and surrender to something greater, seeing beyond apparent reality to the higher realms.

Pluto Dominant: if Pluto is part of the stellium, is the highest scoring or Lead Planet, or if the combination is in Scorpio or the 8th, then you're a Plutonian type. Depending on the sign and other planets in the mix, the mission can focus on power and control, trust, analyzing what lies beneath the surface and eliminating the undesirable, feeling and dealing with separateness, and bringing healing and transformation to yourself and others.

In the next chapter, we'll be talking about the Alpha Dog planet and the role it plays in the stellium. Your dominant planet is likely to be the Alpha.

Chapter 10—Discovering your Story Arc and Cast of Characters

A **story arc** is an extended or continuing storyline. If you're juggling the complex mixture of planets in a stellium or triple conjunction, your life story isn't the same as most people's you know, though the broad outlines might be similar. What makes you unique is the cast of recurring characters—or their types—and the repeated story arcs.

In this chapter, you'll explore the story that keeps replaying itself and that cast of characters. It may have minor variations but so often works out the same as the last few times. Later, we'll look at how transits trigger those episodes and at windows to change how they play out.

Why Finding and Managing the Alpha Dog Planet is Important

One major aid to making the most of a stellium or triple conjunction is figuring out which planet is something I call the Alpha Dog. Among canines, the Alpha is the leader of the pack, strongest male, and first to have access to food or females. Transferring that principle to stelliums, the part of your being that the Alpha planet represents is strongest and dominates the action.

Why would it be important to identify that part of you? Dog trainers know that if they want a well-behaved pack, they need to identify the Alpha, and then manage that animal properly. I believe the same is true of the Alpha planet in stelliums. The secret to managing these combinations is discovering the dominant planet and the part of you that planet describes. Like the Alpha dog in a pack, it's going to run the show, and if Alphie isn't happy, nobody's happy.

(Astrology students: the same principles apply to other major chart groupings like T-squares, Grand Trines, Grand Crosses, and Yods.)

When a new situation arises, notice which planet has the strongest, most immediate response. Don't be fooled by drama. Neptune doesn't yell and flex its muscles, but it can bring the action to a halt by raising a thick fog or going on a drinking binge. It's characterized by extreme psychic sensitivity and fuzzy boundaries. If Neptune is the Alpha Dog, it may well have fleas!

You may conclude that a planet acts as Alpha because you identify strongly with its qualities and use them most in your day-to-day routines. Just because you're in your comfort zone, however, doesn't make that part of you Alpha. In fact, I'd be suspicious, because often the very qualities that make you stretch are the ones most crucial to your development as a person. A pit bull part of you that Pluto symbolizes is more likely to be top dog than a lightweight Chihuahua like Mercury. That makes Venus a French poodle and Saturn a bulldog.

The Planetary Strength Tests can help you tell which stellium planets are strongest. Those tests may help you identify a possible dominant planet, but here are **some additional factors that determine which stellium planet is Alpha**:

- **The lead planet** (first in zodiac order) in the group has a key function, but the last planet is probably not going to be Alpha—by that time, the party is over and you need a cleanup crew.
- A planet that is part of a **triple conjunction** is strengthened.
- A **planet conjunct the Sun, Moon, Midheaven, or Ascendant** or ruling their sign is major.

- Often one of the **planets ranking highest on the Planetary Scores** tests is Alpha.
- An outer planet—Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto—is more likely to dominate, especially if the test score is one of the highest.
- If the two highest scoring planets are close in their results, but one is an outer planet, that one is more likely to assume the Alpha role.
- **Bottom line, suspect the planet that's the most gifted but also the most trouble.**

Astrology lovers, to help you come to a conclusion about your Alpha, follow the current (transiting) position of Moon and inner planets around your chart. Observe how you respond as they cross one planet after another in the stellium. Slowly, you'll get a sense of what part of you each natal planet represents. Notice how each feels when it's activated. Which has the strongest response? Keeping a journal of events, situations, and emotions that arise under various astrological conditions helps you track patterns.

You'll come to a preliminary conclusion about which part is Alpha after months of watching these planets orbit around your chart. Then verify your conclusion by monitoring it over time.

Keeping your Alpha Dog Planet Happy

To get the best results from the Alpha planet, ponder the ways you're expressing its qualities, as shown in the self-tests for how well you use the planets. Also, note —maybe in a journal—how, when, and under what circumstances it is triggered. **Here are hints for understanding and managing the Alpha Dog:**

- Study its basic nature, as described in Chapter 7 or 8. Also read what other astrology authors have written about it and look it up on the internet. (Not everything you read will be true!)
- As explained in Chapter 9, create a Stellium Worksheet and use it regularly. Pay particular attention to how well the Alpha is operating.
- Consider what plusses and minuses the Alpha's qualities can bring to the mission. In what situations could they be a good thing, and when could they be a challenge?
- Observe the ways its qualities are currently expressed in your life, as well as how, when, and under what circumstances it's triggered into the more difficult patterns listed on the test.
- Regularly conduct an inner dialogue with the part of you that planet symbolizes about what it wants and needs. Then create more opportunities to have those things.
- If you're an astrology student or professional, use the tips later in this chapter to track and analyze past transits from Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. They'll help you learn more about how your story arc unfolds under pressure.

Figuring out what makes the Alpha planet happy, and then making space for that to happen is a major strategy for a smoother life. If you want something out of one of the other planets in the pack, give Alphie a chew toy to keep him occupied—such as the kinds of tune-ups suggested in the sections of Chapters 7 and 8 that talk about what the planets want.

As an example, Mercury is tied with Uranus for my own Alpha planet, but Mercury is easy. Practically any chew toy will do, so long as it's something interesting—like a hot-off-the-press

book by a favorite author or browsing through the brainy but entertaining magazines on Starbuck's newsstand.

Of the two, the rebel/maverick part of you that Uranus portrays is far more difficult to please. If it's the Alpha or even just the lead planet, you'll have your hands full. Even if it's not the Alpha, you might be advised to occasionally let it think it is. Otherwise, it gets cranky and may pee on the boss's shoes or lick its behind at the most inopportune movements. Bottom line, it's not going to play nice, especially if you're pressuring it to conform.

Recently, after months of overwork, my inner Uranus became severely frustrated with its lack of freedom. When I asked what would make it feel better, it had one word for me: iPad! Uranus's chew toys can be costly, but you don't want to live through one of its meltdowns!

If the Moon is Alpha, have your tissues ready and be prepared to do lots of handholding and nurturing. That part of you needs to feel safe and secure, so it responds to lots of tasty, nourishing food and sprucing up the doghouse. It's comforted by things that remind it of the place that felt most like HOME, such as calling loved ones from the past, looking through a picture album, or making a scrapbook. It might be as simple as baking cookies from Mom's best recipe.

If Saturn is Alpha and is anxious or overworking, here are some things you can do to soothe that part of you. Organize your workspace; make a detailed plan for accomplishing something you need to do; read *Getting Things Done*, by David Allen and join his online network; or—as you'll learn to do in Chapter 14—take a goal setting approach to your projects, with specific, do-able steps, deadlines and rewards.

Remember, don't focus on Alphie to the exclusion of the rest of the combination. It's important to understand what those other parts of you want and are trying to achieve. Each has a valid role to play in your well-being and success in the things that matter to you. Sometimes what one part wants seems at odds with what others want, but it's important that each has its chance to be heard.

Don't suppress any of them, but take turns so that the needs of each part get your attention and support. When one part is fretful and starts acting up, have a dialogue with it to find out what's wrong and what you could do to make it feel better. (For tips on managing all the planets, see the tune-ups in Chapters 7 and 8.)

Who else is in Alphie's Pack?

Like any pack of canines, your stellium is bound to involve a variety of players, as represented by the other planets in the mix. If you're committed to your mission, you're likely to gather likeminded people around you to fill those roles. Below are some typical members.

Don't forget, however, that the planets also represent parts of yourself and roles that you may come to fill in living out your mission over the years.

Lead dog: As we'll explore later, this is the first responder or guard dog. The first planet in your stellium is automatically the lead dog, though not necessarily the Alpha.

The Man in the Middle: As we'll see, the middle planet in a triple or multiple conjunction represents parts of you that may be ignored amid stellium activities and thus that can act up.

The Lieutenant or Enforcer: Alphie's right-hand man, who keeps the action going in the mission, watches Alphie's back, and makes sure the other members stay in line. It may be represented by Mars or Saturn, and might be Alphie's biggest rival for the position of Alpha Dog.

The Alpha Female: With any luck, the pack contains a strong feminine influence that sees to Alphie's needs and the well-being of others in the pack. It could be the part symbolized by the Moon or Venus, possibly Saturn, but hopefully not Neptune or Pluto. Neptune would portray a dysfunctional, disorganized, codependent Alpha Female, and Pluto would show the power behind the throne, exercising control by manipulation.

The Messenger/Harmonizer: An able mediator between members, this person keeps everyone informed and works toward cooperation and harmony. It may be shown by Mercury or Venus.

Wise Elders: Largely past having any ambitions of their own, they nonetheless bring experience and wisdom to group members and the mission. They can be represented by Saturn or Jupiter.

Lone Wolf: This is a planet that stands many degrees apart from others in that sign or house, and so isn't part of a conjunction. If that part of you feels isolated or unappreciated, the skills and knowledge it offers might not be utilized for the mission, so keep in touch with it and make sure it gets a chance to shine. Otherwise, if it's a difficult planet, it might become a loose cannon, acting out an agenda of its own that may be counterproductive to the mission.

About this type of planet, Ellen Longo of Astro4Busines.com, made an astute observation: "Those planets remind me of the angry fairy godmother in *Sleeping Beauty*, the forgotten one that caused all the trouble while everyone was oohing and ahing over the baby. Perhaps these parts of ourselves make more trouble because they feel left out!"

Last Dog: Important because it brings up the rear. Whether it's conjunct earlier planets or not, this part of you is the last to be affected by a long series of transits. Its job is to digest and integrate what you've learned during the course of the transits. It's in charge of tying up loose ends on any effort that affects the direction and success of the mission

Best in Show: At American Kennel Club dog shows, one dog that is the most outstanding and performs best out of all the categories is designated Best in Show. As you take the tests for how well you're using your stellium planets, notice which part of you is doing the best job and might be contributing the most to the mission.

You might even call it your saving grace. Study the descriptions of the planets to see what part it represents, and then capitalize on its gifts. Don't take it for granted when you're handing out rewards. Give it some TLC and a note of appreciation.

Let's suppose Saturn is part of your combination. The old-school perspectives on this planet may discourage you, because it's portrayed as bringing delays, hardships, and setbacks. No doubt, you'd find it hard to imagine that part of you as saving grace, but I assure you it can be.

As you mature and apply yourself to your mission in a disciplined, businesslike, and responsible manner, you may find yourself growing surprisingly fond of your Inner Saturn. Used consciously and well, it lends an impeccable sense of timing to the work. Over the years, honest, focused, efforts that aim for excellence pay off in solid achievements.

Understanding the Sequence of Planets in the Stellium

Why Understanding the Story Arc is an Important Tool for Growth: Reliving the past may sound like a nostalgic trip down memory lane—or a bad nightmare—but noticing themes and coming to understand why they happen spurs growth in using a stellium well. When you perceive how your desires, wishful thinking, beliefs, and self-defeating behaviors set you up for an unhappy experience, you're less likely to let it happen again under new transits.

On the other hand, knowing how to use the positive potentials represented by that same series of planets can help you make better, more conscious choices. Analyzing things you did right and consciously repeating those strategies is as important as learning from your mistakes. By identifying times you used that series to achieve something worthwhile, you can use the transit tracker to find future intervals for progress.

The timing of new events and conditions in areas of life signified by the house placement is shown by transits from the slower-moving planets (Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) to the planets in the mix. You'll learn more about transiting planets later in this chapter.

As a transit touches on one planet after another in sequence, it portrays a series of events and developments related to the house, planets, and signs in the combination. The order of natal planets sets up a recurring story arc—for better or for worse. What happens during transits to planets earlier in the combination set the tone for later ones. Therefore, how you master the challenges signified by the first several aspects affects the outcome of later ones.

Transiting planets affect the same degrees repeatedly due to the apparent *direct* and *retrograde* motion of transiting planets¹. The Transit Tracker seen later will help you narrow down crucial periods. Typically, Saturn aspects a natal planet for about eight months, while transits from slow-moving Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto last several years.

The sequence unfolds repeatedly in one lifetime during various transits to a stellium. This pattern often becomes a theme. The players involved may be the same each time, or they may look different on the outside—like characters in a play wearing a mask. Unless you've learned new ways of relating in the meantime, the relationships can still turn out the same way.

Taking responsibility for your part in the situation—even if it's passive acceptance of mistreatment—is a key to getting on a better track. Blaming others rather than looking at your own contribution won't change anything; it just fixates you in the pattern and adds more layers of frustration and unhappiness.

Even if the scenery and props are different, the feelings, urges, and events involved are often eerily similar. When this happens, compare the current situation with former events, and you'll start to see connections. If you recognize compulsive, self-destructive behaviors, seek out healing tools to change the pattern. You'll find healing tools throughout the books, but the final chapter is a summary of useful and free or inexpensive ones.

¹ As noted earlier, the Sun's annual cycle includes periods when individual planets appear to be moving backward in their orbits. During those periods, they're said to be retrograde.

Why the First, Middle, and Last Planets in the Combination are Crucial²

All stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and so do all stelliums. Perhaps the most crucial pieces of a stellium are the first planet—known as the **lead planet**—and the last one. The **lead planet** is the one in the earliest degree of the zodiac. In a stellium with Mars at 4° Cancer, Jupiter at 8° Cancer, Moon at 9°, and Uranus at 10°, Mars is the lead planet and Uranus is the last.

If a mixed sign stellium contains planets at 28° Sagittarius, 1° Capricorn, 2° Capricorn, and 5° Capricorn, the planet at 28° Sagittarius is the lead planet. The **last planet** will be the planet at the latest degree in the stellium—5° Capricorn in this example. If the last planet in the series is at 0° of the next-door sign in a stellium by house, the planet earliest in the zodiac is still the lead.

The lead planet is automatically the first affected by new transits that represent periods of challenge, change, and even crisis. It's like the first responder at the scene of an emergency. What that person does on arriving has a huge influence on the outcome.

If first responders make the right moves, it helps stabilize the crisis, but if they make the wrong ones, the challenge is harder to overcome. The backgrounds of first responders may or may not suit the task, but they cope heroically until better-qualified helpers arrive, then step back unless they're needed. The same is true of the lead planet in a stellium.

When you encounter new people or situations in matters described by the stellium's house, observe how the part of you represented by the lead planet responds. It establishes ground rules and creates the structure for how the other planets in the group operate. It affects the functioning of the entire stellium, setting the tone for dealings with others in the situation.

The less desirable qualities associated with the lead planet affect people's first impression of you and can have a negative effect on the mission's outcome. On the other hand, capitalizing on the strengths and assets it represents increases your chances of resolving the situation to your advantage. (Refer to the traits listed on the stellium worksheet.) Conscious awareness of that planet's pluses and minuses can help you discover more successful tactics.

That part of you triggers an automatic reaction to events or changes in the *status quo*. That reaction is a **defense mechanism**. An undesirable response doesn't have to be the automatic one, however, once you become conscious of it.

If the lead planet were Venus in a sociable sign like Leo or Libra, you'd be open and welcoming to new people. With a well-aspected Mercury as lead, you'd communicate freely about yourself and your mission and would want to know all you could about the newcomer. If it were Saturn, you might react fearfully and close down while you figure out how to protect yourself.

Suppose Mars is the lead planet. It represents the urge to be first, to be a pioneer, to lead, and to win. It's happiest as the lead planet, but aggressive outreach isn't always an ideal approach. Suppose it's placed in uncomfortable signs such as Scorpio or Pisces, or it makes a number of difficult aspects such as conjunctions to Uranus or Pluto. Then your first response might be an aggressive or defensive one to ward off conditions you perceive as a threat.

² This section draws on the work of a brilliant German astrologer of the 1920s-30s known only as Gretel. Her works are not available in English.

At its best, the potentials Mars represents include a strong, proactive, energetic attitude, going after what you want, and tackling obstacles head on. That kind of bravery, initiative, and “can do” attitude are qualities of natural leaders.

On the deficit side, Mars may portray people who act rashly and don’t take time to think through the long-term effects of their acts. Sometimes, Mars types are so intent on their goal that they don’t consider the effects of their actions on others. Again, awareness can help them focus on expressing the better qualities correlated to Mars and eliminating the less desirable ones.

With Saturn or Pluto in the lead, you’re likely to react to new people or conditions as a threat and close ranks to protect yourself, the matters of the stellium’s house, and the mission.

If Uranus is the first planet, you’re generally on the leading edge in your areas of interest. You may be an innovator and trend-setter who some people may find exciting. The old timers in that field, however, may find you disturbing and regard you as a maverick or troublemaker. (Words like *upstart* and *gadfly* come to mind.) They may even see you as DANGEROUS!

In doing the planetary strength tests, you’re given a 5-point bonus for the lead planet. Here, in summary, are reasons that planet has such a strong influence:

- It shows the first contact that others make with the stellium and its mission. It reveals your first impulse in approaching matters of that house.
- It’s the first planet to be hit by a transit, and then the others follow in sequence.
- Therefore, this first response alerts you to changing conditions in the house matters.
- How effective that response is in dealing with the new situation makes a difference in the outcome of the mission. If it’s typically ineffective, you might want to devote a healing project to the qualities that planet depicts.
- It’s a prime candidate for the Alpha planet.

The Middle Planet(s) in a Stellium or Triple Conjunction: Late in the process of writing this guidebook, my friend, Kathy Kreshock unearthed and sent me a book long buried in her extensive astrology library. Drawing on principles of Vedic Astrology developed centuries ago in India, the book, *Planets in Containment*, contains 990 brief interpretations of trios of planets that form triple conjunctions, laboriously compiled by John Sandbach and Ronn Ballard. (A copy of this out of print book by Seek-It Publications, 1980, Birmingham, MI, was found on Amazon.com.)

The main thesis is that first planet of the trio has an impact on the middle one, and so does the third in the series. For instance, they describe distinct differences between a Mars-Saturn-Pluto conjunction and a Pluto-Saturn-Mars conjunction.

This is a new idea for me, one that I’ll be testing. What it reminds me of is the idea of a stellium being like living with a household of lively teenagers, with someone always demanding attention. If so, the middle planet may be like the middle kid in that household.

Studies of birth order consistently point to the difficulties of being the middle child. They’re said to get the worst deal because they don’t receive the attention given to oldest and youngest

children. This birth position results in something called the *Middle Child Syndrome*. **Here are some of the effects³:**

- Middle children often feel overlooked and overshadowed by their siblings. This makes them feel they're not good enough and that they're not as worthy of love as their siblings.
- Middle children often behave in ways that focus the attention on themselves by acting out, having fits of temper or behaving in ways that are sure to gain them attention.
- Middle children often feel like their older sibling gets all the glory while their younger sibling escapes all discipline.
- Middle children can be master peacemakers since they are often the only thing standing between the older child getting what he wants and the younger child getting what she wants.

If you applied the same principles to the middle planet in a stellium or triple conjunction, could it tell you something about the special stresses represented by that position? Does the part of you represented by that planet feel neglected or overshadowed by other parts of you? Does it act out to get you to pay attention to its needs?

(To continue the analogy, **does the part of you symbolized by the first planet in a stellium have traits in common with the firstborn child in a family?** They're said to be natural leaders. They also tend to be reliable, conscientious and perfectionists who don't like surprises. Many of them are model children who take on heavy responsibilities and have a strong need for approval from anyone in charge. Since those are all qualities associated with Capricorn, can you imagine a firstborn with a Capricorn stellium?)

Why the Last Planet in the Sequence is so Important: Understanding and managing the qualities described by the last planet is nearly as crucial as learning how to handle the lead planet well. The responses and actions it suggests wrap up the experience and aim for closure, therefore greatly influencing the outcome. Combined with the nature of the transiting planet, it suggests how the current episode in your life story may end.

Why don't I award 5 points on the Planetary Scores Tests to the last planet like I do to the part of you portrayed by the lead planet? That's because it doesn't initiate and structure the action the way the lead does—it's the cleanup crew and handles the aftermath once the series of transits is over. You might give it 3 bonus points.

Slow-moving transits to the last stellium planet can be in effect as long as 3-5 years, so coming to terms with things that happened during transits to the whole series can last a good while. After all, adjusting to a life-changing event—whether positive or negative—may take years.

Suppose Mars is the last planet rather than the first. If you're not using the qualities that Mars symbolizes well, you might become aggressive in a self-protective way and alienate the other players, leaving all concerned with bad feelings. By digesting the experience and learning from it, however, you can use those qualities in a better way, come away energized, and lead the other players in decisive action.

If, instead, it's Venus—the peacemaker—a major goal during the wrapping up process would be to create closeness between group members in the face of shared adversity. The last planet in my

³ Drawn from: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/130884-effects-middle-child-syndrome/#ixzz2cJjO798C>.

Gemini stellium is Mercury, so how I reach closure after a hard series of aspects to the combination is to write an article about it—or, if it's been really, really bad, a book!

Having Pluto as the last planet can be tricky. If the person has worked hard to shed the effects of the difficult history it often signifies and is now using Pluto's energies well, then transits to Pluto can show a time of great healing and rebirth. It can even be a time when they recognize how their experiences can give them the ability to bring healing to others with similar backgrounds.

If, however, they're still mired in the difficult expressions of these energies, then the situations portrayed by the transit can take a turn for the worse at the end of the series. Familiar patterns involving power struggles, betrayal, and lingering resentments can be evoked. Look back at the healing tools listed under Pluto in Chapter 8.

In all these placements—the Lead, the middle, and the Last Planet—so much depends on how well you're using the energies those planets symbolize. If you don't like the result, make a focused effort to change the ways you're using them, and things will change for the better.

A Typical Story Arc

The usual result of transits to stelliums and triple conjunctions is a series of stages related to the planets' order of appearance. For instance, the relationships of someone with a triple conjunction in Leo of Mars, Venus, and Saturn in the 5th—the house of romance—might follow a typical pattern as a transiting planet touches each natal planet in turn.

First, the individual might experience a strong physical attraction, taking the initiative to pursue the new love interest (Mars in Leo). Then, we might expect warm, fuzzy intervals with lots of good times (Venus in Leo) and the individual promising the moon and undying loyalty.

Then, as the question of commitment—and especially of children—arises, Saturn in Leo kicks in, and walls may go up. Suddenly, there's fear and caution, as the leonine individual asks: "Is this person a worthy consort—and good enough to perpetuate the dynasty? Would Father approve? Am I getting enough attention? Is love growing cold?" The capacity for a lasting relationship depends on how the couple weathers this fear-of-commitment crisis.

Suppose, however, that you're working with the chart of someone born a week later, with Saturn in Leo leading, then Venus, and then Mars. How might that alter the unfolding of the love affair? The fear of commitment (Saturn) would probably kick in right away, and the question of suitability would need to be resolved before the native could open up. Once the romantic prospect was deemed acceptable (Saturn), a highly romantic courtship (Venus) would begin, and finally the physical attraction (Mars) could be pursued.

Let's look at story arcs for three well-known people with stelliums or triple conjunctions to learn how the sequence of planets affect them.

A Positive Story Arc—Prince William's Emergence as a Royal

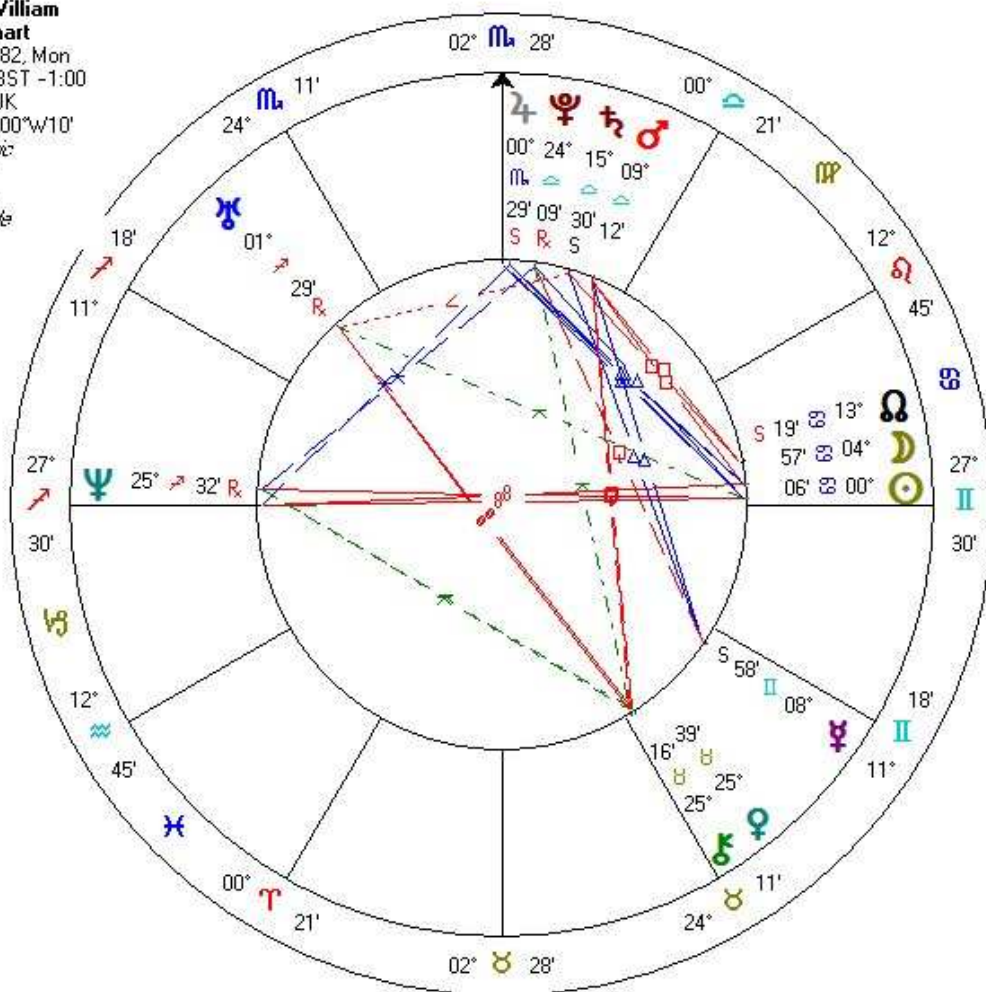
The life of Prince William of England is a prime example of the ways a long transit to all the planets in a stellium can take its expression to the next level. His four-planet stellium in the 9th house is not an easy one, despite the charm and strong people skills of his Libra placements there.

He has natal Mars, Saturn, and Pluto in Libra, plus Jupiter in Scorpio conjunct the Midheaven. His highest scoring planets are Pluto (at 53) and Jupiter (at 68) and they're conjunct.

My suspicion is that Jupiter is the dominant planet in the stellium—the Alpha Dog. Jupiter has appeared at the Midheaven in the charts of many of England's rulers. It does not appear there in Prince Charles' chart, leading me to suspect—as many of us do—that Charles will turn over the crown to William.

Up to the point when transiting Saturn entered Libra in 2009, William was essentially a boy—a delightful, engaging, and much-adored boy, but a boy nonetheless—even, at times, a playboy. Delay in maturing is sometimes seen when natal Saturn is part of a stellium, as it is in this instance. The turning point for this placement usually comes when transiting Saturn is conjunct natal Saturn, a true coming of age era between the ages of 28-29 known as the *Saturn Return*.

**Prince William
Natal Chart**
Jun 21 1982, Mon
9:03 pm BST -1:00
London, UK
51°N30' 000°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



Prince William was born 6/21/82 at 9:03 PM, London, UK 0W12; 51N32 Rated AA, BC/BR in hand. (See his biography on AstroDataBank here: [William, Prince \(1982\)](#))

Here are strips for the four planets in his stellium, in the order they appear:

MARS: Lead planet. 9 Libra 12 House: 9 th Score: 31	Mars' roles: leader, explorer, warrior, advocate, athlete, bully, competitor, initiator, pioneer. Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others' needs and wants, driven.
SATURN: 15 Libra 30 House: 9 th Score: 38	Saturn's roles: planner, supervisor, parent, troubleshooter, organizer, manager, authority. Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, prudent, structured, reliable, responsible, painstaking, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, cold, unimaginative, demanding, authoritarian, stern, conservative, stingy.
PLUTO: 24 Libra 09 Rx House: 9 th Score: 53	Pluto's roles: psychologist, healer, occultist, magician, renovator, analyst, hospice worker, genealogist, banker, financier, medium, magician, shaman, seer, researcher, detective. Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, empathic, analytical, transformative, persevering, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.
JUPITER: 0 Scorpio 29 Rx House: 9 th Score: 68 ALPHA DOG?	Jupiter's roles: teacher, sage, preacher, wise elder, citizen of the world, gambler, know it all. Constructive traits: upbeat, joyful, aspiring, hopeful, philosophical, optimistic, willing to take risks, lucky, generous, studious, wise, able to synthesize information, lifetime student. Difficult Traits: overindulgent, gambling, pushing their luck, preachy, exaggerating, opinionated, dogmatic, pompous, Pollyanna, over-confident, pompous, greedy, hypocritical.

Among other things, the 9th house, where William's stellium is placed, represents advanced education and foreign countries. **During his Saturn Return, he grew into manhood and took his place as a Royal in his own right.** He completed his university education, served abroad admirably in the military, and began taking over some diplomatic duties for his grandmother. As a representative of England, he became as much a loved figure in his world travels as Diana.

Libra is the sign of committed relationships, and as transiting Saturn crossed one after another of William's Libra placements, he became engaged to his off again, on again love, Kate Middleton. They married on April 29th, 2011, in a fairy tale ceremony watched by millions worldwide. We often see important changes in status during transits to the 10th or Midheaven.

Stellium people often seek out other stellium people or undergo important milestones in their lives when there's a stellium by transit. Kate has a triple conjunction of Mars, Saturn, and Pluto near the same degrees as his—a reason they work together so seamlessly. The wedding chart, which must have been selected for them by one of his mother's astrologers, had a stellium in the sign of Aries that included Venus, Mars, Mercury, and Jupiter in the 10th.

Saturn transits can bring important accomplishments and a new, more mature use of a stellium's energies. As his continued, Saturn crossed his Midheaven, and his status in the world changed irrevocably. He became a Duke rather than a Prince, and his beautiful bride became a Duchess. On July 22, 2013 at 4:24 PM in London, they had their first child, one who may someday rule England. True to the pattern, the boy has a stellium in Cancer in the 8th house, and it

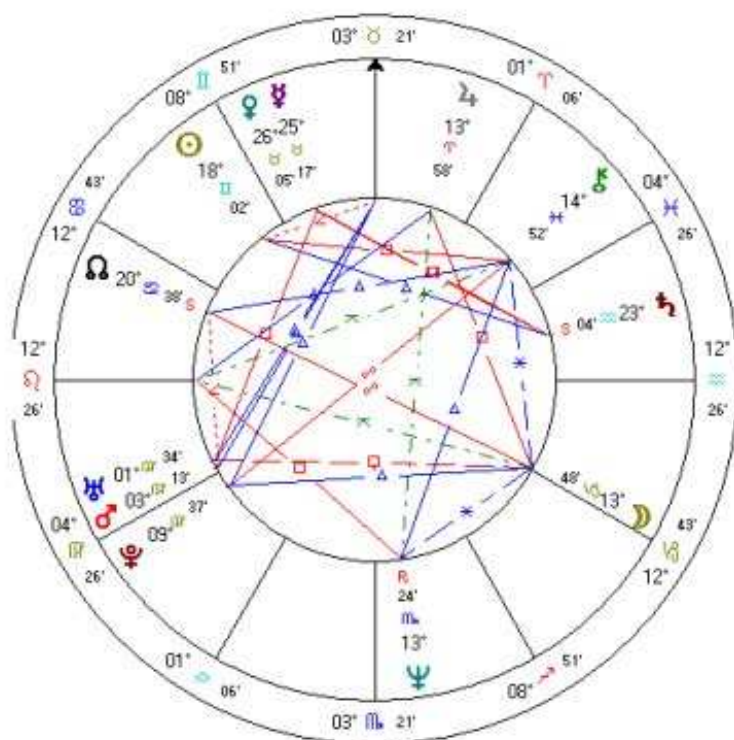
includes Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, and the Sun. Read more here: [Royal Baby Boy Born as Mercury turns Direct — Stelliums Rule!](#)

A Contrast in Story Arcs—Johnny Depp vs. Robert Downey, Jr.

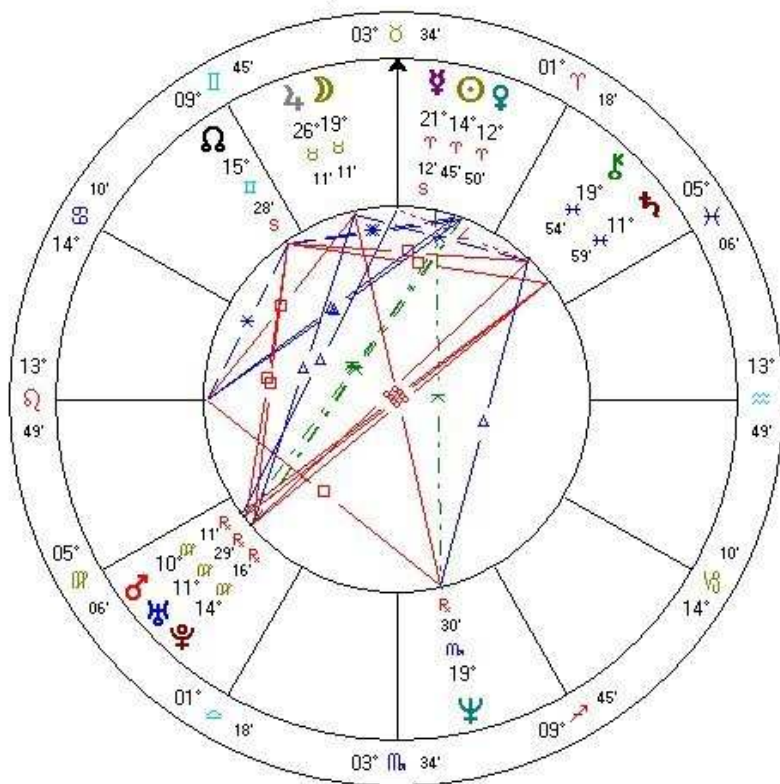
In studying triple conjunctions, I came across a fascinating example of two superstars whose charts have striking parallels—Johnny Depp and Robert Downey, Jr. They both have 13° of Leo on the Ascendant and 3° Taurus on the Midheaven, with a very similar house structure, and nearly identical planetary scores. Born in the 1960s, both also have a triple conjunction involving Uranus, Pluto, and Mars in Virgo.

Can you imagine a movie starring both of them? Jack Sparrow meets Iron Man? What a lot we could learn about triple conjunctions!

Johnny Depp



Robert Downey JR



Johnny Depp was born June 9, 1963 at 8:44 AM CST Owensboro, KY. Rated AA, BC/BR in hand. See his biography here: [Depp, Johnny](#). Uranus is the Lead Planet and Alpha Dog. (Read more about his chart here: [Depp's Darker Roles—Where Do They Show in his Chart?](#))

URANUS: Lead and Alpha. Sign: Virgo Degree: 1° House: 1 st Score: 40	Uranus's roles: inventor, scientist, tech support, trendsetter, maverick, activist, adolescent. Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.
MARS: Sign: Virgo Degree: 3° House: 1 st Score: 35	Mars' roles: leader, explorer, warrior, advocate, athlete, bully, competitor, initiator, pioneer. Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others' needs and wants, driven.
PLUTO: Sign: Virgo Degree: 9° House: 2 nd Score: 30	Pluto's roles: psychologist, healer, occultist, magician, renovator, analyst, hospice worker, genealogist, banker, financier, medium, magician, shaman, seer, researcher, detective. Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, empathic, analytical, transformative, persevering, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.

Robert Downey, Jr. was born April 4, 1965 1:10 PM in NYC. Rated A, from memory. See his biography on AstroDataBank here: [Downey, Robert Jr.](#) Mars is his Lead planet and Alpha Dog.

MARS: Lead and Alpha Sign: Virgo Degree: 10° House: 2 nd Score: 36	Mars' roles: leader, explorer, warrior, advocate, athlete, bully, competitor, initiator, pioneer. Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others' needs and wants, driven.
URANUS: Sign: Virgo Degree: 11° House: 2 nd Score: 35	Uranus's roles: inventor, scientist, tech support, trendsetter, maverick, activist, adolescent. Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.
PLUTO: Sign: Virgo Degree: 14° House: 2 nd Score: 30	Pluto's roles: psychologist, healer, occultist, magician, renovator, analyst, hospice worker, genealogist, banker, financier, medium, magician, shaman, seer, researcher, detective. Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, empathic, analytical, transformative, persevering, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.

One big difference is in the order of their triple conjunction, which makes their story arcs different. The order of Depp's triple conjunction is Uranus, Mars, and Pluto, while Downey's is Mars, Uranus, and Pluto. Having cool, detached, but still exciting and quirky Uranus in the lead is cooler than having rash, impetuous, and aggressive Mars there.

Of course, there are other differences between their charts. Depp's triple conjunction is mainly in the first, giving it a natural outlet in his unique personality and style. His Virgo planets also make a favorable 120° aspect called a *trine* to his Taurus Midheaven, so it's easier for him to live out this dangerously edgy combination through his career.

Downey's triple conjunction is in the 2nd, the house of income, doesn't aspect the Midheaven, and makes a difficult 180° aspect called an *opposition* to his Saturn in Pisces in the 8th, a house which signifies—among other things—death, rebirth, and transformation.

The Midlife Cycle: These differences—and the effect of the order of their planets--were especially evident what happened to Depp and Downey during a predictable life stage we all experience in our late 30s and early-mid 40s.

Known as the midlife cycle, its other name—the midlife crisis—shows that it's not always an easy transition. For those who are struggling to use the outermost planets wisely, this cycle can be a make it or break it era.

During that time of our lives, the current (*transiting*) positions of the outermost planets form activating angles to their own natal positions. **These challenging aspects consist of:**

- transiting Saturn 180° (opposite) from natal Saturn
- transiting Uranus 180° (opposite) from natal Uranus
- transiting Neptune 90° (square) from natal Neptune
- transiting Pluto 90° (square) from natal Pluto

For people using the outermost planets effectively, the midlife series represents a coming into their own. (Though not always an easy time, my midlife, with Saturn, Uranus, and Venus conjunct natively, included 10 memorable years of publishing books and traveling the world to give astrology seminars.) People who're botching up these same planets can have a crash and burn experience, but one that can still set them on the path of learning to use those energies well.

Depp and Downey had very different story arcs during the midlife series of transits.

Although Depp had a wild and self-destructive phase as a teen heartthrob, he learned to channel the more dangerous elements of this trio into movie roles. His midlife found him in blockbusting films as the pirate captain, Jack Sparrow.

Downey, on the other hand, had a disastrous midlife cycle and could easily have died in the midst of it. He regularly made headlines with drug overdoses, failed rehab attempts, arrests, and time in jail. Thankfully, he has stabilized at the time this is written and is back on top.

Here are other stories about people who misused their stellium's gifts and ran into trouble: Former Senator [John Edwards' Rise and Fall—a Stellium Meltdown](#) and [Ryan and Tatum O'Neal – Stelliums and Sympiosis](#).

A mixture of early trouble with later stellar success is Whoopi Goldberg, with a stellium in Scorpio. She was a drug addict and teenage single mother on welfare who became a star, with two Oscar nominations and one win. (See her chart and bio here: [Goldberg, Whoopi.](#))

Transit Tracking Table for 1990-2020 (Rounded Off)

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Year:	Saturn:	Uranus:	Neptune:	Pluto:
1990	15-25 CP	5-9 CP	12-14 CP	14-19 SC
1991	25 CP-6 AQ	9-13 CP	13-16 CP	17-21 SC
1992	5-18 AQ	13-17 CP	16-18 CP	20-23 SC
1993	16 AQ-0 PI	17-22 CP	18-20 CP	22-25 SC
1994	27 AQ-12 PI	21-26 CP	20-23 CP	25-28 SC
1995	8-24 PI	25 CP-0 AQ	22-25 CP	27 SC-0 SG
1996	19 PI-7 AR	29 CP-4 AQ	24-27 CP	0-3 SG
1997	1-20 AR	3-8 AQ	26-29 CP	2-6 SG
1998	13 AR-3 TA	7-12 AQ	28 CP-0 AQ	5-8 SG
1999	26 AR-16 TA	10-16 AQ	1-4 AQ	7-11 SG
2000	10 TA-0 GE	14-20 AQ	3-6 AQ	10-13 SG
2001	24 TA-14 GE	18-25 AQ	5-8 AQ	12-15 SG
2002	8-28 GE	22-28 AQ	7-10 AQ	14-17 SG
2003	22 GE-13 CN	26 AQ-2 PI	10-13 AQ	17-19 SG
2004	6-27 CN	0-6 PI	11-15 AQ	19-22 SG
2005	20 CN-11 LE	3-10 PI	13-17 AQ	21-24 SG
2006	4 LE- 25 LE	7-14 PI	15-19 AQ	24-26 SG
2007	18 LE-8 VI	11-18 PI	18-22 AQ	26-28 SG
2008	1-20 VI	15-22 PI	20-24 AQ	28 SG-0 CP
2009	15 VI-3 LI	19-26 PI	23-26 AQ	0-3 CP
2010	27 VI-14 LI	23 PI-0 AR	24-28 AQ	2-5 CP
2011	10-25 LI	26 PI-4 AR	26 AQ-0 PI	4-7 CP
2012	23 LI-6 SC	0-8 AR	28 AQ-3 PI	6-9 CP
2013	5-17 SC	4-12 AR	1-5 PI	9-11 CP
2014	16 SC-0 SG	8-15 AR	3-7 PI	11-13 CP
2015	28 SC-11 SG	12-20 AR	5-9 PI	12-15 CP
2016	9-21 SG	16-24 AR	7-12 PI	14-16 CP
2017	21 SG-1 CP	20-28 AR	9-14 PI	16-19 CP
2018	1-11 CP	24 AR-2 TA	11-16 PI	18-21 CP
2019	11-21 CP	28 AR-6 TA	14-18 PI	20-23 CP
2020	21 CP-1 AQ	2 TA -10 TA	16-20 PI	22-24 CP

How Transits Trigger your Story Arc

Beginners, sorry but this is an advanced topic. If it looks like your chart is affected by upcoming transits, consult an astrologer.

Astrology Students: By now, you may want to track the transiting planets through your own stellium. I'd encourage you to take a class about transits, as it's a complicated yet very exciting course of study. Studying transits is a great spur to growth as you learn to avoid the pitfalls and capitalize on the strengths of the transiting planets.

As mentioned earlier, the potentials of a stellium or triple conjunction are something you grow into over the years. It's precisely during transits by the slower moving planets to one stellium planet after another that you're presented with a series of new events, challenges, and developments. They stretch you and make you find better uses of planets in the combination.

Transiting Planets and their Years in a Sign: How long will a transit to your stellium last?

- **Saturn** takes 29.5 years to orbit the Sun, so it's in a sign for about 2.5 years.
- **Uranus** takes 84 years to orbit the Sun, so it's in a sign for about 7 years.
- **Neptune** takes 165 years to orbit the Sun, so it's in a sign for about 14 years.
- **Pluto** takes 248 years to orbit the Sun, but its orbit is highly irregular, and it may stay in a sign for anywhere from 12-31 years. Its stay in Capricorn totals 16 years, 2008-2024.

To use the Transit Tracker, first prepare a degree list: List the planets, Midheaven, and Ascendant in numerical order rather than zodiac order by the degrees they fall into in the chart. Include all of the planets in your chart plus the Ascendant and Midheaven. (These other important features might be activated by transits at the same time and affect overall conditions.)

Look for hot zones on the list: A *hot zone* occurs when several placements are clustered in a narrow numerical range, as often happens in a stellium. Highlight hot zones in red.

A sample hot zone: Sun 11° Aries, Mars 12° Capricorn, and Saturn 14° Capricorn. Scan the table above for transiting planets at 11-14° of any sign. When they're in the same numerical range as your hot zone, they form transiting aspects to the natal planets.

Match the rounded-off numbers in the table above with the hot zones in your chart to find years when transits activated them. For instance, if your hot zone is from 11-14°, you'd want to reflect on what happened in 2003-4, when Neptune was between 10-15° Aquarius or 2006 when Uranus was between 7-14° Pisces. Look at upcoming transits as well, such as from 2013-2015, when Pluto in Capricorn is in that zone.

Go back and identify years when the outer planets and Saturn were going through the house of the stellium or making angles to stellium planets. Refer to diaries and other records to find out what happened at that time. This gives you clues as to how the planets in the group might be affected by future transits. If you didn't handle them well, do make allowances for growth and maturing in the meantime. Also look ahead for future intervals when these planets will be transiting the same positions, as they're likely to be significant eras in a lifetime.

To match the dates of the transits more precisely, you'd need the day-to-day positions in an *ephemeris*—a table of the planetary movements. If you don't own one, here's one online for free: <http://www.khaldea.com/kldaephem/2000/jul2013gmt.shtml>. You have to put the year you're interested in into their search engine.

What Developments do Transits Bring?

When transits to a stellium are good, they are very, very good, and when they are bad, they can mark a crisis. Many stellium owners experience either peak periods or meltdowns during transits and progressions to that cluster, followed by a huge growth spurt if they learn the lessons.

Here are some of the kinds of challenges and changes people experience during transits from the slower-moving planets to the series of natal planets in the stellium:

<u>During a Saturn transit,</u> <u>To those areas of life, you're:</u> Confronting lack or loss Taking responsibility Eliminating dead wood Getting your act together Raising the bar Performing at peak Waiting for the right time Reaping what you have sown	<u>During a Uranus transit</u> <u>To those areas of life, you're:</u> Feeling stifled and restless Questioning the status quo Discovering like-minded souls Experimenting with possibilities Straining at bonds Bursting out of confinement Reinventing yourself Reconfiguring your life
<u>During a Neptune transit</u> <u>to those areas of life, you're:</u> Feeling discontent or lost Realizing you're stuck Seeking a white knight or savior Fooling yourself you've found it Submerging Self in The Other Finding out you've been had Turning to Spirit for peace	<u>During a Pluto transit</u> <u>to those areas of life, you're:</u> Brooding on wrongs Delving into causes of pain Unearthing the suppressed Reacting to your discoveries Accepting your part in it Healing the wounds Reclaiming your power

The slower-moving planets—Saturn to Pluto—that are part of the stellium already are particularly significant when they transit. The midlife cycle, when transiting Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto all make aspects to their natal position, can be a real turning point if the outer planets are part of the stellium natively. The Saturn returns at approximately 29-year intervals, when transiting Saturn returns to the same place it was at birth, are also very significant phases of life.

Astrologers, can you predict how a person will fare during the time a transiting planet (or sometimes more than one planet) is moving through the stellium or triple conjunction? The answer goes back to hot zones of natal planets in the same degree areas.

You'd need to consult the client's memories to find out what happened the last few times there was a significant transit to that cluster, for it's likely that similar issues and behavior patterns would arise. Using the Transit Tracking Table for reference, you'd also need to inquire how the person has historically expressed the transiting planet in question. For example, if the current transit is from Uranus, ask how they've managed past Uranus transits. As Dr Phil always says, the best indication of future behavior is the past.

We can't explore transits in depth in this book, but here are links to some of the many articles about transits on my blog, Skywriter:

- [Facing the Difficult Potentials of a Transit](#)
- [Why I Don't Believe Scary Predictions](#)
- ["The Sky Is Falling!"—Looking ahead at Tough Transits](#)
- [Talking to Clients about Difficult Transits—Readers Have Their Say](#)
- [Tough Transits: Best Case/Worst Case Scenarios](#)
- [In the Eye of the Storm—How Outer Planet Transits Work](#)
- [A Promise Fulfilled: When Transits Echo Natal Aspects](#)
- [Understanding Uranus Transits—Bits from my Books](#)

Chapter 11: Conjunctions—The Life Blood of a Stellium⁴

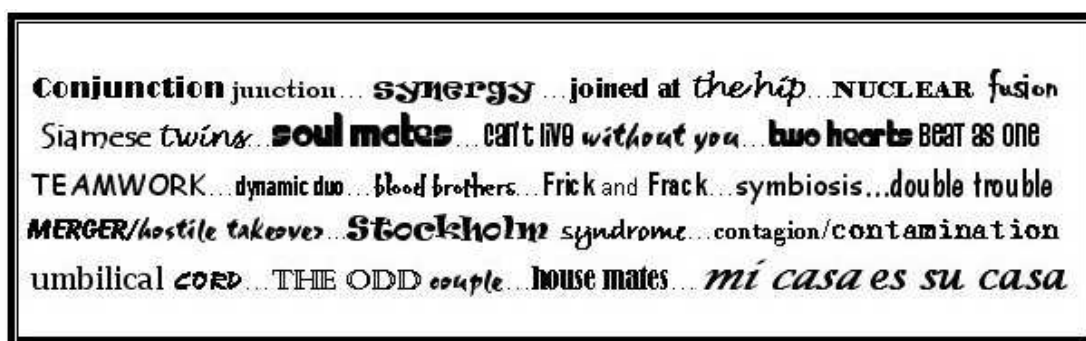
Up to now, we've acted as if the planets in a stellium or triple conjunction stood by themselves, but in practice, these combinations work as a unit. Because stelliums have four or more planets within about 30° of the zodiac, they almost always include conjunctions, so let's explore them.

A **conjunction** is a potent connection (called an **aspect**) between two planets in which the planets stand close together and blend their energies. It usually only involves one sign and one house of an astrology chart, although the two planets sometimes straddle houses or signs.

The **orb** (number of degrees apart) for a **conjunction** is officially 8°. When there's a question as to whether the aspect is too wide, I describe the way the two planets work together to clients to see if they relate to it. It's often working at 10°, even when one is a slow-moving outer planet.

Other major aspects to stellium planets like the square, opposition, or trine have an important effect, of course, but the conjunction is the purest and strongest. It shows a focal point of energy with an intense impact. The qualities the two planets represent are difficult to separate—they must act as one, unified but not obliterated.

With a conjunction, it's difficult to get a separate perspective on the parts of you that either planet symbolizes. When Mars and Jupiter are conjunct, for instance, the need for action that Mars represents and the desire to expand that Jupiter represents are merged. This suggests someone who is a dynamo with an insatiable appetite for experiences in the areas of life related to the conjunction's house position.



Thinking Inside the Box: Above you'll see a tool I created that provides an overview of the qualities of conjunctions—a box that's a form of verbal improvisation. The phrases used don't represent any particular pair of planets, but rather the essence of the aspect itself. As you consider each conjunction in your stellium, ask yourself the following questions. How does it *feel*? What

⁴ Parts of this chapter are excerpts from my ebooklet, *Aspects: the Building Blocks of Chart Interpretation*, which covers all the major and minor aspects. It's available on my blog at <http://skywriter.wordpress.com/about-donnas-books-courses-and-websites/>.

energy pattern do you sense? What action or response does it produce? What psychological responses does it evoke?

What factors give a conjunction more importance?

- The closer the two planets are, the stronger the combination tends to be.
- If one or more of the outer planets is involved, it's more potent.
- With both in one house, there's a greater concentration of effort in those areas of life.
- If the pair aspects the Ascendant (1st house cusp) or Midheaven (10th house cusp), their presence is more noticeable in the outside world.

The more conjunctions in a stellium, the stronger its massed energy. We'll focus on triple conjunctions later in this chapter and the next, but they consist of three separate conjunctions acting as one. For instance, in the Venus-Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo shared by Julia Roberts and J.K. Rowling, there are three pieces to analyze:

- Venus conjunct Uranus
- Venus conjunct Pluto
- Pluto conjunct Uranus

You could also have a phenomenon known as a **rolling conjunction**. Suppose Mars is at 6° Scorpio, Mercury at 8° Scorpio, Jupiter at 11°, and Pluto at 16°. The first planet, Mars, and the last one, Pluto, would ordinarily be considered too far apart, but Jupiter and Mercury pull them together. The impact of a rolling conjunction becomes especially clear during a transit to the series. The action begins about 3° before Planet A and doesn't subside until 3° after planet D.

Applying vs. separating conjunctions: One thing that can affect the strength of a conjunction is whether the faster-moving planet of the pair is **applying to** the conjunction (approaching the degree of the other planet on its way to being at exactly the same degree) or **separating from** the conjunction (having passed the exact point and moving away).

(Beginners, I know it would be a lot clearer if we just said they were approaching or leaving the conjunction, but that's how we astrologers talk amongst ourselves. If you ever go to an astrology lecture, take an interpreter along! You can skip this particular section.)

Though I pay more attention to the scores on the planetary strength tests, many astrologers say that the aspect is stronger when **applying** and weaker when **separating**.

Other than times when one of the two planets is retrograde, the faster moving planet of the two is the one that moves past the slower one. Here's how you'd know which planet in the pair is the faster moving planet. You'd go by the relative speed of the two planets, mostly based on how far out in the solar system they are. In terms of speed, here is their order:

Moon—Sun—Mercury—Venus—Mars—Jupiter—Saturn—Uranus—Neptune—Pluto

The Moon, which moves an average of 12° a day, is always the faster moving planet, while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus all move about a degree a day and vary a bit in speed. The first four in the list are faster than Mars, which moves about half a degree a day. At the opposite extreme, both Neptune and Pluto—out at the far edges of the solar system—only move about 3° a year.

(There are always exceptions in astrology, and here it has to do with the ways planets' speed and direction change when they are retrograde or are stationary to change from direct to retrograde or retrograde to direct.)

In analyzing a conjunction, find out which planet of the pair is stronger. You can get a clue by doing the Planetary Strength Tests in the Appendix. If an outer planet is closely conjunct an inner planet, bet on the outer planet, especially if it comes first.

Why the order of the planets is important: The lead planet in a conjunction may set the tone for the action in much the same way as the lead planet in a stellium⁵. This is important in interpreting a conjunction, as the first planet in the pair is the first to be activated by a transiting planet. **The first planet initiates the action; the second has more to do with the outcome.**

Suppose someone has a Mars-Pluto conjunction in relationship-oriented Libra, and transiting Uranus is forming an aspect to the pair. The first response to the threat of a disruption to major relationships would be a Mars approach—active, taking the initiative, even potentially combative, depending on the sign.

If Pluto comes before Mars, however, the response would be more emotionally intense but less overt. The person might withdraw and brood. They could also resort to manipulation or emotional blackmail. Being psychologically astute, they may conceivably use the weaknesses of the person who is threatening them in a vengeful way. Which of the two pairs would you rather cross?

(As noted in Chapter 10, transits are a process in which the same transiting planet will form an aspect to the natal planets in the conjunction as many as 3-4 times, while going back and forth over the same spot due to retrograde and direct action.)

Outer Planet conjunctions as seeds for a stellium: Mixtures that include pairs of the outermost planets (Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) are especially challenging. These combinations are extremely complex due to the history-making events and the wider global changes they symbolize. Whole generations are born with these conjunctions, but their implications for the lives of individuals born with them as part of a stellium can be profound. We'll examine these slow-moving and long-lasting combinations in Chapter 12.

Effects of the Sign's Mode of Action on the Planets in the Conjunction

We touched on the *modes of action*—Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable—when we explored the 12 signs. **They're important in analyzing a conjunction because the action of a particular pair—or trio—of planets is very different, in different modes, and so is the outcome.**

(Download an 8-page explanation of how modes and elements affect the signs and how to determine your strongest element and mode, on my blog here: [Understanding your Stellium Sign's Element and Mode.](#))

To summarize, Cardinal signs are action oriented, goal driven, and forever on the move. **Fixed signs** are stable and intent on preserving the status quo. They're gifted with endurance, but

⁵ Again, this section draws on the work of a brilliant German astrologer of the 1920s-30s known only as Gretel. Her works are not available in English.

stubbornly resistant to change. **Mutable signs** are adaptable, flexible, and can cope with change, yet are sometimes scattered in their energy.

Depending on the planets involved, people with conjunctions in Cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) form a clear picture of their desires and work toward them wholeheartedly. These four signs each have a different set of goals, but when they see what they want, they go for it in a focused way. Thus, conjunctions in cardinal signs are energized and show a good chance of success at the mission.

Depending on the planets involved, conjunctions in Fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius) represent our ability to persevere to the point of bringing our ideas into a concrete, finished form and then preserving them. However, they're a mixed blessing, in that they're stubborn, slower to react, and can be rigid and resist change. If two planets conjunct in fixed signs indicate a conflict of interest, it's very hard to get the person to bend in that area of life.

Depending on the planets involved, conjunctions in Mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces) are responsive and able to adapt to changing circumstances as they arise, so they're more able to contend with transits to a stellium. They're versatile and always looking for greater understanding of their fields of interest. Their drawback is that they're distractible and can lack a steady focus for their efforts.

What do I mean by "depending on the planets involved?" The nature of the planet can shift the energy of the response. For instance, Neptune could indicate haziness and confusion that could hinder a Cardinal sign from taking effective action. Saturn in a Mutable conjunction could symbolize focus and persistence in completing a goal. Energetic Mars could kick-start a fixed sign conjunction's sluggish response.

Analyzing Conjunctions— a Synergy of Energies

The Planets and their functions: The first stage of analyzing any conjunction is to understand the facets of yourself represented by the two planets. It describes basic concerns and traits, what the sign's qualities add, and what life activities the house it inhabits are portrayed. For an in-depth example, let's see how Mercury and Mars blend in two different sets of signs and houses.

Issues for Mercury: It describes how we communicate, our manner of speaking, clarity of thought and expression, perception, learning skills, the way we learn best, our thinking processes, concentration, information gathering, writing, manual dexterity, powers of persuasion, and our ability to transfer skills from one task to another. **Traits associated with a strong Mercury:** "mercurial," curious, talkative, glib, overly cerebral, restless, changeable, the grasshopper mind, and the perpetual student.

Issues for Mars: It symbolizes things that make us angry or frustrated, how we express or deal with anger, how we assert ourselves, what energizes us, how we lead others, how we use energy, how we "go for it," what inner drives impel us to take action, and what situations motivate us. It shows how comfortable we are with taking the initiative, what arouses competitiveness and the desire to conquer, and how avidly we pursue sexual expression. **Traits associated with a strong Mars:** boundless energy, drive, desire, fire in the belly, aggressively seeking a desired end, passion, irritability, and keenness.

Affinity of the Planets: Years of observation have shown me that the type of aspect between any two planets—like a conjunction, square, trine, or opposition—takes a back seat to how compatible they are. How well do they mesh—are their basic natures in harmony or at odds?

The parts of us that Mars and Mercury represent fit together easily. Each gives the other a boost to move forward unimpeded. Both planets are fast-acting in nature. A strong Mercury in a sign that suits its nature indicates quickness and cleverness in thoughts and perceptions. A strong Mars in a sign that suits it shows someone who's primed for action and goes for a goal assertively.

People with both planets combined think on their feet and can hit rocket speed in no time. Mars sets its sights on a target, and Mercury quickly scopes out the most effective way to hit it. Mars wants victory, and Mercury adds persuasiveness and salesmanship. Mercury tends to meander, but Mars gets right to the point. However, their combined traits can sometimes become too much of a good thing. The individual often acts rashly without thinking through the long-term implications or may speak sharply, sarcastically, or impulsively and live to regret it.

Let's look at Mercury and Mars conjunct in the Cardinal air sign, Libra.

Traits of the Planet Mars:	Traits of Mercury:	Traits of the Sign Libra:
Possible Constructive Traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Possible Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others.	Possible Constructive Traits: communicative, fast learner, full of ideas, articulate, bright, adaptable, versatile, clever, imaginative, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious, persuasive. Possible Difficult Traits: distractible, changeable, restless, overly cerebral, faddish, fickle, superficial, glib, nosy, gossipy, knows all/tells all, Peter Pan.	Possible Constructive traits: sociable, charming, gracious, attractive, warm, adaptable, harmonious, cooperative, affectionate, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise. Possible Difficult Traits: people pleaser, indecisive, vain, overly concerned with appearance, coasting on charm rather than effort, indolent, hedonistic, greedy, superficial, unreliable.

Now, let's see how different the combination can be in the Fixed water sign of Scorpio:

Traits of the Planet Mars:	Traits of Mercury:	Traits of the Sign Scorpio:
Possible Constructive Traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, heroic, independent, self-starting. Possible Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate of others' needs and wants, driven.	Possible Constructive Traits: communicative, fast learner, full of ideas, articulate, bright, adaptable, versatile, clever, imaginative, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious, persuasive. Possible Difficult Traits: distractible, fidgety, changeable, restless, overly cerebral, faddish, fickle, superficial, glib, nosy, gossipy, knows all/tells all, internet addict, Peter Pan, untruthful.	Possible Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, analytic, perseverance, resilient, persistent, healing, transformative, penetrating, unafraid of hard work, loyal, observant, introspective. Possible Difficult Traits: over-intense, jealous, suspicious, manipulative, obsessive, compulsive, unforgiving, spiteful, enmeshed in power struggles, secretive, vengeful, spiteful, loner.

Major areas of interest for individuals with a strong Libra emphasis tend to be marriage, partnerships of all sorts, equality in relationships, give and take, justice, beauty, fashion, diplomacy, fair play, peace, and harmony. Libra is ruled by Venus, which should tone down Mars's rougher edges and add Libra's charm and diplomacy to Mercury's fluent communication.

By contrast, those with a strong Scorpio emphasis tend to take a keen interest in healing, transformation, sexuality, wealth, uses and abuses of power, secrets, the occult, psychology, death and the afterlife, and debt financing. Because Scorpio is a Fixed water sign ruled by Pluto, they often hold onto emotions and past betrayals. Scorpio's depth adds penetrating insight to the analytic abilities that Mercury symbolizes. Scorpions are steadfast in their preoccupations and relationships, with deep emotional investment in preserving what's theirs. They find it hard to forgive or forget, so Mars' bouts of anger are long-lasting, becoming grievances and resentments.

Here are templates for combining the first two stages of analyzing a conjunction—the two planets matched with their sign and house. The same template will work for both the inner and outermost planets. To start by just considering the two planets and their sign, copy and paste the traits of the two planets in your conjunction into the first and second boxes below and then paste the traits of the sign into the third box, since the planets' effects are stronger than the sign's.

Traits of Planet #1:	Traits of Planet #2:	Traits of the Sign:

The second template, below, adds the areas of life for the house into the first box, because that's the conjunction's major focus of energy.

The Conjunction's House:	Traits of the first Planet :	Traits of the Second Planet:	Traits of the Sign:

How do the Planets in the Combination Get Along?

In analyzing any conjunction—like we did for Mercury and Mars—consider the basic compatibility of the two planets. How well do they mesh—are their natures in harmony or at odds? How compatible are they? Are they arms-around-the-shoulders buddies? Respectful colleagues with similar aims? Worthy adversaries? Or, are they better off not even in the same room?

Because of their closeness to the Sun, Mercury and Venus are two of the more common planets in a stellium. They blend especially well with other inner planets. Venus and Mercury can be allies—the gift of gab indicated by Mercury wins over the folks our Inner Venus wants to charm. Mercury-Jupiter aspects, both being mental in focus, work toward common ends. Though prone to being verbose, cocky, and excessively optimistic, such folks can learn from their mistakes.

The communication skills indicated by Mercury even work well with some of the outer planets. Mercury and Uranus in combination suggest a bright, rather cerebral individual with a quirky sense of humor and a tendency to put an odd spin on matters.

However, Mercury's ability to conceptualize and communicate clearly is diluted and diffused by hazy Neptune. Conversely, your Inner Neptune's need to meditate and contact the vastness of the Divine is sabotaged by Mercury's constant mental chatter.

Paired with Pluto, Mercury shows a strong capacity to delve into the depths. Such individuals can be excellent students of human nature and persist in uncovering the truth. The uses they put the truth to, however, can sometimes be questionable—manipulation and emotional blackmail among the worst of uses—and can taint their relationships.

The table below shows my experience of how well each pair of planets generally works together, but for a complete picture, you'd include sign, house, and aspect. Note that the needs described by the inner planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter) find it easy to mesh.

However, conjunctions of the planets from Saturn outward can represent difficult yet productive combinations. The nature of the planets determines the fit. Pluto and Saturn can be a tough pair. Individuals with this combination show admirable perseverance in hardship. They typically pride themselves on being a "survivor," even when a wiser choice would be to cut their losses.

Planet:	Generally Works Well with:	Depends on Sign and Aspect:	Difficulty Working with:
Sun	Mercury, Venus, Jupiter	Moon, Mars	Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Moon	Mercury, Venus, Jupiter	Sun, Mars	Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Mercury	Sun, Moon, Venus, Jupiter, Uranus	Mars, Saturn, Neptune, Pluto	Boredom!
Venus	Sun, Moon, Jupiter	Mars	Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Mars	Venus, Jupiter	Sun, Mercury	Moon, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Jupiter	Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars		Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Saturn		Sun, Mercury	Moon, Venus, Jupiter Uranus, Neptune, Pluto
Uranus	Mercury, Jupiter	Sun, Moon, Venus	Saturn, Neptune, Pluto
Neptune		Mercury	Sun, Moon, Venus, Saturn, Uranus, Pluto
Pluto		Mercury, Mars	Sun, Moon, Venus, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Conjunctions— Siamese Twins or Hostile Takeover?



Where there's a conjunction, there's also a strong possibility that the two planets involved will have conflicts of interest or compete for resources in the area of life where they are placed.

For instance, the part of us that Venus describes wants to love and be loved, ideally in a long-term, committed relationship. Uranus, on the other hand, depicts a part of our being that insists upon its freedom and independence, and doesn't like to be tied down. Thus, Venus-Uranus conjunctions contain contradictions that need to be resolved in order to find satisfying relationships.

Odd Couples within a Stellium: In learning to get the most from a stellium, it's quite a task to figure out how to make the needs and desires symbolized by the planets involved work together. Some parts of you that have to be partners are so different that it's a perennial struggle to find common ground. The closer a conjunction, the more urgent it becomes to find ways to harmonize.

As the owner of a stellium, your mediation skills will be crucial to success. A big part of your challenge is to negotiate a working truce between mismatched planets in the combination. Look again at the sections in Chapters 7 and 8 that describe what each planet in your stellium wants.

Consider whether the pairs of planets are united in mutually agreed-upon goals or whether you need to be working out a Win/Win scenario so both parts get some of what they want.

As life unfolds and a balance between the two sets of needs is achieved and consistently honored, you'll no longer envision those energies as separate or conflicting or imagine any other way of operating. Your ability to use the planets in your stellium productively will grow remarkably.

Making mismatched planets work in harmony is one of the tasks you took on as a stellium holder. **You can learn to make any two pairs work together—some are just easier than others.** None of the planets in the mix is a mistake. The list of qualities and interests in their descriptions show the sum total of what you need to make your mission a success.

Some of us sign on for challenges the ordinary person couldn't handle. Regular use of the stellium worksheet and self-tests on how you're using the planets can help alert you to times when you're heading in the wrong direction.

To illustrate a conflicting pair, the basic human needs signified by the Moon and Uranus are difficult to reconcile. By comparing qualities and concerns of these planets, you'll see how ill-suited a couple they are.

Our Inner Uranus by nature is experimental, innovative, and radical, while the Moon by nature is traditional and conservative. The Moon represents an ancient, feminine energy; Uranus shows a part of ourselves that is futuristic and more masculine. Uranus is adventuresome and craves excitement; the Moon is security-minded and safety-conscious. The Moon wants to preserve the past; Uranus wants to demolish decaying structures and build a shining new order.

The Moon signifies home cooking with an old family recipe; Uranus is high tech food processing with lots of artificial additives. People with the Moon and Cancer strong yearn for family and roots; People with Uranus and Aquarius strong would be happier living in an RV with little more than a computer and a couple of bookshelves. Aquarian types are defiant mavericks.

Your job as the owner of a stellium isn't always easy. **What helps is knowing the basic human needs each planet in a conjunction represents** and what it can contribute to your life mission. Don't suppress or deny any part of yourself consistently, as that creates trouble down the line.

Understanding Inner Planet Pairs

The inner planets we'll work with first are the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter. Because the Sun, Mercury, and Venus travel close together in the sky, conjunctions between the three of them are frequent, perhaps the most common features of a stellium. Let's see how the Sun fits with Mercury, the planet associated with communication skills.

Traits Attributed to Mercury:	Traits Attributed to the Sun:
Possible Constructive Traits: communicative, fast learner, full of ideas, articulate, bright, adaptable, versatile, clever, imaginative, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious, persuasive. Possible Difficult Traits: distractible, fidgety, changeable, restless, overly cerebral, faddish, fickle, superficial, glib, nosy, gossipy, knows all/tells all, internet addict, Peter Pan, untruthful.	Possible Constructive Traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, narcissistic, melodramatic.

The Sun in our charts shows how we seek to shine and to be the center of our own small universe. When it's conjunct another planet, the qualities and activities connected with that planet are keys to the person's identity and self-worth. When the person is successful in expressing that planet's qualities, self-esteem tends to grow, but lack of success or a bad setback can create self-doubt or even self-hate

Mercury conjunct the Sun can show a witty, bright, funny person who impresses others with their stories and ability to communicate. The less attractive quality is a tendency to monopolize a conversation by constantly talking about themselves. In addition, any sort of setback in Mercury-related activities—like writing or speaking—can be a blow to their ego.

Let's analyze two conjunctions to Venus as part of a stellium, as I'm sure many of you want to know more about how it affects your relationships.

Traits Attributed to Venus:	Traits Attributed to the Sun:
Constructive traits: sociable, charming, attractive, warm, adaptable, affectionate, harmonious, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise. Difficult Traits: people pleaser, vain, over-concerned with appearances, coasting on charm rather than effort, insincere, hedonistic, superficial.	Possible Constructive Traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, narcissistic, melodramatic.

Looking at the good qualities Venus describes, it's easy to see how a Sun-Venus conjunction adds greatly to the person's appeal and can boost self-confidence. Since Venus rules Libra, if the Sun-Venus conjunction is carried to an extreme, it's like a Libra Sun on steroids—oozing charm, but overly attached to being the center of the loved one's attention at all times. In combination, this person can lose sight of the mission and focus instead on people pleasing and having everyone love them. If they don't get that love and attention often enough, they'll balk at the mission.

Remember, however, that the conjunction's sign has a big effect on how the combination is expressed. In self-effacing signs like Virgo or Pisces, it typically indicates someone who is personable without conceit. In a Leo, it could dazzle, but lead to compulsive attention-seeking.

Here's another fortunate combination, yet one that's not without drawbacks:

Traits Attributed to Venus:	Traits Attributed to Jupiter:
Constructive traits: sociable, charming, attractive, warm, adaptable, affectionate, harmonious, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise. Difficult Traits: people pleaser, vain, over-concerned with appearances, coasting on charm rather than effort, insincere, indolent, hedonistic, superficial.	Possible Constructive Traits: upbeat, joyful, aspiring, hopeful, philosophical, optimistic, willing to take risks, lucky, generous, studious, wise, able to synthesize information, lifetime student. Possible Difficult Traits: overindulgent, gambling, pushing their luck, preachy, exaggerating, opinionated, dogmatic, pompous, Pollyanna, over-confident, greedy, hypocritical.

In traditional astrology, Venus and Jupiter are known as the two *benefics*, meaning that they generally convey good fortune. When they're conjunct, the charm and warmth shown by Venus can combine with the typical upbeat, joyful spirit typically associated with Jupiter to create a real people magnet and add greatly to the mission's success.

Again, **the sign has a considerable impact on the aspect**, as in Virgo or Capricorn, it's cooler and more aware of things that could go wrong. The fire signs (Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius) increase the magnetism, but also create a danger of rashness or being over the top in the activities and relationships associated by the mission.

Conjunctions Split between two Signs

Out-of-sign conjunctions happen when the planets in your stellium are split between about 22-29° of one sign and 1-7° of the following sign but the two planets are still within an 8° range. Suppose you had Mars at 27° Sagittarius and the Sun at 1° Capricorn, two very different signs. They'd still be considered conjunct because they're only 4° apart.

Beginners: This type of conjunction may or may not appear in your stellium. If not, feel free to skip ahead to the next section.

If you have a stellium by house that straddles two signs, you may have at least one out-of-sign conjunction. They're quite strong, especially if one of them is an outer planet.

Out-of-sign conjunctions are harder to interpret than regular ones because two signs are involved rather than one. The two next-door signs have no natural relationship since they're in two different modes and elements. My experience is that the planets involved are stronger than the sign, so in analyzing out-of-sign conjunctions, start with the planets involved. With Mars and the Sun as an example, think about the qualities associated with Mars and then the qualities associated with the Sun.

Traits Attributed to Mars:	Traits Attributed to the Sun:
Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, heroic, determined, zestful, dynamic, independent, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, self-starting. Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, rash, impulsive, cruel, domineering, inconsiderate of others' needs, driven.	Possible Constructive Traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, narcissistic, melodramatic.

As with any conjunction, look at the qualities of both planets, and think what would happen if they were blended. Keep working on that, until you get a detailed picture of a Sun–Mars connection. Next, consider their house placement, and combine the two planets with the matters and areas of life connected with that house. The two act on the house like conjoined twins.

At this stage of analyzing an out-of-sign conjunction, you should have a good picture of whether the aspect applies to you or not. If it doesn't, then conclude it isn't important. If the combination seems to be working strongly, start thinking about the two signs involved.

Recall our earlier discussion about next-door signs and how they can provide checks and balances against the worst qualities of both signs. It's an important principle in learning to make an out-of-sign conjunction work in your favor.

Returning to our example, let's say Mars is at the end of upbeat, expansive, philosophic Sagittarius, while the Sun is at the beginning of grounded, practical, but pessimistic Capricorn. Enthusiastic Sagittarius could be quite a strong placement for the already-fiery planet Mars.

Qualities of Sagittarius:	Mars: (27° Sagittarius)	Sun: (1° Capricorn)	Qualities of Capricorn:
Constructive traits: upbeat, joyful, aspiring, wisdom, philosophical, optimistic, lucky, generous, studious, able to synthesize diverse sources of information, lifetime student, buoyant, gregarious. Possible Difficult Traits: overindulging, pushing their luck, preachy, exaggerating, tactless, opinionated, judgmental, fanatical, over-confident, pompous, dogmatic, know-it-all, hypocritical.	Constructive traits: courageous, bold, strong, assertive, energetic, tireless, determined, zestful, dynamic, adventuresome, vivacious, athletic, independent, self-starting. Possible Difficult Traits: aggressive, hotheaded, arrogant, pushy, belligerent, brusque, rash, mean, impulsive, cruel, domineering, stubborn, inconsiderate, driven.	Possible Constructive Traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, narcissistic, melodramatic.	Constructive traits: hard working, able to delay gratification, businesslike, serious, realistic, disciplined, organized, reliable, responsible, high standards, foresightful, cautious, resourceful. Possible Difficult Traits: bossy, conservative, stuck in the past, rigid, over-ambitious, insecure, anxious, unimaginative, opportunistic, inhibited, snobbish, skeptical, pessimistic, gloomy, workaholic.

These next-door signs are very different, and yet when used well, they can complement one another, making this pair potentially an asset. Sagittarius has big, inspired ideas, whereas Capricorn has the practical know-how to make them happen in the real world, as well as a firm grip on reality. The two together could indicate an entrepreneur with the necessary fire in the belly to make things happen, and with good business sense to boot.

Here's a template to use for an out-of-sign conjunction: Copy and paste the template below into the word processing file you've created for information about your stellium. Then copy and paste the qualities of the two signs from file that contains all the tables. Then copy and paste the qualities of the two planets. Then do side by side comparisons of the planet-sign combinations.

Qualities of Sign #1:	Qualities of Planet #1:	Qualities of Planet #2:	Qualities of Sign #2:

Conjunctions between Inner and Outer Planets

In Chapter 8, we learned that the slower-moving planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—are so complex and powerful that when they appear in a stellium or triple conjunction, they become key players. If misused, they can present serious obstacles to your goals and mission, so a great deal of what you're able to accomplish will depend on how well you learn to manage the needs they portray.

What redeems these aspects is that with these planets strong in the birth chart, people have the capacity to make a major difference in their world. They often do this by experiencing the outer planet's transpersonal effects on a personal level. They feel our collective pain and live out dilemmas we seldom have the courage to address unless we're hurting.

For instance, having a conjunction between Venus and a slower-moving planet influences your connections with everyone you meet. Let's look at two examples of Venus in a conjunction with an outermost planet:

Traits Attributed to Venus:	Traits Attributed to Uranus:
<p>Possible Constructive traits: sociable, charming, attractive, warm, adaptable, affectionate, harmonious, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise.</p> <p>Possible Difficult Traits: people pleaser, vain, over-concerned with appearances, coasting on charm rather than effort, insincere, indolent, hedonistic, superficial.</p>	<p>Possible Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free.</p> <p>Possible Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn.</p>

Venus-Uranus folks dazzle and delight with their unusual styles of living and loving. They begin by shocking us, then start trends that we rush to emulate. In most entertainment fields, they stand out. Glitterati is a good term for them, as they often have a unique sense of style. Other qualities of this combination include innovative style, eccentric charm, unusual beauty, charismatic appeal, shocking indulgence, futuristic arts, and trend-setting fashions.

Venus symbolizes such important issues as whom or what is loved, how freely we love, how we express affection, how we attract love, our sense of beauty and style, our capacity to compromise and cooperate, and how we seek harmony.

Typical Uranian or Aquarian types are often rebellious, even outlandish, in their modernistic, visionary perspectives. Depending on which sensibility these freethinking gadflies are tweaking today, you may find them modern, trendy, inventive, and charismatic, or you may find them shocking, outlandish, socially beyond the pale, and unsettling.

Pairing Uranus with Venus can show wild relationship patterns—some delicious, others simply odd or even jarring. It tends to universal love, instant connections, visionary harmony, intermittent cooperation, unconventional relationships, and on-again, off-again commitments.

Now let's compare that with a Venus-Neptune conjunction. Many people with this aspect have considerable charm, but it's different from the pizzazz of Venus-Uranus or the steam heat of Venus-Pluto. It's an endearing, poetic, Irish brogue charm. It's a wistful, woeful, wounded charm. It's a, "buy me another drink and I'll sing you another sad love song" charm. They're appealing, and we can get hooked on the pain of loving them in return for the rare moments when they're truly THERE. Have a look at how the qualities associated with these two planets mesh.

Traits Attributed to Venus	Traits Attributed to Neptune:
<p>Constructive traits: sociable, charming, attractive, warm, adaptable, affectionate, harmonious, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise.</p> <p>Difficult Traits: people pleaser, vain, over-concerned with appearances, coasting on charm rather than effort, insincere, indolent, hedonistic, superficial.</p>	<p>Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic.</p> <p>Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.</p>

Others with this aspect are drawn to people who are wounded or flawed in some tragic way, believing that they can rescue them with their love. They may fall for troubled souls or even rogues with a heart of gold, sensing their potential. This is partly a less-than-judicious use of Neptune's compassion, a gift for perceiving the unsullied soul that underlies even the most the troubled or destructive personality.

The gifts that Neptune represents are put to better use in the service professions or in volunteer work, like being a mentor to a troubled teen. Even in the service fields, however, folks with these aspects must take care not to get involved with murky boundary violations. Clear boundaries, in general, are not the *forte* of this aspect, but, like everything else, they can be learned.

Another Example: Aspects to the Sun from Neptune and Pluto:

We'll use the Sun to demonstrate the qualities associated with conjunctions between a fast-moving and slow-moving planet for two reasons. First, it is perhaps the most common placement in a stellium, because the Sun spends a month in each sign every year, and it's usually accompanied by Venus, Mercury, or both.

Second, the Sun is the most powerful symbol of who we are, so when joined with an outermost planet, the combined qualities profoundly alter our identity and sense of self. We share many qualities of the sign that planet rules—Pisces for Neptune and Pluto for the Sun.

Combining the Sun with Neptune can be a challenge. The Sun represents the sense of self. Neptune represents selflessness and our capacity to merge with others and All That Is. It's the capacity and the wish to lose ourselves in something greater. When Neptune connects with the Sun, seeing oneself clearly is a life-long challenge. The Sun shows the need to know, "who am I?" Neptune represents the Unknowable, forever shape-shifting and elusive. The Sun continually asks, "What's in it for me?" Neptune asks, "How can I relieve the suffering around me?"

Traits of the Sun:	Traits of Neptune:
Possible Constructive traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, selfish, narcissistic, melodramatic.	Possible Constructive Traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, devoted, meditative, non-materialistic. Possible Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.

See how different the Sun-Neptune conjunction is from a conjunction between the Sun and Pluto. Consider what each of the two says about the ways the person seeks to find self-worth.

Traits of the Sun:	Traits of Pluto:
Possible Constructive traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Possible Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, selfish, narcissistic, melodramatic.	Possible Constructive Traits: deep, psychologically astute, transformative, perseverance, resilient. Possible Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative

With the Sun conjunct Pluto, the sense of self is all too often tightly bound up in Plutonian events and childhood circumstances that shaped the person's identity. This could include betrayals of trust, loss of a parent or other significant relative, or family financial circumstances that impinged on the person's identity. The person who faced a history like this could go to either extreme—seeing themselves as powerless in similar situations and thus avoiding such circumstances in adult life. Or, determined not to be on the receiving end, they might battle for control, reducing others to a powerless state.

If any of these Plutonian patterns are part of recurrent story arcs in your life, I 'd once more recommend *Healing Pluto Problems* and books on Pluto by Erin Sullivan, Jeffrey Wolf Green and Liz Greene. This is too complex and major an aspect to just recommend a flower essence or two—a particularly difficult history may require long-term healing work.

And, yes, many people with Pluto aspects to the Sun overcome their origins and wind up as healers, shamans, magicians, therapists, mediums, and other Plutonian careers.

Template: Inner plus Outer Planet in a Conjunction:

Matters of the House Placement:	Traits of the Inner Planet:	Traits of the Outer Planet:	Traits of the Conjunction's Sign:

Coming Next: In Chapter 12, we'll continue to explore the all-important conjunctions in a stellium by looking at long-lasting pairs of the outermost planets, such as Saturn and Pluto or Uranus and Neptune. They occur during history-making eras, and, as we'll see, they not only signify major world changes, they also portray the direct effect those changes have on the lives of individuals if they play a major role in the birth chart.

Chapter 12—Outer Planet Conjunctions: How the Five Powerful Planetary Pairs of 1960-2010 Affect People Born with Them

Beginners, if your stellium does not contain two of the slower-moving planets (Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto), you can skip this chapter and the next, and go to Chapter 14.

We're living in a very special era, astrologically speaking. Between 1960 and 2010, a series of slow-moving conjunctions formed in the signs Virgo through Aquarius. It's unusual for so many of these combinations to occur in half a century, as well as appearing in signs that follow one another. Here are the periods when these combinations were within an 8-10° range⁶:

Planets in Conjunction:	Zodiac Signs involved:	Years in an 8-10° Range:	Years Between:	Previous Exact Conjunctions:
Uranus-Pluto	Virgo	1962-9	111-143	1710, 1850-51
Saturn-Pluto	Libra-Scorpio	1981-83	33	1914-5, 1947-8
Saturn-Uranus	Sagittarius-Capricorn	1987-89	45	1897, 1941-3
Saturn-Neptune	Capricorn	1988-90	35-37	1917, 1952-3
Uranus-Neptune	Capricorn-Aquarius	1988-97	172-3	1650, 1823

In one sense, these combinations are rare, since they can be as much as 170 years apart. In another sense, they're common because every person born on Earth while one of them is within 8-10° has it in their birth chart. The speed of the planets determines how long they last, and therefore how many millions are born with them. A Pluto-Saturn conjunction is in range for about 2 years. A Pluto-Uranus conjunction lasts far longer—it's within 8-10° for as long as 7 years.

I've made a special study of these five planetary pairs since my earliest days in astrology. Over several decades of client work, I've been fascinated with people who have them strong in their charts. I've closely observed the behaviors, motivations, and issues that shape their lives.

Having one outermost planet in a stellium is manageable and conveys a variety of gifts and talents. Two or more of them raises the performance demand considerably. As the table above suggests, the odds are that if you were born after 1961 and have a stellium, it's likely to contain two of the outermost planets. The more inner planets added to a stellium that contains two of the outermost planets, the more complex the issues become and the greater their weight.

Slower-moving planetary pairs reflect the climate of the times. They portray historical, political, social, or economic trends and events, natural disasters, and important technological advances. As we'll learn here, they have a long-range impact on the psychology of individuals born with them. I've come to view people born with stelliums based on these conjunctions as *subgenerations* who strive to make these energies work together under epic conditions.

⁶ This table of outer planet conjunctions was compiled using the invaluable reference work, *Tables of Planetary Phenomena, Second Edition*, by Neil F. Michelsen, revised by Rique Pottenger (ACS Publishing, San Diego, 1993). Information on intervals between outer planet conjunctions came from an exceptional website, which is only intermittently available: www.auxmailliesgodefroy.com/outer_planet_cycles. Any errors or inexactitudes are strictly my own!

When astrologers talk about the outer planets, they usually mean Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. I refer to them as the *outermost* planets or *slower-moving* planets, and include Saturn, as it doesn't work like the inner planets. When Saturn transits a sign, issues connected with that sign are subjected to stress. The areas of life that matter to that sign get tougher to manage. If it's Virgo, let's say, it affects the health care industry. If it's Sagittarius, it's education and religion.

We should also distinguish between direct and indirect effects of these conjunctions. Most children with them are *indirectly affected*—through their parents—by world events such as an economic downturn. Perhaps a parent loses their job and the family goes hungry or is homeless for a time. Living in poverty as a child can have a lasting effect, even if finances improve later.

Other children, such as those born in Third World countries, may be directly and catastrophically affected, for example by a tsunami that wipes out their village, a volcanic eruption, or a famine.

Most people born within a particular span of years have similar contacts between the outermost planets. Individuals born with one of the combinations in the table—such Pluto and Saturn in Libra—tend to share similar personal experiences and life issues with peers born within the same year or two. As we'll learn in considering these conjunctions, the issues are those described by the planets and signs involved. Some aspects were within range for several years.

Not everyone born under one of these conjunctions is equally affected. For instance, not every person with Pluto and Saturn conjunct in Libra who came of age around 9/11 fought in the Mideast or lost a loved one there, though most of them felt the effects of those frightening events that changed our view of the United States forever.

How do we know if one of these long-lasting aspects is important enough in the natal chart to become a dominant theme in the person's life? The five conjunctions represent major dynamics in individual lives if they're *high focus* in the birth chart due to:

- Being part of a stellium that also includes several faster-moving planets
- Forming multiple aspects to other planets in the chart, especially the Sun or Moon
- A high ranking on the planetary scores tests for one or both of the planets
- Being placed on one of the four chart angles (1st, 4th, 7th, or 10th)
- Or some combination of the above.

The aspect gains further importance if the signs and houses associated with those planets are also emphasized—the 10th and Capricorn for Saturn, the 11th and Aquarius for Uranus, the 12th and Pisces for Neptune, and the 8th and Scorpio for Pluto. The house position shows areas of life where it has the greatest effect, and aspects from other planets modify its expression.

When someone has a *high-focus* outer planet pair and several inner planets in the same sign as the outer planet conjunction, the resulting stellium suggests that **global concerns are an intensely personal part of their lives**. You might even call them poster children for those concerns.

Challenging experiences turn many of them into spiritual seekers. They look for insight into their own nature and the meaning of life itself. In the process of finding answers that work for them, they seek to attain higher consciousness in order realize more of their potential. They look for ways of transcending their personal situation to merge with universal needs and trends.

People like these can strongly influence the world around them, as they're sensitive to the climate of their time. Their concerns, gifts, and lifestyles tend to evolve in response to global concerns rather than strictly personal ones. They may live out their generation's needs and dilemmas through difficulties they face and surmount.

Because they grapple with large-scale issues like these throughout life, they may eventually contribute solutions to social problems or help us take the next step in humanity's evolution.

People born with superconjunctions made up of three of the outermost planets are a special case. These combinations are extremely uncommon from a historical perspective—there can be centuries between them—yet they represent major personal obstacles *and* opportunities in the lives of millions of people born all around the globe with that combination.

In 1988-90, Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn were all conjunct in Capricorn. The Moon marched over them once a month, forming a stellium. In winter months of those years, the Sun, Mercury, and Venus in Capricorn joined the parade. Millions of children were born around the globe in that period, with stelliums of four to seven Capricorn planets. We'll examine the effects of that combination in depth in the next chapter

How the order of planets affects the conjunction: In the last chapter, we talked about how **the lead planet in a conjunction may dominate in much the same way as the lead planet in a stellium sets the tone for the action.**

This is potentially an important consideration in analyzing conjunctions of the outermost planets because the first planet in the pair is the first to be activated by a transit. Here, however, the implications are weightier than a conjunction that only includes the inner planets, since the action of the outmost planets on our collective lives are so strong.

For instance, would a transit to a Uranus-Pluto placement turn out differently than a transit to a Pluto-Uranus placement? A Uranian approach to a developing situation certainly ought to be quite different from a Plutonian one. I must confess, I haven't observed this idea in action, because I wasn't aware of it, but will do so from now on.

Does the Sign Matter?

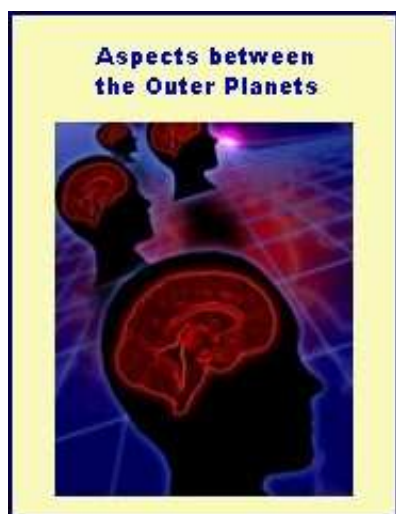
As you'll see, the energies associated with outer planet conjunctions are no walk in the park to manage—we have to grow into them. With conscious effort, we can avoid mistakes symbolized by these combinations. Some signs match qualities of one or both planets better than others do.

As an example, the table below compares two subgenerations with Saturn conjunct Uranus: the conjunction in Gemini in 1941-3 and the one in Capricorn in 1988-90. Look across the panels and consider how well the traits shown fit each pair.

Coming of age in the 1960's, the Gemini group has the air element emphasized, and thus they were freer to express Uranus' rebellion and social activism. Coming of age in the current era, the Capricorn group has earth emphasized and therefore is experiencing more of Saturn's sense of limitation and constriction. In addition, the younger group has Neptune in a triple conjunction with Uranus and Saturn, making their lives infinitely more complicated. Astrologers, they need all the insight we can provide to help them make sense of this powerful combination.

Traits of Gemini:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Capricorn:
Constructive traits: Communicative, persuasive, fast learner, connecting people, full of ideas, articulate, bright, quick-witted, adaptable, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious. Difficult Traits: restless Distractible, talking head, motor mouth, superficial, nosy, fickle, internet addict.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, leading edge, brilliant, thinks outside the box, quirky, humanitarian, idealistic, innovative, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willful, rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, contrary, eccentric, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: rigid, perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, anxious, depressed, inhibited, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: Hard working, businesslike, realistic, disciplined, organized, high standards, responsible, foresightful, cautious, resourceful. Difficult Traits: Bossy, conservative, rigid, over-ambitious, anxious, opportunistic, skeptical, pessimistic, workaholic.

A Message for those with an Outer Planet Conjunction in their Stellium



Next, we'll explore the qualities associated with all five conjunctions. We can't cover these important chart features here in detail—it took a whole book to do that in the depth they deserve. My e-book, *The Outer Planets and Inner Life, Volume 3*, contains chapters on each planetary combination discussed below. It's available at <http://www.MoonMavenPublications.com/ebooks.html>.

Before we move on, however, I want to talk directly to people who have these conjunctions. First, let me remind you that the planets don't cause anything; they simply reflect what is going on.

A Uranus-Saturn conjunction leads my own stellium, so I'm well acquainted with the difficulties in learning to handle these combinations. It's the work of a lifetime, though conscious effort helps us grow into them. A big reason I've written this book is to help people like us recognize both the productive and the counter-productive ways of using these combinations so that the learning curve gets smoother.

I'm not going to lie and tell you it will be easy. You already know it's not, unless you're a precocious 12-year-old who's already studying astrology (yes, born in 2001, they're out there.) Actually, that 12-year-old probably has a stellium in Aquarius and already realizes that it's going to be hard. However, those outer planets combinations show that you have what it takes to make a difference in the world around you.

I also wrote this book to ease the sense of isolation and alienation so many of us suffer, because these planetary combinations suggest we're anything but mainstream. One of the great comforts for people who are different is finding yourself described in a text by a recognized expert and discovering that you're not alone but instead are part of an identifiable group. You may have felt that same validation in perusing an astrology book, magazine, or blog. I hope that you'll feel a similar sense of belonging as you read about your outer planet conjunction here.

Pluto-Uranus in Virgo: the “Quest for Right Livelihood” Aspect (1962-9 in Virgo)

Stellium alert: The long Pluto-Uranus conjunction in Virgo was in orb in 1968, when I began my astrological studies. The conjunction was only exact three times in 1965-66, but Pluto and Uranus were within an 8-10° range during parts of 1962-9. It signified a history-making era.

The tumultuous events of the 1960s—and the ways people around me responded to them—closely matched the qualities and concerns of Uranus, Pluto, and the sign Virgo. However, more was going on than the conjunction. An intricate web of aspects had formed, including tight angles between Uranus and Pluto in Virgo, Saturn and Chiron in Pisces and Neptune in Scorpio.

Virgo Qualities and Concerns: Textbook Virgos are hard-working, capable, skilled employees with high standards and a concern for doing things correctly and well. When there are several planets in that sign, it’s an even stronger drive. With an eagle eye for spotting what’s amiss, they can be critical, yet their motivation is to improve themselves, those around them, and the world at large. Above all, they wish to be helpful and to serve, and they can do so with great modesty.

How Uranians Operate:	How Plutonians Operate:
Rebelling against domination	Seeking control
Demanding freedom	Amassing power
Detached, cerebral	Subjective, emotional
Technological	Psychological
Focused on the outer world, the future	Focused on inner life, the past
Open, inclusive	Closed, private
In your face, shocking	Covert, secretive
Sudden, radical change	Slow, deep transformation
Raze it to the ground and build anew	Healing what’s amiss

For people with a stellium that includes Pluto and Uranus, living up to Virgo’s high standards is very stressful. The workplace has changed fundamentally in the past several decades in ways that greatly diminished job satisfaction. The bottom line became God. To save money, job descriptions for professionals were broken into ever-smaller pieces and reassigned to technicians.

With Virgo strong in their charts, they’re likely to have a strong commitment to integrity, but we’re seeing a widespread erosion of ethical standards for conducting business. That makes it extremely challenging to feel pride in their work. Fueled by Uranus’ conflicts with authority and Virgo’s strong work ethic, they often have contempt for bosses and coworkers who are incompetent or who slack off in their jobs. (More about their career patterns here: [Career Challenges for the Pluto-Uranus in Virgo Generation](#).)

Many of them wind up in alternative health fields, where they can have their own practice rather than submit to the hierarchy of modern medicine facilities. They tend to be superb healers, blending ancient and modern medicine and keeping abreast of the newest findings.

Another field where they’ve made a substantial impact is technology. Virgo’s attention to detail and Uranus’ inventiveness make trend-setting software developers and innovators in design of everything from automobiles to communication devices.

Let's take a look at how Pluto and Uranus blend in the sign Virgo:

Traits of Pluto:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Virgo:
Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, transformative, perseverance, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, free, innovative, brilliant, detached. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive Traits: practical, helpful, dependable, cautious, persistent, eager to be useful, painstaking, analytical, thrifty, prudent, meticulous, dedicated, unselfish. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, overly critical of self and others, worrywart, hypochondriac, can't see the forest for the trees, expects the worst.

What do you make of the stark contrasts between Pluto and Uranus? If you have this conjunction, how does it play out in your work, your personal life, and in the lives of your peers?

P.S. If you think you've got it bad, imagine what life was like for people born in the early 1850s with a Pluto-Uranus-Saturn conjunction in the Fixed earth sign, Taurus. (During the 1850s conjunction, the question of slavery became troublesome and was creating a rift between the North and South that ultimately lead to the Civil War. It parallels the Civil Rights Movement that accompanied the 1960s Pluto-Uranus conjunction.)

Template: Pluto-Uranus conjunction in Virgo with house or third planet

Check to be sure whether Pluto or Uranus came first in the conjunction, and reverse the order if needed. (I just KNEW you'd want me to be more precise!)

House or Planet #3:	Traits of Pluto:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Virgo:

Saturn-Pluto Conjunction—the “Between a Rock and Hard Place Aspect”: (1980-3 in Libra/Scorpio; 1947-8 in Leo)

Stellium Alert: Masses of people born from 1947-1949 during the Post-World War II Baby Boom had anywhere from three to six planets in Leo that included Pluto and Saturn, especially during late summer while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were there as well.

Stellium Alert: Masses of people born from 1980-1983 had anywhere from three to six planets in Libra, with Pluto and Saturn at the core of the group, especially during the early fall of 1980-82 while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were there as well. **By late fall of 1983, both Pluto and Saturn had shifted into Scorpio**, and so stelliums were also formed while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were in that sign.

Let's start by looking at the potential strengths of this exceptionally resilient combination.

Pluto at its Best:

Saturn at its Best:

Has the strength of diamonds	Has staying power over time
Delves into the mysterious and hidden	Understands external structure
Unafraid of intense feelings or the truth	Unafraid of hard work, has foresight
Healer, reformer	Stabilizer, parental role model
Psychologically astute, insightful	Politically savvy, pragmatic
Desire to be an evolutionary force	Capable, disciplined, self-reliant
Gets to the causes of problems	Builds appropriate new structures
Strong regenerative powers	Exceptional endurance, Spartan
The Phoenix rises from its own ashes	A mountain climber scales new peaks

While their strength is admirable, there's also a tendency to tolerate a toxic situation or hang on to an exploitive relationship far longer than is reasonable. Sometimes, being a "quitter" can be smarter and more self-preserving than stubbornly hanging in there with someone or something that's never going to change for the better.

I had a great deal of experience with the Leo conjunction, as I encountered them frequently in my jobs as a social worker in New York City. Was that a fair sample? After all, if they wound up as clients in a social agency, wouldn't they have come from tough backgrounds? Yes, that could be true, though I also met others with that placement in my astrology practice and in the East Village of New York, where I lived at the time. Without growing up in poverty, they often had similar childhood experiences and similar traits.

Regardless of the sign, wealth and social position do not make those with this conjunction prominent in their charts immune to difficult family experiences. Prince William has this aspect as part of his Libra stellium (Although slightly wide, it's part of a *rolling conjunction*.) In the tragic death of his mother, Princess Diana, he suffered as heart-wrenching a loss as many Pluto-Saturn people living in poverty.

Here's what the tougher expressions of these two planets can be like when Pluto and Saturn are conjunct and high focus. Difficult early experiences that betray their trust can leave a Plutonian type bitter, cynical, and unable to trust others. Saturnians can sometimes build walls to shut others out, while demanding perfection from themselves and others.

When the pair are in a fixed sign like Leo or Scorpio, rather than learn from their errors, these folks tend to try harder and harder to get a different result without changing their behavior. They can become increasingly rigid and fearful of change, even when it's obviously needed. They're also skilled at controlling not only themselves but everything and everyone around them.

Watching them, you may not understand that fear is behind these behaviors, for they act tough and fearless as a defense. Don't let it fool you—they're on permanent Red Alert.

Many people with this aspect are survivors—they may exist in survival mode much of the time, and they may endure conditions and losses that would crush an average person. Sometimes, however, these experiences leave those resilient souls with incredible strength and self-discipline, so that they're up to handling difficult situations that would daunt others who hadn't survived such hardships.

People with this conjunction who use this aspect in healthful ways and who heal their past wounds have the strength of diamonds. In this era of Pluto transiting Saturn's sign, Capricorn,

we are facing an era when we've depleted our collective resources to a dangerous extent through accumulating debts we cannot repay, polluting our atmosphere, and wasting natural resources.

Healing the planet and its inhabitants is an immense job. It will require people as strong and determined as those with Pluto-Saturn conjunctions. Prince William, for instance, is becoming an inspiring leader in the cause of saving African wildlife from extinction.

Comparing the Leo vs. Libra Conjunctions of Pluto and Saturn

Traits of Leo:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Pluto:
Constructive traits: confident, high visibility, charismatic, dramatic, personable, sociable, loyal, generous, vibrant, sunny, regal, focused on self-expression and self-development. Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, diva, hungry for praise and attention, high maintenance, false pride, pretentious, self-centered, entitlement issues, grandiose, melodramatic.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, transformative, perseverance, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.

There was a marked toughness about many of my clients with the Leo conjunction, but they'd developed that tough exterior in order to protect themselves from the harsh environment and hardships they'd faced and difficult and painful experiences with parents or other adults.

Compare the conjunction in Leo (a Fixed fire sign) with the same Planets in Libra (a Cardinal air sign). You might consider the Libra conjunction an easier combination. Libra, after all, is a charming, agreeable, cooperative sign with a strong interest in relationships.

Traits of Libra:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Pluto:
Constructive traits: sociable, charming, gracious, attractive, warm, adaptable, cooperative, affectionate, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise. Difficult Traits: people pleaser, indecisive, vain, overly concerned with appearance, coasting on charm rather than effort, hedonistic, superficial, unreliable.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: negative, perfectionistic, pessimistic, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, demanding, unimaginative, conservative.	Constructive traits: deep, psychologically astute, transformative, perseverance, resilient. Difficult Traits: suspicious, mistrustful, loner, resentful, vengeful, unforgiving, possessive, obsessive, compulsive, spiteful, scheming, enmeshed in power struggles, manipulative.

With the people skills of Libra, some people with stelliums in Libra that include both Saturn and Pluto are wonderful mates, relatives, and friends, happy to use their gifts in service of others. There comes a point, however, when being accommodating has gone too far and becomes one-sided. Then they've had enough, and the walls can go up in that relationship permanently.

The first return of transiting Saturn to the same degree as its natal position comes at around age 28-9. Theirs came sometime during 2009-12 while transiting Saturn traveled through Libra. Many of them went through extremely challenging times in relationships and changed their approach. (Others, perennially single like Prince William, decided it was time to settle down.)

Template: Pluto-Saturn conjunction with house, sign, or 3rd planet. (Switch the order of Pluto and Saturn if Pluto comes first.)

House or Planet #3:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Pluto:	Traits of the Sign:

Saturn-Uranus Conjunction—the “Sane Weirdo” Aspect: (1988-9 in Sagittarius/Capricorn; 1941-3 in Taurus/Gemini)

Stellium Alert: Masses of people born from 1942-1944 had anywhere from three to six planets in Gemini, with Uranus and Saturn at the core of the group, especially during late spring while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were there as well.

Stellium Alert: The conjunction of Saturn and Uranus in Capricorn of 1988-89 was part of a rare superconjunction with Neptune. During the early winter months of those years, the inner planets formed stelliums of as many as six or seven Capricorn planets.

As the comparison below demonstrates, there’s a considerable difference in how the two planets operate.

How Uranians Operate:	How Saturnians Operate:
Defiant, rebellious living on the edge	Compliant, conforming, playing it safe
Focused on society and social change	Focused on results, the bottom line
Change via information, reason	Change via sweat equity, self-discipline
Sudden, radical change	Preserve the <i>status quo</i>
Seek personal and intellectual freedom	Support authority and the establishment
Idealistic, humanitarian	Pragmatic to cynical, realistic, hierarchical
Inventive, intellectual, unique	Stick with what works, time-tested methods
Zany, eccentric, unconventional	Traditional, even conservative, predictable
In-your-face style, shocking, edgy	Cling to respectability, classical/elegant
Individualistic, elitist, unique	Want to fit in, but be the best of the best

Many with this aspect live with a painful awareness of not fitting in anywhere, but forever falling betwixt and between. In the company of mainstream people, they’re often misfits whose beliefs and enthusiasms are socially and politically questionable. Among mavericks and counter-culture groups, on the other hand, they’re likely to urge caution and embrace conventional values.

The two planets are thoroughly different in ways that can be uncomfortable. Saturnians carefully build and maintain forms; Uranians smash rigid patterns, periodically reinventing themselves. Saturnians operate along predictable lines, pragmatically sticking with what works. Uranians are known for intermittent flashes of brilliance, but their theories might lack practical application.

Saturnians can be mainstream and conservative; Uranians may be unconventional or even political or social activists. Individuals with these aspects make the mixture pay off by merging the best qualities of both planets in ways like these:

<u>Uranians are:</u>	<u>Saturnians are:</u>	<u>In Combination They Are:</u>
Independent	Self-reliant	Self-directed and self-motivated
Rational, detached	Realistic	Clear-headed, not in denial
Futuristic, visionary	Far-seeing, historical	Able to fit past and future together
Brainy, inventive	Organized, analytical	Able to create and assess possibilities
Fixed in purpose	Long-range planners	Able to stick with long-term goals
Ahead of their times	Better as they get older	Wise elders of their tribes

People with Uranus-Saturn aspects combine offbeat ideas and interests with sound ways of applying them. **The reason I call them sane weirdoes is that this twosome enhances their ability to serve as a bridge between two distinct factions of the culture around them.**

One quality I often observe in people with this combination is the pairing of offbeat ideas and interests with sound ways of expressing and applying them. Capable astrologers or alternative health practitioners with academic credentials often serve a similar function by demonstrating the worth of their techniques to psychotherapists or medical personnel through cases they hold in common. (More about this aspect here: [Life Patterns of People Born with Uranus-Saturn Aspects](#).)

People with these aspects can painstakingly build elaborate structures for their lives only to tear them down again some years later and start fresh projects in search of excitement and mental stimulation. Saturn needs structure, stability, and a sense of accomplishment, while Uranus detests stagnation and chafes at any constriction to its freedom.

People who have this planetary pair in the vocational houses (2nd, 6th, or 10th) or aspecting the Midheaven may work very hard to establish a career or business and, because of their many gifts and capabilities, may enjoy an enviable success. Over the course of a lifetime, there are likely to be several dramatic shifts in career direction as they become so bored and restless that they start over from scratch. Major life departures like those above tend to occur under Uranus transits or transits that set off the natal Uranus-Saturn aspect.

Comparing the Conjunction in Gemini and Capricorn

Let's first look at how this conjunction works in the Mutable air sign, Gemini. This group—the one I was born under—came of age in the 1960s under the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo. It was an unforgettable era of social change, Peace and Civil Right marches, flower children, psychedelic drugs, and folk music.

Since Gemini is an air sign and Uranus is the ruler of Aquarius, another air sign, Uranus is more influential in this pair than Saturn. In contrast with the conjunction in Saturn-ruled Capricorn, the Gemini pair is light-hearted and playful, but also idealistic and inclined to live in their heads.

Traits of Gemini:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Saturn:
Constructive traits: Communicative, persuasive, fast learner, connecting people, full of ideas, articulate, bright, quick-witted, adaptable, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious. Difficult Traits: restless, distractible, talking head, motor mouth, superficial, nosy, fickle, internet addict.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.

Not only are the young people born with the conjunction in Capricorn more somber by nature, they are coming of age in a far more difficult era. They face a teetering economy, reduced educational and career opportunities, and serious concerns about the environment. In this pair, Saturn dominates, since it's in its own sign. We'll devote the next chapter to this generation, but have a look at how different the emphasis is from the Gemini one.

Traits of Capricorn:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Saturn:
Constructive traits: Hard working, businesslike, realistic, disciplined, organized, high standards, responsible, foresightful, cautious, resourceful. Difficult Traits: Bossy, conservative, rigid, over-ambitious, anxious, opportunistic, skeptical, pessimistic, workaholic.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, stern, demanding, conservative.

Template: Saturn-Uranus conjunction with house, sign, or 3rd planet.

House or Planet #3:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of the Sign:

Saturn-Neptune Conjunction—the “I Came up the Hard Way” Aspect
(1988-90 in Capricorn; 1952-3 in Libra)

Stellium Alert: Masses of people born in the fall months of 1950-3 had anywhere from three to six planets in Libra, Neptune and Saturn at the core of the group. There are also a great many born with Saturn conjunct Neptune in Capricorn as part of the superconjunction with Uranus between 1988-90. Millions were born worldwide with stelliums during early winter while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were in that sign.

Saturn and Neptune are possibly the two planets whose concerns and ways of operating are hardest to reconcile. Saturn represents form and structure, while Neptune represents formlessness and chaos, teaching us that this seemingly solid world, with all its woes, is itself an illusion. Saturn shows how we deal with reality; Neptune in the part of us that dwells in fantasy, imagination, and illusion, with dreams that sustain and inspire ourselves and those we touch.

How Saturnians Operate:	How Neptunians Operate:
The material plane, the waking world	The astral plane, the dream world
Dealing with reality and its demands	Living in fantasy, illusion, denial
Form, structure, and rigidity	Formlessness, chaos, fluidity
Recognizing and accepting limitations	Seeing infinite possibilities
Setting and respecting clear-cut boundaries	Lacking boundaries, merging with others
Parental, authoritarian relatedness	Codependent, enabling relatedness
Clear-cut rules, accountability	Laxity in rules, lack of accountability
Judgmental, conditional acceptance	Unconditional acceptance, compassion
Perfectionism, impossible standards	Celebrating the Soul's perfection
Striving for self-mastery	Feeling helpless and insignificant
Strenuous, goal-oriented efforts	Going with the flow, drifting, dreaming
Material success, accomplishments	Spiritual progress, devotion

Saturn represents the material plane of existence; Neptune is the astral realm. Saturn-Neptune people are often disillusioned in the course of their lives, but it's because they like to live in an illusory world, avoiding the struggles of this plane. Saturn represents aging and the passage of time, while Neptune recognizes the deeper truth that we're eternal and this lifetime is just one in an ever-flowing stream.

Many of my clients with high focus Saturn-Neptune aspects reported that hardships endured during childhood and/or difficult circumstances in adulthood forced them to grapple with limitations and with barriers to success and happiness. Often, when the Sun, Moon, Midheaven, 4th or 10th houses are affected by Neptune and Saturn, one or both parents faced difficulties like chronic physical or emotional illness, addiction, or extreme financial hardship. (See the comment section of this post for a moving collection of stories: [Getting a Grip on Saturn-Neptune Aspects](#).)

This aspect can suggest inconsistent authority figures who were present part of the time, only to relapse into dysfunctional behavior patterns or to be absent for extended periods. In response, many oldest children with this aspect took on parental functions for siblings, assumed a heavy load of household duties, or went to work early to help financially.

Left with a deep sense of responsibility, many of them devote their lives to serving others and overwork to the point of depletion. Learning to nurture themselves and keep their in balance is important. For many, the spiritual path and regular spiritual practice is uplifting and fulfilling.

Comparing the Conjunction in Libra and Capricorn

Much like the conjunctions of Saturn and Uranus in Gemini vs. Capricorn seen earlier, we again compare a pair in an Air sign (Libra) with one in an Earth sign (Capricorn).

Traits of Libra:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Neptune:
Constructive traits: sociable, charming, gracious, attractive, warm, adaptable, cooperative, affectionate, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non- materialistic.
Difficult Traits: people pleaser, indecisive, vain, overly concerned with appearance, coasting on charm rather than effort, hedonistic, superficial, wishy-washy, unreliable.	Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.

A huge issue for this group is that the relationships that make up the heart and soul of their lives often are deeply co-dependent ones, with poor boundaries. Many of them have a deep—but often misplaced—compassion for others' sufferings, and thus they tend to enable people who need to learn to take better care of themselves.

Those born between September, 1951 and October, 1953, while transiting Saturn in Libra was intermittently within an 8-10° range of a conjunction to Neptune had a particularly difficult *second Saturn return* sometime between September, 2011 and September of 2012. During that 2-year period, many of them reached their emotional or physical limits and could no longer sustain relationships based on being exploited. In many cases, tough love replaced being a doormat.

Traits of Capricorn:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Neptune:
Constructive traits: Hard working, businesslike, realistic, disciplined, organized, high standards, responsible, foresightful, cautious, resourceful.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non- materialistic.
Difficult Traits: Bossy, conservative, rigid, over- ambitious, anxious, opportunistic, skeptical, pessimistic, workaholic.	Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.

Again, Saturn is in its own sign and tends to dominate. As you might gather from the table above, those who have the conjunction in Capricorn may also have codependent relationships and a

strong sense of responsibility for other people's well-being, but they also have serious issues about their place in the world. We'll go into their relationship patterns in the next chapter.

Template: Saturn-Neptune conjunction with house, sign, or 3rd planet

House or Planet #3:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Neptune:	Traits of the Sign:

Uranus-Neptune Conjunction—the “Canary in the Mine Shaft” Aspect⁷
(Capricorn/Aquarius 1988-97)

Stellium Alert: Neptune was in Capricorn from 1984-98 and Uranus was in Capricorn from 1988-95. To complicate the picture further, Saturn itself was in Capricorn for parts of 1988-1990. Therefore, many people born from 1998 onward have stelliums in Capricorn, especially those born in the winter months while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were there as well.

Stellium Alert: Uranus entered Aquarius in 1995 and stayed there until 2003, while Neptune entered it in 1998 and didn't leave until 2011. They were still conjunct within an 8-10° range during parts of those years. Therefore, many people born from 1995 onward have stelliums in Aquarius, especially those born in the winter months while the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were there as well.

As we'll explore in Chapter 13, most people born in the generation from 1988-1996 have Uranus and Neptune conjunct in either Capricorn or Aquarius. A strong Uranus influence gives them some Aquarian traits, and a strong Neptune makes them rather Piscean.

These young adults can be like the canary in the mineshaft—highly sensitive and vulnerable to the effects of society's decaying institutions. A major contradiction to resolve is between technology and scientific progress on one hand and compassion for all living things on the other. Society prefers to ignore its problems and cling to its illusions and therefore usually insists that “those Uranians” and “those Neptunians” are the ones with the problem.

How Uranians Operate:

Focused on social change
Change through information
Sudden, radical change
Demand freedom, equality
Idealistic, humanitarian
Inventive, intellectual
Eccentric, unconventional
In your face, shocking
Unique, one of a kind, stand out

How Neptunians Operate:

Focused on spiritual/creative growth
Redemption through service
Slowly dissolve reality
May accept being a victim or martyr
Compassionate, service-minded
Creative, artistic, imaginative
Whimsical, fairy-like
Self-effacing, modest
Merging, blending into the background

People born with Uranus-Neptune aspects often respond by acting out the culture's turmoil. Sometimes they're scapegoated for displaying the culture's internal rifts openly, but in maturity,

⁷ For those not familiar with this term, historically miners took caged canaries down into the mine with them. Since the canaries were more sensitive to toxic gases that built up in the mines, they would die before the levels built up to a level that would be fatal to humans. If a canary died, miners hurried to get out of the mine.

these are often the very individuals who come up with ingenious solutions for our collective needs. I have great hopes that those with the superconjunction in either Capricorn or Aquarius will make this world a better place as they mature and become the dominant adult generation.

Uranians can be mavericks, and radicals who have a clear vision of what's going wrong in our world that ultimately will affect us all. Concerned about others who are similarly affected, they try to shake us from our collective sleep by incisive and often irreverent social commentary. When that doesn't work, they may resort to social action like the Occupy Wall Street movement and its offspring to make the changes they yearn for happen.

If Neptune is the stronger of the two on the planetary scores tests, however, their sense of powerlessness can make them drop out of society. Internet addiction can be one expression, with endless hours online gaming and living out their fantasies in role-playing or living vicariously through their icons. Others join a counterculture that dulls its pain and hopelessness by drugging and clubbing.

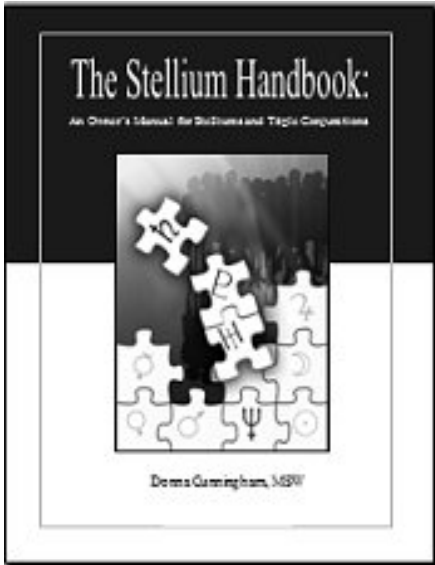
It's important to note here that people born in the generation from 1988-1996 are highly likely to have a Capricorn stellium, yet may not be typical of the sign at all. Most of them have Uranus and Neptune conjunct in that sign, and those born from 1988-1991 also have Saturn in the mix.

A strong Uranus influence gives them some Aquarian traits, and a strong Neptune makes them rather Piscean. Neither sign is remotely like Capricorn, so in youth, they may not have the self-discipline and persistence attributed to Capricorn, but may grow into these qualities as they mature.

Coming next: We need to explore one stellium in depth, and so, in the next chapter, we'll look more closely at the rare and very special generation with Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn conjunct because they're struggling to integrate these three very different planets as they emerge into adulthood.

The Capricorn Stellium Generation—What's Special about Them Fact Sheet about the 1988-89 Capricorn Superconjunction

©2013 by Donna Cunningham, from *The Stellium Handbook*



NOTE: You may distribute this fact sheet to astrologers, astrology students, and people with Capricorn Stelliums and their families, as long as you retain my copyright and the source. It's drawn from my reference work, *The Stellium Handbook*, an ebook available at <http://skywriter.wordpress.com/stellium-information/>.

Every single child born on the planet in 1989 and five months of 1988 had an extraordinary superconjunction of Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune in Capricorn.

Many of them born in winter months had the Sun, Mercury, or Venus in Capricorn as well—forming powerful stelliums of as many as seven planets. (Capricorn stelliums continued for several years without the triple conjunction.)

There was a huge spike in the birth rate in 1989, with more children born in the U.S. than at any time since 1964. Thus, the peak of the superconjunction was also a peak in births. In the late 1980s, the world birth rate was the highest ever recorded, at 138 million a year⁸.

These rare occurrences of Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn standing within 8° can be as much as 680 years apart. The two before 1988-89 were in 1307 and 625 AD.

The combination does not affect all areas of life equally. The effect is concentrated on the areas of life shown by the birth chart house(s) in which it is placed.

To understand the superconjunction, you must analyze the three separate conjunctions: Saturn-Uranus, Saturn-Neptune, and Uranus-Neptune.

Because they're made up of slow-moving planets, each of the three conjunctions occurs many years apart. Saturn-Uranus conjunctions are 45 years apart. Saturn-Neptune conjunctions are 35-37 years apart. Uranus-Neptune conjunctions are 172-3 years.

The Uranus-Neptune conjunction is long-lasting. In 1988-1994, the two planets were conjunct within 8°—first in Sagittarius, then in Capricorn. Uranus entered Capricorn in 1988, and the conjunction continued the entire time those two planets were in Capricorn.

The previous Uranus-Neptune conjunction in the 1820s produced geniuses, pioneers, and leaders whose contributions changed life as people knew it then. The 1988-89 group may also produce geniuses and innovators to help with the difficulties our world is in.

⁸ Population statistics found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population.

Chapter 13—The Capricorn Stellium Generation—What’s Special About Them and Why They’re Here

I’ve been saying that the Capricorn stelliums that involve a superconjunction of Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune are rare, but how rare exactly? To look through thousands of ephemeris pages to find that out would require more Virgo planets than I’ve had in my last several lifetimes.

Fortunately, my brilliant friend, Kent Bye, was able to create an app for transiting planets and come up with an answer. The time between these triple conjunctions can be as much as 680 years. The two before 1988-89 were in Virgo in 1307 and in Scorpio in 625 A.D.⁹.

Although the combination itself is rare, the number of people born with it worldwide in 1988-89 is in the millions! In the late 1980s, the world birth rate was the highest ever recorded, at about 138 million a year¹⁰. Many of them born in winter months had the Sun, Mercury, or Venus in Capricorn as well—as many as seven planets total.

Can you imagine what it would be like to live with this combination? Remember that Saturn rules Capricorn, Uranus rules Aquarius, and Neptune rules Pisces. Having them within a 10° range of one another would be like a Capricorn, an Aquarius, and a Pisces living together in a studio apartment. It would get pretty chaotic and crowded! Not only that, it’s a 4th floor walkup in New York City’s wild, arty, leading-edge East Village.

This chapter is dedicated to exploring this extraordinary phenomenon in depth, hoping to make the journey easier for the brave souls who chose to be born with it. I can hear the ruckus out there: “CHOOSE to be born with a mind-boggling combination like this one? Are you NUTS???”

Yes, Newcomers. Among the odd beliefs that a great many astrologers hold is the conviction that our souls are conscious in the interval before birth and participate in choosing our life purpose and companions on the path. We also participate in choosing when we will be born, and the birth chart reflects these choices. If that’s hard to believe, just shake your head and try to ignore it. The challenges we’ll explore here would be equally valid if they were “pure coincidence.”

Capricornian – But not Exactly a Capricorn

Many of you with Capricorn stelliums have difficulty relating to the usual descriptions of that sign and its ruling planet, Saturn, which is part of the superconjunction. Being hard on yourselves in typical Capricorn fashion, you probably own up to the less wonderful qualities like being anxious, insecure, pessimistic, perfectionistic, and depressed. But the better ones like being disciplined, organized, businesslike, and resourceful—not so much.

Through this book, I’ve been saying that a stellium is something you have to grow into and that it gets better as you mature. Nowhere is that more true than with these Capricorn stelliums because it’s considered the late bloomer among the zodiac signs.

That’s partly because their dreams are loftier and harder to attain than most people’s. They aren’t content to be average-- they want to be exceptional. People with a strong Capricorn

⁹ [KentBye \(kentbye\) on Twitter](#)

¹⁰ Population statistics found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population.

emphasis typically emerge into their own around their Saturn return (age 28-29). Many of them continue to develop their gifts and abilities into their 60s or 70s, becoming magnificent elders.

Don't let the ways these folks handle their lives now color your vision of their possibilities.

Check in with them again at 28, 35, 42, and at seven-year intervals after that. Those are ages everyone goes through when Saturn's current zodiac position makes a challenging connection to Saturn's position at birth. When both Saturn and Capricorn are involved, they're especially important turning points—each is a chance to step up and take their abilities to the next level.

Since so many people currently in their 20s have this superconjunction and perhaps several additional planets in Capricorn, we have to suspect these are qualities common among their generation. In my quest to understand them, I came across an important book on the topic, *Not Quite Adults*. I'll quote the description from Amazon.com¹¹.

“Why are 20-Somethings delaying adulthood? The media have flooded us with negative headlines about this generation, from their sense of entitlement to their immaturity. Drawing on almost a decade of cutting edge research and nearly 500 interviews with young people, Richard Settersten, Ph.D. and Barbara E. Ray shatter these stereotypes, revealing an unexpected truth: a slower path to adulthood is good for all of us. Their surprising findings include:

- Young adults who finish college and delay marriage and child rearing get a much better start in life.
- Few 20-Somethings who live at home are mooching off their parents. More often, they're using the time at home to gain necessary credentials and save money for a more secure future.
- Involved parents provide young people with advantages, including mentoring and economic support, that have become increasingly necessary to success.”

Doesn't that sound like a sensible Capricornian path to success and responsible adulthood?

Sometimes what it takes for Capricornian qualities like being responsible, reliable, and hard working to kick in is for an actual adult responsibility to show up.

One wild child with this stellium did a 180° turn when she gave birth to a daughter and became a model parent. A young man in this group was anything but a valuable employee until he got a position that would lead to his hoped-for career path. He settled in, worked hard, and loved his job. There are plenty of stories to match these.

Another quality typical Capricornians have going for them is good old-fashioned GRIT.

What's grit? It's a four-letter word that describes an abundance of courage and dedication to make a difference. It shows a passion for a particular long-term goal coupled with a powerful motivation to achieve it. It includes hardiness, resilience, ambition, and perseverance. With such ambitious missions as the ones many of them are taking on, grit is a handy quality!

Their Biggest Challenge--the Legacy this Group is Inheriting from Us

¹¹ Read more about it or order a copy here: [Not Quite Adults: Why 20-Somethings Are Choosing a Slower Path to Adulthood, and Why It's Good for Everyone](#).

Typical Capricorns are realists or even cynics. They excel at seeing future consequences of current conditions. What the young Capricornians are seeing ahead of them isn't pretty. It's one big reason so many of them are depressed and anxious—or are zoning out with drugs, gaming, or other compulsions in order to keep anxiety and depression at bay. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 42% of young adults in America regularly use recreational drugs. Internet addiction is a now officially recognized as a psychiatric disorder.

These young people and the Aquarian stelliums that come after them face a world vastly different from the hopeful one we grew up in. My generation came of age in the 1960s, with all the social change it promised. It included the Kennedy years and Camelot, Women's Liberation, Peace Marches, the Civil Rights Movement, and the birth of Gay Pride.

In that era, abundant scholarship programs financed college education for many of us from working-class families. We were given the opportunity to go further than our parents and to have satisfying professional careers. **Now education is becoming so expensive that it will very likely be limited to the very rich or very bright.** Thus, the career potentials that fuel Capricorn's determination to succeed are diminishing rapidly.

Unless conditions change drastically, we're leaving this generation a harsh legacy. We're polluting our air and water permanently, and few who are looking closely can deny the effects of global warming. We're already seeing consequences of the ways we've squandered our natural resources and accumulated massive personal and national debt that must, somehow, be paid. There are scores of midsize cities in the United States with no recycling, and there are ever-growing mountains of garbage and dead appliances. Can you imagine what life will be like in 2025 unless huge changes are made?

No wonder many with Capricorn stelliums are depressed and anxious, seeing where the world they'll inherit is headed. Who can blame them for wanting to escape these harsh realities? Many of these young people satisfy their yearning for wealth and glamour by following every move of celebrities and of people like the Kardashians, who've done nothing noteworthy, yet are famous for being famous.

I sometimes think that because they're aware of what a difficult road lies ahead, they're getting all their partying done now. Soon enough, they'll have to roll up their sleeves and tackle the tough work they'll face when they become the dominant adult generation. **If our soul are conscious before birth and choose when to be born, why they are here?** There was a huge spike in the birth rate in 1989 during the superconjunction¹². Why did so many of them rush to be born in that period?

I know I'm dropping ideas on you that you might not be prepared for, but here's how it looks from the perspective of reincarnation. I believe that these are very old souls with many lifetimes behind them. In addition to our individual connections, we all belong to *soul groups*, masses of people with a group mission. I feel the millions born with this conjunctions are volunteers who've come back to help save the planet. Thank you, people!

¹² Recall that more children were born in the U.S. than at any time since 1964, when their parents with the Pluto-Uranus conjunction were born. Thus, the peak of the Uranus-Neptune-Saturn conjunction was also a peak in births. The world birth rate was the highest ever recorded, then at about 138 million a year.

“The Great Gestation”

©2013 by Chris Kapsaroff

This black and white drawing is by Chris Kapsaroff, a New York City artist born with a stellium in Capricorn that includes the Uranus-Saturn-Neptune superconjunction. Called *The Great Gestation*, it seems to me to illustrate the internal chaos and anguish that many with this combination feel, as well as the chaos and anguish in the world around them. However, the title promises a great gestation—the birth of something hopeful on a grand scale.



See a larger version here: <http://kapsaroff.com/post/59143078533/the-great-gestation-20x30-inches-screen-print> and more of his work here: kapsaroff.com.

Cap Stellium folks, if you're feeling daunted by this combination, here's something to help you keep it in perspective. Not everyone around the globe will experience this placement's toughest expressions. If you're reading this—if you even CAN read this—then you're among the fortunate ones, for millions of these young people around the globe never got to go to school.

In the world's poorest nations, many thousands born in 1988-89 didn't even live to their first Saturn square at age seven. Perhaps they starved to death in a famine, died in an epidemic, were drowned by a tsunami, or were killed in a genocidal war. Or, maybe, at the age of 10, the boys were forced to join a military gang and kill members of their own tribe. In AIDS-ridden Africa, many parents died of the disease, leaving the oldest child to raise several younger siblings.

Yes, I know many of you with this combination are in pain, but this kind of pain often creates empathy for others who are hurting and inspires a commitment to make a difference in easing their suffering. I believe many of you will use your unique gifts—and your personal suffering—to help others heal. It's not just the healing professions that count—art and music can heal, too.

What the House Position of the Stellium Shows: The superconjunction doesn't affect all areas of life equally. The effect is concentrated on the areas shown by the stellium's house(s) in the birth chart. As we explore the lives of this generation in this chapter, we'll consider several key house placements, including family life and careers.

Note that a computer printout of the chart can fit only a limited number of planets into a house. Thus, if there are more than four planets in the combination, check the degree numbers of the planets against the degree numbers of the house cusps (border lines) to see which house each stellium planet actually falls into.

If stellium planets are split between two houses, then you'd have to take both house positions into account in analyzing the combination and the individual conjunction. Recall, that a planet within 5° of the cusp may blend the meaning of the two houses. For instance, planets that straddle the 9th and 10th may indicate that the person's career may eventually include training others in their field—and also that one of their parents may have had a similar career path.

What the Conjunctions to Uranus and Neptune Add to the Mix

In addition, a big reason these young people may not fit traditional descriptions of Capricorn and Saturn has to do with the two other planets—Uranus and Neptune—which are the rulers of Aquarius and Pisces. Let's look at ways they may influence your life if you have the three conjunct in Capricorn.

Beginners, at this point, I hope you've read detailed descriptions of these planets in Chapter 8, and have read Chapter 11's insights into the three separate conjunctions that make up the triple conjunction. (Saturn –Uranus, Saturn –Neptune, and Uranus –Neptune) If not, you may find some of what comes next difficult to follow, so it's worth backtracking.

A few million geniuses? The conjunction of Uranus and Neptune, if prominently featured in the chart and used to its highest expression, can represent genius. The next page lists a dazzling number of brilliant people born with the last Uranus-Neptune conjunction in the 1820s.

They include scientists, political leaders, founders of religious movements, authors, and artists still considered great. We take their contributions for granted, but they changed the world forever.

Notables of the 1817-26 Uranus-Neptune Conjunction:

©2004 by Donna Cunningham

CLARA BARTON: Pioneering nurse, founder of the American Red Cross, heroine of the Civil War, daughter of an early feminist. Born with Uranus, Neptune, and the Sun tightly conjunct in Capricorn and conjunct the Midheaven, squared by Pluto in late Pisces and Chiron in Aries. (Another pioneering nurse, **Florence Nightingale** was born with this conjunction as well.)

LOUIS PASTEUR: Considered the founder of preventive medicine, best known for his innovation of the pasteurization of milk and other perishable foods, he also developed the rabies vaccine. He had a powerful multiple conjunction of Uranus, Neptune, Mercury, the Sun, and Venus in early Capricorn trined by Saturn in Taurus.

MARY BAKER EDDY: Founder of the Christian Science church in the late 1800s, one of the first world religions to put forth the metaphysical belief that the mind creates health or illness. She was born with Uranus and Neptune closely conjunct in early Capricorn on her late Sagittarius Ascendant. **Ali Baha'u'lla**, founder of another world religion, the Bahia faith, was born with Uranus, Neptune, and Jupiter conjunct in Sagittarius in a t-square with Mars in Gemini, and Pluto and Chiron in Pisces.

KARL MARX: German-Jewish philosopher who developed the theory of socialism and along with **Frederick Engels**, who was also born with the conjunction, wrote *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital* in the 1840s. Founded the Social Democrat Party in 1869. He had Uranus and Neptune in Sagittarius in the 10th, with Uranus conjunct the Midheaven and square Saturn in Pisces in the 1st. Like many of these notables, Neptune in closely squared Pluto and Chiron in Pisces.

CHARLES BAUDELAIRE: French poet, mystical and preoccupied with the struggle between good and evil; author of *Flowers of Evil*, condemned in his time. Eccentric, complex, refusing any semblance of conformity. Born with Uranus and Neptune tightly conjunct in early Capricorn, squared by Mercury and Pluto in late Pisces and by Mars, Chiron, Venus, and Jupiter in Aries.

EMILY BRONTE: British author of *Wuthering Heights*, had Uranus and Neptune conjunct in Sagittarius, in a T-square with Mars and Venus in Virgo, Saturn in Pisces.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY: One of Russia's greatest novelists, his *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov* are still read today. Political activist, spent years in a Siberian labor camp. He has Uranus, Neptune, and Venus tightly conjunct in Capricorn in the first, squared by Pluto in Late Pisces and Chiron in early Aries in the 3rd house.

WALT WHITMAN: American poet, editor, and journalist, author of *Leaves of Grass*, despite having only an elementary school education. He has a Grand trine in Fire with Uranus and Neptune in Sagittarius in the ninth, Mars in Aries, and Moon in Leo.

MORE? Others born during this long conjunction include: Queen Victoria and her consort, Prince Albert; U.S. Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes; and authors Herman Melville (*Moby Dick*) and Gustave Flaubert (*Madame Bovary*).



(c)2012 by Chris Kapsaroff, used with permission

I believe people born with the 1988-89 Capricorn superconjunction will have a similar impact on our modern world by addressing some of our most pressing current concerns.

Neptunians can be imaginative and creative. Uranians can be inventive and brilliant, thinking outside the box, especially where technology is concerned. Saturn shows the ability to persevere even when the going gets tough.

A great many of their parents were born with the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo, a generation old enough to embrace and master the digital advances of the past half century.

Their children with the Uranus-Saturn conjunction were brought up on technology and have immersed themselves in it—sometimes to the point of addiction. Still, this bright young generation are bound to develop technical advances we can't even imagine today.

Again, it takes time for geniuses to reach their full potential. In an issue of *Scientific American Mind* dedicated to studying this topic, researcher Dean Keith Simonton reported that, on average, acquiring the knowledge and skills to make a major contribution to a specialized field can take 10 years of focused effort, though, of course, there are brilliant exceptions.¹³

The Obligatory Tattoos: One common fashion statement for this generation is a set of tattoos or elaborate body art. Along with piercings, it's an ancient practice and has almost become a rite of passage into adulthood today. As I learned from an article in *Archeology*, artifacts found around the globe at least 5000 years back show that tattooing is nearly universal.

It's often part of rituals that mark a change in status. In short, it's a statement about who you are. This generation has made getting tattoos part of their often confusing quest to find their identity. It serves two purposes: it's a bold statement of who they are, and it also tweaks the sensibilities of parents and other authority figures in a lasting way, because tattoos can't easily be undone.

The Medication Generation: I have dozens of statistics about the vast numbers of this group who abuse drugs. Perhaps, rather than more numbers, it's better to just tell you why I think it's happening.

If, as children, they were forced to take ADD drugs or be expelled from school, they got the message from parents and authority figures that if you're not doing well, take a pill.

Huge numbers of them were also on antidepressants by their teens—partly because of the family losses we'll look at next, and partly because they were discouraged by seeing what life could be like when they grew up. Many also had parents who were addicted to alcohol or prescription medications. Once again, the message coming from authority figures was: feel bad, take a pill.

¹³ "The Science of Genius," by Dean Keith Simonton in *Scientific American Mind*, November/December, 2011, pp. 34-41.

Family Life for the Capricorn Stellium Generation

The effect of the Capricorn stellium is felt very early if placed in one of the houses that represents family life. It shapes their identity and self-worth to a large extent. Carried over into adulthood, placements like these can have a profound and lasting effect on how they see themselves as fitting into the world around them and how they relate to others.

We'll look at key house positions and relationships in this section. Early on, they include the 4th and 10th (parents), and the 3rd (siblings and other close relatives). In the preteen and teen preteen years, the 11th (friends and peers) can become more influential than family. As adults, the focus can shift to the 7th (a mate or other long-term relationships) and the 5th (their own children).

Stelliums Run in Families!

Part of what accounts for close family ties and family resemblances—both physical and in personality types and talents—are similar astrological placements in the birth charts. Shared Ascendants and Moons are especially common among family members.

When you list the planets from the charts of a nuclear family (Mom, Dad, and kids) in the order of their zodiac degree, it's possible that you'll find signs, degrees, and aspects repeated. Family support is crucial for young people who feel alienated from peers and the outside world because they're different.

Another pattern is that of generations of stelliums within the same family. It's common in the family makeup of those born with the Capricorn stellium. Here's how I've seen it play out for three generations of some families:

- **Grandparents:** People born between 1942-44 with the Gemini stellium and a Saturn-Uranus conjunction were old enough in the 1960s to have children born with a stellium in Virgo with Uranus and Pluto at the core.
- **Parents:** Many of the stellium in Virgo generation, likewise, are the parents of children born in the late 1980s-early 1990s with a stellium in Capricorn.
- **The Capricorn generation,** therefore, may have parents and grandparents able to help them learn the ropes of mastering a stellium.
- Because Uranus and Neptune moved into Aquarius next, **they may also have younger brothers and sisters with stelliums in Aquarius.**

What Grandparents Have to Offer: When parents whose Virgo stelliums make them over-eager to correct their offspring, there is conflict with then grandparents with a stellium in more easy-going Gemini can be more accepting. They can help by sharing the wisdom of their life experience. Thus, for some, a loving relationship with grandparents can be a great comfort.

The grandparent is likely to have two planetary pairs in common with the grandchild and thus have valuable experience in making the two planets work together: 1) the grandparent may have a Uranus-Saturn conjunction, though in Gemini rather than Capricorn, and 2) rather than a Uranus-Neptune conjunction, the grandparent may have a trine between the two.

How the Stellium Planets Describe Relationships with Parents:

Family life is affected most strongly for those who have the Sun, Moon, Midheaven/IC axis, or 10th or 4th house planets involved with the stellium. The tables below show how the qualities associated with the Uranus-Saturn-Neptune conjunction match up with the 4th or 10th house. In these tables, the conjunction represents the family member as well as the stellium holder.

Concerns of the 4th House and the Moon:	Traits Attributed to Saturn:	Traits Attributed to Uranus:	Traits Attributed to Neptune:
The nurturing parent—Mom? Home and home life; roots; family ties; family of origin issues; heredity; family influence; elderly relatives; your senior years. Issues to Work on: Strong emphasis means the person is still strongly attached to family and the past, or may be a homebody, reluctant to venture out into the world.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, masochist.

The 10th House and the Midheaven:	Traits Attributed to Saturn:	Traits Attributed to Uranus:	Traits Attributed to Neptune:
Parent's Authority—Father? And how that influence carries over into your relationships with authority figures in general and your attitude toward authority. The dominant parent as a role model in career, whether positive or by negative example. Your mentors and heroes. Bosses and the type of boss you are.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, masochist.

Do the combined energies of these three planets in the 4th or 10th sound unstable to you? If so, you'd be correct. As the Fact Sheet on the next page shows, many born with this triple conjunction came from troubled homes.

Fact Sheet on Family Breakdowns during the Capricorn Stellium

©2013 by Donna Cunningham, MSW, in *The Stellium Handbook*

The figures you're about to see provide a disturbing picture of the family lives of millions of children born in the United States in 1988-89 under the superconjunction of Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune. **It's one of the strongest validations I've ever encountered of ways astrological events correlate with human events—not just in a single chart, but in millions of them.**

Recall that this was an extremely rare astrological condition. The last superconjunction of these three planets was 681 years ago, in 1307. It was in effect every single day of 1989 and five months of 1988, so it's in the chart of every single child born during that period.

Recall, also, that in 1989, there was a sharp spike in births, with over 4 million born in the United States, so the number of children affected by the family disruptions below is staggering.

The presence of Uranus in the conjunction correlated with an extremely high rate of broken homes¹⁴. Half of new marriages in the 1980s-90s ended in divorce, most within 10 years. One million children per year went through their parents' divorce. Divorce was most common when they were in the vulnerable ages of 4-7, with losses they were ill-equipped to handle.

(Logically, the triple conjunction was also a transit aspecting key planets in the charts of many parents. That planetary pressure represents the turmoil in their marriages. With Neptune involved, a parent's use of alcohol or drugs may well have contributed to family problems.)

By 1991, domestic violence reports in New York City had increased by 117%¹⁵.

The U.S. Census Report for 1990 showed that 50% of all children were raised by single parents in that era, and 85% of those affected lived with their mother. At that point, 20 million kids of various ages lived away from their dads. Only 25% of fathers had weekly contact, and 20% saw their children only once or twice a year.

There are serious economic consequences of broken homes. Custodial moms lose about 25% of their income and are often overwhelmed by full responsibility for their kids and the need to earn a living. About 25% of dads made no support payments. By 1995, one third of the parents who didn't receive child support were considered poor¹⁶.

If the father was absent and the mother had to work, it's understandable that many of these kids were hard to manage when they entered school in the mid-1990s. ADD-HD suddenly became a huge problem, with medication hailed as a solution.

These disturbing statistics aren't just numbers; they represent the troubled family dynamics many in the Capricorn stellium group experienced. Millions of them were left with wounds from parental divorce and absentee fathers that still affect them deeply.

¹⁴ Sources for these statistics include: Klatte, William C. *Live-Away Dads*. NY: Penguin, 1999; Census Bureau and Dept. of Human Services April 1999 "Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1995 P60-196; Bureau of the Census Statistical Brief, June 1995.

¹⁵ NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, 1983 and 1991.

¹⁶ All these figures are from Census Bureau and Dept. of Human Services April 1999 "Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1995 P60-196; Bureau of the Census Statistical Brief, June 1995.

The Family Problems Many Capricorn Stelliums Experienced

While statistics like the ones on the previous page can seem dry, please keep in mind how these deeply difficult experiences affect childhood. A troubled family life and painful early experiences can damage the person's ability to trust and relate to others, as well as self-esteem. The emotional residue such experiences leave behind can lead to erecting walls and other self-protective defenses against further pain.

Of course, not all people with the triple conjunction had troubled families—again, that's where the house placement is crucial in interpreting a stellium. The 1st, 4th, and 10th houses are major sensitive points for this issue. When the stellium is placed in those houses, one or both parents may have been unusual—even eccentric. When the superconjunction is within 10° of the Midheaven or aspects it, one parent may have been high profile in the community—someone to live up to—or live down. Not all parents signified by these placements were exceptional people; some were troubled and erratic, perhaps immature, perhaps ill-suited to parenthood.

Parents who weren't really there: Capricorn, Saturn, and the 10th show the quality of parental authority and how well they create structure, consistency, and safety for their children. The presence of Uranus and Neptune in the picture reflected many absentee parents. The conjunction also often corresponded with having older parents or being partially raised by a grandparent.

In many privileged families of this group, workaholic parents were thoroughly bound up in their careers. Often the mother worked too, because in 85% of two-parent families, both parents had full time jobs and an overwhelming daily schedule. When the Capricorn stellium planets are in the 10th or aspect the Midheaven, affluent parents may have been emotionally absent, being too focused on success to give the child much more than material goods. Capricornian types, as a sign, are concerned with status, achievement and success, even excessively so.

Maybe what Attention Deficit Disorder really means is that these children had a deficit of parental attention and so didn't learn structure or self-discipline.

Addiction to Success and Status: Neptune in Capricorn corresponded with our society's slow slide into addiction to success and its material trappings. It emphasized possessions and status to the exclusion of a heartfelt connection with others. Lacking quality time for their families, workaholic parents assuaged their guilt by lavishing luxury goods on their children. Their offspring became mall rats, filling the void in family life by spending weekends and after-school hours there. Yet acquiring things and more things never filled the void their parents' emotional absence created.

Liveaway Fathers and Serial Marriages: As noted earlier, the strong emphasis on Uranus in the stellium also represented an extremely high rate of broken homes and absentee fathers. Thus, vast numbers of these folks experienced loss of an intact family and disruption of authority and bonding with their parents. With remarriage and stepfamilies, further disruption and weakening of authority occurred due to serial parenting with one or more stepparents.

Brothers and Sisters: When the stellium is in the 3rd or includes Mercury, siblings played a crucial role, sometimes as supporters, sometimes as detractors, but always important. They may have been the only ones the person could confide in, the one who understand their feelings and often-advanced perceptions about living in our times. They stimulated the person's mental development, yet often the person was left feeling that the sibling was brighter and more talented.

With a Saturn-Neptune conjunction as part of the stellium, it's not surprising that many older children in single parent families took on parental responsibility for their siblings and grew up faster than other children.

Concerns of the 3rd House or Mercury:	Traits Attributed to Saturn:	Traits Attributed to Uranus:	Traits Attributed to Neptune:
People Represented: Sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, old family friends ("courtesy aunts"), neighbors, and schoolmates. People you keep in touch with by phone or email. Other matters described by the 3rd: Communication; thinking and learning style; writing; basic education.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, unimaginative, demanding, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, masochist.

How the Stellium Planets Describe Marriage and other Long-Term Relationships

When the Capricorn stellium is placed in the 7th, the person has conflicting feelings about commitment. On one hand, people with major 7th house placements generally feel an overwhelming need for a long-lasting committed relationship and feel incomplete without one. On the other hand, with Uranus as part of the picture, they yearn to be independent and free to pursue other important interests that this triple conjunction signifies.

7th House Matters:	Traits of Saturn:	Traits of Uranus:	Traits of Neptune:
House Matters: Partnerships—personal and business; close, committed relationships; counselors; types of people we attract, what we want in love. Issues to Work on: Difficult experiences with long-term relationships, barriers to commitment. Where strong, it would be important to do heart-center healing on traumatic relationships.	Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, reliable, responsible, high standards. Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, inhibited, rigid, demanding, stern, conservative.	Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, distractible, explosive, stubborn.	Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, codependent, chaotic, unrealistic, addiction-prone, deceitful, masochist.

Since the 7th house can also describe what the marital partner is like, having the triple conjunction in that house can mean that they wind up with a partner who has many of the same qualities that they do. It might be another brilliant, creative person who is as conflicted as they are about commitment and as involved in their own interests and activities that they are also somewhat emotionally absent.

The partner might also be troubled by addictions or emotional difficulties, and so the individual might also work hard to save or rescue that partner. Fixing a codependent relationship seldom works out, but the powerful need for commitment may keep the person in the relationship.

Long-Range Consequences of Family of Origin Difficulties

What happened as the Capricorn stellium group began emerging into adulthood? Traditional family structure that older generations grew up in was no more. **Consider these figures on drastic ways family life changed in the United States¹⁷.**

- The median age for first marriages is steadily rising. In 2006, it was 27.5 for men and 25.9 for women. By 2010, it was already 28.7 for men and 26.5 for women. Half of all adults are unmarried, and 55% of singles are not looking to ever get married.
- If you compare that to the huge number of Capricorn stellium people whose parents were divorced and whose fathers were absent for much of their childhood, you can see why they might have a jaundiced view of marriage.
- 50 years ago, 10% of children were only children but by 2010, 20% were only children, 14 million of them in the United States alone.
- In major United States cities, more people live alone now than at any time in history. It's up to 40% in cities such as Atlanta, Seattle, and Minneapolis. In this changed climate, friendship has become even more important than usual, as a way of staving off loneliness and alienation.

The Capricorn Stellium and Career Choice

Before considering the Capricorn stellium planets, let's review some traditional astrological clues to career choice. **In order of their strength, here are some ways planets in the stellium or triple conjunction can be vocational indicators:**

- **The stellium is in Capricorn** (With Capricorn, the potential exists for making a career out of any of the 12 houses!)
- If one or more stellium planets is within 10° of the MH, even in the 9th, it's an especially strong and almost inevitable career indicator
- If one or more stellium planets is square, trine, or opposite the Midheaven
- If stellium planets are in the 10th house, not conjunct the Midheaven
- If the stellium is placed in the 2nd (ways to earn money) or 6th house (everyday work routine)
- If the ruler of the sign on the Midheaven is part of the stellium

¹⁷ These statistics all come from pp. 3-5 of *Friendfluence: the Surprising Ways Friends Make Us who We Are*, by Carlin Flora, Doubleday, NY, 2013.

Saturn's placement, in itself, is a career indicator, and suggests that the matters connected with the stellium's house could be a potential career path. There are jobs associated with all 12 houses. **Look back at the career suggestions given under your stellium's house placement in Chapter 4 or 5.**

Most modern careers draw on the skills and energies of several planets. That would be particularly true of the people with the superconjunction of Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune. It could take years to arrive at a final destination on their career paths because they're so complex.

Many fields include a wide range of jobs, depending on the particular specialty and the level of education. For instance, health care careers include vast numbers of specialties and approaches to health and healing, from high tech to alternative, all requiring different types of training.

There are hundreds of possible vocations for each planet, but the few listed in the table below were selected to show the contrasts between the three outer planets in the stellium. They're not meant to be all-inclusive, just suggestive of the differences between them in interests and approach to finding a life work. You'll find more detailed lists on the next page.

Uranian Careers:

Scientist
Astrologer
Self-help guru
Social activist
Animator, web designer
Technical writer
Inventor
Astronomer
Energy efficiency
Teenage gang counselor

Neptunian Careers:

Mystic
Clairvoyant
Meditation teacher
Social worker
Fine artist
Poet
Pharmaceutical development
Oceanographer
Water purification
Alcohol and drug counselor

Saturnian Careers:

Administrator
Forecaster, long-range trends
Career coach, mentor
Chamber of Commerce head
Museum curator
Sculptor
Urban development
Archeologist
Conservationist
Treatment facility director

Sample Uranian Careers: Scientist, radiologist, engineer, physicist, nuclear physicist, aviation, space program staff, inventor, astronomer, web designer, ITT worker, tech support, computer programmer, technical writer, independent contractor, animator, social activist, group leader, energy conservation, electrician, astronomer, astrologer, television network staff.

Sample Neptunian Careers: Motivational speaker, psychic, yoga instructor, meditation teacher, nun or priest, film actor, dance, fine artist, poet, musician, singer, mystic, social worker, charity worker, alcohol and drug treatment counselors, prison worker, nursing home personnel, anesthetist, druggist, water conservationist, sailor, fisherman, oceanographer.

Since both Saturn and Capricorn are part of the conjunction, here's a more complete list of related careers: Managerial, supervisory, and administrative staff from CEOs to foreman in a plant. Administrative secretary. High School Principal. The president of an organization or corporation. City manager, Mayor, Governor, chairman of the board and government officials. Head of your own business. Mentor, headhunter/placement specialist, career coach.

Historian, archivist, record keeper, archaeologist, paleontologist, museum staff, curator, conservator, preservation and conservation of resources. Timekeeper, clockmaker. Architect, long-range planner, e.g. urban development, city planner; statistician, actuary, analyzing and

forecasting long-term trends. Standard setter, compliance officer. Sculptor, stonemason, mineralogist, miner, gemologist, jeweler of precious stones.

With Uranus-Saturn conjunction as part of the combination, recall or reread what was said of this conjunction in Chapter 11. It helps because of what I call the “sane weirdo” effect—they often have unusual ideas plus mainstream credentials, so they often persuade people who would otherwise be skeptics that an unconventional pursuit may have some validity after all.

Recall, also, the career pattern of this pair, putting great effort into building a structure and getting others to accept it, then abandoning it for something fresh and exciting. There can be frequent career changes when the conjunction is in one of the career houses. Uranians tend to reinvent themselves from time to time, and thus can be leaders and innovators in their field.

The Neptune-Saturn conjunction, when placed in a career house, often shows that family disruptions can result in a deep commitment to working with others who suffer. Many of them have a deep—but often misplaced—compassion for others’ sufferings, and thus, in the helping fields, they may carry a deep sense of responsibility stemming from their backgrounds to the point of seriously overworking.

They may also have boundary problems and develop codependent or enabling relationships with clients, coworkers, or bosses. Early in my work with adult children of alcoholics, I discovered that an astonishing number of astrologers and other alternative healers were children of alcoholics. A chapter of my *Counseling Principles for Astrologers* examines codependency and its implications for practicing astrologers in depth. Download it here: [ch7 – codependency](#).

When I published an article about this combination on Skywriter, there was a moving response in the comment section from readers who had this aspect. Dozens of people wrote their family stories, and they were eerily alike. Read the article and their comments here: [Getting a Grip on Saturn-Neptune Aspects](#)

The presence of both Saturn and Capricorn in the stellium can be a great stabilizer. As we’ve already noted, it develops more and more fully in maturity. One great asset of Capricorn would be grit and persistence in following the mission. One of my teachers used to say that Capricorns were the Comeback Kings, able to pick themselves up after a setback, and go right back—with great determination—to reach the top of that mountain.

Comparing the Capricorn Stellium in the 2nd, 6th, and 10th

The three primary vocational houses in the birth chart are the 2nd, 6th, and 10th. Let’s look at the ways the triple conjunction plays out in each of these houses.

The 2nd house sign and planets represent our earning potential, but just as importantly, it reveals how we manage our income. For people with a stellium in the 2nd, money can become a pressing issue that consumes a great deal of energy and thought. With Uranus and Neptune there, a day job with tedious routines can feel like a burden. Uranus, however, shows a variety of ways of earn an income, often from sheer brilliance or charisma—but the tendency to get bored with whatever they’re doing and move on to something new. Neptune would show a tendency to be hazy in managing money and to be a soft touch for someone with a hard luck story.

2 nd House	Uranus	Saturn	Neptune
Attitudes and values regarding money and possessions are seen here, as well as ways of making money and dealing with it. Profitable sidelines. Where there is difficulty, healing around abundance may be needed. Who's Who: the payroll department at work, customers, clients, & sales reps People you give money to—dependents, payees, and accounts payable.	Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn. Constructive traits: technology lover, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached.	Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, rigid, cold, unimaginative, demanding, authoritarian, stern, conservative, stingy. Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, structured, reliable, painstaking, high standards.	Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat. Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, accepting, devoted, meditative, non-materialistic.

The sign on the 6th house cusp and the sign and planets in that house combine to describe the daily routine and work life, including work habits, work ethic, specific types of job tasks, and relationships with coworkers.

6 th House	Uranus	Saturn	Neptune
Conditions to do with work and health. Strong - emphasis may show the workaholic type. Where work is not satisfying, this type may fall ill. Occupational health hazards. Health conditions may be seen--even anticipated and preventative work done, especially during transits. Who's Who: Employees, contractors, & coworkers. Health care personnel. Your computer person, business consultants.	Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn. Constructive traits: technology lover, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, detached	Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, rigid, cold, unimaginative, demanding, authoritarian, stern, conservative, stingy. Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, structured, high standards, responsible, painstaking,	Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat. Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, devoted, meditative, non-materialistic.

With Uranus and Neptune in the 6th, there can be flashes of brilliance and creativity, yet it can be hard to focus on mundane tasks. Uranians would be up to date on all the current technology. Uranus can also show authority issues that interfere with job performance. With Neptune there, sensitivity and compassion can make the person committed to relieving suffering, but may show codependent relationships with clients and coworkers.

Effect of the Triple Conjunction in the Tenth

The 10th house represents a career rather than a job, long-term goals, lifetime achievements, and our ultimate status in the world. **Depending on the signs and planets involved, people with a strong 10th house emphasis are usually very career-oriented. They're intensely motivated by long-range goals and by accomplishing something meaningful.** They yearn to make an impact, and an impact is just what we're likely to see with the Capricorn superconjunction in the 10th.

Recall what was said earlier, too, about how this placement signifies a high-profile parent that the person had to either live up to or live down. For all of us, the 10th house parent is a role model for careers—for better or worse—including work habits and how to deal with bosses and other authority figures. The 10th house Uranus-Neptune conjunction could also show talents and abilities that run in families, as well as having an out-of-the ordinary dream or mission.

10 th House	Uranus	Saturn	Neptune
Attitudes and values in the world; long-term goals; the parents as authority figures, and thus attitudes toward authority; how the person operates as a boss or parent; accomplishments, public reputation and status, you as a parent or boss.	Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn. Constructive traits: technology lover, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free.	Difficult Traits: perfectionistic, pessimistic, negative, fearful, anxious, depressed, rigid, cold, unimaginative, demanding, authoritarian, stern, conservative, stingy. Constructive traits: hard working, disciplined, patient, ambitious, businesslike, serious, realistic, foresightful, prudent, structured, reliable, responsible, painstaking, high standards.	Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, masochist. Constructive traits: creative, intuitive, compassionate, imaginative, empathetic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, meditative, non-materialistic.

Some reasons the Capricorn superconjunction can be a great career asset:

- You probably have—or eventually will arrive at—a strong sense of an exciting and unusual mission, purpose, or dream that makes you a hard worker.
- With Uranus as part of the stellium, you're likely to be at the leading edge and an independent thinker who is comfortable working on your own. You ARE special!
- With Neptune as part of the picture, you're very creative and imaginative.
- Having a passion like this one can make life quite an adventure, a meaningful journey.
- With an intense focus on the house and sign of your stellium, you can grow a great deal through your experiences in those areas over the years.
- Several different kinds of energy are brought to bear on the matters of that house. Thus, you develop a range of useful skills.
- Over the course of a lifetime, you can accumulate a considerable body of work in areas related to your mission.

If your superconjunction is in the 10th and you don't feel a sense of purpose or a mission yet, don't give up. I never had a clue that astrology would be my life work until I was 28, and I never thought of writing a book until my 30s. I also feel that for many of you, your life work will be in a career that doesn't even exist yet but will arise as society—and technology—continue to evolve.

Flower Essences for Stresses of the Capricorn Stellium

The gentle, inexpensive self-help tool of flower essences (also known as flower remedies) was introduced in Chapters 7 and 8 in the sections about tune-ups for each planet. Here we'll explore essences that can help ease many of the strains of a Capricorn stellium. You'll learn about many more techniques and tools for making the most of your stellium in Chapter 14.

If you skipped the sections on essences in earlier chapters, you can download the introductory chapter of my ebook, *Flower Remedies—How Plants' Energies Can Heal Us* here: [flower essence information-ch1](#). (You can order the book, which includes a chapter about combining them with astrology, here: <http://www.moonmavenpublications.com/astrologybooks.html>.)

Bach flower remedies are available in many health food stores and New Age bookstores, but all the essences and remedies mentioned below are available through the Flower Essence Society, at 1-800-736-9222 or online here: [Flower Essence Services, Bridging Body and Soul](#).

Essences for Capricorn and Saturn

Relieving discouragement and fear of failure: People with major placements in Capricorn are strongly affected by failure. Working with the essences listed below for a few months can help them let go of shortfalls and gather courage to start anew. FES's **Self-Heal** strengthens any essence mix by boosting your ability to heal yourself, so it deserves special mention.

Bach's Larch is for people who fear they'll fail, so they're afraid to try. **Gorse** is a balm for those who are discouraged because their efforts have met with obstacle after obstacle. **Gentian** is for people who've had a bad setback and feel like giving up. If setbacks arise from not learning from past mistakes, **Chestnut Bud** helps break the pattern.

Wild Rose is for those who have given up completely and lapsed into apathy. It's worth a trial to rekindle the willingness to make something of neglected talents. During hard times in the world, FES' **Penstamen** can offset the fear that you'll be caught up in the collective scarcity.

Lightening up on overwork: Capricorn, like Virgo, can be perfectionistic and unwilling to delegate tasks to others. Bach's **Rock Water** helps those who are too hard on themselves to lighten up rather than trying to live up to a rigid standard. It's a primary remedy for workaholics.

Elm helps capable people who've taken on too many responsibilities and become overwhelmed to develop a sense of what's reasonable to accomplish. **Oak** is a primary Capricorn remedy, a solace for those whose life has been a long hard struggle and who now feel weary.

Flower Essences for Uranus

Dealing with Alienation: Uranians are different from ordinary people and often get negative feedback about not conforming. Their typical response to feelings of social insecurity, rejection, or shyness is to become aloof or withdrawn or to feel superior. Bach's **Water Violet** helps them cut through this defense and find commonality with us all.

FES has important essences for those who feel alienated from peers or society as a whole. **Shooting Star** helps those who feel they don't fit in anywhere and don't belong on this planet. **Mariposa Lily** is for people who are alienated from family because of lack of acceptance and nurturing. **Goldenrod** helps combat social pressure or disapproval from family, society, and peers in order to follow the path you know is right for you. Bach's **Cerato** helps you trust your instincts when consumed by self-doubt.

Addiction to Excitement: There's a manic quality to many Uranians. At times, they crave excitement and thoroughly enjoy a wild ride. Many get involved in social causes but are so incensed by injustice that they become ineffective. **Vervain** calms them down so they can find a workable strategy.

During rapid change, Bach's **Walnut** lends stability. People in transition may need it for months, especially after a geographic move or major change in job, career, or family structure. A calming and centering aid in getting through an acute crisis, Bach's **Rescue Remedy** should be included in everyone's first aid kit and in astrologers' consultation rooms.

Flower Essences for Neptune's Issues

One major pattern for Neptunians confronted with unwelcome emotions is spacing out. This may take the form of daydreaming or retreating into fantasy. When confronted with an upsetting situation, they react like a lens going out of focus. Often, they haven't a clue why they suddenly feel so crummy. They quickly convert it to, "This world is a terrible place, and I don't belong here. Why was I born?" Bach's **Clematis** can help ground people who walk around in a haze.

Emotional Balance: Many Neptunians struggle to maintain an emotional balance, so they don't suppress their feelings or become flooded by them. FES's **Scarlet Monkeyflower** helps process and release emotions like anger or anxiety that they bottle up and then explosively release. People who repress emotions altogether and then develop a psychosomatic illness might benefit from FES's **Fuchsia**.

Reducing Excessive Sensitivity: The exquisite sensitivity of Neptunians is a gift in many respects, for it helps these individuals empathize with others, respond to the beauty of the arts, and attune to the needs of others. In times of upset, however, the Neptunian may be a psychic sponge, bombarded by others' suffering and becoming worn down in the process.

FES has several remedies that can help. Their **Yarrow** is a time-tested remedy for psychic shielding and for strengthening the aura, but **Pink Yarrow** is the most effective when the person is too prone to absorb loved ones' turmoil psychically.

Drained by Codependent Relationships: Bach's **Centaury** is for those who are so eager to help that they're taken advantage of. The compassion remains, but is tempered with the wisdom to know when you're being used. It's especially strengthening for those who were victims of domestic violence or childhood abuse and don't believe they have the right to say no.

Centaury is a prime remedies for codependency—along with **Bach's Red Chestnut**, for those who worry too much about others and thus neglect themselves. These essences are important for people with the Saturn-Neptune conjunction who wind up feeling overly responsible for family members and friends.

Support for Creativity: With Neptune strong in the stellium, these are people with tremendous potential for creativity. FES has wonderful essences to support these qualities. **Iris** develops creativity, inspiration, and our love of beauty. **Indian Paintbrush** sustains vitality when the creative work becomes intense. **Buttercup** helps modest souls to appreciate their own talents and abilities. **Peppermint** helps when inspiration has gone stale, and **California Poppy** can bring release from a creative block.

In the next chapter, you'll find many more healing tools, but these essences are especially helpful for people with the Uranus-Saturn-Neptune conjunction.

A Few Last Words from an Older Sister

How about you, Readers who have this combination in the birth chart in houses that apply to family or career? Were you one of the lucky ones with a close and loving family? Or did you wind up in a difficult and dysfunctional one that left you feeling depressed and scarred? Did it have an impact on your career potential or ability to deal with a job and money? Backgrounds like these are very challenging to overcome, no doubt about it.

Yet healing can occur, over time, as you try out a variety of ways of feeling whole. The planetary tune-ups in Chapters 7 and 8 are good stress-busters, and the flower essences described below are very helpful. The next chapter describes even more potent healing tools.

What you don't want to do is to use that troubled relationship with your parents and other family members as a lifetime pass to avoid confronting your own issues and self-defeating patterns. Blaming others for your problems rarely leads to steady progress in reaching your potential, because it leaves you feeling powerless to change the pattern.

Nor should the family problems be a ready excuse for why you haven't made the most of your gifts and abilities. It's tempting—of course, it is—but wouldn't that be a criminal waste of a lifetime of exceptional potential? **Use the stellium worksheet you created in Chapter 9 regularly to track your progress and avoid the potholes.**

I DO know—from personal experience—that it's extremely hard to move past those early experiences and venture out on your own. It takes great, heaping handfuls of that grit we talked about earlier. Both my parents (and many generations before them) were alcoholic, and we were dirt poor. There was plenty to be ashamed of, but those are not my secrets to tell.

Somehow, even before I was aware of what my Gemini stellium meant, I knew that I would and could make it out of that nightmarish home. I worked my tail off to get scholarships all the way through college and graduate school. I had years of therapy and worked hard to let go of the past through a great variety of healing tools. In the process, I became more than I'd ever dreamed of. With the potential of that extraordinary Capricorn stellium, you can surpass your origins, too.

Chapter 14—Getting the Most from Your Stellium or Triple Conjunction

Stellium management tools are a key to making the most of your stellium. The primary tool is self-awareness and getting to know each of the planets in the group thoroughly. One major challenge is overcoming difficult emotions like fear or resentment. Another is getting free of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that sabotage your progress.

Succeeding in the mission(s) your stellium represents is a 4G process—it takes Guts, Grit, Gumption, and Gratitude. If you work hard to master the 4Gs, you may arrive at the 5th: GLORY!

We've already explored some invaluable aids to realizing your dreams. In chapters 7 and 8, we discussed “tune-ups” to help people to make the most of the gifts of each planet in their stellium and keep less constructive expressions from getting in the way. We also discussed what each planet wants and needs to function well. Among the tune-ups were flower remedies and specific actions that reduce stress. The stellium worksheet you learned to create in Chapter 9 is a guide to lifelong self-improvement.

In this chapter, you'll read about additional self-help tools and approaches that calm the mind, body, and spirit so stellium people can realize their potential. Though we can't deal with the full range of helpful tools here, you'll learn about several that are simple, inexpensive, or even free.

A Major Stellium Management Strategy: Set Achievable Goals

Possibly, you've learned about setting goals in other self-improvement efforts and have done some work with this technique. Let's look at ways it helps you reach more of the potential of your stellium. You'll find several dozen articles on setting and achieving goals on www.wikihow.com, (WikiHow's treasure trove of how-to articles for practically any purpose might also give you helpful advice about specific tasks involved in your mission.)

Choosing a goal: The most important strategy is to **choose a goal that is realistic and realizable**. Distinguish between a goal and a dream. Becoming a famous, Oscar winning actor is a dream; honing your acting skills by joining a class or local theater group is a goal that can further those long-term hopes. Choose goals that are do-able, given your current situation—not too big and not too small.

Break the goal down into logical steps. For example, if acting is your long-term goal, start by researching classes in your area and finding out about the teacher's qualifications and reputation.

It isn't always necessary to do the steps in order—if you're stuck on one, try another that you can complete right away. If the next series of acting classes is several months away, for instance, perhaps you could make a project of renting or downloading films of actors you admire and watching them over and over to see what you can learn about technique.

It helps, also, to set deadlines for completing each step. A specific deadline motivates you to get to work on the step. A vague resolution to do something can fade into that vast, misty

Someday. One way I stay focused on writing a book is to set deadlines and create situations that further that project. If I schedule a class or a lecture related to the topic, then I have to finish the preparation by that date or embarrass myself. I call that painting myself into a corner. It's intense pressure at times, but it works.

Having a goal buddy or work group can also be very supportive, because there are people to cheer you on if you're getting results and to hold you accountable if you're procrastinating.

Choose carefully – your best friend or significant other may not be objective. Any patterns of enabling or codependency in the relationship are likely to get in the way. Tensions and issues such as power struggles or resentments you're not dealing with are apt to come out in covert ways that sabotage your effort. Then, too, if your success or failure at the goal affects joint resources, the person may be overly attached to the result, creating pressure and tension.

A better support person might be someone involved in your field of interest. Choose someone you can trust to be objective and whose judgment and abilities you respect.

How astrology can enhance goal setting: Astrology can be a great help in achieving goals, as it provides insight into your gifts and barriers but also shows the best intervals to begin and to work on a project. (For me, as a writer, Mercury retrograde periods are ideal for book revisions.)

One window each year for new beginnings would be the New Moon that falls into the sign and house of your stellium. It would be in the month for the Sun sign in the table below. **(Please note: the exact date of the dividing line between signs fluctuates** for the same reason we have Leap Year every four years. A year is actually 365.25 days.)

For instance, if your stellium is in Aries, then the Aries New Moon would be between March 31 and April 19. The dates of the New Moon in your stellium sign are different each year, but always within the range given in the table below. You can pinpoint the exact date of this year's New Moon in that sign by consulting an astrological calendar.

Fire Signs:	Earth Signs:	Air Signs:	Water Signs:
Aries: 3/21 – 4/19	Taurus: 4/20–5/20	Gemini: 5/21 – 6/20	Cancer: 6/21 – 7/22
Leo: 7/23 – 8/22	Virgo: 8/23 – 9/22	Libra: 9/23 – 10/22	Scorpio: 10/23 –11/21
Sag: 11/22–12/21	Cap: 12/22 - 1/1	Aquarius: 1/20 – 2/18	Pisces: 2/19 – 3/20

New Moons in general are often good times to begin a project. In the two days before the New Moon—called the Dark of the Moon because the Moon isn't visible in the sky—evaluate where you are on your mission and think about steps to take toward your goals in the month to come. On the day of the New Moon, work on firming your intention and envisioning success in the steps you'll take that month.

Seasoned astrologers note that the best time to start the work itself is a day after the New Moon. The Full Moon that follows it may be a time when you are finally getting somewhere. Evaluate the results so far, and then figure out what steps to take to complete that month's goals.

Keeping track of the faster moving planets—the Sun, Mercury, and Venus—on their yearly tour through the 12 zodiac signs can also strengthen your work. The best periods would be while they're in your stellium sign and the two other signs in the same element. You can find the element and signs that belong to it in the table above. For instance, if your stellium is in a water sign, then all three water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces) could be helpful intervals.

The table shows approximate dates when the Sun is traveling through each sign. Mercury and Venus may not always be in range during those exact dates, but they're so close to the Sun that you can use these dates as guidelines.

For timing of effects by the current positions of Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and the outer planets—Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—consult an astrological calendar. You'll find Moon signs and forecasts in [Dell Horoscope](#) and [The Mountain Astrologer](#). Find yearly calendars and appointment books here: [Llewellyn Worldwide](#) and [The Celestial Influences Wall Calendar, by Jim Maynard](#).

How to Gain from your Losses

One big difference between talented people who climb to the top of their field and others equally talented who go nowhere with their gift is this: they gain from their losses. First, you need to develop a tough skin to deal with the rejections, criticisms, and failures that come to us all.

If you let one bad audition or bad review of your work get to you and you just quit, then you waste your gifts and the contribution you could make to the world. In my practice in New York City, I did endless charts for actors, painters, dancers, and writers who moved there to follow their dream, but quit after one bad review or rejection. They let the unhappiness they felt afterwards take hold and rob them of the fulfillment their gift could bring. Don't abandon your God-given talent. You'd regret it for the rest of your life.

So your book or article didn't appeal to that particular editor—keep sending it out.
 So that particular director didn't like you for that particular part—keep auditioning.
 So that particular gallery isn't looking for painters in your style—keep looking.
 So your archrival creamed you and publicly humiliated you. Live to fight another day.
 So that guy didn't fall for you. He's not the only guy on the planet—keep looking.
 So the software company wasn't interested in your game—try another one.

Okay, so maybe it wasn't just one rejection, maybe it was 10 or 20. Are you going to quit and live a diminished life, or keep pursuing your passion?



Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb among other things, tried hundreds of materials for the filament that lit the bulb. He observed, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. Many of life's failures are people who didn't realize how close they were to success when they gave up¹⁸." Edison's extremely active mind is represented by a 5-planet stellium in the 3rd that included a Mercury-Sun-Neptune triple conjunction in Aquarius. See his chart and bio here: [Edison, Thomas Alva](#).

Another of the world's geniuses, Albert Einstein, had his share of mistakes and failures, but persevered in his search for answers in the field of physics. Of his quest, he said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." His 10th house stellium consisted

¹⁸ http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/3091287.Thomas_A_Edison. The Einstein quote comes from http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/albert_einstein.html.

of his Pisces Sun, a very close conjunction between Mercury and Saturn in Aries, and Venus in Aries. See his chart and bio here: [Einstein, Albert](#).

I've been saying that it takes years to grow into a stellium, and some time ago, I read a special issue of *Scientific American Mind* devoted to exploring genius. One study focused on the great geniuses of the ages. It reported that, on the average, those regarded as geniuses in a particular field had spent 10 years of intensive study before achieving sufficient mastery to be considered a major contributor¹⁹.

I can hear you saying that you're no genius—not of the caliber of Einstein or Edison. Neither am I. All those planets focused in one area of the chart gives those of us with stelliums or triple conjunctions our own personal genius, and the trick is to find it and work on maximizing it. Maybe yours isn't in the arts or science. Maybe you're the person at your workplace who keeps everyone organized and working smoothly—and you're not even a manager. At some point, you may put those gifts to work in a business of your own.

Are you willing to stick with your gift longer before tossing in the towel? If you can learn to deal with rejections and keep going, that's the first step—a major one. There are flower essences that help—Gentian is for recovering after a setback, Gorse is for discouragement after many unsuccessful attempts, and Larch is for those who fear they'll fail so they don't try.

The second step—and a huge impetus to growth—would be to face up to criticism or rejection squarely so you can improve your work.

Let's say a teacher dislikes your painting. Rather than go off in a corner and mope, ask for specific ways to improve. Suppose you go for a job interview and it's clear you're not what they want. Ask the interviewer what you could do to prepare better for a job in that field. What are they looking for that you haven't got? If the worst happens, and you are fired from a job related to your interests, ask about ways you could do better in the next job in that field.

Put your ego aside and ask for feedback in situations like these without justifying your performance, making excuses, or being on the defensive. It's tough, I admit, but it that pays off. If you can do that, the person may be willing to give you useful feedback and advice. Then, if you put that information to work, you'll improve your chances of realizing your potential.

Workarounds for Less Helpful Qualities of the Signs and Planets

We can't eliminate the difficult traits of a planet or sign altogether, but we can devise strategies to keep them from being too problematic.

For example, you may wonder how a person like me with four planets in distractible, easily bored Gemini manages to complete so many books. What works for me is to begin with a tentative outline of the book and its chapters. Then I write magazine or blog articles and give lectures and classes about topics covered in various chapters. That way, the material I need gradually accumulates. **Short-term rewards** like seeing my work in print and getting feedback from readers keep me going, and eventually the book is a reality²⁰.

¹⁹ Dean Keith Simonton, "The Science of Genius," *Scientific American Mind*, November /December, 2012, p.35-41.

²⁰ Fellow authors, if you're interested in more writing secrets, my e-booklet, *So You Want to Write*, shares the whole system and analyzes astrology chart signatures for writing and for common blockages. To order, send \$10 to me via PayPal.com, and give them my e-mail address: moonmave@spiritone.com.

At some point in pursuing your mission, you'll have to tackle tasks that your stellium sign or one of the planets in the mix utterly detests. You may have to persuade, cajole, or flat out bribe that part of yourself in order to get the job done. Get a sense of suitable “bribes” by going back to the quick fixes for the planets listed in Chapters 6 and 7.

Get to know what tasks that planet enjoys and which ones it hates. Promise that part of yourself a reward for doing them, and then honor that promise.

The most effective way to find out what a stellium planet wants is simply to ask it. Create a dialogue, perhaps a written one. Remember what I said in the Introduction about astrologers talking as if you had a bunch of tiny planets inside you, operating independently. Again, it's a kind of shorthand, not to be taken literally.

The dialogue I'm suggesting is with the part of your being that sign or planet represents. If it's Uranus, then you'd be talking with the part of yourself that's innovative, visionary, and independent but chafes at routine and at being told what to do and when to do it.

If the part of you that Mars represents is becoming frustrated and irritable, ask what would help—exercise, perhaps, or playing a competitive game. Once the agitation is relieved, that part of you can go back to things it does so admirably—like leading or tackling the obstacles in your path.

If you demonstrate a sincere willingness to listen to parts of yourself that are in difficulty, they'll have a lot to say. Providing space for their needs to be satisfied can lead to better progress and more peace of mind. Unhappy parts can balk and refuse to work or even to sabotage the effort.

One effective way of getting to know those parts of yourself is to do a research project on your stellium. You may have done the things below before, but now focus on what the chart reveals about areas where you're feeling blocked.

1) Reading materials: search for anything in books or online that pertain to the house and individual planets in the stellium. You'd be surprised at what helpful information you can find by relatively unknown but capable astrologers on websites and blogs.

For instance, there's a wealth of online articles that delineate the planets in their signs and houses. [Cafe Astrology](#), hosted by Annie Heese and Adam Banks, has an especially good collection of articles like those that are easy to read and understand. To the best of my knowledge, there are no books or websites specifically about stelliums. I'd love to see a stellium forum going—hosted by someone other than myself.

2) Invest in a computerized interpretation of the chart, with all the various parts delineated, including house positions, signs, and aspects. While a computer can't synthesize the complexities of a stellium, it's a way to begin understanding the pieces of the puzzle. The ideal, of course, would be a session with an experienced professional zeroing in on that part of your chart.

3) Look into significant transits to the stellium. You began to learn about transits in chapter 8, but now investigate the specific planet or planets that are currently affecting the planets in your stellium. If you don't have an astrologer, there are also computerized transit reports.

More Ways Astrology is a Stellar Stellium Management Tool

Here are additional ways astrology can support your progress on goals:

- To increase self-awareness, knowing what your stellium's sign and house show about you takes you far past Sun Sign astrology. It helps you know more about the unique gifts, strengths, and contributions you can offer to the world.
- A thorough understanding of your birth chart, especially of the stellium, you get to root recurring problems you face by understanding how you contribute to them. This level of insight into the more difficult expressions of the planets in the combination can help you change any self-destructive behavior patterns.
- **Watch your reactions as the Moon goes through all 12 signs in its 28-day cycle.** Take particular note of Moon signs that bring out your stellium's best skills, are most productive for work on your mission, or when support from others is forthcoming. **Also, note the Moon signs that make your work harder and less effective.** Schedule less important tasks or maintenance for that part of the month – or just take a break!
- **This astrologically based time management system will enhance your efforts.** See more information about using the Moon's cycle here: [How to Use the Moon for a Daily Emotional Weather Report](#) and here: [Using the Daily Moon Sign to your Advantage](#).
- The transits from Jupiter on out help you determine the best timing for new projects and other things you're trying to achieve. Mary Fortier Shea has an excellent newsletter that tells you about the best astrological dates each month at: <http://www.maryshea.com>.
- Following transits of the outermost planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—helps you understand the challenges you face, not only within your own nature, but also with particular projects and crucial people you encounter in pursuing your mission.

You may not ever have time to study astrology seriously. If your talents and interests lie in another field, your focus needs to be on developing them to the fullest. However, if this introduction to astrology has proven useful, it would be worthwhile to find a professional astrologer or read astrological authors whose work resonates with your needs. Then you can consult them when your mission is at an important turning point.

Relocation Astrology as an Empowerment Tool

Can people with a stellium or triple conjunction benefit from relocating? People with one or more outer planets in a stellium may experience alienation and feel that they just don't belong where they grew up. If family problems, small town pressures to conform, and negative perceptions of others around you make it difficult to follow your own unique life path, it may be healing to start over fresh somewhere else.

Astrology—particularly the branch known as *locational astrology*—provides helpful tools for making an informed decision about where and when to live. Locational techniques can take much of the guesswork out of moving, especially Astro*Carto*Graphy or other computerized maps. They show spots on earth where natal planets move onto the four chart angles (*Midheaven, Ascendant, Descendant or IC*) and therefore assume a greater influence on our lives.

Does the relocated chart, with new house positions for your planets and a new Rising sign replace the birth chart? No, it doesn't—if you have a Pisces Ascendant in your birth chart and the relocated Ascendant is in Aries, it doesn't magically change you from a dreamer to a warrior.

What can change is that planets that were in the background before may now fall on the four chart angles. If so, they gain in strength and influence your life more strongly. Be sure, however, that the planets that fall on the angles in the new place are not too difficult or challenging.

Keep in mind that “WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU TAKE YOURSELF ALONG.” **Self-defeating attitudes and behaviors go right along with you when you move.** If your problems in the old location are largely of your own making, they'll still be with you in the new one. You may get a break from them, given new people and circumstances. However, unless you've learned those lessons and healed the wounds or patterns you kept tripping on in the old place, the same issues eventually creep back in the new one.

Suppose, however, that you've really changed and yet the people and situations you're involved with in the old place can't see that you're different. Then a change can give you space to create a new reality. This is particularly true of roles people assigned you that you're no longer willing to fulfill—roles like the designated Family Mess-Up, for instance, or Savoir of Us All. A new set of people won't have the same expectations, so you'll have room to grow.

People whose stelliums shape their careers may want to relocate under positive transits—even temporarily—to take courses in their field or to spots where the action is happening. Be aware, however, that the close proximity of several planets in a stellium or triple conjunction means that there will be several places on earth with a grouping of anywhere from 3-7 lines. It becomes very difficult to interpret the effects of these mixtures, so don't try this as a do-it-yourself project.

For a decision that's so mission critical, you need an opinion from a qualified practitioner such as the certified individuals on <http://continuumacg.net>. That site also has a library of over 50 articles on relocation. (Also, see related articles on my blog here: [Chart Patterns for Relocation—What's Yours?](#) and [Relocating under Fire? Help from Astrology and Essences.](#))

City Mouse or Country Mouse?

Certainly, there are individual differences, but it's my observation that outer planet types do well in certain locations and are miserable in others, depending on the nature of the highlighted planet. They often thrive in larger cities, where they're less apt to fall under the scrutiny of the small-minded and more likely to meet people with similar interests. Let's see what a city offers to people with Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune strongly featured in their charts.

Saturnians may or may not like an ultramodern urban life style where traditions fall away under rapidly changing conditions. However, they want to make the most of their abilities and yearn to

climb bigger and bigger mountains, so they're often drawn to locations of the most prestigious institutions in their field, where they can encounter, learn from, and even surpass the top people.

Many Uranians love the glitter and excitement of big city life, where they can stay abreast of all the newest trends, see the newest film releases immediately, and generally live on the leading edge. Uranians also thrive on the intellectual stimulation of a concentration of bright, innovative, and often quirky thinkers and the chance to be part of a group who think they like do.

In the anonymity of city life, they can be who they are without shame or social pressure to conform, finding others who share their counter-culture ways. The wilder Uranians love excitement for its own sake and may become even wilder after moving to the city, sometimes to their own detriment. Even Uranian types who can't leave small town life do better now that the internet gives them access to the greater world, where e-groups and email lists flourish.

Neptunians who are artistically inclined may be drawn to cities where the arts flourish so they can train with the best in their fields and experience the newest trends. One drawback is that those who have become psychically and environmentally sensitive may not well in cities. Neptunians are often psychic sponges and very sensitive to noise, weather, neighbors, crowds and disturbances in what I call the *cosmic soup*. (See [Neptune and the Cosmic Soup](#) .)

As Neptunians become increasingly sensitive, they may need retreats from time to time. Perhaps they can spend weekends in a remote place where meditation and spiritual practice are easier, with quiet space to immerse self in creative pursuits. They often thrive on being near water. Fortunately, you can take meditation and beautiful music wherever you go.

Plutonians may or may not do well in a city. They may enjoy the anonymity it provides and may feel less of a target for other people's projections than in a small town. Still, they can find cities very lonely unless they make the effort to find groups of people who share their interests. A word of caution, however: if Pluto is strong in your natal chart, it will be a dominant factor wherever you go. However, it wouldn't be wise to make it even more dominant by moving to a place where it's on the angles, because then you can't ever really get away from its pressures.

The Obligatory Disclaimer: We're about to explore some additional tools. Like all self-help techniques, you're cautioned that if a strong response comes up, stop using the tool immediately and consult your health care practitioner for advice. If you're already under treatment for emotional distress, do not begin using these tools without discussing them with your health care professional.

Four Books that Will Kick your Manifestation Mojo into Overdrive

How strong is your *manifestation mojo*? That's your ability to attract the things you want in your life the way a magnet attracts metal. **Astrologically speaking, Plutonian types or those with a stellium in Scorpio can have an especially strong manifestation mojo.** Of all the Pluto aspects, I observe that a Mars-Pluto combination has the strongest mojo. (Read about it here: [Mars-Pluto Aspects? Use your Manifestation Mojo!](#))

This is equally true of a strongly positive or a strongly negative capacity to manifest what they focus their minds on. Plutonians and Saturnians need to monitor their thoughts and steer

away from obsessing on potentially negative outcomes, as they can manifest the very thing they're stewing about.

In his best-seller, *The Power of Intention*, Dr. Wayne Dyer teaches us to use Intention to shape our lives and achieve the things we want. Focusing it consciously gives us the means to overcome obstacles and experience life in exciting new ways.

See a book excerpt here: [Tapping the Power of Intention](#) and order here: [The Power of Intention](#). If you prefer to learn by audio, here are two recordings that give a flavor of his work: [The Power of Intention](#) and [The Importance of Being Extraordinary](#). The latter, based on his book by the same name, would be especially relevant to people with stelliums.

Another best-selling author, Dr. Masaru Emoto was doing research on frozen water crystals when he discovered that the crystals were more beautiful when water was exposed to positive words than to negative words. This evolved into a technique people can use for their own healing by exposing water to words related to the changes they want to make. (Briefly, fill a glass with water and place a paper with a positive word under the glass. Leave it there for a day, and then drink it.)

See photos of the crystals here: [Water Crystals - Masaru Emoto](#); an excerpt from his book about the experience here: [Water and How It Is Influenced by Positive and Negative Words](#) and order the book here: [The Healing Power of Water](#).

For a dozen articles on how to apply Dyer's and Emoto's tools, see a special issue of Vibration Magazine, the online essence journal, here: [November, 2005](#).

A third book I'd like to recommend is David Allen's *Getting Things Done*. It reveals an important time-management method for increasing the effectiveness of your work on the mission. It's not just a book, it's also a movement with millions of people worldwide exchanging ideas. It's even a software program. The most readable summary of this life-changing method is [Getting started with "Getting Things Done" | 43 Folders](#).

If you're an introvert, another thing that can help you be happier and more productive with your stellium is to fully embrace and value that quality as a strength rather than the deficit society considers it. One major writer on this subject is Susan Cain, the author of ***Quiet: The Power of Introverts, How to thrive in a world that can't stop talking***. (Order the book here: <http://www.amazon.com/Quiet-Power-Introverts-World-Talking/dp/0307352145>.)

How Gratitude can Support Your Mission—and Make You Happier

A gratitude list is a mood changer, bringing about a more positive attitude about the challenges you're experiencing with your mission. Leo Babauta's blog has millions of readers for good reasons. See: [Why Living a Life of Gratitude Can Make You Happy: zenhabits](#)

God likes it when you say thanks and so doing it regularly tends to increase your blessings. Also cultivate gratitude toward people who do things for you. Learning to say thanks often and well is a learned social skill that not only improves your relationships, it gives your mission a boost.

One of the most helpful effects of a regular gratitude practice is that it helps conquer bitterness and self-pity. These poisonous emotions can pretty well squash your chances of success, in part because no one wants to be around a bitter person. Here are some of my articles

about it: [Purge Yourself of Pluto's Negativity—Get Free of Bitterness. Stuck For What Seems Like Forever? Maybe Areas of Unforgiveness are the Cause](#) and [Living in a Purple Haze—Using Color to Release Resentment](#).

Among the Bach flower remedies, the three most powerful for getting free of these toxic emotions are Willow for letting go of resentments, Holly for healing hate, envy, jealousy, and spitefulness, Heather for self-pity, and Star of Bethlehem, for healing old shocks and traumas [Willow Flower Essence--Healing Resentment](#) and [Getting on with Mom: Willow Revisited](#).

Clearing Blockages Through Light and Energy Work.

The chakras are focal points in your energy body. It would be especially important to work on clearing the solar plexus chakra (just at your waist, the seat of our self-esteem) and the throat (for communication). If you don't know any tools for clearing these areas, simply keep imagining a bright golden sun blazing in those areas every time you feel down about it. Vibration Magazine published a special theme issue about essences, light, and color ([August, 2006](#)).

Thought Forms and How They Create Blocks

Have you tried goal setting, the power of intention, gratitude lists, and much more, but you're still not getting the results you want? In areas where we're blocked, many of us have repeated positive thoughts until we're blue in the face, without improvement. We've visualized, affirmed, chanted, and written abundance checks until we had to order new checkbooks. **Nothing budes, and we're left feeling like metaphysical morons.**

If that's you, you're not among the metaphysically challenged; it's just that most of these teachings start in the middle rather than at the beginning. Positive thinking can have remarkable results, **but until you clear out your negative beliefs, they seriously undermine your best efforts.**

What places are you stuck in developing the abilities your stellium promises and in making progress on your mission? We're going to explore some tools to help you make the shift you need. You can amp up your manifestation mojo by removing obstacles based on negative beliefs and *thought forms*.

Crystallized *thought forms* accompanied by strong emotions prevent metaphysical tools like goal-setting from working. They lodge in the *causal body*. The causal body is what "causes" repeated patterns and situations in our lives.

It's the outermost layer of the energy field (also called the *aura*). It governs much of our interactions with the world determines the types of people, situations, conditions, and events we attract or repel. **It's the magical power of attraction that magnetizes people and situations we earnestly want—or don't want, but regularly wind up drawing to ourselves anyway.**

***Thought forms* are created when we repeat negative ideas and beliefs, over and over—especially when we're in a strong emotional state.**

If you pay attention to thoughts about the places you're stuck, they'll probably seem familiar ice you've been wearing them into a groove for years, maybe most of your life. Perhaps you tell yourself things like:

- "I'll never be able to find a job doing what I want."
- "I'll always be broke"
- "I'll never get out of debt."
- "People only want me for what I give them."
- "I'll never find someone who loves me for myself."

Persistent negative ideas about blocked areas become self-fulfilling prophecies, because they draw in the very experiences we hope to avoid. When those prophecies come true, they're reinforced. ("See, I was right!") Thought forms grow stronger each time that happens.

Example: How Thought Forms Add to Career and Money Blocks: Thought forms can get in the way of attracting money and career opportunities. To end a career block, go back a step and get rid of negative thoughts and beliefs. They keep attracting the same old career failures, rejections, bad relationships with bosses and toxic coworkers, and other difficult workplace situations.



Listen to your thoughts about career or finances, and **let your ears perk up at words like “never” or “always.”** That thought may have solidified into a thought form. When you run into a familiar set of thoughts that represent a deal breaker for your goals, imagine that you're putting feelers out into your energy field to locate related thought forms so you can remove them.

Using Light to Remove Thought Forms: Light is a vibrational healing tool in and of itself, applied in a systematic and focused way to bring about healing. It's said that like everything in the Universe, we're made of light, and light is the building block of creation.

The aura—which many psychically-attuned people see in vivid color—is only the outer boundary of the light that exists throughout every cell of our body.

Visualizing light in our bodies, minds, and energy fields can catalyze the release of stagnant and toxic blockages to health and well-being. (We can't explore this tool in depth, but here's a special issue of Vibration Magazine with a dozen articles about it: [Love and Light and all that Jazz.](#))

The Ultraviolet Jackhammer—a Demolition Tool for Thought Forms: An effective color of light for removing thought forms is ultraviolet. If you've ever been on a dance floor surrounded by black light that pulses with the music, just visualize that color. Ultraviolet strengthens our resistance to toxic, invasive thoughts or energies, and, on the physical level, even to infection. Know, as you evoke it, that you have all the strength you need for wiping out negativity.

A powerful image for this work is a jackhammer that blasts negative expectations and thought forms with ultraviolet light. As you use it, imagine it vividly. Work on thought forms you've identified, or direct it at a specific block.

Remember the ack-ack sound a jackhammer makes, and hear that in your mind to keep going. Recall the pulsing action. For me, it helps to move my hands and make those sounds out loud. Keep the jackhammer going until the barrier is dissolved, first into powder, and then into dust that the ultraviolet swirls away.

As you continue to use this tool over time, keep scanning your causal body for thought forms—you'll discover some that surprise you. Then, pull out the jackhammer and demolish them. You'll clear out dozens of beliefs that get in your way. The results can be startlingly good!

(Links to more articles about thought forms from my blog here: [Emotions, Thought Forms, and the Amygdala](#); [Thought Forms—How They Add to Money Blocks](#); [Legacy Thought Forms—Shake \(off\) what your Mama Gave You](#); [More Help for Money Blocks—Clearing Past Life Barriers](#); and [Conventional Wisdom—Is the Advice of our Mentors an Asset or a Thought Form that Holds Us Back?](#))

EFT—a Self-Help tool for Releasing Difficult Emotions

Among the myriads of healing tools I've used over the years is a simple and effective technique for releasing emotions of various kinds called EFT—Emotional Freedom Technique. Popularly known as “tapping,” it was developed by Gary Craig. It's a simple, effective, and absolutely free self-help method that allows the release of negative emotions by tapping meridian points while focusing on the emotion you want to clear.

Therapists and alternative health practitioners around the world use this technique in their work, but you can master the basics for yourself. If you're a professional astrologer, you could teach some of the techniques to your clients. The website <http://www.eftuniverse.com> has a huge collection of instructional materials. See an introductory video demonstrating the technique, and use their on-site search engine to access over 10,000 articles on how to apply it. The site says:

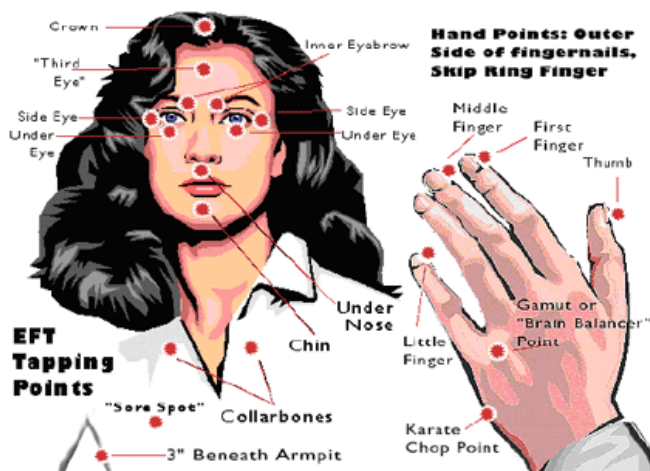
“Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) is an emotional, needle free version of

acupuncture that is based on new discoveries regarding the connection between your body's subtle energies, your emotions, and your health.

EFT has been reported successful in thousands of cases covering a huge range of emotional, health and performance issues. “It often works where nothing else will. Best of all, anyone can learn and use EFT and you don't need specialized schooling for it.”

Though it's NOT a magic bullet, the technique has helped relieve fatigue, hunger, procrastination, headaches, anger, and

phobias. Another site with over a dozen demonstration videos is at [Tapping.com - Free EFT Videos - Emotional Freedom Technique](#).



Wishing You Well on your Journey!

A stellium presents a lifetime journey in mastering its considerable gifts and its considerable challenges. I hope this book has helped you understand it better and know what those potentials are. Regularly using a stellium worksheet is a spur to self-awareness and progress in reaching a point of getting freer of the less positive qualities and embracing the special ones. The various tools described in this chapter and earlier ones can help ease the journey.

From time to time, you'll need to check how well each part of your stellium is operating. Your stellium's house is like a closet filled to bursting. It's good to take stock of what's in that closet from time to time see what still works for you. Some of the items it holds are outmoded by years—suited for a lifestyle you no longer pursue. You've outgrown them, but keep them around for their sentimental value. Others are scruffy from constant use. Some items still have their price tags dangling, but were never used.

The more complicated the stellium—and you've seen as you read this book how complicated they can get—the steeper the learning curve. Figuring out how to juggle the wants, needs, and issues of so many planets at once can be like earning an advanced degree...in night school...a few credits at a time...periodically interrupted by pressing personal concerns.

Relax, though, you have plenty of time to finish this particular degree—the rest of your life. If you're lucky and your specialty isn't Olympic speed skating, you'll do much better as you mature and grow into the stellium. Maturity, which generally comes with Saturn cycles, brings depth and experience to the gifts that combination conveys. If I've been able to help light the way for you, I'll feel that my own decades of work to master the writing skills of my Gemini stellium have been well worth it. Vaya con Dios, Amigos!

Appendix: The Stellium Handbook
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LEARN YOUR ASTROLOGICAL



A Glossary of Astrological Terms
by Donna Cunningham



A Free Booklet From
Moon Maven Publications
<http://www.moonmavenpublications.com>

A GLOSSARY OF BASIC ASTROLOGICAL TERMS:

From An Astrological Guide to Self-Awareness

Moon Maven Publications, <http://www.moonmavenpublications.com>

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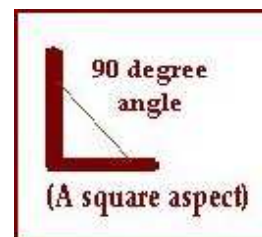
The brief definitions that follow are not meant to be comprehensive, but should quickly orient you to the basic meaning of the astrological terms you come across in your reading. We believe that no student should be left behind! If you're reading a text with advanced material, you may want to print these pages out and use them as a reminder when you come across a term that is not yet familiar to you. When one of the definitions contains underlined words, this indicates that there are also definitions for the underlined words. After the glossary are several tables to help in your studies.

For more in-depth explanations of concepts mentioned in this booklet, you might like Donna's ebook, *An Astrological Guide to Self-Awareness*. Meant for beginning to intermediate students of astrology, it includes chapter on each of the planets in the zodiac, the twelve houses, aspects, and transits. In its original, hard-copy form, it introduced several generations of students to the foundations of astrology and was translated into many foreign languages. The richly-illustrated 2005 edition has been updated for the new millennium and for easier access by the novice. It is available at:

<http://www.moonmavenpublications.com>.

Ascendant: The zodiac sign on the cusp of the 1st house is called the Ascendant or Rising sign. This sign, determined by the precise time and place of birth, is one of the three most important factors in the chart, along with the Sun and Moon. It represents our outer personality, the characteristics people first remark on when meeting us. It also shows the mask we wear in social situations, which may or may not show our true nature. Our physical appearance often reflects the Ascendant rather than the Sun.

Aspects: The zodiac is a circle of 360°, and the angles formed between two planets in an astrological chart—like 30°, 60°, or 90°—are called aspects. The effect of an aspect is to blend the energies of the two planets together in a way that modifies the way they both function. The type of connection between the planets is determined by the nature of the angle. For instance, a square (90° angle) is generally a stressful aspect, while a trine (120° angle) is usually harmonious.



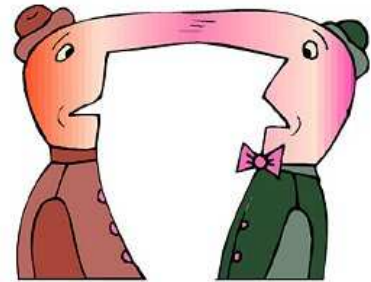
Astrological generations: People born during the time the outer planets Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto were in a particular sign are classed as an astrological generation. For instance, most of those born between 1956-72 have Pluto in the sign Virgo. They are called the Pluto in Virgo generation.

Astrological sub-generations: Within a particular astrological generation, there are often groups born with two or more of the outer planets in aspect to one another. For instance, many who belong to the Pluto in Virgo generation also have Uranus in Virgo close by, conjunct Pluto. I call that a sub-generation.

Benefic planets, benefics: Venus and Jupiter are traditionally labeled benefics by astrologers, meaning that they are benign forces that bring good fortune our way, yet both have their ill effects when misused. (Also see **malefics.**)

Cardinal signs: The signs Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn. They are **square** or **opposite** one another and thus form challenging aspects.

Conjunction, conjunct: A conjunction is formed when two planets stand within range of one another in the zodiac, anywhere from 0-10° apart. When planets are conjunct, their energies and functions are blended, as though they were one. This is a powerful **aspect**, and when the Sun is conjunct another planet, that planet is very important. The person takes on some qualities of the sign the planet is associated with—with Mercury, for example, that sign would be Gemini.



Cusp: The cusp of a house is the border between it and the adjoining house, e.g. between the end of the 2nd house and the beginning of the 3rd. The zodiac sign on the cusp of a house describes, in part, how you function in that area of life. For example, if you have Libra on the cusp of a house, you will show some Libra qualities in matters related to that house. The term cusp also refers to the dividing line between two zodiac signs, and so to hear that someone is born on the cusp of Aries and Taurus means that the Sun on their birthday was either in the last degrees of Aries or the first degrees of Taurus.

Degrees: The zodiac is a circle divided into 360°, and many of the more technical facets of the astrological chart are based on these divisions. Each of the twelve signs contains 30°, and each degree is further divided into minutes (′) and seconds (″). Thus you may note that there is a planet in your chart at, say, 25° Aries 55′.

Detriment: This is the sign in which a planet's inherent characteristics have the most difficulty being expressed freely. A planet is in detriment in the sign opposite the one it rules—e.g. Mars rules Aries, and so Mars is in detriment in Aries' opposite sign, Libra.

Elements: Based on a medieval system, the zodiac signs are divided into four elements—fire, earth, air, and water. Fire and air work well together (air keeps a fire burning, and fire warms up cold air), but they do not complement water or earth. Water and earth complement each other—no crops would grow without both—but they do not blend so well with fire and air. The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. The earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn. The air signs are Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. The water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

Ephemeris: A reference book, calendar, or computer program that gives the daily positions of the planets in the solar system. An ephemeris is used to calculate birth charts as well as **transits.**

Exaltation: In a traditional method of evaluating the strength of planets in various zodiac signs, *exaltation* is the sign where a planet is supposedly at its best, including Venus in the sign Pisces, Mars in the sign Capricorn, and the Moon in Taurus.

Fall: In a traditional system of rating the strengths of the planets, a planet is in its *fall* in the sign where it is supposedly at its weakest or worst—the sign opposite the one where it is *exalted*. Since Venus is exalted in Pisces, it is in its fall in Virgo.

Fixed signs: The signs Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius are known as the fixed signs because they work hard to consolidate and preserve the things that matter to them. They can be inflexible and resist change, but without some fixity, we would be forever shifting.

Grand Cross: A rectangular formation consisting of at least four planets in *hard aspect* to one another—it involves both squares and oppositions between planets in the same sign type: *cardinal*, *fixed*, or *mutable*. It is considered extremely difficult, especially when the *outer planets* are part of the picture.

Grand Trine: A Grand Trine is an equilateral triangle in the astrological chart made up of three planets about 120° from each other. It requires planets from all three of the signs in a particular element. For instance, a Grand Trine in air would include at least one planet in Gemini, one in Libra, and one in Aquarius. The Grand Trine is supposed to be an extremely fortunate combination.

Glyph: A shorthand symbol that astrologers use to represent a planet, sign, or aspect. An example is the glyph for Mars, shown here.



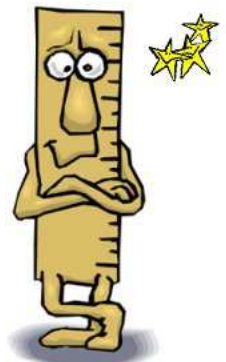
Hard aspect: When two planets are combined by angular relationships that are considered difficult, they are said to be in hard *aspect* to one another, meaning their energies are not in harmony. Usually these difficulties are created by tension between the two zodiac signs and *houses* involved in the aspect. Hard aspects include the *square*, *quincunx*, and *opposition*. The *conjunction* may or may not be a hard aspect, depending on the planets involved.

House, Houses: The astrological chart is a circle divided into twelve pie-shaped wedges called houses. Each house represents a number of related areas of life (e.g. the 7th house represents marriage, business partnerships, and other committed relationships.)

House cusp: The cusp of a house is the border between it and the adjoining house, e.g. between the end of the 2nd house and the beginning of the 3rd. The zodiac sign on the cusp of a house describes, in part, how you function in that area of life.

House Position: The house of the chart where a given planet is placed; e.g. if Jupiter's *glyph* is found in the 2nd house, then that is its house position.

House Ruler: The ruler of a house is the planet that rules the sign on the cusp (beginning edge) of that house. If Neptune ruled the 10th house, this would mean



that the sign Pisces, which Neptune rules, would be on the 10th house cusp, also known as the Midheaven. With Leo on the 7th house cusp, the Sun is the ruler, so for more information about this particular 7th house, you would look at the sign and position of the Sun. The ruler of the 1st house (a.k.a. the [Ascendant](#)) is considered particularly important—in traditional astrology, it was called the Chart Ruler.

[Impersonal Planets](#): The outermost planets in the solar system are Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. They move so slowly through the signs that they are a signature of the various [astrological generations](#). They are also referred to as [outer planets](#).

[Inconjunct](#): (150° or five signs apart) This aspect—also known as the quincunx—usually involves two signs that are absolutely at odds with each other and therefore are difficult to reconcile. There is no natural connection between the two signs by [element](#) or by the cardinal/fixed/mutable division of signs.

[Inner planets](#): The innermost planets in our solar system—the Sun, Mercury, Venus, the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter. They move more rapidly than the [outer planets](#) Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, and so their positions in the chart define what makes us individuals. Saturn is at a pivotal position, between the inner and outer planets, and takes almost 29 years to move through all twelve signs.

[Major configuration](#): A triangular formation involving three or more planets in aspect to one another. Depending on the nature of these aspects

[Mercurial people](#) include not only those with Gemini Sun, Moon, or Ascendant, but also those with many aspects to Mercury in their charts or with several planets in the 3rd house of the chart, the house of communication.

[Midheaven](#): The cusp of the 10th house, the career point at the top of the chart, among the most powerful points in the horoscope. It is determined by the precise time and place of birth and changes by a degree every four minutes, and is so sensitive that transits to that point can correlate with profound changes in our career and status in the world. Both the sign on the Midheaven and any planets that aspect that point are powerful career indicators.

[Multiple conjunction](#): When three or more planets are close together, whether they fall into the same sign or house or not, their energies are blended into a powerful whole. While the [orb](#) for a conjunction between two planets is usually 8-10°, a multiple conjunction can be strung together over a wide range, so long as each planet is conjunct the adjoining one.

[Mutable signs](#): Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces are called mutable, in that they are flexible and have diverse interests, so their focus changes often. They adapt more easily to new situations and demands, and yet they can lack perseverance.

[Mutual reception](#): This occurs when two planets are in the signs [ruled](#) by each other. For example, from 2003-2010, Neptune—the ruler of Pisces—is in Aquarius, which is ruled by Uranus, at the same time that Uranus is in Pisces.

[Neptunians](#): This group includes those with Pisces or the 12th house strongly emphasized in their birth charts because the Sun, Moon, or several planets falls in either Pisces or the 12th house. Also included are people with Neptune aspecting the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven or several planets.

[Opposition](#): (180° or six signs apart, plus or minus 8°.) This can be an aspect of conflict, since two very opposite sets of needs and desires are involved, like Libra's desire for relatedness and Aries need for self-development. However, signs opposite each other are compatible in two ways: they are in complementary elements and operate in the same modality (a cardinal sign is opposite another cardinal sign, and so on). When expressed properly, opposite signs complement and fulfill each other.



[Outer planets](#): The outermost planets in the solar system are Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. They move so slowly through the signs that they are a signature of the various [astrological generations](#). They are also referred to as [impersonal planets](#).

[Out-of-sign aspects](#): When a planet is at the very beginning or the very end of a sign, it may form an aspect that is easy to overlook to a planet at the beginning or end of another sign. For instance, Mercury at 2° of the water sign, Pisces forms out-of sign [trine](#) to Neptune at 27° of the air sign, Libra. Despite the change of signs, Mercury is only 5° past the exact trine to Neptune—that is, within the standard 5° [orb](#) for a trine. Since the trine would usually be between two signs of the same [element](#) there is a mixed influence, more difficult to integrate and understand.

[Personal signs](#): According to a system Richard Idemon taught, the first four signs—Aries through Cancer— are called the personal signs, meaning that the people who have these signs strong in their charts tend to be absorbed in matters related to the self. Also see [social](#) and [universal signs](#).

[Plutonians](#): These include people with several planets in Scorpio, a number of planets in the related 8th house of the birth chart, many aspects to natal Pluto, or Pluto near the [Ascendant](#), [Midheaven](#), or aspecting the Sun or Moon.

[Progressions](#): Refers to how the planetary positions unfolded in the days and weeks after birth. In one simple form of progression, called Day for a Year, the positions of the planets on the tenth day after birth correspond to the conditions in your life at age ten. We will not be dealing with progressions because I don't often use them.

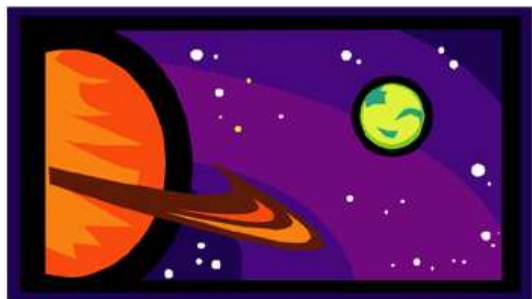
[Quincunx](#): (150° or five signs apart) This aspect—also known as the inconjunct—usually involves two signs that are absolutely at odds with each other and therefore are difficult

to reconcile. There is no natural connection between the two signs by [element](#) or by the cardinal/fixed/mutable division of signs.

[Retrograde](#): occurs at various times of the year in the orbits all of the planets in the solar system--excluding the sun and moon. In these periods, which can last several months for the slower-moving outer planets, the planet appears to be moving backward from the point of view of the earth. This illusion occurs because while they are on the opposite side of the sun from the earth, they appear to be moving in the opposite direction from us.

[Rising Sign](#): The zodiac sign on the cusp of the first house is called the Ascendant or Rising sign. This sign, determined by the precise time and place of birth, is one of the three most important factors in the chart, along with the Sun and Moon. It represents our outer personality, the characteristics people first remark on when meeting us. It also shows the mask we wear in social situations, which may or may not show our true nature. Our physical appearance often reflects the Ascendant rather than the Sun.

[Rule, ruler, rulership](#): Each of the twelve signs has a ruler—that is a planet that is most like the energies, urges, and needs of that sign. For Aries, that planet is Mars, for Gemini, it is Mercury, for Sagittarius, it is Jupiter, and so on. See the table that follows the glossary for a complete list. In order to fully understand the expression in your chart of a sign or house, look at the condition of its ruler. (See [house ruler](#).)



[Saturn return](#): These significant eras in our lives occur each time Saturn completes an orbit around the Sun from where it was when we were born. Since Saturn takes around 29 years to complete that orbit, these eras occur when we are between 28-30 years old (the first Saturn Return) and 56-8 years old (the second Saturn Return). These Returns are considered significant milestones in maturity.

[Saturnian](#): These are people with important planets like the Sun, Moon, Ascendant or several planets in Capricorn or in the associated 10th house. They also include those with Saturn on the Ascendant or Midheaven, aspecting their Sun or Moon, or with numerous planets forming aspects to Saturn.

[Sextile](#): (60° or two signs apart.) Complementary elements are usually involved in the sextile—water with earth and fire with air. Planets in sextile, then, can complement or enhance each other in some ways, each one filling in something the other lacks.

[Social signs](#): According to a system Richard Idemon taught, the second four signs—Leo, Virgo, Libra, and Scorpio—are considered primarily social in their functioning, meaning that people who have it strong in their chart are absorbed by relationship issues. See also [personal](#) and [universal](#) signs.

Square: A square is formed when two planets are 90° apart in the zodiac—three signs apart, plus or minus 5-6°. For instance, a planet in Cancer could be square to planets in Aries or Libra, the two signs that are 90° apart. Squares represent two urges or needs in a head-on conflict. Squares are the energizing forces within a person—the needs that drive them on. The needs and desires of the two planets clash, and the individual must work to reconcile them.

Stellium: A stellium is a combination of four or more planets placed within a narrow range of the zodiac, within the same sign and/or house. This makes the planets involved act in concert with one another, becoming a very powerful influence. The influence is strongest if they are also conjunct.

Transits, transiting: This refers to the current positions of the planets in the solar system and what aspects they form with the planets in your natal chart. You would discover your transits by consulting a reference book called an [ephemeris](#) that gives these positions on a daily basis or by ordering a computerized printout of your personal transits.

Trine: (120° or four signs apart, plus or minus 5°.) Planets in a trine aspect are usually in the same element—e.g., from water sign to water sign or from air sign to air sign. Since they have many similar traits, needs, tastes, preferences, and abilities, the two planets enhance each other and do not create resistance or friction. They work together cooperatively for the same or similar ends.

T-square: A triangular formation consisting of at least three planets. Two of the planets are [opposite](#) one another, while a third forms [squares](#) to both ends of the opposition. An example would be Pluto in Cancer, Saturn in Capricorn, and Uranus in Aries, a signature of the mid-1930s depression era. Tensions between the needs and desires of the planets, signs, and houses involved are difficult to resolve, and so the person is often rather driven, but often highly productive. A t-square usually involves planets in the same sign type—[cardinal](#), [fixed](#), or [mutable](#).

Universal signs: According to a system taught by Richard Idemon, the final four signs of the zodiac—Sagittarius through Pisces—are absorbed by collective or universal issues. Also see [personal](#) and [social](#) signs.





Uranians: These are people with Uranus strongly featured in their birth charts. Uranus is strong when it is on the Ascendant, Midheaven, in aspect to the Sun or Moon or several planets, or if the sign Aquarius is prominent in the chart because the Sun, Moon, Ascendant or several planets fall into that sign or the 11th house of the chart.

Yod: A [major configuration](#) also called an Eye of God or Finger of Fate, this triangular configuration consists of two planets that are [sextile](#) (60°) one another plus a planet that forms [quincunxes](#) (150° aspects) to both of them. The planet forming the quincunxes is considered extremely difficult to integrate and yet becomes a major dynamic in the person's life.

CHEAT SHEET OF ASTROLOGICAL ASPECTS

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 **Conjunction:** A conjunction is formed when two planets stand close together in the zodiac, say within a range of 0-8 degrees. In most cases planets in conjunction are also in the same house and sign, and so they operate in a similar manner (same sign) and are focused on the same area of life (same house). They are blended together in a way that makes them lose their separateness.

 **Sextile: (60° or two signs apart.)** Complementary elements are usually involved in the sextile—water with earth and fire with air. Planets in sextile, then, can complement or enhance each other in some ways, each one filling in something the other lacks.

Signs that are Sextile to one Another:


Aries: Gemini, Aquarius	Libra: Leo, Sagittarius
Taurus: Cancer, Pisces	Scorpio: Virgo, Capricorn
Gemini: Aries, Leo	Sagittarius: Libra, Aquarius
Cancer: Taurus, Virgo	Capricorn: Scorpio, Pisces
Leo: Gemini, Libra	Aquarius: Sagittarius, Aries
Virgo: Cancer, Scorpio	Pisces: Capricorn, Taurus

Square: (90° or three signs apart.) Squares represent two urges or needs in a head-on conflict. Squares are the energizing forces within a person—the needs that drive them on.




Signs that are Square to one Another:

Aries: Cancer, Capricorn	Libra: Cancer, Capricorn
Taurus: Leo, Aquarius	Scorpio: Leo, Aquarius
Gemini: Virgo, Pisces	Sagittarius: Virgo, Pisces
Cancer: Aries, Libra	Capricorn: Aries, Libra
Leo: Taurus, Scorpio	Aquarius: Taurus, Scorpio
Virgo: Gemini, Sagittarius	Pisces: Gemini, Sagittarius

 **Trine: (120° or four signs apart.)** Planets in a trine are usually in the same element—e.g., from water sign to water sign or from air sign to air sign. Since they have many similar traits, needs, tastes, preferences, and abilities, the two planets enhance each other and do not create resistance or friction. They work together cooperatively for the same ends.


Signs that Are Trine to one Another:

Fire signs: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius
 Earth signs: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn
 Air signs: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius
 Water signs: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

 **The quincunx (150° or five signs apart)** The aspect usually involves two signs that are absolutely at odds with each other and therefore are difficult to reconcile. There is no natural connection between the signs. Signs that are

Quincunx one Another:

Aries: Virgo, Scorpio	Libra: Pisces, Taurus
Taurus: Libra, Sagittarius	Scorpio: Aries, Gemini
Gemini: Scorpio, Capricorn	Sagittarius: Taurus, Cancer
Cancer: Sagittarius, Aquarius	Capricorn: Gemini, Leo
Leo: Capricorn, Pisces	Aquarius: Cancer, Virgo
Virgo: Aquarius, Aries	Pisces: Leo, Libra

 **Opposition: (180° or six signs apart.)** Signs opposite each other are compatible in two ways: they are in complementary elements and operate in the same modality (cardinal is opposite cardinal and so on). When used properly, opposite signs complement and fulfill each other.

Signs that are Opposite one Another:

Aries and Libra, cardinal fire and cardinal air
 Taurus and Scorpio, fixed earth and fixed water
 Gemini and Sagittarius, mutable air and mutable fire
 Cancer and Capricorn, cardinal water and cardinal earth
 Leo and Aquarius, fixed fire and fixed air
 Virgo and Pisces, mutable earth and mutable water.

Appendix, Part 2: How to Use the Tests for Planetary Scores

A missing factor in many chart interpretation methods is a way to learn which parts are most important. How can you know which features are the most highlighted—and thus the strongest parts of your personality—and which are relatively low key? Would you be a Lunar type, a Plutonian, or perhaps a Neptunian?

For that reason, I've developed **a series of tests to help you get a sense of planets that stand out in your chart**. They've been wildly popular, and several of them rank highest in the top 20 posts of all time on my blog, Skywriter. More than 26,000 people have taken the test for Pluto since its publication in January 2010. (From their comments, it's hard to know if they're bragging or complaining about their scores!)

Point values given for various features aren't an exact measurement, but are based on my more than 40 years of observing how clients' lives are reflected in their charts. These tests aren't meant to be scientific—they're just a fun and simple way to find your strongest features.

Keeping it simple is crucial. Originally, I developed these tests for my correspondence course. They included so many different factors that it required an Excel-based score sheet, and consequently, many students were daunted by the math and dropped out after that lesson. Therefore, the new versions don't list the dozens of possible ways each planet can stand out, like connections to the bazillion asteroids, the Nodes, Part of Fortune, Vertex, Antivertex, Part of Fortune, Fixed Stars, Sedna, or Eris. **If you consider them significant in your own chart, there's a place on the tests to add scores for them.**

The so-called **minor aspects**, however, are used because Skywriter's readers and I did a research project and found them as significant in their lives as the more commonly used ones. They included the sextile, quincunx, quintile, biquintile, septile, semisquare, sesquiquadrate, and mundane square. You can see links to our findings in the final report here: [The Not so Minor Aspects—Results of Our Research](#).

Keep your calculations. You'll want to refer back to those calculations later as you learn about additional chart features. Also, other tests on Skywriter, like those for the modes and elements, award bonus points for certain planets.

The scores will also become important if you begin working regularly with the self-test you'll meet later called, **How Well Do You Use Your Planets?**

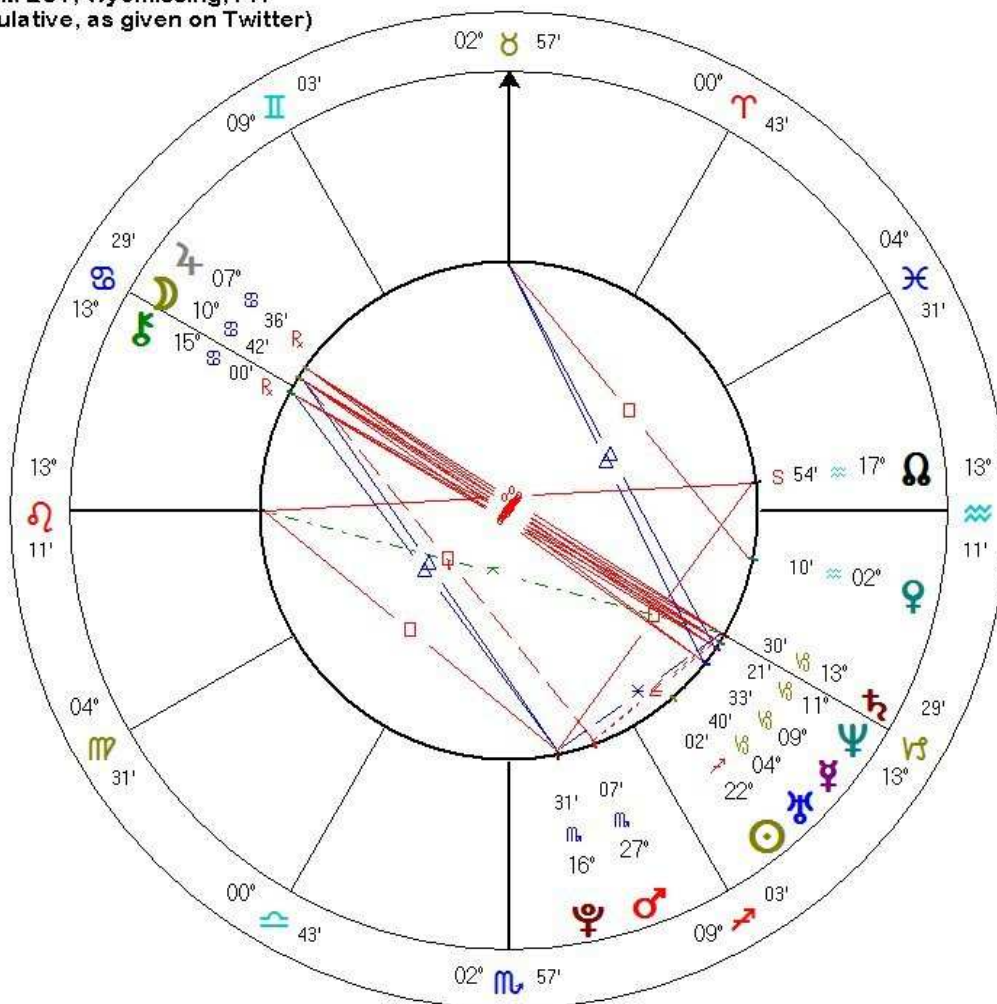
Scoring a Stellium or Multiple Conjunction: For the people in my stellium seminars, you may want to streamline the work by only doing tests for the planets involved in a triple conjunction (like the Saturn-Uranus-Neptune conjunction in Capricorn) or the planets in a stellium by sign or stellium by house. Keep in mind that if stellium planets are **involved in a major configuration** like a t-square, grand trine, or yod, you'd also want strengths of other planets involved in the configuration, even if they're not in the stellium.

Results of Tests for Sample Chart—Taylor Swift

Use this chart to see whether you're doing the planetary scores tests correctly. The orbs for a conjunction within a series of planets in a stellium can be wider, up to 10°, so Uranus would be considered conjunct Mercury, Neptune, and Saturn.

Note: She has two different kinds of stelliums—a stellium by sign of four planets in Capricorn and a stellium by house of her four planets in the 5th. Her Sun in Sagittarius would be considered part of the stellium by house in the 5th, whereas her Uranus in Capricorn in the 6th would not. For this purpose, score only the planets in her Capricorn stellium. The answers appear on the next page.

Taylor Swift—December 13, 1989
8:36 PM EST, Wyomissing, PA
(Speculative, as given on Twitter)



Planetary Test Scores for Taylor Swift's Capricorn Stellium

Note: The planets are presented in the order they appear in the stellium.

Uranus: Total, 41

Uranus, opposite Moon, **10 points**

Uranus opposite Jupiter, **5 points**

Uranus in minor aspects, quincunx Midheaven, semisquare Pluto, **4 points**

Venus in Aquarius, **3 points**

Moon in the 11th house, **5 points**

Jupiter in the 11th house, **3 points**

Stellium points: Part of the stellium, 5 points; Lead Planet, 5 points, **total 10**

Other factor, North node in Aquarius, **2 points**

Mercury: Total, 37

Mercury opposite Moon, **10 points**

Mercury conjunct Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn, opposite Jupiter, **20 points**

Part of the stellium, **5 points**

Bonus: Opposite Chiron, **2 points**

Neptune: Total, 41

Neptune opposite Moon, **10 points**

Neptune conjunct Uranus, Mercury, Saturn; 10° opposition to Jupiter, **20 points**

Neptune minor aspects, sextile Pluto, semi-square Mars, **total 4 points**

Part of the stellium, **5 points**

Other feature, Neptune opposite Chiron, **2 points**

Saturn: Total, 65

Saturn 10° opposition to the Moon, **10 points**

Saturn conjunct Uranus, Mercury, and Neptune, opposite Jupiter **20 points**

Saturn in minor aspects, sextile Pluto, semi-square Mars, **4 points**

Saturn in Capricorn, **10 points**

Uranus, Mercury, Neptune in Capricorn, **9 points**

Stellium points: part of the stellium, 5 points; **Probable Alpha Dog planet** 5 points, **total 10**

Other factor: opposition to Chiron, **2 points**

Now that you have scores for all the stellium planets, see the next page for a test of how much impact the stellium as a whole may have on the world around you.



How Strong is your Sun? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Solar type? You would if Leo, the Sun, or the 5th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

The tests for planetary strength follow a particular pattern, with points scored and orbs specified for various features of the chart related to the planet in question. **In testing the strength of the Sun and Moon, however, you'll find differences in the scores,** including some bonus points, wider orbs allowed, and other considerations. That's because the Sun, Moon, and Ascendant are by nature the strongest and most telling features of a chart, and the scores need to reflect that.

Sun's orbs: 10° for conjunctions, 8° for oppositions, 6° for trines or squares, 3° for minor aspects

The Sun In Aspect		Points	Score
Sun conjunct the Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven		15 ea	_____
Sun square, trine, or opposite the Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven		10 ea	_____
Sun conjunct or opposite the Moon and within 3° of the North or South Node (as you were born around an eclipse)		10 ea	_____
Sun conjunct, square, trine or opposite other planets		6 ea	_____
Sun in minor aspect (sextile, semisextile, septile, quincunx, quintile, semisquare, or sesquiquadrate) to the Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets		4 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine		5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog		5 ea	_____
Leo/5th House Features			
Sun in Leo		15	_____
Moon, Ascendant or Midheaven in Leo		10 ea	_____
Other planets in Leo		5 ea	_____
Sun in the 5 th		10	_____
Other planets in the 5 th house		3 ea	_____
Bonus:			
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Part of Fortune in Leo or the 5 th . Specify: _____		2-5 ea	_____
		Total	_____

Score: 0-20 points would be considered low, while 25-35 indicates a moderate influence. More than 35? Strong. 40-64? Very strong indeed! 65 and beyond? Off the charts!

How Strong is your Moon? Here's the Score?



Would you be considered a Lunar type? You would if Cancer, the Moon, or the 4th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

The tests for planetary strength follow a particular pattern, with points scored and orbs specified for various features of the chart related to the planet in question **In testing the strength of the Sun and Moon, you'll find differences in the scores**, including some bonus points, wider orbs allowed, and other considerations. That's because the Sun, Moon, and Ascendant are the strongest and most telling features of a chart, and the scores need to reflect that.

Moon's Orbs: 10° for conjunctions, 8° for oppositions, 6° for trines or squares, 3° for minor aspects

The Moon In Aspect		Points	Score
Moon conjunct the Sun, Ascendant, or Midheaven		15 ea	_____
Moon square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Ascendant, or Midheaven		10 ea	_____
Moon within 5° of the North or South Node, as you were born at an eclipse.		10 ea	_____
Moon conjunct, square, trine or opposite other planets		6 ea	_____
Moon in minor aspect (sextile, semisextile, septile, quincunx, quintile, semisquare, or sesquiquadrate) to the Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets		4 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine		5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog		5 ea	_____
Cancer/4th House Features			
Moon in Cancer		15	_____
Sun, Ascendant or Midheaven in Cancer		10 ea	_____
Other planets in Cancer		5 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 4 th house		10 ea	_____
Other planets in the 4 th house or conjunct the IC, even if in the 3 rd		3 ea	_____
Bonus:			
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Moon aspects to the Nodes or Part of Fortune in Cancer or the 4 th . Specify:		2-5 ea	_____

		Total	_____

Score: 0-20 points would be considered low, while 25-35 indicates a moderate influence. More than 35? Strong. 40-64? Very strong indeed! 65 and beyond? Off the charts!



How Strong is your Mercury? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Mercurial person? You would if Gemini, Virgo, Mercury, and the 3rd or 6th houses are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sesquiquadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Mercury In Aspect	Points	Score
Mercury conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Mercury conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Mercury in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium, T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Gemini/3 rd House or Virgo/6 th House Features		
Mercury in Gemini or Virgo	10	_____
Ascendant in Gemini or Virgo	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Gemini or Virgo	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Gemini or Virgo	3 ea	_____
Mercury in the 3 rd or 6 th house	5 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 3 rd or 6 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 3 rd or 6 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Mercury aspects to the nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Gemini, Virgo, or the 3 rd or 6 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

	Total	_____

Score: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong! Has anyone ever suggested you might have ADD-HD?

Over 40—Off the charts! How did you sit still long enough to take the test?



How Strong is Your Venus? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Venusian person? You would if Libra, Taurus, and the 2nd or 7th houses are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sesquiquadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Venus In Aspect	Points	Score
Venus conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Venus conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Venus in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Taurus/2nd and Libra/7th House Features		
Venus in Taurus or Libra	10	_____
Ascendant in Taurus or Libra	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Taurus or Libra	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Taurus or Libra	3 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 2 nd or 7 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 2 nd or 7 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Venus aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Taurus or Libra or the 2 nd or 7 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

Total		_____

Score: 10-15 points would be considered low, while 15-25 indicates a moderate influence. More than 25?

Strong. 40-59? Very strong indeed! 60 and beyond? Off the charts.



How Strong is your Mars? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Martial type? You would if Aries, Mars, or the 1st house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sequin-quadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Mars In Aspect	Points	Score
Mars conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Mars conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Mars in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium, T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Mars/1 st House Features		
Mars in Aries	10	_____
Ascendant in Aries	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Aries	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Aries	3 ea	_____
Mars in the 1 st House	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 1 st House	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Mars aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Aries or the 1 st house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

	Total	_____

Score: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong. Over 40 off the charts!



How Strong is your Jupiter? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Jupiterian type? You would if Jupiter, Sagittarius, or the 9th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sesquiquadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Jupiter In Aspect	Points	Score
Jupiter conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Jupiter conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Jupiter in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Sagittarius/9th House Features		
Jupiter in Sagittarius	10	_____
Ascendant in Sagittarius	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Sagittarius	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Sagittarius	3 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 9 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 9 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Jupiter aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Sagittarius or the 9 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____
		Total _____

Score: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong. Over 40 off the charts! Off the charts—when was the last time you said, “I don't know,” or “I'm wrong”? (Try it—it's good for the soul!)

How Strong is your Saturn? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Saturnian type? You would if Saturn, the sign Capricorn, and the 10th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sequin-quadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Saturn In Aspect	Points	Score
Saturn conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Saturn conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Saturn in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium, T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Capricorn/10 th House Features		
Saturn in Capricorn	10	_____
Sun, Moon, Ascendant or Midheaven in Capricorn	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Capricorn	3 ea	_____
Saturn in 10 th (not conjunct the Midheaven)	5 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 10 th house or within 10° of the Midheaven, even in the 9 th	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 10 th , or within 10° of the Midheaven, even in the 9 th	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Saturn aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Capricorn or the 10 th . Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

	Total	_____

SCORE: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong. Over 40, off the charts—check your pulse!



How Strong is your Uranus? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Uranian type? You would if Uranus, the sign Aquarius, and the 11th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sequin-quadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Uranus In Aspect	Points	Score
Uranus conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Uranus conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Uranus in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Uranus/11 th House Features		
Uranus in Aquarius	10	_____
Ascendant in Aquarius	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Aquarius	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Aquarius	3 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 11 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 11 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Uranus aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Aquarius or the 11 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

	Total	_____

Score: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong. Over 40 off the charts! You're definitely a Uranian!



How Strong is your Neptune? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Neptunian person? You would if Neptune, the sign Pisces, or the 12th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sequin-quadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

Neptune In Aspect	Points	Score
Neptune conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Neptune conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Neptune in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Neptune/11th House Features		
Neptune in Pisces	10	_____
Ascendant in Pisces	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Pisces	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Pisces	3 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 12 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 12 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Neptune aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Pisces or the 12 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____

Total		_____

Score: 0-15 low, 16-25 moderate. 26-40 strong. Over 40 off the charts! (Check your math.)

How Strong is your Pluto? Here's the Score!

Would you be considered a Plutonian person? You would if Pluto, the sign Scorpio, or the 8th house are strong in your birth chart. Below is a test to give these chart features a score.

Here are the orbs used for aspects: Up to 8° for a conjunction or opposition, 6° for a square or trine, 3° for the minor aspects like sextiles, semisextiles, semisquares, quintiles, and sesquiquadrates. For planets conjunct within a stellium, extend the orb to 10°. The other exception would be a conjunction to the Midheaven or Ascendant, and, using the Gauquelin system, that is 10°. Note: AstroDienst uses wider orbs, but I don't believe they work with this system.

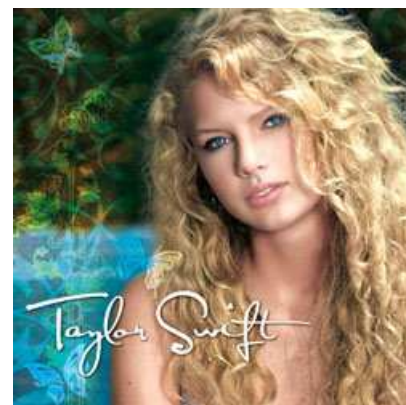
Pluto In Aspect	Points	Score
Pluto conjunct, square, trine, or opposite the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven	10 ea	_____
Pluto conjunct, square, trine, or opposite other planets	5 ea	_____
Pluto in minor aspect to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets	2 ea	_____
Part of major configuration like a stellium , T-square, or Grand Trine	5 ea	_____
Stellium Planets: Lead planet (first in series) or Alpha Dog	5 ea	_____
Pluto/8 th House Features		
Pluto in Scorpio	10	_____
Ascendant in Scorpio	10 ea	_____
Sun, Moon, or Midheaven in Scorpio	5 ea	_____
Other planets in Scorpio	3 ea	_____
Sun or Moon in the 8 th house	5 ea	_____
Other planets in the 8 th house	3 ea	_____
Bonus:		
Add 2-5 points for each other factor you consider important, such as Pluto aspects to the Nodes or having a Node or Part of Fortune in Scorpio or the 8 th house. Specify: _____	2-5 ea	_____
		Total _____

Score: 0-10 would be considered low, while 15-25 indicates a moderately strong influence. More than 25? Very strong indeed—you're definitely a Plutonian!

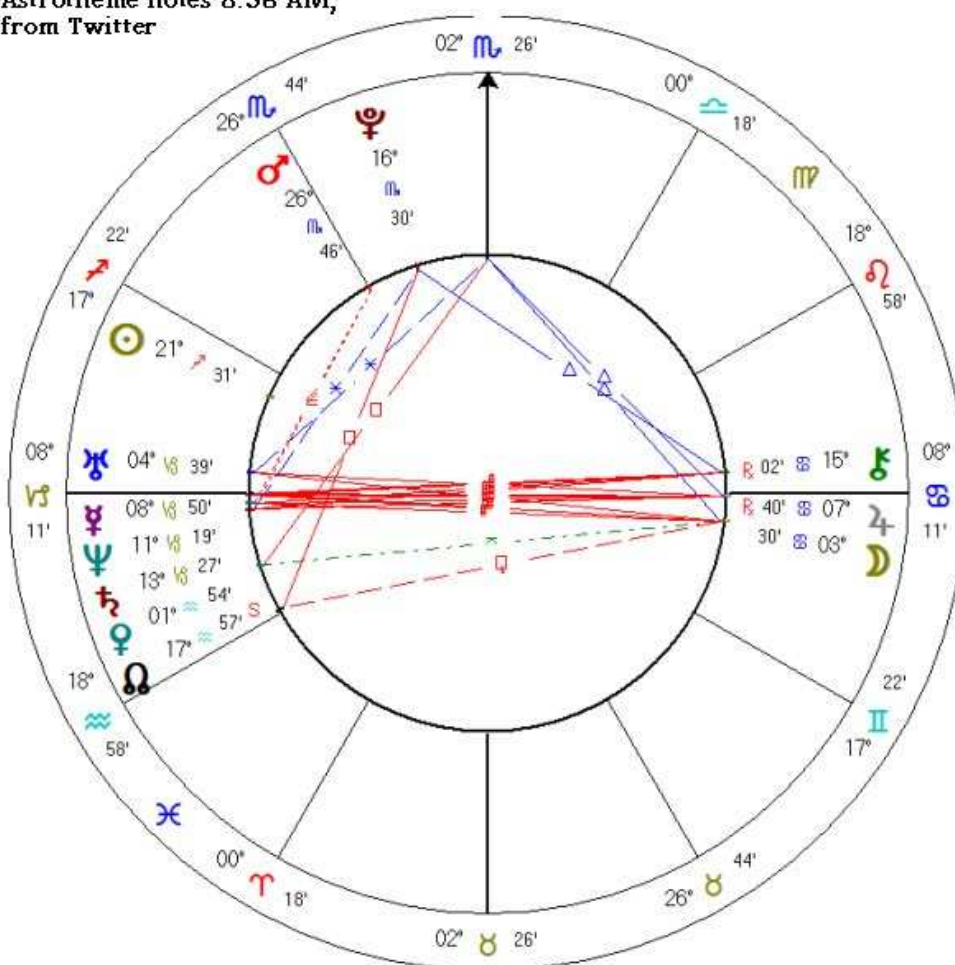
Results of Tests for Sample Chart—Singer Taylor Swift

Use this chart to see whether you're doing the planetary scores tests correctly. The orbs for a conjunction within a series of planets in a stellium can be wider, up to 10°, so Uranus would be considered conjunct Mercury, Neptune, and Saturn.

Note: She has two different kinds of stelliums—a stellium by sign of four planets in Capricorn and a stellium by house of her four planets in the first house. Her Venus in Aquarius would be considered part of the stellium by house, whereas her Uranus in Capricorn in the 12th would not. For this purpose, score only the planets in her Capricorn stellium. The test answers appear on the next page.



Taylor Swift:
December 13, 1989
Wyomissing, PA
Astrotheme notes 8:36 AM,
from Twitter



Planetary Test Scores for Taylor Swift's Capricorn Stellium

Note: As they will be throughout the course, the planets are presented in the order they appear in the stellium.

Uranus: Total, 45 points

Uranus conjunct Ascendant, opposite Moon, 20 points

Uranus opposite Jupiter, 5 points

Uranus in minor aspects, sextile Midheaven, 2 points

Venus in Aquarius, 3 points

Mars in the 11th house, 3 points

Part of the stellium, 5 points

Lead Planet in the stellium, 5 points

Other factor, North node in Aquarius, 2 points

Mercury: Total, 47 points

Mercury conjunct Ascendant, opposite Moon, 20 points

Mercury conjunct Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn, opposite Jupiter, 20 points

Mercury in minor aspect, sextile Midheaven, 2 points

Part of the stellium, 5 points

Neptune: Total, 56 points

Neptune conjunct Ascendant, opposite Moon, 20 points

Neptune conjunct Uranus, Mercury, and Saturn, 15 points

Neptune minor aspects, sextile Pluto, semi-square Mars, quintile Midheaven, 6 points

Sun in the 12th house, 5 points

Uranus in the 12th house, 3 points

Part of the stellium, 5 points

Other feature, Neptune opposite Chiron, 2 points

Saturn: Total, 75 points

Saturn conjunct Ascendant, 10 points. (a 10° opposition to the Moon might be allowed but isn't counted here.)

Saturn conjunct Uranus, Mercury, and Neptune 15 points

Saturn in minor aspects, sextile Pluto, quintile Midheaven, semi-square Mars, 6 points

Saturn is the chart ruler, given that the ascendant is in Capricorn, 10 points

Saturn in Capricorn, 10 point bonus

Uranus, Mercury, Neptune in Capricorn, 9 points

Pluto in the 10th house, 3 points

Bonus: part of the stellium, 5 points

Probable Alpha Dog planet, as the stellium is in Capricorn, and Saturn's score of 75 points is by far the highest, bonus of 5 points

Other factor: opposition to Chiron, 2 points

Note: Now that you have scores for all the stellium planets, see the next page for a test of how much impact the stellium as a whole may have on the world around you.

Impact Test for Stelliums and Multiple Conjunctions—Version 2.2

This is a test to measure the strength of a stellium or multiple conjunction and therefore to find out their comparative strength. It's similar to the tests I've created to measure the strength of a single planet or element in your horoscope.

You may wonder why I've assigned a certain numerical value to some chart features and a lesser one for another. These aren't scientific measures, of course—that would be impossible. They're just estimates based on over 40 years of observing clients, notables, and friends through the lens of their charts. That's why I'd value your feedback on how well this test measures stelliums and multiple conjunctions.

Many of you will want to include dozens of asteroids, Black Lillith, the vertex, antiverter, chart ruler, and myriads of other chart features in your stellium. If I included all the possible influences, the test would be hopelessly complicated and there'd be no such thing as a standard score.



As for why the outermost planets get higher scores than the inner planets, it's because they are observably higher in impact on our world. They relate to issues and trends in the collective—global and universal trends rather than personal ones—and therefore the person with the outer planets strongly featured in the horoscope is more attuned to such issues and more likely to come up with solutions or the next big step in humanity's evolution.

Orbs: The orb for a conjunction is usually 8° but can be extended to 10° in a multiple conjunction if Planet A and Planet B are conjunct, while Planet B and Planet C are conjunct, but Planets A and C are slightly too wide for a conjunction.)

Houses: For the most accurate picture, don't use Whole Sign Houses to score this test, as in that system, the house cusps are automatically set at 0° of the sign on the cusp. Thus, any stellium by sign is automatically a stellium by house as well, skewing the scores. The same would apply to the Equal House system.

Stellium Impact Test

Check what you're measuring:

_____ 4 planet stellium

_____ 3 planet multiple conjunction

_____ 4 planet multiple conjunction

_____ Other: _____

Planets	Points	Score
A. Planet(s) in a stellium or in a multiple conjunction placed in the same house, regardless of sign. Planets: _____	5 ea	_____
B. Sun or Moon is included in the group	7 ea	_____
C. Planet(s) in a stellium or in a multiple conjunction placed in the same sign, regardless of house. Planets: _____	4 ea	_____
D. Outer Planets—Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto—included in the group	7 ea	_____
E. Inner Planets—Mercury, Mars, Venus, Jupiter—included in the group	4 ea	_____
F. Each separate conjunction involved in the stellium or multiple conjunction. (For example, a conjunction of Mars-Pluto-Uranus scores 4 for Mars-Pluto, 4 for Pluto-Uranus, and 4 for Mars-Uranus, for a total of 12.)	4 ea	_____
Ascendant, Midheaven, and Nodes		
G. Each planet that is part of the group AND is also within 10° of the Ascendant or Midheaven (in the Gauquelin sectors) or within 5° of the North or South Node . (No points for a planet that is in the group but not conjunct the Ascendant, Midheaven, or Node.)	4 ea	_____
High/Low Profile		
H. HIGH PROFILE BONUS: Add 10 points if the stellium or multiple conjunction is in the 1st, 10th, or the 9th near the Midheaven , as these are the positions of most visibility to the public	10	_____
I. LOW PROFILE DEDUCTION: Subtract 10 points if the stellium or multiple conjunction is in the 12th, 4th, 8th or 6th house , as these are positions where the person is uncomfortable in the public eye and may be less visible.	-10	_____
	Total	_____