

78 Tarot Card Meanings

Upright and reversed interpretations for a thoughtful reading practice.

How to use this guide

Start with a clear question and decide what each position means before drawing. Notice the image first, then use these short meanings as prompts. A card can invite more than one interpretation; compare it with the facts of your situation.

Reversed cards do not automatically mean “no.” They can invite you to examine delay, imbalance, an internal experience or another perspective. Choose one interpretation that fits the evidence instead of treating every possibility as a prediction.

Use the 22 Major Arcana for broad themes and the 56 Minor Arcana for everyday patterns. Wands concern action; Cups, feelings; Swords, thought and communication; Pentacles, work and practical resources.

Write down one action or question after a reading. Return to your notes to see what changed. This reference supports reflection, not factual predictions or professional decisions.

Original editorial text by TarotArt. Edition: October 2026. No card illustrations are reproduced. Read full guides and contextual examples at tarotart.net/tarot-card.

Major Arcana / 1-8

The Fool

Upright: New beginnings, openness, and the courage to take a first step.

Reversed: Pause and make sure this is trust rather than impulse.

The Magician

Upright: You have the tools you need; focused action turns potential into progress.

Reversed: Your energy may be scattered or your skills underused.

The High Priestess

Upright: Listen for intuition and what has not yet been said.

Reversed: Noise or anxiety may be drowning out your inner signal.

The Empress

Upright: Nurture, creativity, and steady growth are available.

Reversed: Restore your own energy before giving more away.

The Emperor

Upright: Clear structure and boundaries can stabilize the situation.

Reversed: Control has become too rigid; leave room for change.

The Hierophant

Upright: Trusted teaching, tradition, or commitment offers direction.

Reversed: Question whether inherited rules still fit your values.

The Lovers

Upright: Choose in alignment with your values and communicate honestly.

Reversed: Desires or expectations need to be brought back into alignment.

The Chariot

Upright: Commit to a direction and move with disciplined momentum.

Reversed: Conflicting motives must be brought under one purpose.

Major Arcana / 9-15

Strength

Upright: Gentle courage and emotional steadiness are your strongest tools.

Reversed: Tiredness is not weakness; restore yourself before pushing.

The Hermit

Upright: Step back, reflect, and let your own answer become clearer.

Reversed: Solitude may be turning into isolation; seek a trusted perspective.

Wheel of Fortune

Upright: Conditions are changing; notice the opening created by the turn.

Reversed: External timing is unstable, so focus on what you can control.

Justice

Upright: Return to facts, fairness, and the consequences of each choice.

Reversed: Important information may be missing or biasing the decision.

The Hanged Man

Upright: A pause and a new perspective reveal what action cannot.

Reversed: Waiting without purpose may be keeping you stuck.

Death

Upright: One chapter is ending so that meaningful change can begin.

Reversed: Holding on to the familiar is prolonging a necessary transition.

Temperance

Upright: Blend opposing needs and make patient, sustainable adjustments.

Reversed: Your pace or boundaries need rebalancing.

Major Arcana / 16-22

The Devil

Upright: See how attachment, fear, or desire is shaping the choice.

Reversed: A limiting pattern is loosening; you have more agency than it seems.

The Tower

Upright: A false structure is breaking, making an honest rebuild possible.

Reversed: You can reduce disruption by responding to the warning early.

The Star

Upright: Hope, healing, and a longer view are returning.

Reversed: Confidence needs to be rebuilt through small evidence.

The Moon

Upright: Feelings are real, but the current interpretation may be incomplete.

Reversed: The fog is lifting and overlooked facts are becoming visible.

The Sun

Upright: Clarity, warmth, and openness support positive movement.

Reversed: Progress is real, though expectations may need grounding.

Judgement

Upright: Review what you have learned and answer the call to grow.

Reversed: Self-criticism may be hiding how much has already changed.

The World

Upright: A cycle is completing; integrate it before beginning the next.

Reversed: One final detail needs attention before true closure.

Wands / 1-7

Ace of Wands

Upright: An idea is ready for a first experiment. Enthusiasm matters most when it becomes something you can try rather than a promise about the final result.

Reversed: A promising impulse has no clear outlet, or you are pushing an idea that no longer interests you. Reduce the scale before deciding the spark is gone.

Two of Wands

Upright: You have a workable base and are looking beyond it. Compare the reach of two plans before committing resources to either one.

Reversed: Planning can become a shelter from uncertainty. Identify which missing fact would actually change your decision instead of collecting endless possibilities.

Three of Wands

Upright: A first commitment opens a wider horizon. Look for feedback, collaborators and the next stage of a project already in motion.

Reversed: Expansion may be premature or slower than expected. Recheck the original assumptions and who is responsible for the next step.

Four of Wands

Upright: Shared effort deserves a place to settle and be celebrated. Stability here is a foundation for belonging, not an instruction to stop growing.

Reversed: An apparent milestone may not feel secure to everyone involved. Talk about what would make the shared space welcoming rather than staging a celebration.

Five of Wands

Upright: Different aims are competing for room. Friction can reveal a better approach if everyone knows the rules and can speak without being dismissed.

Reversed: Conflict may be avoided on the surface while frustration grows underneath, or rivalry has stopped being useful. Name the real point of disagreement.

Six of Wands

Upright: A contribution is being recognized. Accept the encouragement while remembering the help and repeated effort behind the visible achievement.

Reversed: Approval has become the measure of your worth, or useful work is going unnoticed. Define success independently of applause.

Seven of Wands

Upright: Protect a position that matters to you. You do not need to answer every challenge, but your boundary needs to be clear and proportionate.

Reversed: Defending everything is exhausting you. Decide which commitments deserve a firm response and which disagreements can be left alone.

Wands / 8-14

Eight of Wands

Upright: Communication or activity is gathering speed. Be ready to respond, and check that a fast answer still matches your intention.

Reversed: Mixed messages and rushed timing can scatter momentum. Confirm the sequence and recipient before adding another message.

Nine of Wands

Upright: Experience has made you cautious, but persistence remains available. Build recovery into the final stretch rather than treating vigilance as a permanent state.

Reversed: You may be bracing for a repeat of an old difficulty. Distinguish what is happening now from what you are prepared to fear.

Ten of Wands

Upright: A project has accumulated more responsibility than one person can comfortably carry. Completion requires prioritizing or sharing the load.

Reversed: A burden is ready to be put down, though guilt may keep you holding it. Check whether delegation is real or only an additional supervision task.

Page of Wands

Upright: Curiosity wants an outlet. Approach a creative invitation as a learner and let an imperfect first attempt teach you what interests you.

Reversed: Excitement jumps from idea to idea without practice, or embarrassment stops you trying. Choose a short exercise with no performance requirement.

Knight of Wands

Upright: Bold movement can break a period of hesitation. Give enthusiasm a destination and enough preparation to avoid leaving the work unfinished.

Reversed: Speed has become impatience. A dramatic start is less useful than returning after the first obstacle, so check what you can sustain.

Queen of Wands

Upright: Warm confidence makes room for both your own expression and other people's contributions. Lead by participating without shrinking or dominating.

Reversed: Comparison may be dimming your confidence, or encouragement has become pressure to perform. Reconnect with an activity you enjoy privately.

King of Wands

Upright: A clear vision can organize scattered effort. Leadership means setting a direction while allowing others to choose how they contribute.

Reversed: A strong preference is being mistaken for a shared vision. Explain the purpose, hear objections and avoid making every task dependent on you.

Cups / 1-7

Ace of Cups

Upright: An opening for feeling, care or creative expression is available. Receive it gently without needing to define the whole relationship or project at once.

Reversed: Feelings may be difficult to express or your capacity to give may be depleted. Make room for your own response before offering more.

Two of Cups

Upright: Mutual attention supports connection. Look for an exchange in which both people can speak, listen and consent to the next step.

Reversed: Expectations or effort are uneven. A conversation can clarify the mismatch, but one person cannot create reciprocity for both.

Three of Cups

Upright: Friendship and shared celebration can replenish you. Value the people with whom you can participate without having to prove yourself.

Reversed: Group expectations may be crowding out honest connection. Notice exclusion, overcommitment or the difference between company and belonging.

Four of Cups

Upright: Dissatisfaction asks for attention before another opportunity is accepted. Pause long enough to tell genuine disinterest from temporary fatigue.

Reversed: An overlooked possibility may be becoming visible again, or withdrawal has lasted too long. Re-engage with one invitation rather than everything at once.

Five of Cups

Upright: A disappointment deserves acknowledgment. Seeing what has been lost need not prevent you noticing the relationships or resources that remain.

Reversed: Grief may be making room for a next step, or self-blame is keeping you in the same scene. Support can coexist with sadness.

Six of Cups

Upright: Memory, familiarity and simple kindness can reconnect you with something valuable. Bring forward what nourishes you without assuming the past was perfect.

Reversed: Nostalgia may be editing out important difficulties. Check whether an old pattern fits your present needs before returning to it.

Seven of Cups

Upright: Many appealing possibilities are competing for attention. Separate what you imagine from what each option actually requires.

Reversed: A choice is becoming clearer, or fear of choosing is disguised as endless research. Use one concrete criterion to narrow the field.

Cups / 8-14

Eight of Cups

Upright: Something can be adequate and still no longer fit. Leaving thoughtfully starts with naming the need that repeated effort has not met.

Reversed: Fear of disappointment may keep you circling between staying and leaving. Identify what would have to change for either path to be honest.

Nine of Cups

Upright: Satisfaction is worth recognizing in the present. Enjoy a personal milestone without making it responsible for meeting every emotional need.

Reversed: Getting what you wanted may not feel as expected. Reconsider the need beneath the goal instead of immediately setting a larger one.

Ten of Cups

Upright: Shared well-being grows through repeated care and a sense of belonging. Look at how an ideal of harmony is practiced in daily life.

Reversed: A picture of happiness may be hiding different needs. Allow disagreement without treating it as proof that the whole relationship has failed.

Page of Cups

Upright: A tentative feeling or imaginative idea is asking to be noticed. Curiosity can help you express it without demanding a polished explanation.

Reversed: Sensitivity may turn into avoidance or an imagined story. Name the feeling and check the facts before reacting to what you assume someone meant.

Knight of Cups

Upright: An invitation, apology or creative gesture can carry feeling into action. Let sincerity be supported by something you can actually follow through on.

Reversed: An attractive promise may exceed the capacity behind it. Look for consistent behavior instead of relying only on emotional intensity.

Queen of Cups

Upright: Attentive listening helps you understand a feeling without immediately solving it. Compassion works best when it includes your own limits.

Reversed: You may be absorbing another person's emotions or neglecting your own needs. Caring does not require taking responsibility for every outcome.

King of Cups

Upright: Emotional maturity allows feeling and judgment to coexist. Stay present during a difficult exchange without suppressing emotion or handing it the whole decision.

Reversed: Composure may be masking avoidance, or emotion is being used to control a conversation. Name the feeling directly and keep room for another perspective.

Swords / 1-7

Ace of Swords

Upright: A clear distinction or honest statement cuts through confusion. Check the evidence and say exactly what you mean, even if the conclusion is still provisional.

Reversed: A forceful opinion may be outrunning the facts. Refine the question and test the wording before treating certainty as clarity.

Two of Swords

Upright: A decision is suspended between competing considerations. Identify the information or value you are avoiding rather than forcing an immediate answer.

Reversed: Keeping the choice open is starting to make the choice for you. Acknowledge the tradeoff and decide what evidence is enough.

Three of Swords

Upright: An uncomfortable truth or painful exchange needs acknowledgment. Name the hurt precisely without assuming it defines every future connection.

Reversed: Repair may be beginning, or a painful story is being replayed without new information. Seek a constructive conversation when it is possible and wanted.

Four of Swords

Upright: Rest and mental distance create room for a clearer response. A deliberate pause works better when you know what you are pausing and when you will revisit it.

Reversed: Rest may be overdue, or retreat has become a way to avoid returning. Start with a small, manageable re-entry rather than full speed.

Five of Swords

Upright: Winning an exchange can cost trust. Examine whether the tactic serves the relationship or only the desire to have the final word.

Reversed: You may be ready to stop an unproductive contest. Repair begins with acknowledging your part rather than demanding that everyone forget what happened.

Six of Swords

Upright: A transition can move you toward more workable conditions even while some concerns travel with you. Progress need not feel immediately joyful.

Reversed: An unfinished issue or reluctance to accept help may slow the transition. Decide what needs resolving and what can be carried temporarily.

Seven of Swords

Upright: Strategy and discretion need an honesty check. Working independently can be useful, but withholding relevant information can undermine trust.

Reversed: A hidden complication may need to be acknowledged, or you are ready to ask for help instead of managing around it alone.

Swords / 8-14

Eight of Swords

Upright: The situation may feel more closed than it is. Separate external constraints from assumptions and find one choice that is still available.

Reversed: A limiting belief is loosening, though acting differently may still feel unfamiliar. Test freedom in a small step rather than demanding instant confidence.

Nine of Swords

Upright: Worry can turn a possibility into a repeated mental event. Bring the concern into words and distinguish what is known from what is feared.

Reversed: A worry may be becoming easier to share, or shame is keeping it private. A grounded conversation can interrupt the loop without guaranteeing an outcome.

Ten of Swords

Upright: A difficult pattern has reached a limit. Recognizing that limit can be more useful than trying one more time to restore the same arrangement.

Reversed: The immediate ending may be behind you, but recovery is not the same as returning to the old pattern. Choose what you will not carry forward.

Page of Swords

Upright: Questions, observation and careful language support learning. Gather evidence with curiosity rather than turning every inconsistency into a confrontation.

Reversed: Information may be incomplete or being repeated too quickly. Check the source and context before passing on an interpretation.

Knight of Swords

Upright: Direct action can cut through delay when the aim is clear. Leave enough space to hear information that changes the plan.

Reversed: Urgency may be narrowing your attention. A fast response can create extra work if it answers the wrong question.

Queen of Swords

Upright: Discernment combines honest speech with a clear boundary. You can acknowledge a person's feelings without agreeing to a request that does not fit.

Reversed: Clarity may have hardened into judgment, or fear of seeming unkind is obscuring your boundary. Keep the request specific and the language fair.

King of Swords

Upright: Consistent standards and reasoned decisions can organize a complicated situation. Explain the basis of your judgment so it can be questioned and improved.

Reversed: Authority may be substituting for reasoning. Recheck whether the rule is being applied consistently, including to your preferred outcome.

Pentacles / 1-7

Ace of Pentacles

Upright: A practical opportunity can become something lasting with care. Look for the first concrete step, available resources and a realistic way to begin.

Reversed: The opportunity may lack preparation, or its appeal is distracting from practical requirements. Check what must be available before starting.

Two of Pentacles

Upright: Several responsibilities need an adjustable rhythm. Balance is an ongoing practice of checking capacity, not proof that everything deserves equal attention.

Reversed: Too many moving parts are making the arrangement fragile. Reduce a commitment or simplify the schedule before adding another system.

Three of Pentacles

Upright: Good work benefits from complementary skills and visible feedback. Agree on the standard and recognize the contribution each person brings.

Reversed: People may be working hard toward different definitions of success. Clarify roles and review a small piece together before continuing separately.

Four of Pentacles

Upright: Protecting a resource can provide stability, but holding too tightly can limit its usefulness. Identify what you are preserving and why.

Reversed: You may be ready to share control or resources, or feel pressured to give beyond your comfort. Choose a deliberate boundary rather than an all-or-nothing response.

Five of Pentacles

Upright: A sense of exclusion or lack needs practical attention. Look for available support without treating difficulty as a personal failure.

Reversed: Support may be becoming easier to access, or embarrassment is still preventing you from asking. Make the need specific enough that someone can respond.

Six of Pentacles

Upright: Giving and receiving work best with clear expectations. Notice who can choose freely and whether help creates an unspoken obligation.

Reversed: An exchange may be uneven or conditional. Discuss limits so generosity does not become leverage or resentment.

Seven of Pentacles

Upright: Work has been invested and now needs review. Assess what is developing before deciding whether more effort is the best next move.

Reversed: Impatience may be prompting unnecessary changes, or habit is keeping you invested in an ineffective method. Choose a meaningful review point.

Pentacles / 8-14

Eight of Pentacles

Upright: Skill develops through attentive repetition and feedback. Focus on the part of the craft that needs work rather than merely increasing the hours.

Reversed: Practice may be mechanical or perfectionism may prevent completion. Narrow the exercise and define when it is good enough to share.

Nine of Pentacles

Upright: Independence can include enjoying the results of sustained care. Recognize the systems and boundaries that make your current freedom possible.

Reversed: Self-sufficiency may be becoming isolation, or appearances are hiding strain. Ask what support would preserve rather than diminish your independence.

Ten of Pentacles

Upright: Long-term stability includes the structures and relationships that outlast a single achievement. Consider what a shared arrangement passes on to others.

Reversed: Different ideas about belonging or continuity may be straining a group. Examine inherited expectations instead of assuming tradition settles the question.

Page of Pentacles

Upright: A practical skill is ready to be studied. Start with a small task, useful instructions and a way to notice improvement.

Reversed: Preparation may be replacing practice, or the goal is too vague to begin. Choose a single exercise with a visible result.

Knight of Pentacles

Upright: Steady, repeatable effort can carry a task through its ordinary middle. Reliability matters more here than a dramatic change of direction.

Reversed: Routine may have become rigidity or effort has slowed into avoidance. Keep what works while adjusting the step that repeatedly stalls.

Queen of Pentacles

Upright: Practical care makes daily life more workable. Attend to comfort, resources and support without making yourself responsible for everyone.

Reversed: Caregiving may be consuming the resources it depends on. Include your own time and comfort in the arrangement you are maintaining.

King of Pentacles

Upright: Experience can turn resources into a dependable foundation. Stewardship means maintaining what works and making commitments you can support.

Reversed: Status or control may be overshadowing usefulness. Reconsider whether an impressive arrangement is actually dependable for the people relying on it.