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How to read rider tarot cards

Tarot deck The Rider-Waite tarot deck, originally published during 1909, is widely considered the most popular tarot deck for tarot card reading.[1][2] Other names for this deck include the Waite-Smith,[3] Rider-Waite-Smith,[4][5] or Rider tarot deck.[4] The cards were drawn by illustrator Pamela Colman Smith from the instructions of academic and mystic A. E. Waite and were originally published by the Rider Company. The deck has been published in numerous editions and inspired a wide array of variants and imitations.[6][7] It is estimated that more than 100 million copies of the deck exist in more than 20 countries.[8] Overview While the images are simple, the details and backgrounds feature abundant symbolism. Some imagery remains similar to that found in earlier decks, but overall the Waite-Smith card designs are substantially different from their predecessors. The Christian imagery of previous decks was decreased; for instance, the "Pope" card became the "Hierophant" and the "Papes" became the "High Priests". The Minor Arcana is illustrated with allegorical scenes by Smith, where earlier decks (with a few rare exceptions) had simple designs for the Minor Arcana.[9] The symbols and imagery used in the deck were influenced by the 19th-century magician and occultist Eliphas Levi,[10][11] as well as by the teachings of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. [12] In order to accommodate the astrological correspondences taught by the Golden Dawn, Waite introduced several innovations to the deck. He switched the order of the Strength and Justice cards so that Strength corresponded with Leo and Justice corresponded with Libra.[13][14] He also changed the Lovers card to depict two people instead of three in order to reinforce its correspondence with Gemini.[13] Major Arcana 0 – The Fool I – The Magician II – The High Priestess III – The Empress IV – The Emperor V – The Hierophant VI – The Lovers VII – The Chariot VIII – Strength IX – The Hermit X – Wheel of Fortune XI – Justice XII – The Hanged Man XIII – Death XIV – Temperance XV – The Devil XVI – The Tower XVII – The Star XVIII – The Moon XIX – The Sun XX – Judgement XXI – The World Minor Arcana Wands Ace of Wands Two of Wands Three of Wands Four of Wands Five of Wands Six of Wands Seven of Wands Eight of Wands Nine of Wands Ten of Wands Page of Wands King of Wands Queen of Wands King of Wands Pentacles Ace of Pentacles Two of Pentacles Three of Pentacles Four of Pentacles Five of Pentacles Six of Pentacles Seven of Pentacles Eight of Pentacles Nine of Pentacles Ten of Pentacles Page of Pentacles King of Pentacles Queen of Pentacles King of Pentacles Cups Ace of Cups Two of Cups Three of Cups Four of Cups Five of Cups Six of Cups Seven of Cups Eight of Cups Nine of Cups Ten of Cups Page of Cups Knight of Cups Queen of Cups King of Cups Swords Ace of Swords Two of Swords Three of Swords Four of Swords Five of Swords Six of Swords Seven of Swords Eight of Swords Nine of Swords Ten of Swords Page of Swords Knight of Swords Queen of Swords King of Swords Publication The cards were first published during December 1909, by the publisher William Rider & Son of London.[9][13] The first printing was extremely limited and featured card backs with a roses and lilies pattern. A much larger printing was done during March of 1910, featuring better quality card stock and a "cracked mud" card back design. This edition, often referred to as the "A" deck, was published from 1910 to 1920. Rider continued publishing the deck in various editions until 1939, then again from 1971 to 1977. All of the Rider editions up to 1939 were available with a small guide written by A. E. Waite providing an overview of the traditions and history of the cards, texts about interpretations, and extensive descriptions of their symbols. The first version of this guide was published during 1909 and was titled The Key to the Tarot. A year later, a revised version, The Pictorial Key to the Tarot, was issued that featured black-and-white plates of all seventy-eight of Smith's cards. Copyright status In the United Kingdom, copyright for the artwork of the deck expired 70 years after the end of the year in which Waite died, i.e. after 31st December 2012.[15] In countries with a 50 years posthumous terms (e.g. Australia, Canada, etc.) the copyright expired after 31st December 1992. In the United States, the deck became part of the public domain in 1966 (publication + 28 years + renewed 28 years), and thus has been available for use by American artists for numerous different media projects. U.S. Games Systems has a copyright claim on their updated version of the deck published in 1971, but this only applies to new material added to the pre-existing work (e.g. designs on the card backs and the box). References ^ Giles, Cynthia (1994). The Tarot: History, Mystery, and Lore. New York: Simon & Schuster. p. 46. ISBN 0671891014. ^ Visions and Prophecies. Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books. 1988. p. 142. ^ Katz, Marcus; Goodwin, Tali (2015). 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For me, tarot is a fascinating system that reflects all human life.Read on for a quick reference to the Rider-Waite tarot meanings! Viva Luna Studios, via UnsplashAn Easy Guide to the Rider-Waite DeckHaven't got time to look up tarot meanings in a book? Or does your memory need a quick nudge? Here is a quick reference to the meanings of tarot cards. This list covers the Rider-Waite tarot and all its many offshoots. If your deck has a special system of its own, then you'll need to refer to the book that came with it.In this article, we'll look at:What Is the Major Arcana? Meanings of the Major Arcana Cards What Is the Minor Arcana? Meanings of the Minor Arcana Cards Tips for Reading Tarot Note: This list is for upright card meanings only. If you're looking to learn about reversals, check out my explanation and quick reference guide for the Rider-Waite Tarot Reversals.The Major Arcana: What They MeanThe Major Arcana cards are not like the Minors—while the Minors can be pretty specific (focusing on actual situations, feelings, etcetera), the Majors are more about energy fields and influences. They may reflect a spiritual search, attainment or life lesson. Sometimes they reflect forces beyond our control. They warn us that resistance is futile, and that we need to adjust our perception or increase understanding and acceptance.The Majors are as specific as Minors—they are more about energy fields and influences. AuthorThe Meanings of the Major Arcana Cards0 Fool – Taking a risk. Getting outside your comfort zone. Knowing the universe is looking after you. 1 Magician – Feeling confident, assured. Having all the tools and resources at your disposal. 2 High Priestess – Intuition. Going within. Inner knowing. 3 Empress – Growth, fertility, pregnancy, motherhood. New project. Dominant female. 4 Emperor – Structure, organization, rules. Dominant male. 5 Hierophant – Learning path, religion, spirituality, spiritual mentor, guide. 6 Lovers – Life-changing choice, turning point. Union with another, two as one. 7 Chariot – Drive and determination. Autonomy. Mediation and negotiation. 8 Strength – Persuasion, great strength. Patience, control, compassion. 9 Hermit – Knowing oneself, solitude. Understanding humanity, wisdom. 10 Wheel of Fortune – Change, good luck, destiny. 11 Justice – Cause and effect, karma, fairness, legal issues. 12 Hanged Man – On hold, nothing happening, stuck, letting go of the outcome. 13 Death – Endings and new beginnings, transformation, transition. Death. 14 Temperance – Chemistry, moderation, balance. Getting it right. 15 Devil – Addiction, bad habits, co-dependency, materialism. 16 Tower – Chaos, destruction, upheaval. Unexpected and possibly unwanted change. 17 Star – Renewed optimism, hope, serenity. Spiritual love and joy. 18 Moon – Insecurity, anxiety, illusion, fear, health issues. 19 Sun – Improvement, growth, positivity, love, abundance, joy. 20 Judgment – Rebirth, calling, forgiveness. 21 World – In the right place. Accomplishment, completion. Pause before the next stage. How to Interpret the Minor ArcanaThe Minor Arcana are often considered to be less important than the Major Arcana cards. To me, this isn't correct. When someone is dealing with a set of circumstances, they are right in the middle of the action. While a Major can point out the overall energy, the Minor card is able to pinpoint the details and give the necessary advice—now.Minors can give the necessary advice immediately. AuthorThe Meanings of the Minor Arcana CardsThere are four suits in the Minor Arcana:Wands/Staves Cups Pentacles SwordsThe Suit of Wands/StavesThe Wands are connected to inspiration and action.Ace of Wands – Rush of energy, inspiration, passion, creativity. Two of Wands – Planning, decisions, delays. Three of Wands – Enterprise, entrepreneurial spirit, responsibility, opportunity. New job. Four of Wands – Community, celebration, domestic comfort, engagement, wedding, housewarming. A job well done. Five of Wands – Arguments, disagreements, tension, competition, strife. Six of Wands – Victory, achievement. Good results in exams. Public acknowledgment. Seven of Wands – Standing your ground, challenge, not giving up. Eight of Wands – Change, getting organized, motivation, travel, possible pregnancy. Nine of Wands – Courage, determination, resilience. Ten of Wands – Responsibilities, stress, tough times. Page of Wands – Explorer, potential, free agent, no ties, messenger (or message arriving swiftly). Knight of Wands – Lust, enthusiasm, entrepreneurial spirit, scattered energy. Queen of Wands – Warmth, vibrancy, sexual enthusiasm. King of Wands – Leader, visionary, role model, temperamental, egotistical. The Suit of CupsCups are connected to emotions, and relationships with others and self.Ace of Cups – Overwhelming romantic and spiritual love. New relationship, friendship, Compassion. Two of Cups – Attraction, love, commitment. Three of Cups – Friendship, fun, community, girls' night out, celebration. Four of Cups – Emotional stability, contemplation, meditation, inward focus. Five of Cups – Loss, hurt, disappointment, bereavement, regret, pain. Emotional challenge. Six of Cups – Memories of people and places. Childhood, children, grandchildren. Seven of Cups – Fantasy, imagination, too many choices. Eight of Cups – Parting, leaving home. Emotional choice. Nine of Cups – Emotional security. Comfort, satisfaction, happiness. Ten of Cups – Family, harmony, fulfillment, peace, love. Page of Cups – Explorer of feelings, creative, messenger (or message arriving from overseas). Knight of Cups – Romantic beau. Loves to love. Bisexuality. Queen of Cups – Intuitive, compassionate woman. Good friend. King of Cups – Friendly, gentle man. Emotionally supportive. The Suit of PentaclesPentacles are connected to the material world, work, health, money.Ace of Pentacles – Gift, manifestation, new house or project. Prosperity. Two of Pentacles – Making ends meet. Balancing time and resources. Three of Pentacles – Collaboration, teamwork, pooling resources and ideas. Four of Pentacles – Stability, security, isolation, holding on to resources. Five of Pentacles – Material loss, destitution, poverty, financial or material challenge. Six of Pentacles – Generosity, giving and receiving support, charity, donation of resources. Seven of Pentacles – Slight dissatisfaction, underlying discontent, doing well but could do better. Wondering at missed opportunities. Eight of Pentacles – Education, training/retraining, change of career, focus on the job in hand. Nine of Pentacles – Independence, happy with own company. Self-sufficiency, appreciation. Ten of Pentacles – Family structure, wealth, business, planning, inter-generational co-operation. Page of Pentacles – Student, curiosity, focus. Messenger, or message arriving by post. Knight of Pentacles – Hard worker, loyal, reliable, quiet man with hidden depths. Queen of Pentacles – Comforting, practical, efficient woman. Motherhood, career woman. King of Pentacles – Businessman, magnanimous, proud, self-educated, self-made. The Suit of SwordsSwords are connected to the intellect and communication.Ace of Swords – Clarity, decision made, insight, understanding, truth revealed. Two of Swords – Indecision, not acknowledging the truth, afraid to face reality. Three of Swords – Miscommunication, rejection, hurtful words, painful realization. Four of Swords – Withdrawal, resting the mind, time-out, meditation. Five of Swords – Conflict, tension, mental challenge, bullying. Six of Swords – Transition, recovery, moving on, travel. Seven of Swords – Stealth, reclaiming something lost, mental trickery, betrayal, theft. Eight of Swords – Self-entrapment, perceived imprisonment, isolation. Nine of Swords – Anxiety, depression, nightmares, endless negative thought. Ten of Swords – Defeat, ending, death. End of life cycle/beginning of the next. Page of Swords – Mentally agile, restless, experimenting. Messenger (or message arriving fast). Knight of Swords – Incisive, decisive, impulsive, political. Fights for the underdog. Queen of Swords – Perceptive, quick thinker, seeker of truth. Tells it like it is. King of Swords – Authoritative, intellectually powerful, truthful, direct. Read on for some tips on giving tarot readings. Tips for Reading Tarot: How to Get the Most Out of a CardWhile it's simple to look up a list of meanings, you also have to be aware that circumstances play a part, so there may be subtle but telling differences in the meaning of the card. The skill of a reader lies in identifying what aspect of the seeker's life the card is related to. For example, let's say your seeker (or yourself) has asked about a new job. You turn over the Seven of Swords, and for the life of you, you can't connect it to the new job quest. Then you begin to think about the information the client has given you, and one of the things she said was that her search has been hampered by her lack of confidence. The meaning of the Seven of Swords can be expanded as advice to claim back that lost confidence because she has an absolute right to feel as worthy as anyone applying for those jobs.And this is your job as a tarot reader. It's not only deciphering the mysterious cards, but also about giving your clients reassurance. Hearing it from a tarot reader sometimes gives them a big boost. If the cards say it, it must be true—and so forth.So be prepared to dig a little, to get the client talking in order to expand on the meanings. Say what comes into your mind in the form of a personal memory, but be careful how you say it. Tarot readers are not generally trained counselors, and if you blurt out something without thinking, you can cause damage. People have a way of latching on to one sentence or point, so think before you speak.Any Questions About Interpreting Tarot Cards?Hope this list of tarot card meanings is useful to you. You can print them out by pressing Ctrl P, or by copying them into a Word document and deleting the images.Feel free to ask any questions, but please, no requests for free readings.This article is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge. Content is for informational or entertainment purposes only and does not substitute for personal counsel or professional advice in business, financial, legal, or technical matters.Questions & AnswersQuestion: I pulled out a card for best way to deal with a relationship situation. The relationship is, I feel, one-sided and about to end in a disastrous way. The card I pulled out was the World. It's difficult to understand in this context. Does it mean to wait and see what happens? Or would it be that one person needs to take the initiative to end the relationship or try to sort it out?Answer: As the World is the final card in the Major Arcana, it means that you have learned a valuable life lesson from this relationship, but you are ready to undertake the next chapter of your life. I'm not saying it has to end, but it looks likely. Take what you can from it, experience-wise, try to keep it amicable and simply move on. Incidentally, I would recommend you read all single cards as upright.Question: I have purchased the Rider-Waite Tarot Deck. What would be the best book to go with it? Do you have any advice for the beginners in terms of where to start? Answer: I would suggest Brigit Esselmont's Ultimate Guide to Tarot Card Meanings. I have the original PDF version and it's great for little nudges about all the variations of a card's meaning, even for someone like me who has been reading for years and years. You might know the author better as the owner of Biddy Tarot. It's expensive but worth it. I'm not sure if the PDF version is still available, you'd have to check the website. The paperback is on Amazon but, as I say, horrendously expensive. One excellent free resource is Joan Bunning's Learning the Tarot. It's an old site and not easily navigable. It is her whole book, though, free of charge. As far as where to start... I have several articles that may help: Question: What are Pentacles connected to?Answer: Pentacles are connected to the material world; everything you can touch. Money, health, home, work, etc. Question: I read all the tarot cards upright only. Whether single or in a spread. Please guide me if I am it doing right?Answer: It's perfectly fine to read the cards upright all the time. In fact, I do too. However, you have to know that you can also read the reversal meanings into an upright card. It works like this: imagine that each card is actually a pole or a stick. At each end you have the extreme meaning of the card; positive and negative. The correct degree of meaning for your reading is somewhere along that 'stick'. It's your talent, as a reader, to use your intuition to determine where on that scale the meaning lies.To help you, have a look online at images for the Revelations Tarot by Zach Wong. He has built the reversals right into the image. So it's all contained within the card.Question: I have the Rider-Waite tarot deck, and it came with a booklet which says you are connected to a certain suit based on some physical characteristics and you do readings using just that suit and the Major Arcana. Yet the way it's explained here, you're using the full deck for a reading and the suits are representing various challenges etc. Is this simply a difference in style or the intent of the reader? I'm curious as to your opinion on this?Answer: Normally, the whole deck is used for a reading, otherwise you'd be excluding a lot of potential information. What you are describing is a special spread based on the seeker's dominant element. So, mine is Earth/Pentacles, so if I wanted to do a reading only based on that element, then I could use the spread you describe. However, I don't know why you'd want to unless it was for a birthday reading or something. If you read the booklet again, I'm sure you will see other suggested spreads there.Question: I pulled a single card reading for "what guidance the universe has for me regarding a particular relationship such that it's in the highest good of both involved?" I got Death. For the first time, I'm unable to connect to a card. How could this be interpreted? I tried the same thing after a few days and got the same card. What message is the tarot trying to give me?Answer: Death means a transition that you cannot prevent. Therefore, you will be moving on. Death is like a portal from one life stage to another. There is no choice involved. It's going to happen. Once passed, you can then lookout for signs of a positive future. Asking the same question on a different article, hoping for another answer, is still going to get you the same answer, I'm afraid.Question: Is it OK to draw on your tarot deck?Answer: Sure. It's your deck and the cards are just cards. There is nothing magical about the actual cards. Most are mass-printed in China. There are a few decks that are printed as coloring cards which might be fun.Having said that, I probably would not draw on any of mine. I have been considering trimming the borders off a couple of them though.© 2018 Bev GCommentsBev G (author) from Wales, UK on August 10, 2020:Hi Knottybunny, you don't need to sit down and learn the cards. Trying to learn them by heart is hard.What you need to do is lots of readings. One card readings. You can read for yourself, for situations, you can read for news stories, etc. As you do the readings, type up a brief summary of what the card means.When you get a bit more confident, start doing free readings for the American Tarot Association.Knottybunny on August 09, 2020:I've been dabbling into tarot for a few years now I even own 2 tarot & 1 oracle deck. That said everytime I commit to sitting down and learning I get discouraged & overwhelmedBev G (author) from Wales, UK on July 25, 2020:You are welcome, Bella.Bella Tris on July 25, 2020:I really want to thank you as I find many of the tarot websites offer interesting insights and yours gave me a lot to reflect on..Bev G (author) from Wales, UK on February 08, 2020:Hi Deborah, I can't do your reading, sorry. There are several reasons: I don't know your question, your situation, the positions of the cards and neither do I have a connection with you. It's not a good idea to ask others to interpret your cards.Deborah Robinson on February 08, 2020:I got the 9 of swords2 of cupsTemperanceThe DevilPage of cupsIn relation to my career at present. Have bene feeling stressed about this will everything be ok tia xxxBev G (author) from Wales, UK on October 21, 2019:Yep, the link is right there.Me on October 21, 2019:Reversed ???

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