

Fleeting Connections

TAROT GUIDE



WHAT IS TAROT?

Tarot is the practice of using a deck of cards to channel information - information about everything that ever was and ever will be. This information is all around us, and the cards help illuminate it.

But tarot didn't start this way. Tarot first appeared in Europe in the 1400s as a card game called triumph, which was similar to bridge, but over hundreds of years, people began using the cards to practice divination - a ritual process for channeling divine wisdom. And this is how they are used today.

Divine information is often interpreted as being information from God or Source, and you are welcome to interpret it however you like. Personally, I interpret it simply as truth.

Not to quote "The X-Files," but the truth is out there.

Information is out there. I have seen it, felt it, heard it, tasted it, and known it. Where this truth is coming from is largely irrelevant. Maybe it's held in energy or being transmitted from God or Source or the collective unconscious or the infinite magazine. I don't have the answer to this, and honestly, you don't need the answer.

Let go of the desire to pin this process down to a science.

Tarot asks you to step into the unknown.



RECEIVING YOUR CARDS

To start working with tarot, you first need a tarot deck! That's because the best way to learn tarot is to regularly work with the cards, and for this, you need a deck - plain and simple.



from unknown forces

It's tempting to rush out and buy yourself a deck, but I urge you to have patience. Tarot is a conversation with the universe. The practice starts before you receive your deck. It starts with the conversation.

So if you haven't already received a deck, start the conversation by asking for one. Just ask for it:

"I want to work with tarot. I'm ready to receive my deck."

Speak out loud to the open air. Tell a friend. Tell your journal. Hold the desire in your heart and mind. The deck will come. It will. Trust.

This trust in the conversation is at the heart of everything that comes next.

Don't believe me? Read [this story](#) about how I received my tarot deck.

Have you already bought yourself a deck? Not a problem! It will still work, but truthfully, you're likely to struggle to feel connected to it, so go ahead and ask for another. Ask for your deck, and gift your current deck to a friend. With this, you're inviting your friend into the practice, and it will come back around to you.

PREPPING YOUR CARDS

Once you have a deck, you're ready to start using it! You can start right away, but often it's nice to cleanse your deck.

You can do this so many ways: pray over it, sage it, place it in the moonlight, place it in a crystal grid, or use Reiki if you're attuned. But the easiest way to clean your deck is simply to hold it in your hands and set the intention to work with your deck for the highest good of all beings and as a clear channel for truth and/or divine wisdom.

You may also want to prep the space for a reading. Create an altar or a space that feels sacred. I love burning mugwort (pictured below). This plant is used to help strengthen your intuition and clear the environment for channeling.

Once your deck and space are ready, decide what information you want to channel. You can channel information specific to yourself, another person, a group of people, or a place in time.



Know who or what you're channeling. From there, you can do a general reading in which you draw the cards without a specific question in mind or you can ask a question.

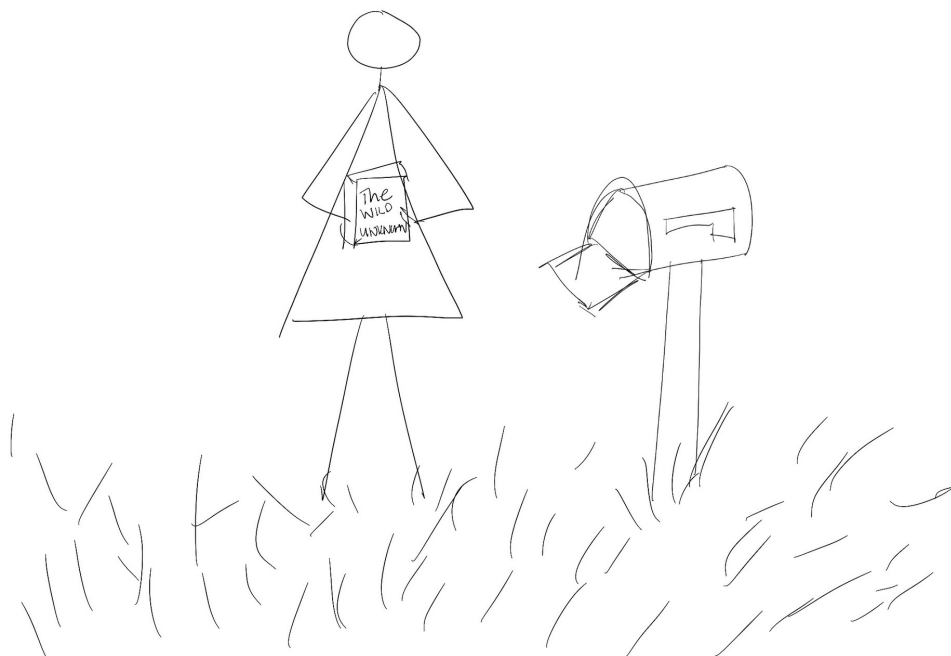
Any question is welcome - the more specific the better - but I recommend avoiding questions with yes or no answers. Tarot works through storytelling, so let the cards tell their story.

As you shuffle the cards, focus your attention on who and what you're channeling. Allow this focus to be more like a soft gaze than an intense stare. You don't have to constantly think about the question as you shuffle. If you're clear in your heart about what you want, the cards will respond.

And in the end, the cards will illuminate whatever needs to be illuminated. This may be something other than your question. If this happens, it will be clear when you go to read the cards.

When you're done shuffling, you may be ready to lay the cards. But sometimes, the cards seem to want more. I often ask the person I'm reading for to cut the deck three times and reassemble it with their non-dominant hand. I often do this myself. It varies based on what I sense the cards need.

Now, I only believe in magic.



That's my practice. Your practice is yours. Feel out what makes the most sense to you.

And most importantly, have fun with the cards! Don't take any of it too seriously. There are no good or bad cards.

LAYING THE CARDS

Once you're done prepping the cards, you're ready to lay them down and start reading.

There are many traditional tarot spreads - from single card, three card, five card, ten card, etc. With these spreads, the placement of each card is imbued with a specific significance (e.g., past, present, future, subconscious desire, conscious goal, advice, hopes and fears, etc.)



Knowing these spreads is helpful, but here's the thing about spreads - they are what you make them. You can lay three cards down and interpret them as past, present, and future. You can also lay three cards down and interpret them as present, hope, and fear. It's up to you, but it's mainly up to the cards and the information coming through.

This practice is what you make it. It ultimately comes down to reading the cards, and most of the time, that reading doesn't align with some standard spread.

Sometimes cards fly out of the deck as you're shuffling, and that's your reading.

Sometimes cards clearly signify something other than the supposed-significance of the position they are in.

Tarot asks you to let go of conscious control and defer to intuitive intelligence.

You lead by letting yourself be led. You're led by the cards, but you're also led by your gut, and whatever you see, think, and feel during a reading. Trust your intuition.

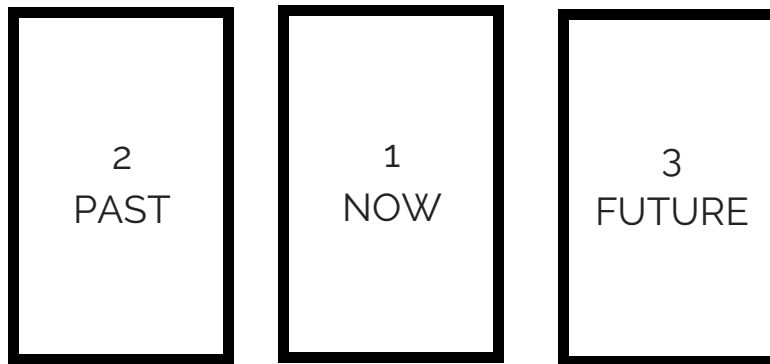
All that said, I often work with basic spreads. I find them to be a helpful starting place, but I keep them pretty loose and let them take on a life of their own.

The following are examples of great starter spreads. You can lay the cards down in the order of the numbers or in whatever order feels right for you:

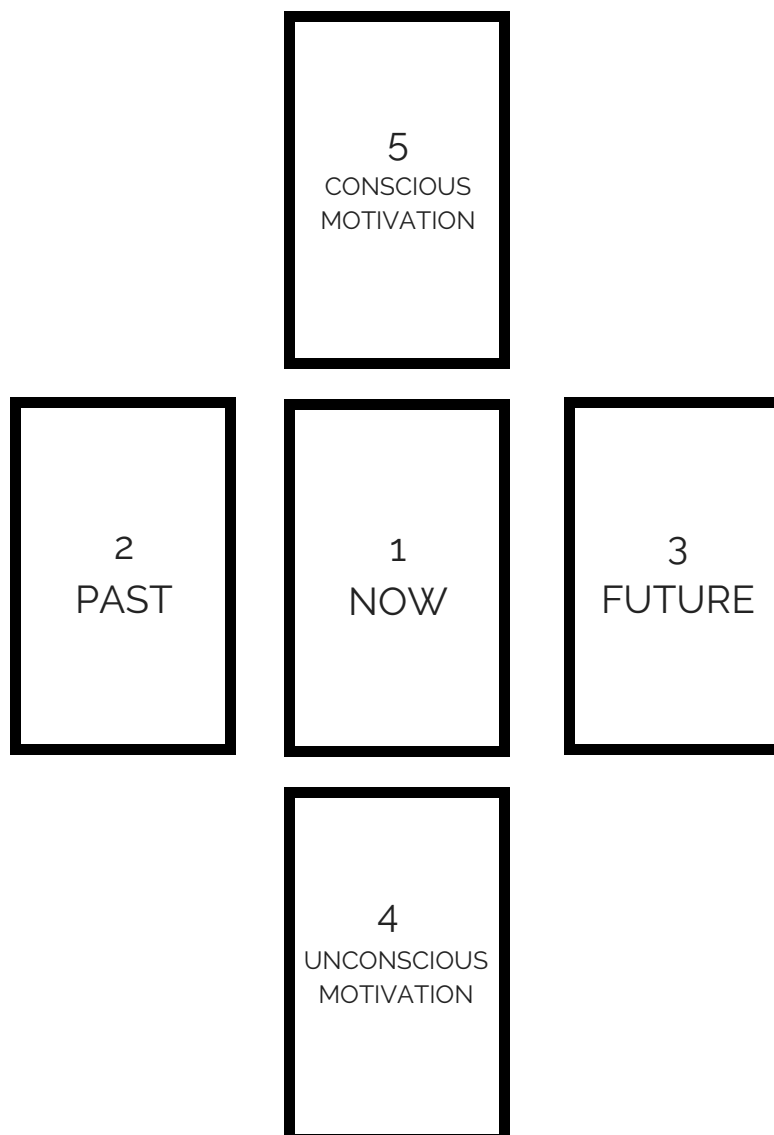
SINGLE CARD



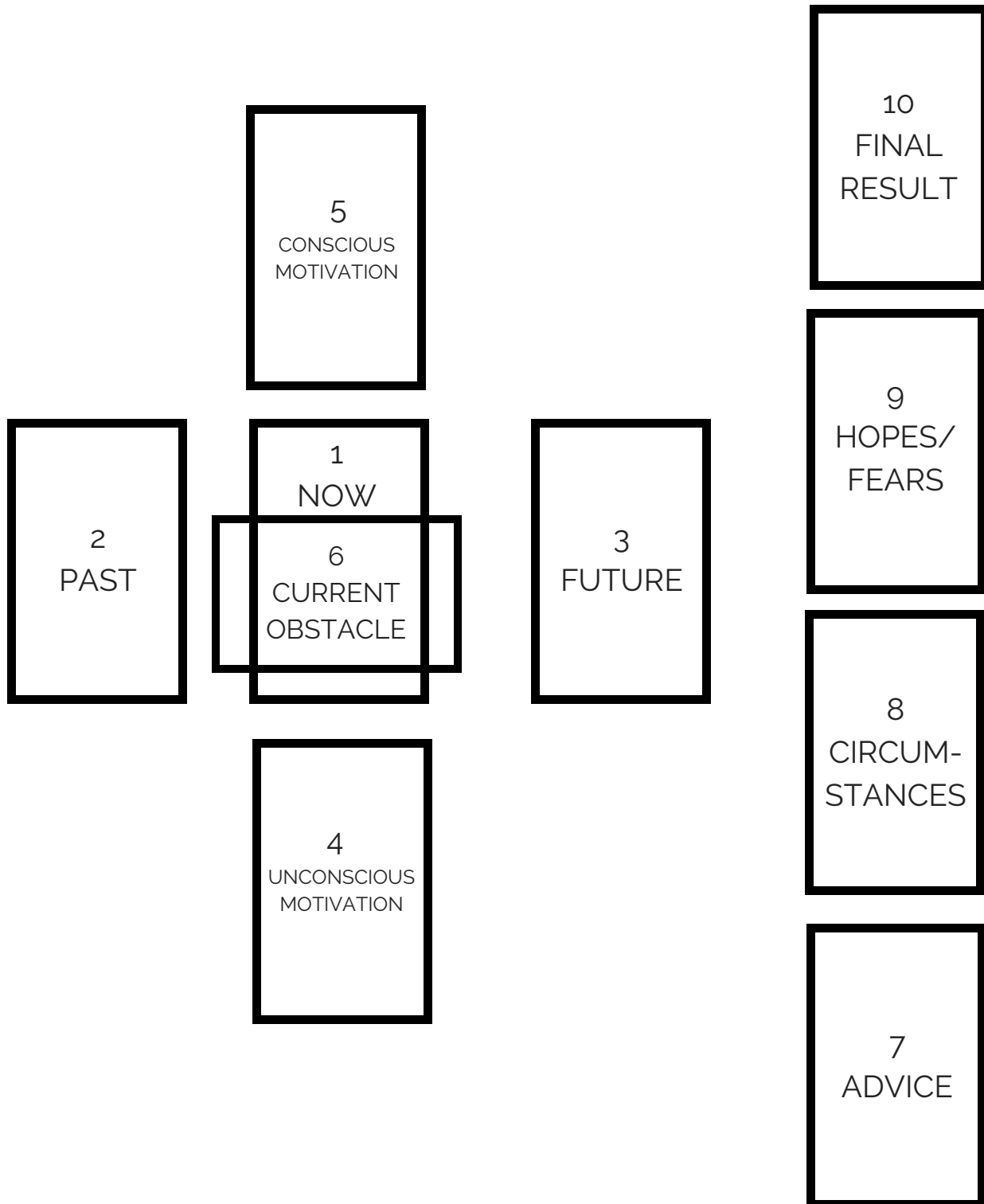
THREE CARD



FIVE CARD



TEN CARD CELTIC CROSS



READING THE CARDS

You don't need to know the definitions of every card to read tarot. The cards tell you what they mean. You just have to read them.

Tarot is not about memorization. Tarot is about reading something for the first time.

You read the cards by looking at them, observing what information they're sharing and how they make you feel. Meditating with one card every day - versus reading definitions - is a great way to discover what the card has to teach you.

But a card's meaning is never exactly the same. It shows up differently between each reading based on the context of the other cards.

The cards' shifting meanings and the storytelling aspect of tarot only develops through truly reading the cards and sharing what they say versus memorizing what they mean. That said - knowing the following basics is helpful.



THE DECK

A traditional tarot deck has 78 cards. This includes 56 cards divided between four suits and 22 Major Arcana cards.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

The Major Arcana cards are numbered 0-21, and each has its own name (e.g., The Fool, The Tower, Death, The World).

These are the most significant cards in any reading, and in the game triumph, they were the trump cards.

Major Arcana cards represent archetypes inherent in all significant moments of transformation in our lives. When readings don't have any Major Arcana cards, then the question asked may not be particularly significant to the person's growth at that exact moment in time. But truly, it's up to you to discover what this means in each reading.

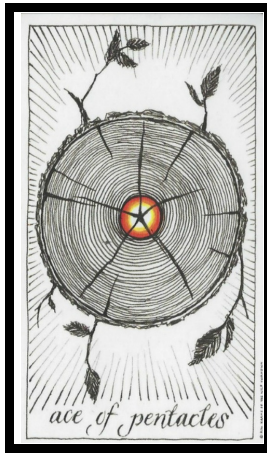
THE SUITS

Outside of the Major Arcana cards, there are four suits: cups, pentacles, wands, & swords.

Each suit has ten cards numbered 1-10 and four court cards.

The court cards (traditionally named Page, Knight, Queen, and King) represent a person in someone's life or a part of the person or both. Each has its own characteristics connected to the suit. Read the card to learn what those are and who they represent within each reading.

And to make sense of each card within the suit, simply read the card and remember the main qualities of each suit:



PENTACLES deal with material reality, our bodies, work, money, home, and physical sensory experience.

They embody the EARTH element.



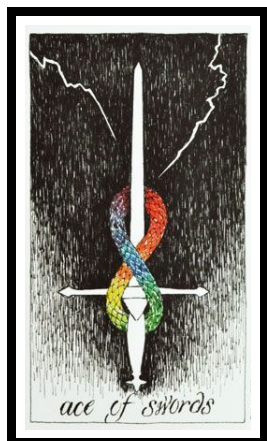
CUPS deal with human connection, emotions, the soul, and the astral plane.

They embody the WATER element.



WANDS deal with creative energy, projects, movement, action, creation, destruction, and making things happen.

They embody the FIRE element.



SWORDS deal with our thoughts, ideas, beliefs, and inner stories - all things that happen in the mind.

They embody the AIR element.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

As mentioned, the Suits are numbered 1-10, and the Major Arcana are numbered 0-21. Knowing the significance of numbers can help you in make sense of each card's meaning. So here's your crash course on numerology. For double digits, you can add the numbers to create single digits (e.g., 11 becomes $1+1=2$).

One/Ace :: new beginnings, early stages, the start of a new cycle

Two :: Balance, duality, crossroad, choice, focus, partnership, early stages of cycle

Three :: support, teamwork, groups, growth - pulling together the lessons of 1 & 2 to move forward

Four :: structure, stability, coming together, semi-completion/manifestation on the way to continued growth

Five :: loss, instability, challenge, coming apart to continue growing, midpoint within larger cycle

Six :: adjustment, harmony, comfort, problem-solving, transcend difficulty

Seven :: reflection, contemplation, discovery, learning, faith

Eight :: movement, taking the action toward continued growth, will to accomplish our goals

Nine :: attainment, approaching the fulfillment of a cycle

Ten :: completion, transformation, renewal, beginnings similar to One/Aces but on a higher level (10: $1+0 = 1$)

REVERSALS

When the cards show up reversed, it's up to you to interpret what this means within the context of the reading. Sometimes I read reversals. Sometimes I don't. I let the cards guide me toward their importance.

When I do read reversals, I like to work with them simply as resistance to or a lack of awareness around a card's role. I also will read the card's reversed image. The best drawn cards tell you what they mean both upright and reversed.

Often, just one or two cards will face the opposite direction of every other card. For me, this always means that that card(s) is particularly significant within the reading.

YOU

While most decks use the same structure and have the same cards, none of the cards are ever really the same. The pictures and the feelings and meanings embodied within them vary, so it's important to actually read the cards and not just regurgitate memorized facts about the cards. Again, tarot isn't about memorization. It's about channeling previously unknown information.

It's divination. It's a form of channeling all the information out there and gaining clarity.

As you're reading, you may experience information coming from beyond the cards. You may hear things. You may suddenly just know what something means. You may see something. You may feel something in your body. Pay attention to all of these clues. This is your intuition. And it's all part of the reading process.

Every person reads cards differently. No two people are going to interpret the same reading exactly the same way. Each person's practice is unique, and yours is your own.

Now, take all of this and go find it!

Trust yourself.

Trust yourself.

Trust yourself.

For more on tarot and the weird things that happen when you work with the cards,
[click here](#).

ABOUT ME



My name's Virginia, and I'm a writer, teacher, and psychic healer.

After a lifetime of denying my psychic abilities, I became chronically ill.

Through years of study and practice, I grew to understand my gifts. I learned to control and nurture them, and to my surprise, my illnesses disappeared. I became healthy and happy, met my soul partner, and found fulfilling work by sharing my gifts with others.

I now teach highly intuitive women how to do the same in their own lives, and I help them live with clarity and purpose by embracing their psychic abilities and making magic.

If you have questions about this guide or anything else, I'd love to hear from you! Just email me at virginia@fleetingconnections.com.

And for more free lessons, DIY rituals, horoscopes, and insight, follow along on Instagram [@fleetingconnections](https://www.instagram.com/fleetingconnections).

Featured Deck / My First Deck:
The Wild Unknown by Kim Krans