DZ ARCANA

Tarot Reading Guide

From a useful question to a connected reading

You do not need to memorise all seventy-eight cards before you begin. Bring one question, notice the role each card plays, and turn a useful reflection into something small you can try. This guide covers a daily card, three-card and five-card readings, followed by a complete upright and reversed quick reference.

Start with four simple steps

1 Choose one situation rather than squeezing every worry into one question.

2 Decide whether you want to understand the situation, compare two options or find a next step.

3 Read the overall message, then each card’s orientation and position.

4 Keep one manageable action and decide what you will observe afterwards.

What the cards can and cannot tell you

Cards are not a scorecard. Upright does not mean good, reversed does not mean bad, and five cards are not more accurate than three. They offer different angles for reflection, not mind-reading or a promise about the future.

DZ ARCANA assembles readings from original prewritten text and combination rules. It is not a live consultation with a human reader. If a passage does not fit your circumstances, leave it aside; you do not have to make your life fit the cards.

Find your way around

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Ask a question you can work with

A useful question need not sound mysterious. It should help you see what you can observe or do. Instead of asking cards to reveal someone else's private thoughts, return to the interaction you can actually see.

Your first thought	A more useful question
Do they really like me?	What should I notice about pacing and reciprocity in this dating connection?
Should I change jobs?	How can I compare deepening my current role with exploring a different role?
I will never finish this assignment	What can I do first when an assignment feels too large to begin?
My friend has not replied. Do they dislike me?	How can I reconnect with a friend without pressuring them to respond?

How questions are selected on the website

Choose Romance, Work, Money, Study, Social or Self, then Understand the situation, Compare two options or Find a next step. The current service uses a question bank: choose the listed question closest to yours. It does not analyse any long personal account you choose to type.

Compare options on equal terms

Give each option a short, distinct name, such as "Stay in my current role" and "Explore a different role". Each label can contain up to 100 characters. Labels identify your options; they do not mean the service has checked a salary, working conditions or somebody else's promises.

Use the same criteria for both: time, practical demands, learning opportunities and what remains unknown. Do not compare A's known disadvantages with B's unverified imagined advantages.

Keep a practical boundary

Do not use cards to determine illness, investment returns, legal outcomes or another person's hidden motives. Check the facts behind important decisions and seek appropriate professional help when needed. If someone has asked for no contact, respect that boundary rather than drawing again to find an exception.

What one three and five cards explore

One daily card

One small reminder is enough. Read the card’s name and orientation, then notice what feels relevant today. It is fine if nothing does. The Fool upright, for example, suggests taking a little step: perhaps ten minutes testing an idea, not a prediction that something dramatic must happen today.

The layout changes with your purpose

Your purpose	Three cards in order	Five cards in order
Understand the situation	What is happening What feels tricky A different way to look	What is happening What feels tricky What may help A different way to look What to notice next
Compare two options	Option A and its conditions Option B and its conditions What matters in both choices	Option A and its conditions Trade-off for A Option B and its conditions Trade-off for B What matters in both choices
Find a next step	What gets in the way What may help Something to try	What gets in the way What may help A small adjustment Something to try What to notice next

For option comparisons, the website uses the names you entered. “Conditions” explains how to read the position; the cards do not score the options or vote for a winner.

Choose the depth you need

Use three cards to find the main thread. Choose five when you want more room for resources, conditions or trade-offs. “What to notice next” is an observation prompt, not an inevitable future. These are not fixed past, present and future layouts.

Read the cards together

Read the position before the meaning

The same card asks a different question in “What feels tricky” and “What may help”. The Two of Pentacles concerns how you manage what you are holding. Reversed in a difficult position, it can invite you to check whether you have taken on too much. In a resource position, ask whether reducing a task or sharing work is genuinely possible; do not assume support is already available.

Reversed is not simply the opposite

A reversal may invite a change of pace, a check on missing details, less pushing through, or a different approach. Use that card’s specific reversed text. Do not translate every reversal into failure, bad luck or someone not loving you. Upright cards still need real-world conditions; they do not guarantee success.

Follow a simple reading sequence

1 Return to the question. What am I trying to understand this time?

2 Keep one thought per card. What does its position invite me to examine?

3 Look for a connection. Are two cards describing the same strain, or does one suggest a response to the other?

4 Check against reality. What do I know, and what am I only assuming?

5 Choose one small action. What will I try, and when will I review what actually happened?

When the cards seem to disagree

One card may encourage movement while another asks you to slow down. Rather than deciding which is right, try “I can begin, but with a limit on what I commit”. Care and boundaries can also belong together: “I can care about them and still protect my time”. A repeated theme deserves attention; it is not extra votes for a prediction.

Three easily misunderstood cards

Death can concern endings and transition, not a prediction of death. The Tower invites you to examine an unstable foundation, not expect a disaster. The Devil can help you notice a limiting pattern, not label somebody as a bad person. Return to the specific wording in the reference pages.

A three card example about dating

Question: What should I notice about pacing and reciprocity in this dating connection?

This is the website's assigned example, not your own draw. The point is to notice interactions, not guess what someone secretly feels.

What is happening Page of Pentacles upright

Go beyond the instructions and try it yourself. Look for small actions that keep happening: making time, asking about your day, and following through on a plan.

The page studies a coin like a new object worth understanding. Turn curiosity into a small practice attempt rather than collecting instructions without ever opening the package.

What feels tricky Two of Pentacles reversed

Do not juggle everything; slow one thing down. Notice who keeps adjusting plans or carrying the conversation. Either person may simply be busy; you do not have to fill every gap alone.

When the coins become hard to catch, you may simply be holding too much rather than lacking skill. Slow one thing down instead of working harder to keep the act looking easy.

A different way to look Queen of Swords upright

Speak kindly without hiding what you mean. Be kind and direct. You can ask what contact feels comfortable and suggest taking turns choosing the next time or place.

The queen's clear sword and extended hand allow directness alongside conversation. Say what you are and are not willing to do without making others guess your limits.

Bring the three cards into one thought

Look for small, consistent actions; notice whether one person keeps filling the gaps; then say clearly what kind of contact you would like. This spread is not evidence that someone likes you. It is a reminder not to compensate for every silence by giving more.

One thing to try

Next time you arrange to meet, invite them to suggest a time and see whether you can make it work together. Notice whether they suggest a concrete arrangement, help adjust it and follow through. One unsuccessful attempt to meet is not proof of rejection. Watch the interaction over time rather than becoming deliberately distant to test them.

What five cards add

Keep the same question as on the previous page. This assigned example begins with the Page of Pentacles upright and Two of Pentacles reversed. It adds a resource in the third position, places the perspective fourth and ends with something to observe.

3 What may help Temperance upright

Think of mixing a drink: stronger or weaker is not always better. Leave room for both needs and adjust a little until the balance is workable.

For this question, discuss a level of contact that feels comfortable for both of you. You need not resolve everything today. Temperance is not a request to accommodate endlessly; it invites a balance both people can sustain.

4 A different way to look Queen of Swords upright

The queen's clear sword and extended hand allow directness alongside conversation. Say what you are and are not willing to do without making others guess your limits.

Ask something concrete, such as "Would you like to choose the time next time?" A clear request gives you more to work with than quietly waiting for someone to guess what you want.

5 What to notice next The Chariot upright

Pulling in two directions wastes even plenty of energy. Choose one goal for this round and put competing tasks aside for now.

Follow one small aim, such as arranging the next meeting together. The Chariot does not announce that the relationship must progress. Look for whether both people's actions move in a shared direction.

Read possible developments as conditions

If both people make time and keep their agreements, there is room to grow closer. If one person keeps doing the work, you can slow down instead of trying twice as hard. Keep both possibilities open so you can respond to what really happens.

Leave yourself four lines

What I really want to understand: _____
What I know and what I am guessing: _____
One small step I am willing to try: _____
I will review this on _____ and look for _____

The following pages cover all seventy-eight cards. Each cell keeps one plain-language reminder for quick comparison, not a complete verdict on a spread. The reference uses DZ ARCANA's original card text; the examples show how the same ideas relate to a specific question.

Quick reference Major Arcana part one

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
The Fool	Take a little step; the finish line can wait.	Check the missing detail before starting.
The Magician	Put one skill you already have to use.	Try it before promising too much.
The High Priestess	Separate what you saw from what you guessed.	Turn a guess into a clear question.
The Empress	Make one thing easier to keep doing.	Take on less and make time for yourself.
The Emperor	Set clear rules and follow the agreement.	See which rule could be simpler.
The Hierophant	Try a reliable method and ask why it works.	Check whether the old way still fits.
The Lovers	Compare choices using what matters most.	Check whether you want what you agreed to.
The Chariot	Pick one direction and stick with it this round.	Slow down instead of pulling two ways.
Strength	State your limit and next step calmly.	Make the task smaller and ask for help.
The Hermit	Find a quiet moment to check things and think.	Ask someone a specific question.
Wheel of Fortune	Separate what you can change from what you can watch.	Change one step in a repeating pattern.

Quick reference Major Arcana part two

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
Justice	Use the same standard for each choice.	Look for evidence against your favourite answer.
The Hanged Man	Pause and look from another angle.	Set a time to review instead of waiting endlessly.
Death	Stop one habit that no longer fits.	Let go of one small part first.
Temperance	Adjust a little and find a pace that suits you.	Leave room for both needs without doing everything.
The Devil	Notice what a habit gives and costs you.	Pause before repeating the usual choice.
The Tower	Revise an idea that evidence has contradicted.	Fix one known problem and keep what works.
The Star	Give one little hope some room to grow.	Turn a big hope into one doable step.
The Moon	Check the facts before drawing conclusions.	Check one unclear detail and leave the rest open.
The Sun	Give yourself credit for what went well.	Name an improvement and a remaining limit.
Judgement	Change one thing based on your last attempt.	Replace self-blame with one specific change.
The World	Tick off what you finished as agreed.	Finish the last necessary step before polishing.

Quick reference Wands

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
Ace of Wands	Give that interesting idea a little try.	Clear one small obstacle and try again.
Two of Wands	Compare what two possible paths require.	Check one difference before adding more choices.
Three of Wands	Use the response so far to plan the next step.	Check the status of what you are waiting for.
Four of Wands	A small milestone deserves a little celebration.	Check everyone's expectations about the arrangement.
Five of Wands	Agree on what you are comparing.	State the disagreement calmly.
Six of Wands	Name your contribution and acknowledge help.	Check the original standard before seeking praise.
Seven of Wands	State your limit and decline an extra demand.	Handle the main disagreement and leave others for later.
Eight of Wands	Briefly say who will do what next.	Check the message and timing before acting.
Nine of Wands	Keep a useful safeguard and set a review time.	Check which precaution is no longer needed.
Ten of Wands	Drop or share one commitment before adding more.	Explain what you will stop and arrange a handover.
Page of Wands	Ask a beginner question, then give it a try.	Try one idea instead of chasing many.
Knight of Wands	Try briefly, then stop to review.	Check your available time before committing.
Queen of Wands	Share your idea boldly and hear other ideas too.	You can contribute without pretending to be certain.
King of Wands	State the shared goal and ask what others can take on.	Hear one specific objection and adjust your idea.

Quick reference Cups

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
Ace of Cups	Express a feeling without demanding a response.	Write down your need before deciding to share it.
Two of Cups	Ask a question and allow a different answer.	Name the gap and discuss an acceptable arrangement.
Three of Cups	Enjoy a small win together without keeping score.	Skip or shorten a gathering and explain your limit.
Four of Cups	Check whether the available choices meet your needs.	Revisit a rejected choice and check a new fact.
Five of Cups	Acknowledge disappointment and what remains available.	Restart with a small, manageable activity.
Six of Cups	Check whether an old helpful method still fits.	Separate remembered circumstances from current facts.
Seven of Cups	Choose two possibilities and check one fact for each.	Set one essential condition and remove poor fits.
Eight of Cups	Name what is missing and try a limited pause.	Write a reason to stay and a condition for reconsidering.
Nine of Cups	Take a moment to enjoy what already feels enough.	Ask what you still want when nobody is watching.
Ten of Cups	Ask what arrangement feels comfortable for each person.	Make the agreement clear instead of assuming approval.
Page of Cups	Offer a small idea and ask for specific feedback.	Separate what you saw from what you imagined it meant.
Knight of Cups	Make an invitation that is easy to decline.	Promise less and do what you can actually manage.
Queen of Cups	Repeat what was said and check your understanding.	State how you can help and where your limit lies.
King of Cups	Pause, then name your feeling and the actual issue.	Identify your feeling and choose how to express it.

Quick reference Swords

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
Ace of Swords	Make the question clear and look for checkable facts.	Clarify what the disputed word means.
Two of Swords	Check the missing information and set a review time.	Find a standard that meaningfully separates the choices.
Three of Swords	Describe the event and its impact without guessing motives.	Suggest a repair and leave room for a response.
Four of Swords	Take a little quiet time to recharge.	Restart with one small thing and check the load.
Five of Swords	Resolve the issue rather than winning the last word.	Suggest a calm next step or pause the interaction.
Six of Swords	Plan the transition and keep what you still need.	Resolve one unfinished detail before moving on.
Seven of Swords	Explain your approach and who needs to know.	Check an assumption in your plan openly.
Eight of Swords	Separate real limits from guesses and find a small step.	Try one reversible change within the known limits.
Nine of Swords	Separate worries from facts and check one uncertainty.	Share a specific concern and ask for specific help.
Ten of Swords	Name what you will stop repeating and one lesson to keep.	Restart without rebuilding the old overload.
Page of Swords	Ask a clear question and note the source.	Check the original source before sharing or acting.
Knight of Swords	State the one goal before acting quickly.	Delay a non-urgent reply and check the facts.
Queen of Swords	Speak kindly without hiding what you mean.	Replace criticism with a specific request.
King of Swords	Write the comparison standard before choosing.	Look for facts that challenge your conclusion.

Quick reference Pentacles

Check the orientation, then relate the reminder to its position and your question.

Card	Upright	Reversed
Ace of Pentacles	Try the smallest practical step and check what it needs.	Check the missing requirement before committing more.
Two of Pentacles	Schedule both things and leave a buffer.	Do not juggle everything; slow one thing down.
Three of Pentacles	Agree on contributions and how to review them.	Clarify a difference in expectations before continuing.
Four of Pentacles	Name what you need to protect and why.	Relax a minor preference and keep an important limit.
Five of Pentacles	Name what is missing and seek suitable help.	Check the conditions and timing of available help.
Six of Pentacles	Clarify any conditions before giving or accepting.	Discuss one condition that makes the exchange fairer.
Seven of Pentacles	Choose what to watch and when to review.	Compare the effort and reasons before another round.
Eight of Pentacles	Practise once and improve one detail.	Pause and change the step behind a repeated mistake.
Nine of Pentacles	Notice your skills and what helps maintain them.	Acknowledge the help you need instead of doing it all alone.
Ten of Pentacles	Clarify who does what in an ongoing arrangement.	Check whose current needs an old rule serves.
Page of Pentacles	Go beyond the instructions and try it yourself.	Complete one needed preparation before restarting.
Knight of Pentacles	Set a repeatable small step and check it afterwards.	Change one unhelpful step and compare results.
Queen of Pentacles	Improve a daily arrangement to save effort.	Share or simplify a recurring responsibility.
King of Pentacles	Clarify how something you manage will be used.	Check the real need instead of chasing bigger or pricier options.