

# The Tarot Beginner's Guide

Read the cards without memorizing 78 meanings

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Tarot is a tool for reflection and storytelling, not fortune-telling. You can read meaningfully on day one by understanding the deck's structure instead of cramming definitions.

## How the deck is structured

- 78 cards: 22 Major Arcana (big life themes) + 56 Minor Arcana (daily life).
- Four suits: Wands (passion/action), Cups (emotion), Swords (mind/conflict), Pentacles (money/material).
- Numbers tell a story: Ace = beginning, 10 = completion; court cards = people/approaches.

## Read intuitively

- Start with one-card daily pulls: 'What should I focus on today?'
- Describe what you literally see in the image before reaching for a 'meaning'.
- Use a simple 3-card spread: past / present / future, or situation / action / outcome.

## Build a sustainable practice

- Keep a journal of pulls and what actually happened — your own meanings will form.
- Reversals are optional for beginners; you can read all cards upright at first.
- There are no 'bad' cards — Death usually means transformation/endings, not literal death.

## Insider glossary

**Major Arcana** — The 22 cards covering major life lessons/archetypes.

**Spread** — A layout of cards, each position with a meaning.

**Reversal** — A card drawn upside-down, often a softened/blocked version.

**Querent** — The person a reading is for.

## Starter checklist

- A deck you like (Rider-Waite-Smith is classic)
- A guidebook or app
- A journal
- A quiet ritual space

Protected by crystals and spite: 'Death Before Decaf' at [l5d0.com/shop/tarot/](https://l5d0.com/shop/tarot/)