

miami astrology

# Compatibility Using the Elements Workbook

---



By Ron Akanowicz

[ron@miamiastrology.com](mailto:ron@miamiastrology.com) | [@miamiastrology](https://www.instagram.com/miamiastrology)

© 2011 Miami Astrology

*“Astrology is a fact, in most instances. But astrological aspects are but signs, symbols. **No influence is of greater value or of greater help than the will of an individual.... Do not attempt to be guided by, but use the astrological influences as the means to meet or to overcome the faults and failures, or to minimize the faults and to magnify the virtues in self.**”*

~Edgar Cayce



By Ron Akanowicz

[ron@miamiastrology.com](mailto:ron@miamiastrology.com) | [@miamiastrology](https://www.instagram.com/miamiastrology)

© 2011 Miami Astrology

## Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Part I: What makes astrology relevant to relationships?	3
Part II: A Brief History of the Zodiac	5
Part III: The Signs of the Zodiac	7
Part IV: The Elements and Qualities of the Signs	9
The Qualities	14
Part V: Sign Combinations	16
Compatibility Rule #1: Signs of the same element	17
Compatibility Rule #2: Signs in complementary elements	18
Compatibility Rule #3: Signs in the same quality, different element	18
Part VI: Putting It All Together	20
Part VII: Wrapping It Up	21
About Ron	22

By Ron Akanowicz

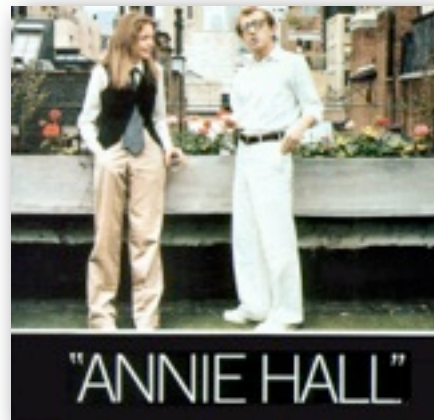
[ron@miamiastrology.com](mailto:ron@miamiastrology.com) | [@miamiastrology](https://www.instagram.com/maimiastrology)

© 2011 Miami Astrology

## Introduction

**M**ovies are magical in their ability to reflect back to us stories about the human condition. And no other facet of the human condition is more dramatized in movies than relationships.

One of my top three favorite movies is *Annie Hall*, which tells the story of Alvie Singer (Woody Allen) and his relationship to the title character (played by Diane Keaton). We witness their meeting, courtship, and all the ups and downs any modern romance encounters as it struggles to take root and grow. In the case of Alvie and Annie, however, the blossom of love fades and by the end of



the movie the two have parted. The movie ends with a long shot of them through a cafe window on a busy New York city street saying their goodbyes. In a voice-over, Alvie tries to summarize this chapter in his life and offers a few pearls of wisdom about this thing we call love-

*"After that it got pretty late, and we both had to go, but it was great seeing Annie again. I... I realized what a terrific person she was, and... and how much fun it was just knowing her; and I... I, I thought of that old joke, y'know, the, this... this guy goes to a psychiatrist and says, "Doc, uh, my brother's crazy; he thinks he's a chicken." And, uh, the doctor says, "Well, why don't you turn him in?" The guy says, "I would, but I need the eggs." Well, I guess that's pretty much now how I feel about relationships; y'know, they're totally irrational, and crazy, and absurd, and... but, uh, I guess we keep goin' through it because, uh, **most of us... need the eggs.**"*

The metaphor of the egg is wonderful- full of potential, nourishment, and life, but very fragile. And that's just what relationships start out as,-but how they end up can leave us scrambled, fried, or hard-boiled!

If we're lucky, though, the incubation period we call dating will help us to hatch something new, something special, and something that will continue to sustain us into the future.

## Part I: What makes astrology relevant to relationships?

*"We were born at a given moment, in a given place and, like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and the season of which we are born. Astrology does not lay claim to anything more." - Carl Jung*

What makes astrology relevant to relationships is what makes astrology relevant at all. I'm often asked how astrology "works" - is it the pull of gravity from far away planets? Is it a magical force we can't see? Or is it simply a bunch of hogwash? As far as I can tell it's none of those. **But there are two things I do know about astrology.**

**First, astrology is simply the study of cycles.**

We're all familiar with the weatherman on TV who tells us if tomorrow will be sunny or rainy, when a hurricane might strike, and how much the temperature differs from this same time last year. Regardless of his techniques he's simply watching the cycles in the sky and making pronouncements based on what he sees now and what's happened historically.



As astrologers we use the same techniques to determine where the sun, moon, and planets are in their own cycles and how those might related to our experiences.

**Second, astrology is a symbolic language.** It gives us different words and images to describe and make sense of the word around us. We find this in all other disciplines- psychology, medicine, physics, etc. The **words** that make up the language of astrology are borrowed from many sources, like astronomy, mythology, and psychology.

Astrology's relevance is also supported (or not) by one's **world view**. Your world view is comprised of basic assumptions about the universe, your place in it, and how it influences your choices and free will. One can take a very scientific world view such that the universe is perceived as simply a collection of rocks and other

inanimate objects. This view holds that no meaning can be ascribed to the universe beyond what can be measured objectively. The events in our lives happen randomly and without deeper levels of meaning.

A second option is to **view the universe as a living thing**-- that the nature of the universe is reflected in everything around us and the energy that moves through it is connected to all things. This view assumes we're participants in a larger system where there is a constant "feedback loop," in the form of cause and effect, synchronicity, and karma. We have the ability to look at circumstances, cycles, and choices for a deeper meaning and purpose; and we can rest assured that our active participation in this energy field called "existence" is for the greater good of both our individual soul and humanity.



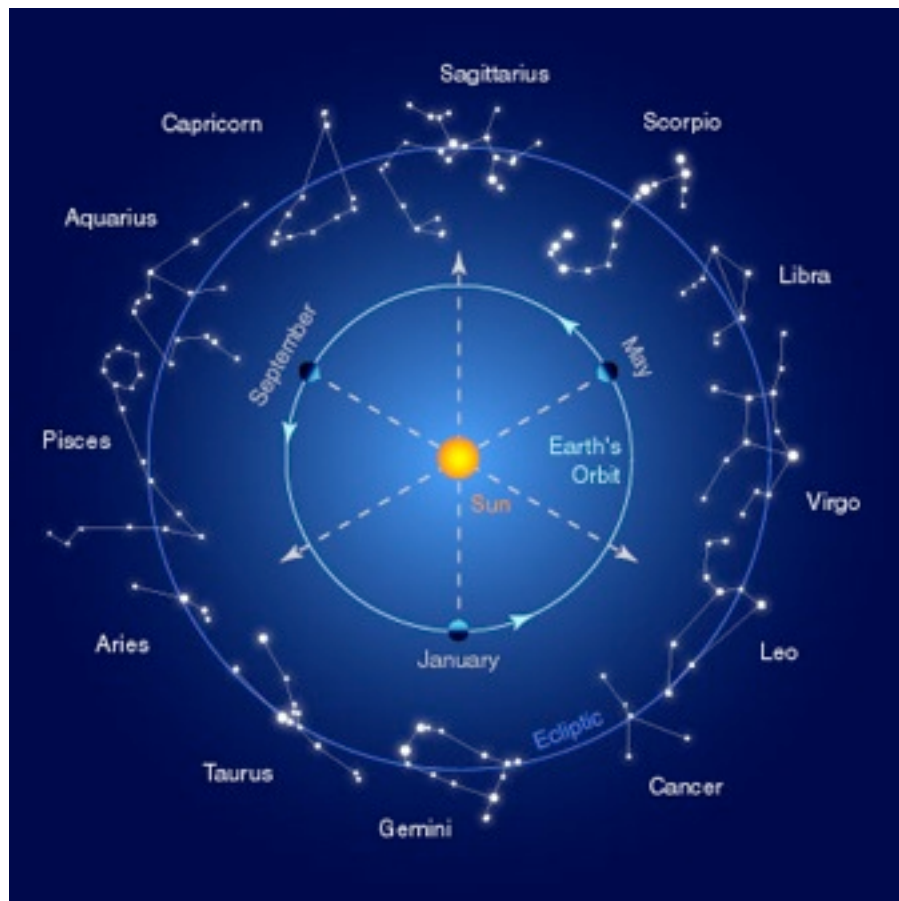
I choose to believe the latter- that **the universe is alive and speaking to us through all available channels**. By tuning into those channels, like the cycles that describe planets, seasons, and our biological bodies, we're better able to navigate the world, make healthier choices, and evolve ourselves and the collective.

If you're still skeptical of astrology then I would suggest you simply think of it in different terms. I don't have to understand the physics of flight to experience the benefits of flying. Nor should you need to understand planetary cycles, harmonics or other aspects of astrology as a system. A good astrologer should take those symbols and translate them into meaningful, practical, and helpful information for you. In this workbook I'm only using astrology as a springboard for introducing ideas and concepts to you in the hopes that you'll continue your own journey of self-discovery and use the tools to help improve your relationships. And if you're able to gain insight, techniques, and/or skills that can help you, regard- less of your inherent belief in astrology, then I have succeeded in what I've set out to do.

## Part II: A Brief History of the Zodiac

**Zodiac** is a Greek word for "zoo," and refers to the many animal and other characters that make up the constellations. While there are thousands of constellations in the sky the zodiac is special because it is the backdrop of the Sun's path across the sky. That path is called the *ecliptic*.

The ancients attributed qualities to the constellations based on the characteristics of those animals- Taurus the slow and stubborn bull; Leo the proud lion; Capricorn the determined mountain goat. In addition to the stars of the constellations the ancient Babylonians also observed the planets and eventually calculated their cycles.



**Planets** (Greek for "wanderer") are named after the **mythological** gods and have traits that reflect the personalities found in those stories. In modern times we

recognize these characters as being "archetypes." An **archetype** is a symbol or example of something. For instance, **Mars** is an archetype of The Warrior. When I say "warrior" you get a mental image of what a typical warrior looks like (wearing a helmet and carrying a shield and sword, for example). You also



get a general idea of what he does, his function- he fights, protects, and and defends. The **Moon** is an archetype for “mother,” which conjures certain images of security, protection, and the feminine.

Why all this concern with the sky, stars, and planets? The Babylonians, and many cultures to follow, were primarily agrarian: they were all farmers. Their ability to plant and sow at the rights times had a direct affect on their **survival**. Thus it became paramount that the yearly cycles be observed, measured, and utilized properly. Furthermore, if the cycles could be observed and certain conditions could be anticipated then the chances of a successful harvest were thus increased.

**Astrology** was developed through the continuous and systematic observation of the constellations and planets, their movement, and events on earth. There is not a “cause and effect” relationship between the planetary cycles and terrestrial events but there is a correspondence based on the axiom “**as above, so below**”.

## Part III: The Signs of the Zodiac

When we say that someone is a Gemini or an Aries what we are saying is that at the time he or she was born **the Sun was moving across the constellation** of Gemini (or Aries). In Astrology the Sun is our basic nature, our voice, our authority, and who we see ourselves to be at our core. **The sun is our ego and describes our basic approach to life.**

The dates below are a **general guideline** for when the tropical zodiac signs begin and end. However, if you're born on one of the dates for the beginning or ending of a sign you are considered to be on the "cusp" (or edge) of that sign. Only by consulting an *ephemeris*<sup>1</sup> or computer-generated chart will you be able to accurately discern your sign. You can generate a **free birth chart** at my website by going to: <http://miamiastrology.com/astrology-chart-calculator/>

Fore example, my mother was born on August 23 and for most of her life she thought she was a Virgo; however when we finally cast her chart her Sun was located at **29 degrees of Leo!** So use these dates as a guideline and not gospel.



**Aries**

March 20- April 21



**Taurus**

April 21 - May 21



**Gemini**

May 21 - June 21



**Cancer**

June 21 - July 23



**Leo**

July 23 - August 23



**Virgo**

August 23 - September 23



**Libra**

September 23 - October 23



**Scorpio**

October 23 - November 22



**Sagittarius**

November 22 - December 22



**Capricorn**

December 22 - January 20



**Aquarius**

January 20 - February 19



**Pisces**

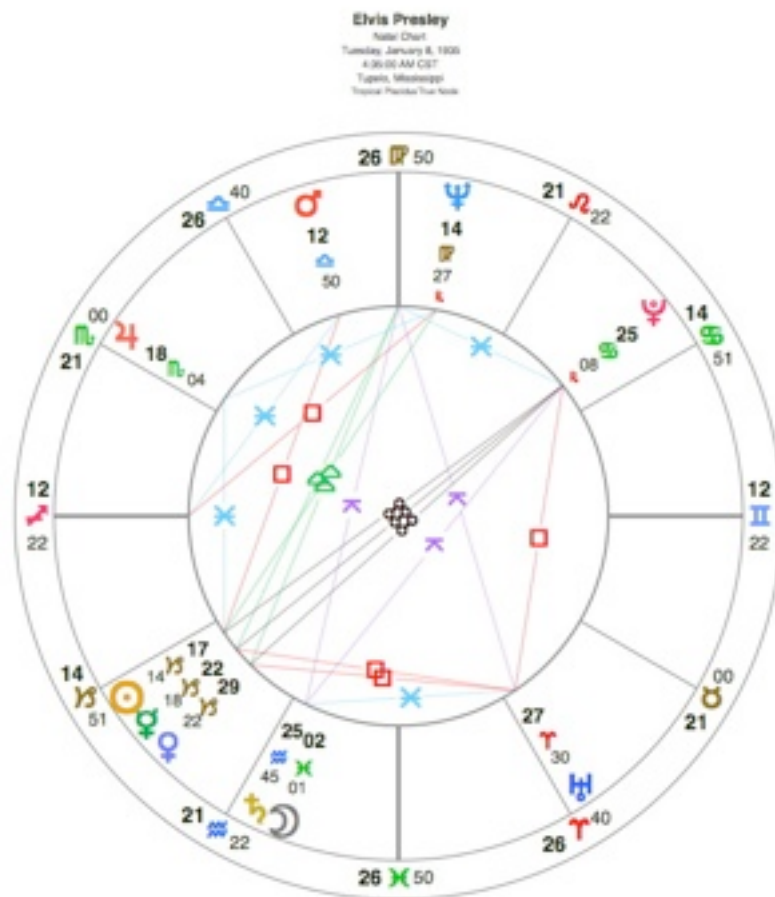
February 19 - March 20

We're all familiar with sun sign astrology from the newspapers and online. However, if you've ever wondered why your friend who's a Pisces can have such a temper, or why the Capricorn you know isn't as ambitious as you've heard them to be, it's because the sun sign alone cannot account for the totality of a person's personality, traits, or character.

It's important to keep in mind that the **Moon** and the **eight other planets** are also located in their own signs of the zodiac at birth. A natal chart cast using the date, time, and place of birth will be able to show you in which signs **all the planets** are located. Those other planets have their own expression and are colored by the sign they reside in and will influence the birth chart (and the person) in ways the sun sign alone cannot describe. **An accurate assessment of the personality can be made only when the chart is viewed holistically.**

If you've never had your [chart professionally read](#) it may be something you want to consider. It can be an enlightening and eye-opening experience!

*This is the natal chart for Elvis Presley. You can see there's a lot more going on here than just the sun in a zodiac sign!*



## Part IV: The Elements and Qualities of the Signs

There are many systems that describe human nature: from esoteric systems like astrology to the more modern psychological systems like Meyers-Briggs. Each of these uses a combination of four categories to describe personality.

### The Four Elements

Astrology uses the four elements to describe the basic nature of one's personality. A person may have a predominance of one elements over another and thus exhibit those traits more obviously, while someone else may be more balanced.

Each sign of the zodiac falls into one of four element groups. These elements share a correspondence to the physical elements we see in the world around us and whose characteristics can help us to better understand ourselves and others.

**The four elements are fire, earth, air, and water.** Take a moment and reflect on the images that come into your mind when you think about each of those elements.



Fire - a bright spark, a cozy camp fire, a blazing bon fire, the dancing flicker of a the flame on a candle...

Fire is a symbol for the will, drive, and energy. Fire is dynamic and relates to the intuitive, energetic, and creative aspects of personality. Consider fire- it's burning oxygen to keep itself alive, in a constant state of catalytic change in order to create heat and light, two of its most important properties. When we say that someone is a "fire sign" we mean that his or her Sun (i.e. his or her basic nature) is located in either **Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius**. Most likely he or she is very energetic, dynamic, self-motivated, and radiant. Fire is creative. Fire is used to transform, like smelting iron, forging steel, setting pottery, or cooking food. **The energy of fire transforms, creates, and enlivens.**



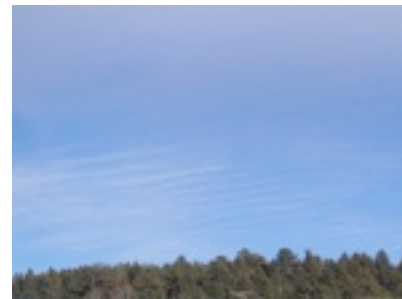
Earth - moist soil, giant boulders, a dusty path, fertile fields...

Earth is a symbol for the body, its senses, and its values. Earth is stable, productive, and practical. Consider earth- it abides by gravity and inertia. Earth is in a stable state unless it's acted upon by another force (floods, quakes, etc.) Earth is bountiful and fertile. When we say that someone is an "earth sign" we mean that his or her Sun (i.e. his or her basic nature) is located in either **Taurus, Virgo, or Capricorn**. Most likely he or she is very determined, pragmatic, and conservative. Earth is productive. **Earth is wants to build, achieve, and master.**



**Air** - a blowing breeze, a terrifying tornado, cool night air, the dank smell of a basement...

**Air is a symbol for ideas, words, and concepts. Air is mental and it connects, thinks, and observes.** It's the medium through which sound and light waves travel that carry information. When we speak our words are carried by air. Air is associated with ideas, communication, and concepts. When we say that someone is an "air sign" we mean that his or her Sun (i.e. his or her basic nature) is located in either **Gemini, Libra, or Aquarius**. Most likely he is very adept, idealistic, and curious. Air is relating. **Air wants to connect, conceptualize, and communicate.**



**Water** - a babbling brook, crashing waves, a soothing bath, the expansive oceans...

**Water is a symbol for feelings, moods, and emotion. Water is flowing, deep, and mysterious.** It's the universal solvent that combines, dissolves, and softens. It's denser than air, thus sound and light travel through water faster than air giving waters signs a greater sensitivity to their environment. When we say that someone is a "water sign" we mean that his or her Sun (i.e. his or her basic nature) is located in either **Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces**. Most likely he is very dreamy, sensitive, and intuitive. Water is merging. Water wants to permeate, nurture, and dissolve.



## The Qualities

In addition to the elements, the signs are also categorized into one of three qualities. **The qualities align to the three months within each season.** These qualities correspond to the phases within a cycle. I like to use the analogy of a flower, or dandelion. First, the seedling breaks forth and starts its **growth** process. Next it **blooms** into the fullness of being- a flower. Lastly, as it **fades**, it produces seeds that are scattered for the next season; and thus the cycle begins again.















The three qualities that correspond to the three phases are cardinal, fixed, and mutable. **Cardinal** signs, like a cardinal number, **begin** each season, and symbolize activity, initiation, dynamism, speed, executive ability, self-assertion, and creativity.

The **fixed** signs are the fullness of things. The fixed signs are the most **consistent** and **persistent** and they symbolize "action motivated by principle." They are latent, stable, reserved, planners, and reservoirs of energy.

The **mutable** signs are **transitional** and are translators that move between the fixed and cardinal. The mutable signs are flexible, versatile, harmonizing, adaptable, good with people, highly personal and good imitators.

Thus, the twelve signs of the zodiac can be categorized by **element** and **quality**:

	<b>Cardinal</b> activate, initiate, engage	<b>Fixed</b> secure, stabilize, concentrate	<b>Mutable</b> change, mediate, disseminate
<b>Fire</b>	 <b>Aries</b> impulsive, assertive, inspirational	 <b>Leo</b> dramatic, radiant, vivacious	 <b>Sagittarius</b> optimistic, versatile, transparent
<b>Earth</b>	 <b>Capricorn</b> cautious, ambitious, economical	 <b>Taurus</b> conservative, determined, deliberate	 <b>Virgo</b> practical, systematic, impartial
<b>Air</b>	 <b>Libra</b> diplomatic, involved, friendly	 <b>Aquarius</b> detached, humanitarian, unconventional	 <b>Gemini</b> adaptable, inquisitive, restless
<b>Water</b>	 <b>Cancer</b> tenacious, sensitive, nurturing	 <b>Scorpio</b> intense, possessive, reserved	 <b>Pisces</b> imaginative, dreamy, gullible

## Part V: Sign Combinations

What do we mean by **compatibility**? Generally, we mean a sense of **harmony**- as in when two people who are able to combine their energies for a common purpose and do it in a way that is easy, natural, and enjoyable to both parties. From dictionary.com:

com·pat·i·ble (adj.)

- 1.Capable of existing or performing in harmonious, agreeable, or congenial combination with another or others: compatible family relationships.
- 2.Capable of orderly, efficient integration and operation with other elements in a system with no modification or conversion required.

When I've observed couples who seem totally mismatched I tend to believe one of two things: One, that there are factors in the chart that have brought them together and the visible struggles they seemingly endure are for the purpose of something karmic that is beyond my understanding. Or, two, they are operating unconsciously and have created a dysfunctional pattern that they can neither see nor easily separate from.

By objectively acknowledging our own patterns that are played out within our natal charts we begin to create an awareness about ourselves, thus moving away from, or out of, an unconscious state. I believe that only through increasing our own self-awareness can we engage in close personal relationships that are healthy, fulfilling, and mutually beneficial.

So here's where the rubber hits the road. Considering what we now know about the signs, their elements and their qualities we can discern which Sun signs are compatible with the rest. Remember these are general guidelines. For a complete compatibility assessment the whole chart of each individual must be considered.

When an astrologer looks for compatibility he will use synastry (comparing the charts of two people) and a composite chart, which is a third chart that “averages”

the chart of the two people together and is considered the chart of the “relationship.”

### Compatibility Rule #1: Signs of the same element

Signs found in the same element are highly compatible because they're operating from the same common ground and have a sympathy towards one another. These signs are using the same basic approach to life in their day-to-day affairs and view events through a similar lens.

For example, two earth signs will be more in-tune with the physical plane (money, possessions, productivity, success) and thus understand and support each other's drive for security, the need to produce, and ability to endure.

Two fire signs will be directed towards action and thus understand and support each other's drive for self-expression, search for creative outlets, and ability to initiate new projects.

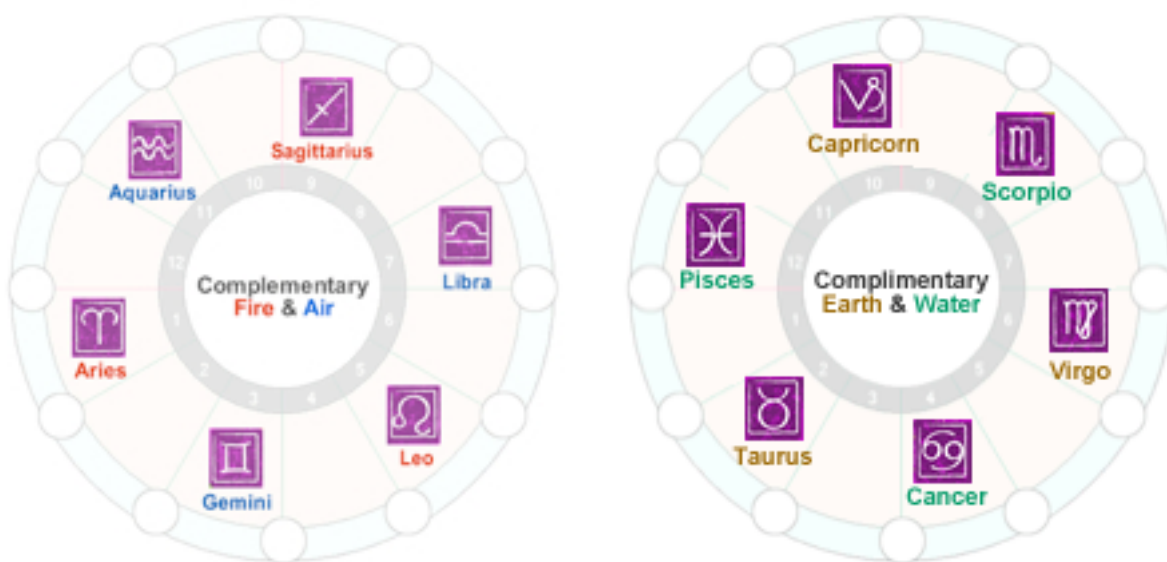
Two water signs will be sensitive to the emotional climate and thus understand and support each other's need for emotional safety, search for tranquility, and ability to make choices based on feeling rather than logic.

Two air signs will be connected with the world of ideas and words and thus understand and support each other's ability to reason, need for facts over feelings, and right to perceive situations objectively rather than personally.

The drawback to signs within the same element comes from focusing too narrowly on one particular mode. For example, while two water signs might show a high degree of empathy and understanding towards one another they may also be incapable of making rational decisions or objective assessments about the relationship.

## Compatibility Rule #2: Signs in complementary elements

Certain signs complement one another much like certain colors on a color wheel are complementary. Generally Fire and Air complement one another while Earth and Water complement one another. This can be observed in the physical world where we find air feeding fire, and fire energizing air (warm air rises). Likewise we find water softening earth and making it more fertile, while earth adds stability (and boundaries) around water.



You may be thinking about couples you know who may be fire and water combinations, or earth and air combinations. These combinations do not mean those couples are incompatible; some people prefer (and perhaps even flourish) in relationships where there's friction and a constant need to push for one's position. Again, the entire chart must be examined for more specific markers of compatibility.

## Compatibility Rule #3: Signs in the same quality, different element

The four signs that share the same *quality* make what's called a "square aspect" to each other, meaning on the horoscope circle they are at 90 degree angles to one another. For example, all the **cardinal** signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) are

square to one another; likewise all the **fixed** signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius) are square to one another and so are the **mutable** signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces).

**The square aspect is one of “tension.”** You can think of these signs that are at right angles to each other as being at odds. If your partner is an Aries and you’re a Cancer that does **not** mean you are incompatible; but that your Sun signs may not be as harmonious as other combinations. It does mean, however, that while you’re both oriented to action your partner will be constantly looking for things to challenge himself or herself with (like new projects, new situations, etc.) and you will be constantly looking for ways of trying to connect emotionally with him or her. The relationship isn’t doomed, but it does mean that adjustments and compromise needs to be made in order for each of you to feel as though your needs are being met by the other person.

Another example of the square aspect is between Pisces and Gemini. While these signs can certainly get along- the Pisces will be a good listener to the Gemini’s ability to carry on a conversation, the tension comes in because the Gemini is naturally curious and wants to discover, explore, and be constantly stimulated. The Pisces on the other hand needs alone time to recharge, wants to feel connected to the universe by simply “being,” and operates based on feelings; whereas the Gemini is operating based on thoughts and ideas.

## Part VI: Putting It All Together

Now let's use what we've learned to get a better sense of your dynamics. Refer back to the information found in earlier sections to help you fill in this chart.

	Me	My Partner
<i>Sun Sign</i>		
<i>Write in some key words to describe this sign</i>		
<i>Element</i>		
<i>Write in some key words to describe this element</i>		
<i>Quality</i>		
<i>Write in some key words to describe this quality</i>		
<i>Are the signs in the same element or complimentary elements? If so, what does that imply?</i>		
<i>Are the signs square to one another? If so, what does that imply?</i>		

Use this chart to open up a dialog with your partner so you can both understand how you complement, challenge, and relate to one another.

## Part VII: Wrapping It Up

What I've presented to you are general guidelines concerning the compatibility between the signs. Astrology considers **many more factors** besides the Sun signs and elements when analyzing compatibility between two people. I'll again emphasize that these "rules-of-thumb" shouldn't be taken at face value, but instead should be **considered within a larger framework that also takes into account what each individual needs in a relationship, how those needs can be met, and each partner's ability to compromise and adjust.**

*"The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of." - Blaise Pascal*

Relationships offer us a mirror into ourselves. The clearer the reflection the better we're able to adjust, change, and grow as individuals. Most of us are looking to find that one special person who will complement our strengths, accept our weakness, and love us unconditionally. No matter how prepared, self-aware, or lucky we might be there is still an elusive, mysterious, and irrational quality to love and the forces that bring two people together.

*"...Well, I guess that's pretty much how I feel about relationships; y'know, they're totally irrational, and crazy, and absurd, and... but, uh, I guess we keep goin' through it because, uh, most of us... **need the eggs.**"*

~ Woody Allen

If you're in a relationship and would like to find out how astrology can help you and your partner to better understand one another feel free to contact me at the number and email address listed on the next page.

If you're not in a relationship then astrology can give you the insight you need to both understand yourself better and what you need most from a mate. That can make the process of qualifying potential partners much easier and more fruitful.

I wish you the best on your journey and hope you experience the beauty, joy, and satisfaction of a healthy, empowering, and loving relationship!

## About Ron

Ron Akanowicz has been studying astrology for over eleven years. He is a member of the **NCGR** (National Council for Geocosmic Research, Level II certification), **OPA** (Organization for Professional Astrology), and the **SFAA** (South Florida Astrological Association).

*“My goal with astrology is to **empower you** to make healthier choices, **inspire you** to consider more possibilities, and **encourage you** to deeper levels of self-discovery and self-acceptance. I live and practice astrology in **Miami**, and I’m available to do consultations by phone and face-to-face over the internet via Skype. I also offer written and recorded options. Please see my **astrology readings** page for more information.”*



Ron is available for consultations and can be reached at 786-853-1666 or by email at [ron@miamiastronomy.com](mailto:ron@miamiastronomy.com)

For more astrology articles and resources visit his website at:  
<http://www.miamiastronomy.com>