

Retrograde Planets in a Natal Chart

When Earth's movement seems to overtake the movement of a planet, such as Mercury or Jupiter, that planet appears to be "moving backward" from the vantage point of Earth. This is similar to traveling in a car on the highway at a speed faster than the car beside you; you overtake that car and the car to your side appears to be "moving backward." This "backward" or retrograde movement is purely observational and does not indicate any actual reversals of the planet's orbit.

In astrology, retrograde planets are interpreted as a modification of the planet's general attributes, i.e., perhaps the energies are going to be directed inward, or even reversed or inversed. For example, Mercury retrograde is often associated with travel delays and communication mishaps, because the retrograde observation of Mercury is interpreted as Mercurial attributes exacerbated.

Mercury in Retrograde	Native thinks and communicates differently from the norm. Strong research abilities; slow to arrive at conclusions or opinions. More reserved when it comes to business dealings. May prefer writing over speaking. They're more introspective than outwardly expressive. They tend toward nonlinear thinking and communication styles. They are so deeply analytical that they enter their own spiraling loop of rethinking and reassessing and revising their ideas and knowing when to exit that intellectual hamster wheel become a key challenge.
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Venus in Retrograde	More likely to be intuitive-feeling. While a strong placed Venus direct has a magnetic personality, one with Venus retrograde tends to be more introverted. The native's personality is like an iceberg – only the very tip is visible to most. Could indicate finding love later in life. Not as expressive with their emotions. Venus retrograde could also indicate unconventional sense of aesthetics and artistic taste, who have a rather unique sense of style. Rare in a chart (10% of charts).
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Mars in Retrograde	Native may lack assertiveness; may suffer from lethargy or fatigue; needs to learn how to set clearer personal boundaries. May stall and take too much time to initiate. While a strongly placed Mars direct readies the native for battle, Mars retrograde has the opposite effect of the native tending to blame themselves for things that go wrong; learning that no, it's not your fault becomes a life lesson for one with Mars retrograde. Likewise, learning to be more assertive, to stand your ground, and to <i>not</i> internalize your anger or frustration are opportunities for growth when one has Mars retrograde in the chart.
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Jupiter in Retrograde	Unusual perspective; not as concerned with the mundane affairs that most people concern themselves with. Non-materialistic metrics for personal success. While a strongly placed Jupiter direct is often an indicator of one motivated by public acclaim and social validation of achievements, one with retrograde Jupiter in the chart will be internally motivated, irrespective of what others might think. Thus, they will be productive only when they want to be; and they will be goal-oriented only when it is sincerely their goal.
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Saturn in Retrograde	Unusual life experiences; native may lack discipline; more prone to being anti-establishment and unorthodox; seeks a free, unconventional lifestyle. Rejects
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group-think. Values individualism. While a strongly placed Saturn direct can cause the native to be overly cautious and hold back, Saturn retrograde liberates the native and restricts the restrictions associated with Saturn.

Uranus
in Retrograde

Uranus in retrograde can cause a native to be more conservative, with a tendency to fear of change. They often have hidden eccentricities, and are afraid to be too expressive of individuality. They seek safety in the conventional and trust the precedent set by tradition. Uranus in retrograde can produce a more serious, reserved persona. This is one who values tradition and legacy knowledge.

Neptune
in Retrograde

Private individual; deep fear of failure. One with hidden creative or psychic talents, but fear of exploring these gifts further. While a strongly placed Neptune direct brings out the dreamer, finetunes intuition, and a leaning toward spirituality, when Neptune is in retrograde, the native is more likely to internalize these qualities and keep them latent or concealed. They have heightened psychic and intuitive abilities, but they are afraid to share it. They have great instincts, but they don't trust it. They're highly creative, but struggle to materialize anything from that creativity.

Pluto
in Retrograde

Brings a hypersensitivity to native's nature. Highly sensitive to environmental changes. Pluto retrograde in a chart can also be an indicator of one who will undergo a profound inner transformation during their lifetime, and the quadrant of Pluto's placement could forecast when:

- House 1, 2, or 3 Before Age 21
- House 4, 5, or 6 Age 22 – 44
- House 7, 8, or 9 Age 44 – 64
- House 10, 11, or 12 After Age 65

Chiron
in Retrograde

Chiron retrograde can be found in about one-third of natal charts. Here is someone who holds on stubbornly to bad memories – they tend to let their wounds leave scars. On the other hand, here's one with a great skill for self-healing, even if it tends to be a bit delayed – they will let pain fester before they choose to recover. They are also more prone to feeling bitterness and resentment for injustices. Be wary of offending one with retrograde Chiron in the chart, as they can be quite spiteful. Your karmic lesson is learning how to sincerely forgive.

Ceres
in Retrograde

Hoarding tendency; could challenge personal productivity. Plays their cards close to their chests; cautious of what they share with people; slow to trust. Placement could challenge their interpersonal relationships.

Juno
in Retrograde

Placement could challenge intimate relationships. Tendency to be nitpicky and hyper-critical. Holds on to impossibly high standards. Idealizes a new partner, then when partner does not meet impossible standards, criticizes the partner. May meet Great Love later in life than most.

ASTROLOGER'S NOTE: If there are multiple retrogrades in a native's chart, assure the native that there are no negative implications of this. For instance, in the natal chart we have for Nostradamus, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn were all in retrograde; had Chiron been observed during his time, as we can see today, Chiron, too, was retrograde in his chart. Pablo Picasso's chart also features five retrogrades: Saturn, Neptune, Chiron, Jupiter, and Pluto, all in Taurus, the sign of materializing beauty, creative design, and the artistic form. Multiple retrogrades in a chart could also mean that the native is a late bloomer, and will enjoy much greater success in the latter half of their lives.