

The 12 Ascendant Signs: The Macrocosm

The Ascendant (often abbreviated AC or ASC) is the zodiacal sign rising on the eastern horizon at the time of birth. The Ascendant defines our body and physical characteristics as well as heavily influencing our character. The location of the Ascendant fixes the microcosm's relationship to the macrocosm. When the Ascendant is located at the beginning of a sign, that sign's traits will be all the more powerful.

	Ascendant Sign <i>Animal-Gender</i>	Ruling Planet <i>Natural House</i>	Element <i>Qualities</i>	Humor <i>Body Part</i>	ASC time 50°N ^b <i>ASC time 60°N^b</i>
☐	Aries <i>Ram-Male</i>	Mars <i>1st House</i>	Fire <i>Hot/Dry</i>	Choler (Red/Yellow Bile) <i>Head & Face</i>	1 hour <i>0.5 hours</i>
	People having Aries Ascendant should pay special attention to Mars, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Mars was in their 1 st house. Athletic, active, energetic, physically capable. Tend to be on the short side. Methodical physical regime. Good at martial arts. Coordinated, impulsive, temperamental, fast-paced, aggressive, premature baldness. Pronounced forehead like the Ram. Good health so long as they submit to the exercise demanded by Mars. They must be wary of accidents, weapons, and sharp objects. Prone to headaches, high fevers, skin problems. Because Aries Ascendant aligns with the first house, this is the primal state of the human being.				
☐	Taurus <i>Bull-Female</i>	Venus <i>2nd House</i>	Earth <i>Cold/Dry</i>	Melancholy (Black Bile) <i>Neck & Throat</i>	1.25 hours <i>0.75 hours</i>
	People having Taurus Ascendant should pay special attention to Venus, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Venus was in their 1 st house. Slow to react, but strong stamina. Face is hard to read (poker face). Think before acting. Full, stocky figure. Strong-like-a-bull body. Strong neck, thick skin, big eyes, deep and pleasant voice. Like baths and massages and the spa treatment. Unlike the action oriented Aries, the Taurus Ascendant doesn't like to move. Likes the arts. Likes physicality. Needs money to feel comfortable. Likes to count and touch money. Likes expensive clothes and accessories. Susceptible to sore throats and thyroid problems.				
☐	Gemini <i>Twins-Male</i>	Mercury <i>3rd House</i>	Air <i>Hot/Wet</i>	Blood (Sanguine) <i>Arms, Lungs, Brain</i>	1.8 hours <i>1.4 hours</i>
	People having Gemini Ascendant should pay special attention to Mercury, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Mercury was in their 1 st house. Intelligence and communication, as well as vitality. Intellect over appearance, brain over body. Fast talkers, higher pitched voice, lots of gesticulation. Loves to talk on superficial topics. Curiosity. Very social. Easily bored if not enough stimulation. Narrow face, small eyes, vision problems, average height, long limbs. Very expressive facial expressions (bad poker face). Attracted to minds more than bodies. Tend to have more platonic relationships than others. Not particularly athletic bodies. Not gluttonous either, so tend to be slim. Prone to sleep disorders and other mental/emotional problems. Prone to lung (asthma), arm, and brain problems. Hypochondriacal. Love books, discovering/learning. Extroverted and friendly verging on nosiness. Complex mental structure. Good at multitasking. Often start projects, then abandon them. Love information. Benefit from learning to discriminate good from bad information. Need discipline and critical thinking skills.				
☐	Cancer <i>Crab-Female</i>	Moon <i>4th House</i>	Water <i>Cold/Wet</i>	Phlegm <i>Breast, Stomach, Intestines</i>	2.5 hours <i>2.7 hours</i>
	People having Cancer Ascendant should pay special attention to the Moon, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if the Moon was in their 1 st house. Strong effects on emotions, physical body, and vitality. Strongly feminine. Harmonious figures with gentle lines. Round face, enlarged cheeks, lighter complexion, darker hair. Long eyelashes/eyebrows. Women with larger breasts. Prefers night-time. Opposite of Leo, which is associated with the Sun. Tend to be moody on a monthly cycle, with women very much so. Food, cooking, and eating are priorities. Homebodies. It's all about emotions.				

Ascendant Signs

Introverts. Shy. Uncontrollable. Easily fall in love. Intuitive. Like strong partners who will act as Sun. Like security and romance. Tend to be fragile, both physically and emotionally. Prone to digestive problems. Psychosomatic illnesses.

	Ascendant Sign <i>Animal-Gender</i>	Ruling Planet <i>Natural House^a</i>	Element <i>Qualities</i>	Humor <i>Body Part</i>	ASC time 50°N <i>ASC time 60°N</i>
☐	Leo Lion-Male	Sun <i>5th House</i>	Fire <i>Hot/Dry</i>	Choler (Red/Yellow Bile) <i>Heart, Spine, Back</i>	2.7 hours 3.25 hours
	People having Leo Ascendant should pay special attention to the Sun, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if the Sun was in their 1 st house. Strongly masculine. Archetypical male. Impressive physical specimens. All physical characteristics are extreme and worthy of note. Either super-thick hair or complete baldness. Wide face, strong forehead, darker complexion, lighter hair. Lighter eyes. [Sort of the opposite of Cancer/moon.] Strong and sanguine. Bushy eyebrows. Showoff. Loud, enthusiastic, optimistic, open, ready to fight, self-confident, arrogant, narcissistic. Usually well liked. Fun. Want to make things entertaining. Performers. Inner child. Love to compete, hate to lose. Don't like being around people who are in any way better than they are. Prefer subordinate friends. Like action, socializing, and looking at themselves in a mirror. Selfish. Honorably defend their friends. Flirtatious. Shallow infatuations. Dominate their partners. Physical/animal-urges more important than security and romance. Physically and emotionally robust. Prone to heart problems.				
☐	Virgo <i>Virgin-Female</i>	Mercury <i>6th House</i>	Earth <i>Cold/Dry</i>	Phlegm <i>Bowels, Nervous System, Intestines</i>	2.75 hours 3.3 hours
	People having Virgo Ascendant should pay special attention to Mercury, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Mercury was in their 1 st house. Similar to having Gemini in 1 st house due to importance of information and communication, but Virgo Ascendant tend to be introverted rather than extroverted. Intellect over body. Naturally pessimistic. Overly analytical, detail oriented. Focus on negatives. Think too much. Fast thinkers, think before speaking, and speak too much. Good evaluators of information, critical thinkers. Good at research. Very curious. Can be boring, not fun. Overly serious. Conservative dressers, but high quality threads. They don't emphasize beauty, avoid being photographed, don't like to be noticed. Neutrality and incognito is their MO. Like to fly under the radar. Average to slightly shorter height and average weight. Darker hair and eyes. Platonic relationships emphasized. Judgmental and picky. Ritualistic in daily life. High expectations of others. Picky eaters. Prone to hypochondria and pessimism. Overthinking can lead to anxiety, sleep disorders, etc. Psychosomatic issues. Career driven. Respected. Driven. Perfectionism. Detail oriented. Responsible.				
☐	Libra <i>Scales-Male</i>	Venus <i>7th House</i>	Air <i>Hot/Dry</i>	Blood (Sanguine) Buttocks, Kidneys, Lumbar	2.75 hours 3.3 hours
	People having Libra Ascendant should pay special attention to Venus, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Venus was in their 1 st house. Beautiful and harmonious body and face, warm smile. Pleasant. Easy going. Quick to make friends. Tend to be slim when young and attractively plumper later in life. Lighter skin tones and pearly white teeth. Caucasians tend to have blue eyes. Graceful. Similarities with Taurus. Like the spa treatment and relaxation. Dislike loud and harsh noises. Love the arts. Natural diplomats. Desire balance (Libra = scales). Romantics. Always attentive to appearances. Wear beautiful, but not necessarily expensive, clothes. Not show-offs. Blush at compliments. Indecisive. Not good at quick decisions. They weigh all options too much. Procrastinators. Skin issues.				
☐	Scorpio <i>Scorpion-Female</i>	Mars <i>8th House</i>	Water <i>Cold/Wet</i>	Phlegm <i>Genitals, Reproductive Organs</i>	2.7 hours 3.25 hours
	People having Scorpio Ascendant should pay special attention to Mars, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Mars was in their 1 st house. Seductive and sexual body. Piercing eyes, full of mystery and lust. Nose can be crooked. Face is more striking than sweet. Athletic and erotic. Very sexual				

Ascendant Signs

in movements. Good dancers. Sexually threatening. Like to play games. Like dark clothes and generally mysterious looks. Heightened libido, unsatable desires, dark fantasies and fetishes, S&M, role-playing, domination or submissive. By far the most sexually potent Ascendant. Suspicious of others. Paranoid. Avoid intoxicants. Not aggressive, but hardly passive. Like their own space. Jealous and vengeful. Love and hate deeply. Manipulative. Intuitive. Can read other people well.

	Ascendant Sign <i>Animal-Gender</i>	Ruling Planet <i>Natural House</i>	Element <i>Qualities</i>	Humor <i>Body Part</i>	ASC time 50°N <i>ASC time 60°N</i>
♏	Sagittarius <i>Archer-Male</i>	Jupiter <i>9th House</i>	Fire <i>Hot/Dry</i>	Choler (Red/Yellow Bile) <i>Thigh, Hips, Liver</i>	2.5 hours 2.7 hours
	People having Sagittarius Ascendant should pay special attention to Jupiter, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Jupiter was in their 1 st house. Generally positive outlook. Optimist. Love fun, laughing, and are outgoing and social. Curious. Expansive. Love action. Hate feeling trapped. Always on the move. Appear to lack seriousness. [Sort of opposite of Virgo.] Confident. Long limbed. Possible weight problems (Jupiter expansive). Premature hair loss. Smile a lot. Act silly a lot. Oval face, nice nose, beautiful legs and hands. Friendly and funny. Easy going. Love to travel and learn about different people. Love books, mental travel. Talkative on philosophical or abstract topics (unlike Gemini Ascendant). Broad interests. Lack details. Generalists. Love fun and humor and being around people. Love food. Often organize social events. Hate routine. Love the unexpected.				
♐	Capricorn <i>Goat-Female</i>	Saturn <i>10th House</i>	Earth <i>Cold/Dry</i>	Melancholy (Black Bile) <i>Knees, Joints, Teeth, Hair</i>	1.8 hours 1.4 hours
	People having Capricorn Ascendant should pay special attention to Saturn, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Saturn was in their 1 st house. The most serious Ascendant. Workaholics. Hermits. Children who act like adults. Tactical thinkers. Narrow-minded. Stubborn. Long-term planners. Responsible. Tend to be short and thin. Long-lived. Tend to have darker hair and eyes and like dark clothes. Conservative dressers. Don't laugh or smile much. Seen as stable and calculated. Like being in control. Lust for power. Can take pleasure from controlling or even hurting others. Dislike travel. Organized. Soft-spoken. Stick to important topics. Appear unemotional. Disengaged from family matters. Fun, laughing, and humor not important to them. Loners.				
♒	Aquarius <i>WaterBearer-Male</i>	Saturn <i>11th House</i>	Air <i>Hot/Wet</i>	Blood (Sanguine) <i>Legs, Ankles, Circulation</i>	1.25 hours 0.75 hours
	People having Aquarius Ascendant should pay special attention to Saturn, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Saturn was in their 1 st house. Dislike boundaries. March to the beat of their own drummer. Prefer to stick out and be unconventional. Like vivid colors. Extroverted eccentrics. Trend setters. Progressive. Futurists. Not prone to seriousness, but rather, rebellious. Dislike routine and stability. Prone to absorption into a group. Often seen as a weirdo in childhood. Often alienated. Might have bodily asymmetry. [A mutant? Like Wolverine?] Tend to be tall and something about them is strange/different. Like to change looks and personas. Friendly. Wide circle of friends. Like groups. Like special interest organizations. Because this is the "dawning of the age of Aquarius," Aquarius Ascendants will soon become the norm for the masses.				
♓	Pisces <i>Fish-Female</i>	Jupiter <i>12th House</i>	Water <i>Cold/Wet</i>	Phlegm <i>Feet, Toes</i>	1 hour 0.5 hours
	People having Pisces Ascendant should pay special attention to Jupiter, its powers will be especially strong on them.... as if Jupiter was in their 1 st house. Magnetic and hypnotizing aura. Amorphous. Enjoy changing their looks. Like masks. Artsy. Empathic. Prone to manipulation. Passive. Shy.				

Daydreamers. Introverted. Live in an inner world. Otherworldly. Loners. Quiet. Romantic. Very deep emotional sensitivity. Physically fragile. Prone to depression. Should avoid intoxicants. Tend to be lighter in complexion. Oval or round face. Big penetrating eyes, sometimes lighter in color. Small beautiful feet. Small in stature. Tend to plump up later in life.
--

^aNatural house refers to an alignment of Aries Ascendant on the Vernal/Spring Equinox, approx. March 21. It is sort of the zero point.... when Aries lines up exactly with the 1st House (houses are described in a different section).

^bAstronomical Note: On the equator, each sign takes about 2 hours to ascend. 12 signs and 24 hours. But in Alaska at latitude 60°N, Aries, for example, ascends in half an hour. Thus the chances that a person was born in Aries at 60°N is 0.5/24 or about 2.1%, whereas on the equator (0°N) the chances are 8.3%.

Additional Notes:

Roughly speaking houses 1-6 are below the horizon and 7-12 above it. The houses don't move, but the macrocosm/signs do. The zodiac/signs move around and around on a 24 hour cycle in a clockwise direction. Unfortunately, this situation puts east on the left side of the chart at 9:00, and with the macrocosm rotating clockwise, a sign rises on the left and sets on the right, unlike our modern way of thinking about it.

E.g. Let's say the Ascendant is exactly lined up with Aries on the horizon and you live on or near the equator. In about 2 hours Aries will have travelled clockwise approximately 1/12 of a circle (30°) and now Taurus will be on the horizon.

Houses 1, 4, 7, and 10 are called "Angular Houses."

Houses 2, 5, 8, and 11 are called "Succedent Houses," as they follow/succeed the Angular Houses.

Houses 3, 6, 9, and 12 are called "Cadent Houses," as they fall/decay after the Succedent Houses.

Stellium: a cluster of 3 (or 4 if including sun or moon) planets in a house.

If time of birth is unknown, many astrologers will default to either noon or sunrise of the birthday, however accuracy of interpretation will be limited.