Can a simple deck of cards give you insights into your own future?

≈ Speed Learning Cartomancy
A playing card reading primer

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Includes downloadable audiobook
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BEFORE WE START

This book is very hands-on and as such you’re going to need two packs of playing cards, one of which you’re going to be defacing with a permanent marker pen. This will become your personal ‘working pack’ which you will be using to remember the meanings of the cards as you go. I recommend using a thin-tipped marker pen as you will probably end up with quite a few scribbles on each card by the time we’re done.

We will be adding words and descriptions to this working pack throughout the learning process and it can be used while you’re learning as a memory aid for when you’re giving your first readings, and as time goes on can be enhanced with your own personal thoughts and insights about the cards as you work with them.

If you go for a while without giving a cartomancy reading or need a quick refresher at some time in the future, your working pack will always be there for you to jog your memory and provide an easy way to get back up to speed with your readings.

You will be switching between your working pack and the normal pack as you learn to read the cards so that you do not become too dependant on your working pack. However you will find that your working pack may well take on a life of its own and you may become very attached to it!

There’s something nice about having a pack of cards that you’ve personalised with your own scribbles and ideas, and I see no problem with using your working pack in readings - it can actually help engage the person you are giving a reading to because, unlike many of the illustrated Tarot packs whose pictures and symbols people can relate to, playing cards can seem rather abstract. Having your own meanings and concepts written on the faces of the cards can help other people get more involved in their own readings.

So grab a couple of packs of cards and a marker pen and let’s get started!

CALL TO ACTION!

THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK YOU WILL SEE THE WORD

ACTION

THIS MEANS YOU HAVE TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING

MAKE SURE YOU DO EVERYTHING YOU ARE ASKED TO DO
WHEN CALLED UPON TO ACT

YOU WILL LEARN MUCH FASTER THIS WAY
OVERVIEW

Even if you’ve never given cartomancy much thought in the past, you’re probably aware or have heard that during a playing card reading the suits mean one thing, the numbers one to ten mean another and the court cards represent people.

This is the basic idea of playing card readings - the four suits each represent a concept, the numbers one to ten each have their own meaning based on numerology, and the court cards each represent a certain type of man, woman or youth depending on their suit.

However, it is this apparent simplicity that can make learning the meanings of the cards so difficult - lists and descriptions of these meanings can easily be read from pages in a book one evening and forgotten the next. We need to think deeply about each number and engage with each suit. If we understand the connections between the numbers and suits of each card we will find them easier to remember. We need to create some relevance for ourselves - you can’t remember stuff that your brain hasn’t engaged with.

Many people find learning the numerology meanings of the numbers one to ten impossibly difficult, even though on the face of it it should be a simple task. Yet making the number meanings stick in the mind, even though there’s only ten of them, seems to be a major stumbling block for many people learning numerology and therefore cartomancy itself.

What most people don’t realise is that the suits alone can become the basis of a simple yet effective reading, and the interaction of the suits are just as important as the numbers. The great thing about this is that there are only four suits so there’s hardly anything to learn, and if during a reading you have a memory lapse about what the numbers mean you’ve always got the suits to fall back on.

Ultimately we need to learn how to ‘give a reading’. There are two main types of readings - the all purpose reading and the question reading. All purpose readings are ‘one size fits all’ readings for people with no specific questions who simply want some insight into their current situation, whereas question readings are far more specific - people hold a current problem or circumstance in their mind while the reading is conducted. Throughout your time getting to know the cards you should experiment with both kinds of readings, sometimes just ‘see what the cards say’ about things in general and at other times hold a ‘question’ in mind that you’d like some insight on while you are using the cards.

Of course to give yourself even the most basic reading you’re going to need to know a bit about the cards, and the best place to start is with the four suits of Diamonds, Clubs, Hearts and Spades.
CHAPTER 1 - THE FOUR SUITS

There are four suits in a normal pack of playing cards - Diamonds, Clubs, Hearts and Spades. It is widely understood, even by people who have never given a reading with cards, that Diamonds means ‘money’ and Hearts mean ‘love’. Many people have also picked up the idea that the Ace Of Spades means death and that all the Spades mean bad luck. Most people don’t have any idea what Clubs mean!

With this ‘common knowledge’ in mind, we’re going to start by keeping things really simple using these meanings for the red suits. Try and imagine each description in your own mind to create a really vivid picture for each one. The idea is that instead of thinking of just one word when you think of a suit you in fact conjure up a variety of concepts.

Diamonds and Hearts

The two ‘simplest’ suits to grasp are the red suits of Diamonds and Hearts, simply because they both have names that are fairly self-explanatory.

♦ Diamonds

- **Money** - Diamonds conjure up images of vast wealth, jewels and treasures
- **Success**: Wealth and success usually go hand in hand
- **Power**: With wealth comes the power of emperors and kings
- **Energy**: Diamonds are almost indestructible and able to cut through anything!

♥ Hearts

- **Love** - The heart is the universal symbol of love
- **Emotions**: We may think with our heads, but we follow our hearts
- **Healing**: The power of love to heal all wounds
- **Pleasure**: There’s love and there’s lust!

**TOP TIP: IT IS LARGELY RECOGNISED THAT THERE’S NOTHING INHERENTLY ‘BAD’ ABOUT RED SUITS AND AN EASY RULE TO FOLLOW IS ‘RED IS GOOD’.

Action: Take out the Ace of Diamonds and Ace of Hearts from what is to be your ‘working pack’ and write the four descriptions for each suit on each side alongside the four corners of each card as illustrated.
For now don’t worry about what the Aces ‘mean’ - at the moment we’re only interested in the suits of Diamonds and Hearts. Let's imagine you are giving an all purpose card reading for yourself and the first card you turn over is a Heart.

**Action: Place the Ace of Hearts face up in front of you.**

♥ You are immediately drawn to ideas of love, romance, personal relationships and all the other things you have associated with the suit of Hearts. But so what? We have the idea, the notion of Hearts staring at us, but what about it?

To make sense of this first card we need a second card to show us where this is going and what influences are being brought to bare on this idea. With a second card we can turn a simple concept into a situation.

**Action: Place the Ace of Diamonds face up next to the Ace of Hearts.**

♥♦ This second card lends some clarification to our original Heart card. There’s money involved, or some kind of success tied in with the idea of love. The first card, the Heart is the MAIN FOCUS. But this second card, the Diamond, is shedding some light on exactly WHAT it’s all about.

Let’s just think for a moment about what this could all mean:

- A partnership you are in could be about to come into some money
- A lover you have yet to meet may well be wealthy
- If you follow the work you love it may reap rewards
- Your family’s current endeavours could come to fruition

Those are just examples off the top of my head. I quite literally sat here trying to figure out what it could mean. With only two suits, one in front of the other, I have begun a train of thought as I try and create meaning from what is in front of me.

And this is exactly as it should be. I’m not ‘looking up’ the cards on a list, I’m not referring to some diagram or some dusty tome on cartomancy. I’m simply giving myself the space to work out what two concepts, Hearts and Diamonds, mean to me given that the first card is ‘the subject’ and the second card is ‘shedding light’ on the subject.

But what if the cards were the other way around?

**Action: Pick up the Ace of Hearts and the Ace of Diamonds. This time, place the Ace of Diamonds down first.**

♦ With the Diamond being the focus we are drawn to ideas of money and success. But what about it? We have the idea of money but nothing to really explain what it’s all about - we don’t know if we’re getting it, sharing it or even losing it! The idea of Diamonds is not enough by itself - but if we had another card it could shed some light on these notions of money and success.
Action: Place the Ace of Hearts face up next to the Ace of Diamonds.

♦️❤️ That’s interesting, the idea of love is also involved. With the focus on money and success but the influence of love this could mean several things such as:

- The money you already own could be better shared amongst friends
- Your current successes could be bettered with family help
- A loved one could help you with your current financial situation
- The luck of a close friend could impact your own life in a positive way

Again, as I tried to make sense of the one concept of finance and success with the influence and dynamic of love, family, partnerships and friends my mind jumped to its own conclusions. I must admit that some came quicker than others, but that is only natural. Sometimes you have to really think about these things before they become apparent and sometimes you have flashes of inspiration.

With only two suits we have learned how the order of cards and concepts is important, and already with just the Hearts and the Diamonds we have a lot of food for thought. This is good - because we want to conjure up as much imagery, ideas and connections as we can when we’re looking at the cards - and if we can learn to do this with just two suits then as we expand to the other suits and numbers we’re going to be thinking in a creative and useful way from the very start.

TOP TIP: THE ORDER OF CARDS IS IMPORTANT AS CARDS SHED LIGHT ON ONE ANOTHER, EACH CARD REVEALING SOMETHING ABOUT THE CARD BEFORE.

Now we’re going to move on to the meanings of the black suits of Clubs and Spades, both whose meanings tend to be misunderstood by the average layman.

**Clubs and Spades**

Unlike the Diamonds and Hearts, Clubs and Spades are less intertwined with today’s popular culture and therefore bring with them less built-in meaning. As mentioned earlier, some people may believe that Spades are ‘bad’ with the Ace of Spades being ‘really bad’, and most people don’t know or haven’t even thought about what a Club or a Spade may actually signify. At a push, a Club may be ‘something you hit someone on the head with’ and a Spade may conjure up images of gardening! Their symbolic relevance has been gradually eroded with time to many people - yet they relate to eternal concepts that are still meaningful to this day.

♣️Clubs

If you actually look at the symbol for a Club you’ll notice that it doesn’t look like the modern interpretation of a Club at all - it certainly doesn't look like a golf club or even a ‘caveman club’ used for hitting another caveman with. What it DOES look like however is a clover leaf or even a tree, so in some ways we do have the idea of a wooden club. This alone doesn’t really get at what the suit of Clubs actually signifies, although it gives us some clues.
A really useful way to imagine what the suit means is in the name itself - CLUB. Not the physical hold-in-your-hand type of club but the idea of a club that you go to or are a member of, a gentleman’s club, a nightclub, a social club or the best one of all - a WORKING MAN’S CLUB.

You see the suit of Clubs is all about work, socialising, getting on in life, making things happen, development, growth and living in the ‘real world’ of commerce, industry and the world around us. And if you think about it, a club in the wooden sense of the word isn’t just ‘a stick’ - it’s something that’s been crafted and honed into something useful, taken from a tree that grows naturally in the ground. It’s the orchard that’s been nurtured by a gardener, it’s the staff that’s been turned by a master craftsman. You get the idea.

Together the idea of social clubs for the upwardly mobile and the concept of crafting things from wood give us the true meaning of the Clubs suit.

♣ Work - The day to day ‘doing of things’ that gets us where we want to go
♣ Progress - The idea of growing into something greater than we already are
♣ Social - Meetings, partnerships and human interaction
♣ Business - Making things happen, learning from some and teaching others

♠ Spades

We come to the fourth and final suit and the one that causes the greatest feelings of dread, panic and outright fear amongst most people. Many folk believe that Spades signify all kinds of bad stuff happening and although Spades are the ‘worst’ suit in the pack, if we put the Spades into perspective we learn that they’re both useful and essential for any card reading.

Before we go any further I want to give you just one sentence to think about:

IF YOU DON’T KNOW IT’S COMING YOU CAN’T AVOID IT

Spades, although dealing mainly with difficulties and obstacles, don’t necessarily denote absolute and unavoidable hardship, death or decapitation. The whole point of giving a reading of any kind whether it be with playing cards, Tarot cards or whatever is to present a set of potential outcomes and circumstances which we all have the ability to alter should we choose to pay attention.

Put it this way - if we all believed that fate is set and that a card reading ALWAYS foretold events with one hundred percent accuracy then no one would bother giving themselves or anyone else a reading! If there was no way that I could avoid coming to a rather painful and untimely death involving a revolving door and a bicycle then there would be no point having a reading to foretell this catastrophic future - I’d be better off not knowing about it at all, living the rest of my days in blissful ignorance right up until the point of impact.

The whole point of readings is that fate is in our own hands and life is what we make it. Readings can show us the signs, trends and undercurrents in our lives and allow us a glimpse into many possible futures - yet nothing is cast in stone. Therefore to remove the ‘nasty’ cards from a reading would actually be doing us, and those we read for, a terrible disservice.
By learning about the potential obstacles in our own future and the futures of others we can make our own choices and act accordingly. And although a reading full of ‘nice’ cards is something we’d all like to see (we’d all like to have a reading that made us think we were going to win the lottery and meet our perfect lover) it’s actually the readings that bring up combinations of ALL the suits, both good and bad, which tend to be the most insightful.

So what does a Spade ‘mean’ to anyone nowadays? To most of us it is simply the name of a gardening tool, or something you might dig a road with. If we look at the actual symbol of the Spades suit we can see that unlike a spade that we use as a tool, the Spade symbol has a pointed tip rather like a sword. Which is useful, because that pretty much sums it up. As far as we’re concerned, it’s a sword.

So a Spade represents a sword, but what does that mean? Well, far from being total doom and gloom, the sword represents the battle of everyday life - the struggle, the hardships, the obstacles and the downright bad luck. The sword is a metaphorical weapon and is wielded by all of us as we muddle through our personal wars.

If we can get to grips with these situations, it is up to us to fight the good fight and come out on top. And who wants a story without some epic trials and tribulations anyway? No one - it would be unrealistic. Spades are important because they show us not only where to tread lightly but also when and where to strike. Forewarned is forearmed!

Simply put, the suit of Spades are the obstacles we must face and the trials we must go through if we are to enjoy the benefits of the other suits.

- **Swords** - To be wielded in battle in our everyday struggles
- **Hurdles** - To be seen in advance so we may jump them
- **Obstacles** - That we must clear from our path or sometimes simply avoid
- **Decisions** - That must be made for better or for worse

**TOP TIP: WHEREAS THE RED CARDS ARE CONSIDERED INHERENTLY ‘GOOD’, TOO MANY BLACK CARDS TOGETHER IS SEEN AS ‘BAD’, EVEN IF ONLY A FEW ARE SPADES.**

In this next section as before, we’re not concerned with what the Aces mean, we’re just going to focus on the suits. And once again we’re going to imagine that we’ve just turned over a card in an imaginary reading.

**Action:** Take out the Ace of Clubs and Ace of Spades from your ‘working deck’ and write the four descriptions for each suit on each side alongside the four corners of each card as illustrated.
**Action:** Place the Ace of Clubs face up in front of you.

The club immediately brings to mind business, socialising, working with others and development in our physical lives. But what about it? We have the idea of Clubs, but what’s it all about?

**Action:** Place the Ace of Spades face up next to the Ace of Clubs.

♥♠♥ With the focus on business, work and socialising but the influence of hurdles and decision making this could mean several things such as:

- A business arrangement could be about to go through a rough patch
- You may have to stand your ground on some work related issues
- Some tough decisions are going to be needed in order to move forward
- You may face some rivalry in your social circle

Again these were the first ideas that sprung to mind with the Club being the focus and the Spade being the influence. Let’s try it the other way around and see what happens.

**Action:** Pick up the Ace of Clubs and the Ace of Spades. Put the Ace of Spades face up in front of you.

Here the focus is firmly on the Spade, the battle and the struggle. This may seem a little more abstract than the other suits when it is the focus - what battle, what struggle? In some ways it can be more internalised - the struggle to get out of bed, to fight our inner demons, to ‘get over ourselves’ and find the energy to keep going. As I mentioned before, the sword can be wielded yet it can also turn against us in our very hand - we fight ourselves constantly and our worries, anxieties and fears can sometimes get the better of us. The sword is truly double-edged and we either approach it with fear and foreboding or let the fear itself drive us to victory. Some people are ruled by fear. Others are able to harness its power to achieve great things.

Spades are fantastically interesting and the idea that there are continuous battles being fought and won both in our outward lives and innermost thoughts is something you should always bear in mind. A spade can be incredibly revealing and like the opposite suit of Hearts has both an inner and outer emotional relevance whereas the Diamonds and Clubs are almost entirely set in the realm of the practical and real.

**Action:** Place the Ace of Clubs face up next to the Ace of Spades.

♠♣♠ With the focus on obstacles and decision making and with the influence of work, the business world and our social circle this could mean:

- Worrying about work is getting in the way of actually doing it
- Our attitude could be having an adverse affect on our job
- We are creating friction at work yet blaming other colleagues
- Business may actually be good but we just can’t see it

It’s actually quite difficult to come up with things to say when a Spade is the focus - believe me it gets easier when we use more suits and numbers! When a Spade is the focus I tend
to talk about personal negativity and lean heavily on the proceeding cards for further insights.

TOP TIP: AS YOU HAVE FOUR DESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN ON EACH ACE IN YOUR WORKING DECK YOU CAN CREATE DIFFERENT TYPES OF READING BY LOOKING AT DIFFERENT WORDS. TRY DOING A SUIT READING USING ONLY THE WORDS AT THE TOP OF EACH CARD. THEN GIVE THREE OTHER SUIT READINGS USING ONLY THE WORDS ON THE RIGHT, BOTTOM, AND THEN LEFT. THIS WILL HELP YOU COME UP WITH NEW THINGS TO SAY, BUT ALSO START TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF EACH SUIT AND HOW THEY INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. EVEN AT THIS STAGE AND WITH ONLY FOUR SIMPLE WORDS FOR EACH SUIT, THAT’S A LOT OF DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS!

CHAPTER ONE REVIEW

WE’VE NOW LEARNED WHAT THE FOUR SUITS ACTUALLY MEAN, AND DISCOVERED THAT THE ORDER THEY ARE REVEALED IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING.

WE’VE ALSO LEARNED THAT:

DIAMONDS AREN’T JUST ABOUT MONEY BUT ALSO SUCCESS, POWER AND ENERGY

HEARTS AREN’T JUST ABOUT LOVE BUT ALSO FAMILY, EMOTIONS, HEALING AND LUST

CLUBS CAN REFER TO SOCIALISING AND DOING BUSINESS WITH OTHERS

SPADES ARE LIKE SWORDS THAT CAN MAKE US OR BREAK US
REVISION: CHAPTER ONE

1. Can you name three descriptions for the Hearts suit?
2. When we talk about the suit of Clubs, how can we remember what it means?
3. The suit of Spades looks a bit like a garden spade. But what does it really signify?
4. Can you name three descriptions for Diamonds which aren’t ‘money’?
5. If we call the first card a reading the ‘focus’, what do we call the second card?
6. Why is the order of cards important?
7. If we dealt a Heart followed by a Diamond, what could we say about that?
8. If we dealt a Club followed by a Spade, what could we say about that?
9. Hearts is simple to remember as ‘love’. What else can we say about Hearts?
10. What is so special about the colour of each card? What does it signify?
11. Spades are considered ‘scary’ by many people. Can you argue against this?
12. Which two suits have an ‘inner’ and ‘outer’ meaning and why is that important?
13. What’s the easiest way to practice creating readings with your working deck?
14. It can be hard to create a reading when a Spade is first. Why?
15. If we dealt a Diamond followed by a Heart, what could we say about that?
16. If we dealt a Spade followed by a Club, what could we say about that?
17. Diamonds aren’t just about money but ........, ..... and ......?
18. Hearts aren’t just about love but also ........, ........, ........ and ....? 
19. Clubs can refer to socialising and ........ .... ......?
20. Spades are like .... that can .... .. ..... ..?
CHAPTER 2 - PUTTING THE SUITS TOGETHER

So far we’ve only seen what happens when the red cards or the black cards come after each other. Now we’re going to practice the ideas we learned in the last chapter with all four suits together.

Action: Take the four Aces from your working pack (the ones you wrote on in the last chapter) and mix them up face down. Then deal two of these Aces face up in front of you, one next to the other.

Now, you may well be staring at a combination that we’ve already discussed in the last chapter. If so, try to verbalise OUT LOUD the ideas we have already touched upon. Imagine that you’re giving a reading to someone and they’re eagerly awaiting your interpretation of the cards. You need to speak, and if you’re finding it difficult you need to practice - if you can’t talk about a two suit combination you’ve only just read about in the last chapter I suggest you go back and read it again!

Chances are you’re staring at a combination that we haven’t yet discussed. These are:

- ♦♦ DIAMONDS - CLUBS
- ♣♣ CLUBS - DIAMONDS
- ♦♥ DIAMONDS - HEARTS
- ♥♦ HEARTS - DIAMONDS
- ♥♣ HEARTS - CLUBS
- ♠♦ SPADES - DIAMONDS
- ♠♥ SPADES - HEARTS
- ♥♠ HEARTS - SPADES
- ♦♠ DIAMONDS - SPADES
- ♠♥ SPADES - DIAMONDS

You have now learned the concept of how one suit affects another and it’s up to you to practice talking the talk with various combinations. You really need to come up with your own ideas about how the suits interact now you’ve got the idea of it all. You may want to start a notebook detailing your thoughts about each combination as you go. This will enable you to discover which ones you’re having problems with and which ones you find the most interesting. You need to practice this process - not learn things by rote.

Just to get you started here are some ideas for a few more examples of suit combinations. A good question to ask yourself as you read these is, why did I write what I did?

♦♣ DIAMONDS + CLUBS

With the focus on money and success, but with the influence of business, work and social life this could mean:

- 💳 Your positive energy may bring work related rewards
- 💳 You should use the money that you do have to bring in new business
- 💳 You’re entering a successful and ultimately sociable phase in your life
- 💳 You’re in a good position to move things forward rapidly
♥♦ HEARTS + DIAMONDS

With the focus on love, family and relationships, but with the influence of money and success, this could mean:

- A loving partnership may bring unexpected financial rewards
- Following your heart could be the key to success
- You need time to recuperate before you surge back into action
- If you allow yourself some guilty pleasures you may find renewed vigour

♣♥ CLUBS + HEARTS

With the focus on business, work and social life, but with the influence of love, family and relationships, this could mean:

- You need to balance your social life with your home life
- You will find it hard not to mix business with pleasure
- You will get where you want to go with the right person (lover?)
- Progress will be made, but it may be an emotional ride

Please use these ideas as a springboard and where possible come up with as many of your own ideas as you can. Keep mixing the cards up and doing dummy readings just with the suits, keep talking out loud, and see how MUCH you can say about a combination, even if you get stuck and really have to think! The more you do it, the easier it will get.

Use the Aces from your working pack, and then use the Aces from your normal pack. What you really want to aim for is being able to do these suit only readings using the normal pack without the memory aids. If you find this a bit tricky, go back and read each section on the suits again. The better image you can create in your mind of each suit the easier they will be to remember.

The fact that you’ve written four words on each of the working cards means that the orientation of the cards can sometimes mean there is a different word at the top of each card. Mix the cards up sideways and lengthways when you’re practicing these simple readings, and use different words from each card to come up with different things to say.

When you move to using a normal deck you’ll be left with the essence of all four words for each card in your mind and should be able to conjure up all kinds of possibilities and outcomes for yourself or someone else.
PRACTICING THE SUITS

You need to practice talking about suit combinations until you’re fairly confident with them. Spend time shuffling the four Aces and dealing two cards face up in front of you, and then extemporising OUT LOUD on what you see. You CANNOT learn without speaking out loud - keeping your thoughts to yourself about what each card means will not get you anywhere. You need to practice EXPLAINING what you see, as if someone else was there. Trust me, if you do it now and keep doing it while you’re learning, giving your first reading for someone will be an enjoyable experience instead of an embarrassing silence.

First use the four Aces from your working pack. When you feel like you’re gaining in confidence, switch to the four unmarked Aces from your normal pack. You may feel a bit lost at first without the words to guide you, but with a bit of practice you may find the lack of words quite liberating and you may be surprised what you come up with as you stumble over your words trying to make sense of it all!

CHAPTER TWO REVIEW

THIS CHAPTER IS ALL ABOUT PRACTICING SUIT COMBINATIONS AND LEARNING TO COME UP WITH YOUR OWN WORDS TO DESCRIBE THEM

WE KNOW THAT THE FIRST CARD DRAWN IS ALWAYS THE FOCUS AND THE NEXT CARD IS THE INFLUENCE ON THAT FIRST CARD

WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SEVERAL SETS OF CARDS AND HOW TO APPROACH A TWO CARD READING - YOU MUST START WORKING OUT THESE TWO CARD COMBINATIONS FOR YOURSELF

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE WRITTEN ON SOME OF THE CARDS, YOU MAY WANT TO GRAB A NOTEBOOK FOR SOME NOTES AS YOU GO, AND YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO WRITE DOWN ANY INTERESTING OR CHALLENGING TWO-SUIT COMBINATIONS AS THEY OCCUR TO YOU

WE HAVE TOUCHED ON SPADES/CLUBS, CLUBS/SPADES, HEARTS/DIAMONDS, DIAMONDS/HEARTS, DIAMONDS/CLUBS AND CLUBS/HEARTS.

MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THESE EXAMPLES ACTUALLY WORK AND REFER TO THEM SHOULD YOU GET A BIT STUCK.
A very rough mind-map based around clubs - try and make your own up for each suit and see where your ideas take you, no matter how crazy! Try and make each mind map as large as you can and write anything that comes to mind.
REVISION: CHAPTER TWO

1. What could you say about a Diamond followed by a Club?
2. What’s the best way to practice giving two-suit readings?
3. If you’re unsure about the meaning of a particular suit, what’s a good way to go?
4. You lay out a Club followed by a Heart. What could that mean?
5. How many combinations of two suits can you get?
6. The second card we lay down is the ‘influence’ on the first card, called what?
7. What’s a good way to practice using the words on the cards?
8. What could you say about a Spade following a Diamond?
9. What could you say about a Heart followed by a Club?
10. You lay down a Diamond followed by a Spade. What could that mean?
11. It hasn’t been discussed yet, but what could it mean if a Heart followed a Heart?
12. Explain the difference between a Club following a Diamond, as opposed to a Diamond following a Club.
13. If a Heart followed a Spade, what kinds of influences are being brought to the Spade?
14. If a Diamond followed a Heart, what influences are being brought to the Heart?
15. If someone asked you what the suit of Spades actually signified, what would you tell them?
16. What’s the difference between a Diamond and a Club?
17. How many words can you use to describe the suit of Hearts?
18. How many words can you use to describe the Diamonds suit. Is it more than Hearts?
19. Which suit do you find it easier to describe - Clubs or Spades? Why?
20. Imagine you drop a pack of cards on the floor and see two suits. Give an immediate ‘reading’ about those two cards, out loud - right now! Can you do it?
CHAPTER 3 - THREE CARD SUIT READINGS

The basic system for giving cartomancy readings is based on three cards. As we’ve learned, the order that cards are revealed is important, and when you turn over three cards this is also true. However, when you deal three cards face up for a cartomancy reading, the second card is the influence of the first card, and the third card is the influence on the second card!

Using this idea we can get some concept of time and progression - three cards can show us how things are going and where they’re headed. Some people use a simple past - present - future reading for the three cards, and although this isn’t far off the idea it is missing the point somewhat.

When you understand how one card affects the meaning of the card before it the order of the cards takes on a deeper meaning and their combinations are far more related than taking each card at face value and assigning it a time slot. With this relational system we get more of a feel of the current trends taking place, as opposed to a reading that states ‘this happened to you in the past’ and ‘this card is your future’. We want to avoid that way of thinking altogether as it simply doesn’t give us enough scope to see the bigger picture.

So using what we’ve already learned it’s not hard to see how this type of reading could progress. You simply lay out three cards face up in a row and read the cards together, just like we did with two cards.

**Action:** Shuffle up the four Aces from your working pack face down. Then deal three of them face up alongside each other.

You now have three Aces staring up at you. We start at the left like before, this first card being the focus and the second card being the influence. When we have given this some thought and discussed what it could mean we move on to the second card as the focus and the third card as the influence.

So we are simply doing a two card reading twice! The middle card influences the first card, that in turn is influenced by the third card.

**Colour readings**

Before you do anything however, a good way to get a quick overview of a reading is to go one step simpler and think of the red cards as good and black cards as bad. For instance:

**BLACK BLACK RED**

Things have been tough but are going to get better in the future

**RED RED BLACK**

It’s been plain sailing so far, but look out for clouds on the horizon
**RED BLACK RED**

You’re entering a rough patch but things will get better

**BLACK RED BLACK**

Things have taken a turn for the better, but it’s not over yet

Although this is rather simplistic it can give you a very quick feel for a three card reading and it’s a good way of making sure you’re thinking in the right way about the cards and their order before you open your mouth.

**Action:** Spend some time giving yourself or an imaginary friend some suit readings like this incorporating the colour method, each time mixing the Aces up again and laying three cards out in front of you.

**Here are a few examples, which include the overall ‘colour’ reading in brackets:**

♣♦♦ **Clubs Spades Diamonds** *(Things have been tough but going to get better)*

- Your job could be about to go through a rough patch associated with some kind of power struggle - however you will come out on top
- Progress is difficult and it seems many time consuming hurdles will be placed in your way, yet you will find the energy to overcome them
- Certain people in certain circles are looking to block you financially, but you’ll get your way eventually
- Business deals seemed wracked by indecision - however this arduous process will ultimately lead to success

♥♦♣ **Hearts Diamonds Clubs** *(Plain sailing so far, look out for clouds on the horizon)*

- A partnership could soon be forged with a powerful person at work - you should however tread with caution
- You will be going through an emotional yet energy filled period which will ultimately end up with progress being made - but take care not to burn out
- You need to spend some ‘me’ time and spend a little money on yourself, and perhaps go on holiday or start getting out more
- You can begin to start enjoying yourself a little more as things turn in your favour regarding business - but don’t let your guard down

♥♠♦ **Hearts Spades Diamonds** *(You’re entering a rough patch but things will get better)*

- A relationship could be put under intense pressure due to money related worries although this will be resolved
- Emotions will run high as you overcome some obstacles with great success
- Although there is little time to charge your batteries at present, you will find the inner strength to carry on to happier times
- You need to decide what really makes you happy, but need to actually put some thought into it, which will in itself make you a lot happier!
As you practice giving yourself these three card readings you will gradually begin to see patterns and meaning in the cards at a glance - an ‘overview’ of the situation. This is extremely useful and is something you should definitely work on developing.

The colour reading gives you an instant framework in which to set the reading and is extremely valuable, even though it’s so simple. It enables you to get an instant grip on the shape of the reading, making deciphering the cards that much easier. Instead of looking at the first two cards and wondering what to say, the fact that you can get an immediate overview of ‘where it’s all going’ can help put you at ease before you start.

**Action:** We’re about to move on to the spot cards. Before we do that, and when you are somewhat comfortable giving suit readings, you should write the suit meanings on ALL of the spot cards. It could take a while, but at the very least it will hammer home the meanings of the suits!

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**CHAPTER THREE REVIEW**

WE’VE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THE MEANINGS OF THE SUITS AND HOW THEY INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. HOPEFULLY BY THIS POINT YOU HAVE A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUIT MEANINGS THAT IS VITAL BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO CONNECT THE SUITS TO THEIR NUMBER VALUES.

IF YOU STILL DON’T FEEL ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH GIVING SUIT READINGS I RECOMMEND YOU GO BACK AND RE-READ THE LAST FEW CHAPTERS. THERE’S NO POINT GOING ON UNTIL YOU’VE GOT THE SUITS FIRMLY FIXED IN YOUR MIND.

KEEP PRACTICING WITH THE WORKING DECK AND THE NORMAL DECK UNTIL YOU’RE AT LEAST ABLE TO STRING SOME SENTENCES TOGETHER AND GENERALLY ‘MAKE SENSE’ WHEN YOU SEE CARD COMBINATIONS.
QUESTIONS : CHAPTER THREE

1. What’s the difference between a two card reading and a three card reading?

2. The three cards in a three card reading could be seen as past, present and future. But what could be a better way of approaching these cards?

3. How can the colours of the cards help us?

4. If you saw two black cards followed by a red card, what could you say about that?

5. If you dealt out two red cards followed by a black card, what could that mean?

6. You lay out a club, spade and a diamond. Using just the colours, what could that mean?

7. What could you say about the suits in the previous question?

8. If I described three cards as ‘You’re entering a rough patch but things will get better’, what could the colours of these cards be?

9. During a reading you turn up the suits diamonds, spades, clubs. What could you say?

10. You turn up clubs, diamonds, hearts during a reading. What does it mean?

For these next ten questions give readings out loud in quick succession for each set:

11. Clubs / Hearts / Spades

12. Diamonds / Clubs / Hearts

13. Clubs / Diamonds / Spades

14. Hearts / Spades / Clubs

15. Spades / Clubs / Diamonds

16. Diamonds / Hearts / Spades

17. Clubs / Spades / Hearts

18. Diamonds / Spades / Hearts

19. Clubs / Hearts / Diamonds

20. Spades / Hearts / Clubs