

Mercury, Venus & Mars Retrograde 101

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The Dark Pixie Astrology

Retrograde Basics

What is a retrograde?

A planet is called retrograde when it appears to be moving backward from our vantage point here on Earth. It isn't actually moving backward, it only looks that way because of the way the planets move in relation to Earth. A planet retrograde isn't normal motion, so we often feel that things are off when it is. It can feel out of control at times, but if you learn to work with it instead of fighting against it, you can turn it around and make it work in your favor.

Mercury Retrograde

Why does it have such a strong impact?

Because of what Mercury rules:

Communication

Technology

Short travel

Daily life

Work life

Health

Venus & Mars Retrograde

Venus rules love and money, so this is what is usually impacted when she is retrograde. The most obvious impact is usually on relationships, and we tend to see a lot of people breaking up. Retrograde can bring things back, so we can see a lot of people getting back together too. Financial impact tends to be secondary with Venus, but we usually do so people have more financial problems, and it's usually from not being responsible or paying enough attention. We can be overly indulgent, lazy, and stubborn with Venus retrograde.

Mars rules our energy and drive, so when he's retrograde, we tend to have too much or too little energy and drive. We can feel like we're stalled, unable to get new projects and ventures off of the ground, and this can make us quite grumpy. Mars rules assertiveness, which can be aggressiveness when it's negative, and is also one of the rulers of war, so we tend to see more violence with Mars retrograde. Mars also rules accidents, and that can also be more prominent with Mars retrograde, especially when we're angry and not thinking straight.

The 4 Ways a Retrograde Can Impact You

- You have natal planets or your Rising in the sign the retrograde planets naturally rules (Gemini, Virgo = Mercury; Aries = Mars; Taurus, Libra = Venus).
- You have natal planets or your Rising in the sign the planet will retrograde in.
- The turn retrograde or direct will conjunct, square, or oppose a natal planet.
- The retrograde will conjunct a house cusp.

When a Retrograde DOESN'T Impact You:



The retrograde does none of the 4 listed, or you have that planet retrograde in your natal or progressed chart