

A black and white graphic with a background of clouds. At the top center, there is a dark square containing a white circle that is vertically split in half. Below this, the text is centered and reads: 

**MERCURY  
RETROGRADE:  
DECEMBER 2016 -  
JANUARY 2017**

MANAGE MERCURY RETROGRADE

## December 2016 at a glance (the retrograde)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			<b>1</b> Enter Mercury Shadow	<b>2</b> Mercury enters Capricorn @ 4:19PM ET/9:19PM GMT	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Enter Mercury Storm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Moon enters Virgo @ 12:52PM ET/5:52PM GMT
<b>19</b> Mercury retrograde begins in Capricorn @ 5:55AM ET/10:55AM GMT Mars enters Pisces @ 4:23AM ET/9:23AM GMT	<b>20</b> Moon exits Virgo @ 9:40PM ET/2:40AM GMT Dec 21st Mercury retrograde semisextile Venus @ 11:58AM ET/4:58PM GMT	<b>21</b> Sun enters Capricorn @ 5:44AM ET/10:44AM GMT	<b>22</b> Mercury retrograde at a critical degree (13 degrees Capricorn - to Dec 24th)	<b>23</b> Exit Mercury Storm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Mercury retrograde sextile Neptune @ 11:19PM ET/4:19AM GMT Dec 27th	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Moon enters Capricorn @ 10:12AM ET/3:12PM GMT Mercury retrograde conjunct Moon @ 11:46PM ET/4:46AM GMT Dec 29th Mercury retrograde sextile Mars @ 6:06PM ET/11:06PM GMT Mercury retrograde conjunct Sun @ 1:48PM ET/6:48PM GMT	<b>29</b> New Moon in Capricorn conjunct Mercury retrograde @ 1:53AM ET/6:53AM GMT Uranus ends retrograde in Aries @ 4:29AM ET/9:29AM GMT	<b>30</b> Moon exits Capricorn @ 8:29PM ET/1:29AM GMT Dec 31st	<b>31</b>	

## January 2017 at a glance (the retrograde)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Mercury retrograde at a critical degree (0 degrees Capricorn - to Jan 4th) Mercury retrograde sextile Venus @ 2:41PM ET/7:41PM GMT Venus enters Pisces @ 2:47AM ET/7:47AM GMT	<b>4</b> Enter Mercury Storm Mercury retrogrades into Sagittarius @ 9:16AM ET/2:16PM GMT Mercury retrograde anaretic to Jan 7th	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Mercury retrograde ends in Sagittarius @ 4:43AM ET/9:43AM GMT Moon enters Gemini @ 5:06PM ET/10:06PM GMT
<b>9</b> Mercury anaretic in Sagittarius to Jan 12th	<b>10</b> Moon exits Gemini @ 5:48PM ET/10:48PM GMT	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Exit Mercury Storm Mercury enters Capricorn @ 9:05AM ET/2:05PM GMT Full Moon in Cancer @ 6:35AM ET/11:35AM GMT	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Exit Mercury Shadow	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

## **Unit 4: Mercury Retrograde in December 2016 - January 2017**

The Mercury retrograde begins on December 19th at 5:55AM at 15 degrees 8 minutes in Capricorn, so it's the second time in 2016 that Mercury will retrograde in Capricorn, with the first being in January. This impacts those same Capricorn things. Capricorn rules our governments, so Mercury retrograde here tends to have a broad impact on countries, and some can go a little berserk (or on the flipside, the berserk ones get a little sane!). We can also experience difficulties with things that Capricorn rules: governments, politicians, our elders (parents, bosses, mentors), our goals (especially professionally), the traditional, maturity, responsibility, our external foundation, and long-term plans.

Don't make too many changes to your plans if you don't absolutely have to since the energy making the changes necessary won't last. Just be flexible in the interim. This retrograde will be great for giving yourself a second chance at an old goal, so pick something you gave up on in the past, failed at, or feel needs a do-over, and give it a shot now.

***Which of your houses does this retrograde begin? Does it impact any of your natal planets? They need to be between 12 and 18 degrees; in Capricorn, it's a conjunction, in Aries or Libra, it's a square, in Cancer, it's an opposition - these are the hard aspects; in Scorpio or Pisces, it's a sextile, in Taurus or Virgo, it's a trine - these are the easy aspects.***

This retrograde begins conjunct Pluto in Capricorn. Pluto is intense, and in Capricorn, he's done a lot of transforming throughout the world. Some things can feel like they're unraveling, coming undone, and others get a complete makeover. It's a good time for everyone to transform the way they aspire to present themselves, and transforming the old to something new again can be a great way to use this energy. Otherwise, we can see a lot of rage, dominance, and controlling behavior. We have to work on being more open-minded and flexible.

This Mercury retrograde doesn't occur entirely in Capricorn, however. On January 4th at 9:16AM, it will retrograde backward into fire sign Sagittarius. With Mercury retrograde in Sagittarius, this impacts our optimism, our ability to expand and explore, our adventurous spirit, our beliefs, travel, and education. We can be overly optimistic, or find that optimism is impossible to feel right now. We can feel stuck where we are, unable to expand and explore outside of the chains around our lives and hearts, or we feel we have too much freedom and need some boundaries. We can question our beliefs, wondering if they're really true to who we are currently, or we can adhere to them too much and try to force them on other people. Travel can be difficult, and there can be lots of delays and cancellations and travel problems (not good for the holidays!). And education, especially with colleges/universities, can come under the gun, and students or faculty rebel, or we take it for granted.

The following are interpretations for Mercury retrograde in Capricorn and in Sagittarius by house:

### **In Capricorn**

1st House: You can feel restricted in general, weighed down by your responsibilities, and like you're responsible for too much. You can have issues with parents, bosses, and mentors, in your career, or with your goals, and you feel like if it can go wrong, it does. If you ignore your responsibilities, you can pay for it.

2nd House: You can feel you have to be too responsible with your finances, and it makes you feel restricted and limited. You can feel as though you have a lot less than you do. Your confidence can be tied to what your parents, bosses, or mentors think of you, or whether you succeed or fail.

3rd House: You can have little patience for any ideas, thoughts, or opinions you don't feel are valid or important. You can feel stifled mentally, and overwhelmed by mentally-stimulating projects, or feel like you can't let your mind explore. You can have trouble relating to young people or working in your neighborhood.

4th House: You can feel like you've taken on too much at home or with your family, and it can be overwhelming. You can feel stifled, restricted and limited, by your family or living situation, and feel like the walls are closing in on you in some ways. Your external foundation impacts your internal foundation.

5th House: You can feel like your creativity is being restricted, and you have difficulty letting yourself be loose and fun-loving. When you do, you ignore your responsibilities, and when you don't, you can feel as though you're not letting yourself be yourself and express what you want to express.

6th House: You can feel overwhelmed by work or the daily responsibilities of your life, or feel restricted and limited with your work or in your daily life. You can take on too much, and this leads to stress, anxiety, and nerves, which can lead to little physical problems that become bigger if you're reckless with your health.

7th House: You can feel you're bearing too much of the burden in your relationships, and have taken on too many responsibilities with your loved ones, and that they're not reciprocating for one reason or another. You can be bossier with the people in your life, and indecision leads to irresponsibility.

8th House: You can feel your responsibilities weighing you down to a much greater degree than usual, and you can feel more depressed, in despair, full of rage, or have extreme mood swings. You have to face something deep inside of you because it's the right thing to do, but if you give in to ignoring it, you have bigger problems.

9th House: You can feel restricted and limited in a way that you feel keeps you from having the freedom you want and experiences you want to have. Your responsibilities keep you from exploring the world, and you can feel chained down by your duties which can make you easily irritated.

10th House: You can feel that your responsibilities are too much, you're too limited and restricted, and too weighed down by your passionate ambition. You're too hard on yourself for even the slightest failure, and compare yourself to too many people. You can hold yourself back.

11th House: You can feel that you need to be much more practical about your dreams, and this makes you think you should give up on some of your dreams. You have difficulty allowing yourself to have future dreams, and you feel that they're too silly. You can feel stifled in groups and with your friends.

12th House: You can feel overwhelmed by your responsibilities, but you keep that to yourself. You can suffer from insomnia and bad dreams, and have difficulty with your intuition if you feel overwhelmed. You can stifle your imagination, and limit your willingness to be openly compassionate.

## **In Sagittarius**

1st House: You can be extra lazy, extra selfish, and feel that things should come to you with no effort on your part. You want the world but won't lift a finger to get anything. You make huge promises but don't keep them. You can be boastful and talk a big game, but it's all talk and no walk.

2nd House: You can be lazy financially, spending on things you don't need or ignoring your own budgets and plans. You can believe that things will work out on their own and you'll have plenty of money when you need it, but then end up with nothing. You can be quite stubborn and pushy with your beliefs.

3rd House: You can talk the talk but not walk the walk, and you come up with huge ideas but you don't do anything with them. You can have lots of little plans, but you have trouble keeping track of any of them. You can insist you know everything, but you make it up as you go along.

4th House: You can be lazy at home or with family, insisting you'll do things that you won't do, and you're emotionally indulgent and selfish. You can see



little problems at home become big problems fast if you let laziness sink in and don't do anything to deal with the problems when they first arise.

5th House: You can avoid work of any kind, wanting to have complete freedom to do whatever you want, whenever you want, and only wanting to do what you find fun. You feel other people should do things for you, and you can throw a fit when you don't get your way.

6th House: You can take on work projects but not follow through with them, and avoiding one little task can turn into avoiding a huge pile of tasks that turn into a big problem. You can be lazy and indulgent with your health, and you feel nothing bad can happen to you physically.

7th House: You can make promises you don't keep with the people around you, especially those closest to you, and don't take commitment seriously enough, or you can commit to too much and you can't deal with it all. You can be lazy with your relationships, and want people to do everything for you.

8th House: You can get stuck in bad moods and pessimism, feeling everything is much worse than it actually is, or you avoid being realistic about anything and are unrealistically positive. Your rage can get bad in a hurry, and you can be lazy with research and changes.

9th House: You can be so optimistic that you feel everything will happen on its own, and you don't need to do anything to get it done, which means nothing gets done and you put yourself in a bad position. You can push your luck, and you feel that luck is always on your side, but it can turn on you fast.

10th House: You can be lazier with your goals, setting big goals for yourself but not doing anything to pursue them. You can come across as someone lazy and self-centered. You can avoid making long-term plans, feeling that things will work out on their own and you don't need to worry about your direction.

11th House: You can come up with huge dreams for your future, but you do nothing about them. You can talk a big game about what your future will look like, but you have no idea how that will happen. You can embrace the unconventional too much, or avoid it completely.

12th House: You can spend extra time sleeping and need a ton of rest, or you try to avoid getting any rest, feeling you'll regain your energy somehow without it. You can talk big about spirituality, but you may not know what you're talking about. Issues from the past can come back and get big in a hurry.

***Which house(s) will Mercury retrograde in for you? What are the ways this can impact you?***

Interpretations for Mercury retrograde in the houses and Mercury retrograde aspects to natal planets can be found starting on page 23.

This Mercury retrograde doesn't end making any aspects, however, the location of the retrograde ending might be interesting because it's at 28 degrees Sagittarius, conjunct (in about the same spot as) something called

the Galactic Center, which is at 27 degrees Sagittarius. The Galactic Center is literally the center of our Universe, and is a black hole. A little odd, yes! But it's a point astrologically full of enormous power and energy. So the retrograde ending conjunct the Galactic Center is interesting, and this can create an interesting end to the retrograde. Good? Bad? That's really anyone's guess. The Galactic Center isn't good or bad, it just is. But the energy is strong, and that can show that something important does happen to finish out this retrograde in January. The GC is tied to the future and futuristic thinking, to tech, and to a broader consciousness. There is one thing to note about the GC: the energy is so strong, that it absolutely has to be used, or else we can go a little mad from it. So find where this point is located in your chart, and figure out a way for you to use the plentiful energy we'll all have access to at the end of the retrograde. The retrograde itself will end on January 8th at 4:43AM ET at 28 degrees 51 minutes in Sagittarius.

***Does the end of the retrograde impact any of your natal planets? They need to be between 25 and 29 degrees; in Sagittarius, it's a conjunction, in Virgo or Pisces, it's a square, in Gemini, it's an opposition - these are the hard aspects; in Libra or Aquarius, it's a sextile, in Aries or Leo, it's a trine - these are the easy aspects. And which house does the retrograde end in your chart? How can you use the extra energy with what that house rules?***

Mercury retrograde will make six aspects, the first being a semisextile to Venus in Aquarius on December 20th at 11:58AM. A semisextile is a positive aspect where the two planets are one sign apart. This aspect gives us a brief period to feel better, to make things better, and to find some pleasant energy. It's brief because a semisextile isn't a major aspect, so it'll only impact for roughly that day of December 20th.

On December 26th, Mercury retrograde will sextile (positive aspect, two signs away) Neptune in Pisces at 11:19PM. This aspect comes during the break between the two storm periods, and tries to help us be more understanding and compassionate, which can often be lacking during Mercury retrograde. Help those who need it, and help yourself if you need it.

Mercury retrogrades makes three aspects on December 28th. At 11:46PM, Mercury retrograde conjuncts the Moon, who enters the Mercury retrograde sign of Capricorn on the 28th at 10:12AM, and stays until December 30th (8:29PM). These few days bring more emphasis and energy to the retrograde. Mercury is already at a heightened point, anaretic, so with the Moon here too, it's bringing even more focus on the retrograde. We can freak out more about the problems that we're dealing with, but we can also work some of that retrograde magic and focus on the re's: revise, review, revisit, rejoin, rethink, redo, etc. This is a great time to do the things Mercury retrograde is traditionally good for. Mercury retrograde will also make a conjunction to the Sun at 1:48PM. This tends to shine a light on the Mercury retrograde impact, similar to the Moon in the Mercury retrograde sign, and there can be something that actually comes to a start around this time that lasts for over a month. We're in the middle of a break from the storm periods, and get a surge of vitality and vigor. We can focus on our own wants and needs, and we can grab an opportunity if we focus. Look at

where Mercury and the Sun will be in your chart at that point on December 28th to see where the energy will be focused for you. This conjunction occurs at 7 degrees 28 minutes in Capricorn.

***Where is 7 degrees 28 minutes Capricorn in your houses? What does this house rule?***

Mercury retrograde also sextiles Mars this day at 6:06PM. This gives us a little surge in energy and drive, and we want to make things happen. We can make progress, be more positive, and are willing to take the lead if we need to. These three aspects along with the sextile to Neptune all occur during the break between the two storm periods, so the four of them make that break more manageable and easier to turn positive.

On January 3rd, Mercury retrograde sextiles Venus at 2:41PM. She's freshly in Pisces, and Mercury is getting ready to retrograde back into Sagittarius, so he's at a heightened point. This is also the day before the second storm period begins. This aspect wants to give us a little positive energy before things crank up to another level with the retrograde, and leading up to the aspect is the most potent time, so use the energy to your advantage on the 2nd. Start the new year doing something good for yourself, helping yourself to feel better, or getting something on the right track.

The shadow of this Mercury retrograde is December 1st - January 27th. For most people, they don't feel the influence of the shadow unless you're a Gemini or Virgo Sun, Moon, or Rising, or this retrograde will be in your Sun sign, Moon sign, Rising sign, or 1st house. For everyone else, the influence usually starts with the first storm period. The first storm period is December

15th - 23rd, which centers around the start of the retrograde and the conjunction to Pluto. It also includes an aspect to Venus, the Sun entering the retrograde sign, and Mars changing signs. The emphasis on the conjunction to Pluto to start the retrograde is the strongest impact. The second storm period is January 4th - 12th 2016, and is when Mercury is in Sagittarius, so there's strong emphasis on the ending in Sagittarius and conjunct the Galactic Center.

## **Other Planetary Activity**

### Mars & Venus Enter Pisces

On the day the Mercury retrograde begins, Mars will enter Pisces at 4:23AM. Mars returns to a mutable sign, however, there's no t-square with Mars in Pisces. Instead, he joins up with Neptune in Pisces, and heightens our imaginations, intuition, compassion, empathy, and spirituality. Take some time to focus on any or all of these things while Mars is in Pisces. As for the Mercury retrograde, this tends to zap out intellectual understanding, and Pisces rules emotional understanding, so what we may lack in understanding when we're trying to think about, we can make up for by trying to feel. When you want to connect with someone, leave your head out of it and listen to your heart instead. If you're having trouble with a decision, maybe stop thinking about it and start listening to your gut. This will be especially true for you if you have Pisces personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars) or are a Pisces Rising. For everyone else, look at the house(s) that have Pisces on the cusp or in the house in your natal chart (what those house(s) rule will be impacted).

Venus enters Pisces on January 3rd at 2:47AM. Venus joins Mars and Neptune in Pisces, and she brings her positive energy into the mix. We benefit from being compassionate, empathic, understanding, intuitive, and imaginative, and these things can be heightened.

***Which of your houses have Pisces on the cusp or in the house?***

## Uranus Retrograde Ends

Uranus will end his retrograde in Aries on December 29th at 4:29AM. Uranus is the planet ruling change, the sudden and unexpected, and the unconventional, so this can start to move forward again with the retrograde over. It might seem like things really come to a standstill though right before it does, and this is especially the case since Mercury will be retrograde at the same time. Try not to let frustrations get the better of you, which will run high around this time. The Uranus retrograde ends at 20 degrees 33 minutes of Aries, so find where that is in your chart, and see if it makes any hard aspects to any of your natal planets (look for anything between 17 degrees 33 minutes and 23 degrees 33 minutes of Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn). If you have heavy Capricorn emphasis in your chart and it'll be impacted by the Uranus retrograde end, it can seem a little like a double punch with Mercury also retrograde in Capricorn at the same time. You'll need to have extra patience!

***Do you have any planets between 17 degrees 33 minutes and 23 degrees 33 minutes of Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn? What do those planets rule?***



## Sun Enters Capricorn

The Sun enters Capricorn on December 21st at 5:44AM, signaling the start of summer in the southern hemisphere and winter in the northern hemisphere. Capricorn is also the sign this Mercury retrograde mostly occurs in. This shines more of a light on the retrograde itself, and what we're dealing with becomes more of a focus. Mercury will retrograde out of Capricorn and into Sagittarius for the last 4 days of the retrograde, and with the Sun not in the same sign and not entering Sagittarius again until late in 2017, this can add to the wonky retrograde energy at the end, and we can feel like things that go off the track at this point will take a long time to resolve, especially with Saturn also in Sagittarius.

## Moon in Gemini & Virgo

The Moon is in Virgo December 18th (12:52PM) - December 20th (9:40PM). When the Moon is in a sign ruled by Mercury while he's retrograde, it brings extra emphasis on the retrograde. The Moon is in Gemini January 8th (5:06PM) - January 10th (5:48PM). Now that the mutable t-square is over, the Moon in Gemini no longer means we'll have a mutable grand cross occurring, and the Moon in Virgo isn't joining Jupiter in Virgo in the mutable t-square, but it does mean we'll have a short-lived mutable t-square going on while the Moon is in Gemini or Virgo. So for these couple of days, not only is the Mercury retrograde energy heightened since Gemini and Virgo are ruled by Mercury, but we can also feel some extra tension, scattered energy, and heightened situations. Mutable energy is unfocused, so try to give yourself something to focus on that's positive.

## New Moon in Capricorn & Full Moon in Cancer

A new moon occurs on December 29th at 1:53AM in Capricorn, the sign Mercury is retrograde in. When a new moon occurs during Mercury retrograde in the sign Mercury is in, it usually tries to bring in some good energy, a little positive energy in the middle of the madness. This tends to be the best time to start something new during the retrograde - just make sure it's something you'll finish quickly. We feel inspired to get moving and have greater energy with the new moon. This new moon has bigger implications for the Mercury retrograde because it will be conjunct Mercury. It gives us more of an opportunity to focus on second chances, and we can see a lot of people being given second chances all around us. You don't have to wait for it to come to you though - feel free to take control and create a second chance on your own. This new moon is also sextile Mars in Pisces, which gives good take-charge energy. The new moon is also sextile Neptune in Pisces, so while you're taking charge, also be sure to be considerate of others. You don't need to trample over anyone to get what you want.

The new moon occurs at 7 degrees 59 minutes of Capricorn, so the difficult aspects to your chart are as follows:

Conjunct: 5 degrees 59 minutes - 9 degrees 59 minutes Capricorn

Square: 5 degrees 59 minutes - 9 degrees 59 minutes Aries or Libra

Opposition: 5 degrees 59 minutes - 9 degrees 59 minutes Cancer

If you have any planets or house cusps that fit these, this new moon will be making a hard aspect to your chart and pack more energy for you to maneuver.

You have a positive aspect (sextile and trine) by this new moon if you have any planets at the following:

Sextile: 5 degrees 59 minutes - 9 degrees 59 minutes Scorpio or Pisces

Trine: 5 degrees 59 minutes - 9 degrees 59 minutes Taurus or Virgo

A positive aspect makes this new moon easier for you.

You can refer to the [New and Full Moons](#) page on The Dark Pixie Astrology for general interpretations of new moon aspects.

***Which of your houses does this new moon fall in? What does this house rule? Does it make any aspects to your natal planets? What are possible outcomes?***

A full moon occurs on January 12th at 6:35AM in Cancer. This is a few days after the Mercury retrograde ends, and is when we leave the second storm period, so it comes when we're in a period of wrapping things up. In Cancer, we can focus on strengthening our internal foundations, trying to make sure that whatever has been shaken by the Mercury retrograde won't happen again in the future. With all of the wonky energy as the retrograde ends, we want some comfort, familiarity, and support with this full moon, and we want to have a place of refuge. This full moon does make two hard aspects though, square both Jupiter in Libra and Uranus in Aries, so we can be too lazy and indulgent and entitled (Jupiter), and avoid anything new and different like the plague or are super rebellious (Uranus). And Mercury will

be anaretic as the full moon occurs, and then freshly into Capricorn that day, at a critical degree. So the feeling of wrapping things up might be a lot stronger than usual, and we want to hurry up and close the books on this retrograde.

The full moon occurs at 22 degrees 27 minutes of Cancer, so the aspects to your chart are as follows:

Conjunct: 20 degrees 27 minutes - 24 degrees 27 minutes Cancer

Square: 20 degrees 27 minutes - 24 degrees 27 minutes Aries or Libra

Opposition: 20 degrees 27 minutes - 24 degrees 27 minutes Capricorn

Sextile: 20 degrees 27 minutes - 24 degrees 27 minutes Taurus or Virgo

Trine: 20 degrees 27 minutes - 24 degrees 27 minutes Scorpio or Pisces

You can refer to the [New and Full Moons](#) page on The Dark Pixie Astrology for general interpretations of full moon aspects.

***Which of your houses does this full moon fall in? What does this house rule? How can you close the books with what that house rules? Does the full moon make any aspects to your natal planets? What are possible outcomes?***

## Important Degrees

This Mercury retrograde spends a lot of time at sensitive degrees. He'll be critical December 22nd - 24th at 13 degrees of Capricorn. This is a difficult degree with difficult energy, though it's not as strong as the other two important degrees Mercury retrograde will get to. Energy can be a little heightened at this time, and we're experiencing more issues. He'll then be critical again January 3rd - 4th at 0 degrees Capricorn, which is a special critical degree called the Aries Point.

***Which of your houses does 13 degrees Capricorn fall in? What does this house? Which if your houses does 0 degrees Capricorn fall in? What does this house rule?***

Things can ramp up much more on these days as we head into January 4-7th, when Mercury is now in Sagittarius and is anaretic, at the 29th degree of Sagittarius. This makes the energy even stronger during the retrograde, and we can see major developments happening around the world or in our own lives. The anaretic degree is a point of crisis energy, and the energy absolutely has to be used, so try to find a positive way to use it in your life by finding the house this will occur in, and focus on what that house rules. After the Mercury retrograde ends, Mercury will again be anaretic January 9th - 12th, so the end of the second storm period, and things can heat up again, but we can try to tie everything up.

***Which of your houses does 28-29 degrees Sagittarius fall in? What does this house rule?***

On January 12th, Mercury enters Capricorn at 9:05AM, and will be at the Aries Point again until January 14th, but we will be out of the storm and retrograde, so only the shadow will be in effect, and we might not feel the impact as much unless you have a planet or house at 0 degrees Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn.

***Do you have any planets at 0 degrees Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn? What do they rule?***

## **Mercury Retrograde in the Houses**

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 1st House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 1st house, this is the house of the self, so literally anything and everything can go wrong. Any area of your life can be impacted, and you have a hard time understanding anything, being understood, getting things done on time and correctly, and can feel overwhelmed. You can also experience physical issues and get cuts, bruises, bang knees and elbows, etc. especially if Mercury will harshly hit your Sun, ruler of the 1st or 6th house, or cross over the 1st house cusp. This is a good time to go back and do things over again that you've wanted another shot at. This transit rules second chances of any kind.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 2nd House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 2nd house, this is the house of money, so you can experience financial problems. You have an unexpected expense come up, you overlooked something in your budget, added up the wrong figures and miscalculated, or lose/stop a second job or side gig you've been doing for extra money. It's always a good idea to put money away before this transit begins so you're prepared for any financial hiccups. You also feel less confident, are more unsure of yourself and full of self-doubt, and can question your safety and security in life, as well as your values. This is a good time to make money in ways you've made money before.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 3rd House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 3rd house, this is the house of the mind and one of the houses Mercury naturally rules, so you have great difficulty with communication. You have a hard time understanding others, they have a hard time understanding you, you have miscommunications, you have fights, delays with projects, problems with technology, electronics, or the internet, and trouble dealing with smaller projects. You can also have difficulties with younger people, siblings or neighbors, and with short travel (along with the things you use for short travel, so cars, buses, bicycles, etc.). This is a good time to pick up old writing, have a conversation over again, or reconnect with a sibling or neighbor.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 4th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 4th house, this is the house of the home and family, so you can have problem with your home or family. With the

home, you see all sorts of little things come up, like pipes bursting, a flooded basement, an outlet that shocks you, an appliance that dies, a hole in the wall, etc. With the family, you can have fights and misunderstandings, and find it difficult to deal with them. This is a good transit to do remodeling, redecorating, or picking up old home improvement projects again, as well as reconnecting with a long-lost relative.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 5th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 5th house, this house rules love, so you can feel that you have less love for everything in your life. You enjoy everything less, and lack a spark with your loved ones and hobbies. If attached, you get into fights and have misunderstandings with your partner. If single, you have a harder time meeting anyone new. If you have children, you have more fights and misunderstandings with them, and they seem more rebellious. You want to spend more time on your hobbies and away from work but can't take the time off, or you don't want to play at all but have too much time off. This transit is good for reconnecting with an old flame, and taking up an old hobby again.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 6th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 6th house, this is the house of work, so you can experience problems at work. You have fights and misunderstandings with co-workers, you don't meet deadlines, you miss the details, you have to do work over and over again. Some people lose or quit their jobs during this transit, especially if Mercury crosses over the cusp or harshly hits the ruler of the 6th house. This house also rules health, so you can experience health issues, with old health problems resurfacing. This is especially the case if Mercury harshly hits the Sun or ruler of the 6th house. And this house rules your pets, so you can have an issue with your pet. This transit is good to go back to an old employer or job you used to work before, retry a health regimen, get a pet again, or go back to an old doctor.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 7th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 7th house, this is the house of relationships, so you have fights and misunderstandings with your loved ones, partners, and those you're closest to. If attached, you can have extra trouble with your partner. If single, you have a hard time meeting anyone new willing to commit. This house also rules the enemies you're aware of, so they can be extra troublesome. With the 7th house, you want more balance



but have a hard time finding it, and want more peace but everything seems to be chaos. This transit is good for reconnecting with an old partner, reconciling with an enemy, or recommitting yourself to something.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 8th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 8th house, this is a heavy sector in the chart, so you can feel very emotional and at a distance from the world. You desire closeness with others, but feel further away. You can be overly emotional, prone to outbursts, and take everything way too seriously. You're pessimistic, down about life, and way too realistic. This is also a bad time for dealing with other people's money (taxes, debts, loans, inheritances, joint finances). This transit is good for reconnecting with an old lover or business partner.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 9th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 9th house, this is an optimistic house, so you tend to be overly optimistic or pessimistic. This house rules long-distance travel, so you can have problems going far, especially by plane, with cancelled flights, delays, lost luggage, etc. This house rules the law, so if you have a legal issue, it can become complicated now. And this house rules higher learning, so if you're in college/university, you can struggle with the work. This transit is good to go back to school, travel somewhere you've been to before, or revisit a legal problem.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 10th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 10th house, this is the house of career, so you can have problems with your career. You have fights and misunderstandings with bosses and mentors, make a bad first impression, and don't come across well at all. You have a hard time creating clear plans of action for your goals, or understanding your goals well. You can be irresponsible, immature, and lack discipline. This transit is good for going back to a career you used to be in and want another shot at, or giving a goal a second try.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 11th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 11th house, this house rules your friendships, so you can have fights and misunderstandings with your friends, even walking away from a friendship (though it may only be temporary). You also have trouble with groups that you belong to, and can feel like

quitting them, or they want you out. You have trouble with groups in general, and stay out of crowds, and if you have to do anything in front of a crowd, it's more nerve-wracking. The biggest impact of this transit is you begin to doubt your dreams for your future, questioning if what you hope for is possible, and feeling that you need to be more practical with what you want. This transit is good for pursuing an old dream, reconnecting with an old friend, or rejoining a group you used to belong to.

### **Mercury Retrograde in the 12th House**

When Mercury retrogrades in your 12th house, this house rules endings and the past, so you can see things you thought you had finished, were over and done with a long time ago, come back into your life. Anything you need to let go of, you have a harder time doing so. Since this house rules the subconscious mind, you can become painfully aware of subconscious issues and motivations, and you can suffer from insomnia and bad dreams. Your intuition can be on the fritz as well, and enemies that you aren't aware of work against you. This transit is good to revisit past issues, start up therapy, or reconnect with your spirituality.

## **Mercury Retrograde Aspects**

### **Mercury Retrograde to the Natal Sun**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Sun, you can experience internal or external opposition and strife. You feel at war with yourself and/or others, and constantly have misunderstandings and fights. You lack opportunities, vitality, and have problems with men. You can have accidents or feel sick. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Sun, you can take advantage of old opportunities, and try to create second chances for yourself. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Sun, your communication problems are amplified, your focus can be all over the place, and you have to be careful of physical injury or illness.

### **Mercury Retrograde to the Natal Moon**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Moon, you can experience problems emotionally, feeling emotionally uneasy, getting hurt easily, and being too subjective. You can have problems with women, your family, and your security. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Moon, you can revisit emotional issues to try and resolve them, and feel greater ease with old emotional problems. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Moon, your emotional problems are heightened, and you're injured emotionally far too easily. You need to find a way to express what you're feeling.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Mercury**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Mercury, your communication problems are strong, and you have lots of fights and misunderstandings with others. You also have trouble with technology, young people, coming up with ideas, learning, and feel anxious and nervous. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Mercury, you can revisit old ideas, re-learn something you've forgotten, or have a conversation over again. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Mercury, you experience a Mercury return and will have 3, making this a time of change with your communication and learning, and you're focused on something important.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Venus**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Venus, you have a hard time relating to others, and have trouble with your relationships. You can be lazy and indulgent, and less than tactful. You don't choose your words well,

and stick your foot in your mouth. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Venus, you can reconnect with people you used to know, especially old partners/loves. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Venus, your relationship issues are amplified, and you can say mean things on purpose to hurt others. You have to think about what you're going to say before you say it to avoid that, and not say anything you'll regret later.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Mars**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Mars, you get into lots of fights with people over anything and everything, are overly defensive, and your energy can be too high or too low. You're easily irritated, and snap fast. You lack the drive to get anything started. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Mars, you can start something that you had abandoned long ago, become driven with something you had given up on, or do a physical activity you had stopped. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Mars, your defensiveness and quickness to fight are heightened.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Jupiter**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Jupiter, you're way too lazy, indulgent, and are so optimistic that you use it as an excuse to not do anything. You can lack opportunities, want to expand your world but can't, or feel that your world is too wide open and it freaks you out. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Jupiter, you can revisit old opportunities, try to expand your life in ways you tried before, or re-learn things you've forgotten. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Jupiter, your problems with expansion and indulgence are heightened.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Saturn**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Saturn, you're immature, irresponsible, and don't want to deal with your life. You try to pawn everything off on everyone else, and run from your duties. You feel overwhelmed, burdened, fearful, and cautious. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Saturn, you can re-commit to something, take on an old responsibility, and try to be practical. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Saturn, your issues with your responsibilities and maturity are amplified, but if you can maintain self-discipline, you can get things done.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Uranus**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Uranus, you're restless and bored, wanting life to change and jumping into things without any thought, or you're scared of change and resist it at all costs. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Uranus, you can try to make a change that you wanted to make in the past. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Uranus, your issues with change are heightened, and you can be more rebellious. If you can resist being impulsive, you can make changes you want to make.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Neptune**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Neptune, you have a hard time staying in touch with reality, seeing what's really in front of you, can be too vulnerable and easily victimized, deceived, and taken advantage of. You have to protect yourself more. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Neptune, your imagination is heightened, and you can revisit a creative or artistic hobby. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Neptune, you buy into illusions and delusions, and you can't concentrate on anything with your head lost in fantasy.

### **Mercury Retrograde to Natal Pluto**

If Mercury retrograde squares or opposes your natal Pluto, you have power struggles and control issues with other people, and they want to control you or vice versa. You can be too intense and obsessive. If Mercury retrograde sextiles or trines your natal Pluto, you can research or investigate something you've wanted to know about, or make something old new again. If Mercury retrograde conjuncts your natal Pluto, your power struggles and control issues are amplified. You can work on being someone people take seriously if you avoid being controlling.