

A grayscale photograph of a hand with a ring on the ring finger, pointing towards several tarot cards laid out on a surface. The cards are fanned out, showing various illustrations and text. The background is a soft-focus image of more tarot cards and a person's hand.

Mini Guide 10 Steps to Read Tarot for Yourself

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Step 1: Clearing The Energy



Reading cards requires clear energy. Otherwise, you get confused readings.

Your mental, emotional, and spiritual energy must be clear to channel effectively.

To clear your mental energy, quiet your mind with a few deep breaths and ask your higher self and guides to come in and give you answers for your best highest good. This gets you clear and focused for the reading

Emotional energy can be cleared with some deep breathwork before the reading.

Burning sage or spraying sage oil around yourself and your work space is called smudging. It's an excellent way to prepare your space for channeling.

Another great way to clear is to use a clearing ritual. You can watch my [demonstration of the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram here](#).

Step 2: Connect with the Cards



The Tarot cards are the ultimate channeling tool. There is no other psychic tool that gives you so much depth in a reading.

They work through your own spiritual energy and your spiritual gifts called clairsentience & claircognizance.

Clairsentience is intuitive feeling. With the tarot cards, you use your own energy to pull the right cards for your intuitive insight. Your energy body feels what cards are the right cards for you to see.

Once you pull your tarot cards, you operate from psychic gift called claircognizance. This is your ability to interpret the symbols with your crown chakra energy. That's your highest connection to your higher self. This is what we call the knowing.

If you do not know the cards and have a clear connection to their meanings, it can be difficult for your energy body to know which cards are the right cards for you to choose.

Tarot card reading requires the reader to connect with the situation, the higher self, and the cards.

To read the cards effectively, you have to have a clear connection with your channeling tool.

To start out with connecting to the cards, you want to try some exercises. The main exercise is to just flip over each card and give it a word or phrase. You can call this the post card exercise.

Step 1: Shuffle all 78 cards

Step 2: Flip each card and say the first thing that comes to mind when you see it

You don't have to do all 78 cards in one sitting. Just practice a little bit every day.

This is good practice for getting acquainted and building a strong connection with your cards.

Step 3: Ask the Question



When reading Tarot cards for yourself, you want to ask specific questions.

Be clear with your intent.

Be careful not to assume that the future is set in stone. Ask questions of advice rather than pure predictions.

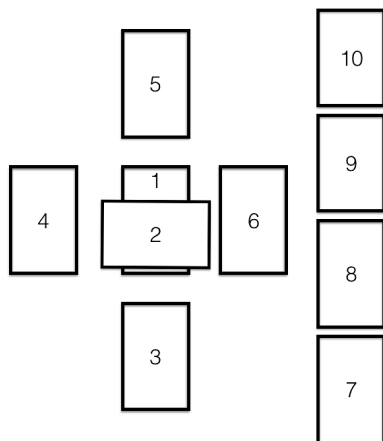
This is a conversation with your higher self - your holy guardian angel. This is your time to speak to spirit and get the best answers for your highest good.

Ask questions like, "What does the path look like as I move forward with this (relationship, job, or career, etc)?"

Advice questions are my favorite kind of questions! Ask, "What do I need to know about (situation, relationship, etc)?" Or "What should I do about this situation?"

Be clear with your question. I always write mine into a journal and then the spread and prediction.

Step 4: Choose Your Layout



The Celtic Cross

Now that you have a question, you can pull cards. First, you must decide on your card layout.

You can use traditional spreads or create your own.

In fact, you really don't even need a spread, but it's good to use a spread when you read for yourself.

You can choose a spread that has meanings in the placements like the Celtic Cross spread. Or you can throw a few cards and look at the story itself.

You can download my [Celtic Cross spread instructions](#) here.

A simple way to start is to pull a 3 card spread like the past, present, future spread.



Past Present Future

Step 5: Shuffle the Cards



As you shuffle your cards, focus on your question and trust that the cards will give you the best answer for your highest good.

Shuffling can be done anyway you'd like. I typically go with casino style shuffling. I grew up playing cards a lot. I just separate the deck into two piles and then rifle the deck together. I also do the overhand shuffle.

You can watch a [wiki tutorial for basic shuffling here](#).

You really just mix them up however you like and then spread them out across the table in front of you.

Step 6: Pull the Cards



As you are shuffling the deck & pulling cards, focus is a key ingredient to pulling the right cards. You focus on the question and the situation and then you let your body pull the cards. This is true channeling with the Tarot Cards.

Your vibratory energy creates a connection to specific cards that your energy body knows resonates with your situation. AND you have to know what each card placement means for your reading. So for instance, if I am reading a past present future spread. I have to intend to pull a card for the past. Then intend to pull a card for the present. And then intend to pull a card for the future.

I suggest using your left hand to scan and pull cards as they lay out on the table in front of you. The left hand is known as the intuitive hand. It is receptive and so easier to feel energy.

Step 7: Reading the Cards



Go through each card and interpret what it means to you intuitively.

Start by looking at the card and writing down the first thing that comes to mind.

It could be that a small bird pops out at you and you think "it's time to take flight" or the card's meaning might jump at you like if you get the two of cups and the first thing that comes to mind is "this is about a relationship".

Go with your first thought and feeling. How does the card make you feel? Good? Happy? Sad? Anxious? It's telling you something about your question.

Channeling works through feeling first. A thought is formed from that feeling. The feeling might be unconscious at first so to be a better reader you must learn to get in touch with your feelings.

After looking at each card individually, look at the cards all together. What else does it tell you? Is there a story?

Step 8: Answer Your Questions



Many times we get into reading the details in the cards and forget our original question. Make sure you write your question down.

I keep a journal for my personal readings. Then I write down the cards. My interpretations. And then I write my final answer to my original answer.

Here's an example of how I do this:

Situation: Dating someone new but something doesn't feel right. Let's see what's going on...

1. Question: Why do I feel uneasy about this new guy?

2. Cards: Knight of Wands | Knight of Swords | 2 Wands



3. My interpretation of each card:

- The Knight of Wands shows that he came into the relationship fast and came on strong.
- The Knight of Swords shows that he is a runner right now.
- The 2 of Wands shows him looking into the world for opportunity in terms of career or status.

4. Overall story: Looks like he's running toward opportunities in the world. Not connection.

5. Answer the question: I feel uneasy because I know it isn't going to last. He's eventually leaving.

6. Confirmation card: Pulled the 10 of Swords - endings and letting go

Step 9: Clarification



This is the 10 of Swords that I just used in the last example. What an excellent clarification card for that spread!

Clarification cards help you to feel really solid about a reading.

You can pull a quick clarification card or a 3 card spread. Make sure you stay just as focused with your energy. Otherwise, you'll pull something else you are thinking about and get really confused.

I usually just pull one card to clarify an entire spread.

The other way do this is if I'm confused about a card. I just pull 3 more cards on that one card to get better insight into it's meaning.

Step 10: Time Reflection



Make sure you date your readings in your journal. I also log the moon cycle (e.g., Full Moon, New Moon) and any astrological aspects taking place that day.

Tracking the date and event provides a lot of spiritual insight into your spiritual journey.

Come back to your reading after a few weeks or few months and reflect on the reading and what actually happened in the situation.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. Did my prediction come true?
2. If so, look at the cards and see how it relates now that the event already happened.
3. If not, see where your interpretation went wrong. Were you too hopeful and saw what you "wanted" to see rather than the truth? Did you see it more negatively due to fear?



Reflecting on your readings is a great way to develop your Tarot reading skills and validate your intuition.

You will get better as you practice. Nothing comes over night so stick with it.

You have now successfully read the cards for yourself in 10 simple steps!

I have more lessons on BrandyJoy.com if you want to check them out.



If you want to read the cards confidently, practice and the right mentor is all you need.

Tarot cards are a complex channeling tool. It took me years to figure out how they work and to get confident with reading. I didn't have a mentor.

I read cards and I teach for a living so you've come to the right place to learn quickly and confidently.

I take complex spiritual subject matter and break it down into step by step pieces so you can take the first step in your spiritual work with confidence & ease.

Watch your inbox! I'll soon be sending you a personal invite to my free Tarot masterclass where I'll share with you my secrets to Tarot mastery.

You can connect with me at brandyjoy.com and on social media.



Brandy Joy

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