

MERCURY RETROGRADE

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The planet Mercury influences communication and transportation. Most of the time as seen from Earth, Mercury moves through the sky in the same direction as the Sun and Moon (direct motion), but when Mercury is closest to the Earth it appears to reverse its direction (Rx = retrograde motion). This occurs every four months for about three weeks at a time, although it seems to last for three months.

To observe the changing influences of Mercury as it goes retrograde, Rx, match the following paragraphs with dates relative for each year. With this general guideline, identify the patterns and use Mercury's energy to best advantage in your own life. Recall that Mercury rules the wind - at some times it may be a gentle zephyr breeze while at other times it may be a forceful howling gale. They both come from somewhere imprecise and go to somewhere else unknown, being quite fickle in between.

As Mercury approaches the end of its direct period, the smooth flow of Information begins to falter. Regardless of obstacles, pressure is felt to maintain a pace of orderly progress, while second thoughts and messy alternatives emerge. This is the direct-stationary phase, (D/Rx). The creative part of our brain is working overtime.

While Mercury is retrograde familiar channels of communication become tangled and confused. EXPECT delays and changes in plans. Schedules flounder uncontrollably. Use this time for researching and problem solving. Re-evaluate and reconsider, but hold final decisions and approvals until Mercury goes direct again. DON'T initialize or finalize projects prematurely. The contents of verbal or written documents and plans made now may later seem inadequate or unclear. and the document will prove to be worthless. Major repairs and surgery performed now may be incomplete or plagued by unexpected

repercussions. Shopping is a no-no: a bargain is not a bargain unless you have a need for it. A task begun or ended, an offer accepted or declined, will have other changes. The problem is not in doing a job but in its COMPLETION.

Do heed the voice of experience: time changes things : what you perceive you need at the beginning of Mercury retrograde has nothing to do with what you will need at the end of the period. If the contract signing cannot wait a short while, then neither party needs it. Take time to double check and confirm every detail. Typed or written errors are easily overlooked, paperwork mislaid, appointments forgotten. A very good time to clean up the house, the garage, the garden. A temporary patch beats paying for the same job to be done twice. Let your sense of humour overcome the challenge of unexpected adjustments.

However, if you were born during the time of retrograde Mercury, things may come together for you now, while those around you seem unreasonably disorientated and confused. Normally you are the scattered one, getting and giving mixed messages, forgetting to read the fine print, and taking mental detours. During Mercury Rx things are not really better for you, it's just that the rest of the world is equally turned around and now you seem normal. Enjoy the time while it is yours, but always be honest or otherwise you will be found out !

As Mercury goes direct again, Rx/D, logical communication prevails. Problems generated during the retrograde phase may be resolved. Decisions overturned and plans rearranged may now be restored to their original status. Recognise that problems not resolved now may resurface during the next retrograde Mercury period in four, eight or twelve months. Humour, patience and perseverance is paramount.

(Refer to [Condensed Ephemerides](#) for these dates

Allow approximately 2 weeks before and after these dates to cover the

'shadow' period of involvement for Mercury D/Rx and Rx/D.