



How to Read a Kundli for Beginners: Lagna, Houses, Planets and Lords

By Arpita Nath · How to Read a Chart · 2026-09-19

Reading a Vedic birth chart / the Kundli or D1 Rashi Chart - can seem intimidating at first glance. However, every chart operates on a structured, logical framework made of four core components:

- 1. Houses (Bhavas):** The 12 areas of human experience (the stages where life happens).
- 2. Signs (Rashis):** The 12 zodiac archetypes (the atmosphere or environment of each house).
- 3. Planets (Grahas):** The 9 celestial actors (the energetic forces delivering karma).
- 4. Ascendant (Lagna):** The rising sign at your time of birth (the reference point that fixes the whole chart).

Here is the step-by-step foundation to read any D1 chart accurately.

Step 1: Identify the Chart Style and the First House (Lagna)

The layout of a chart depends on the regional tradition used:

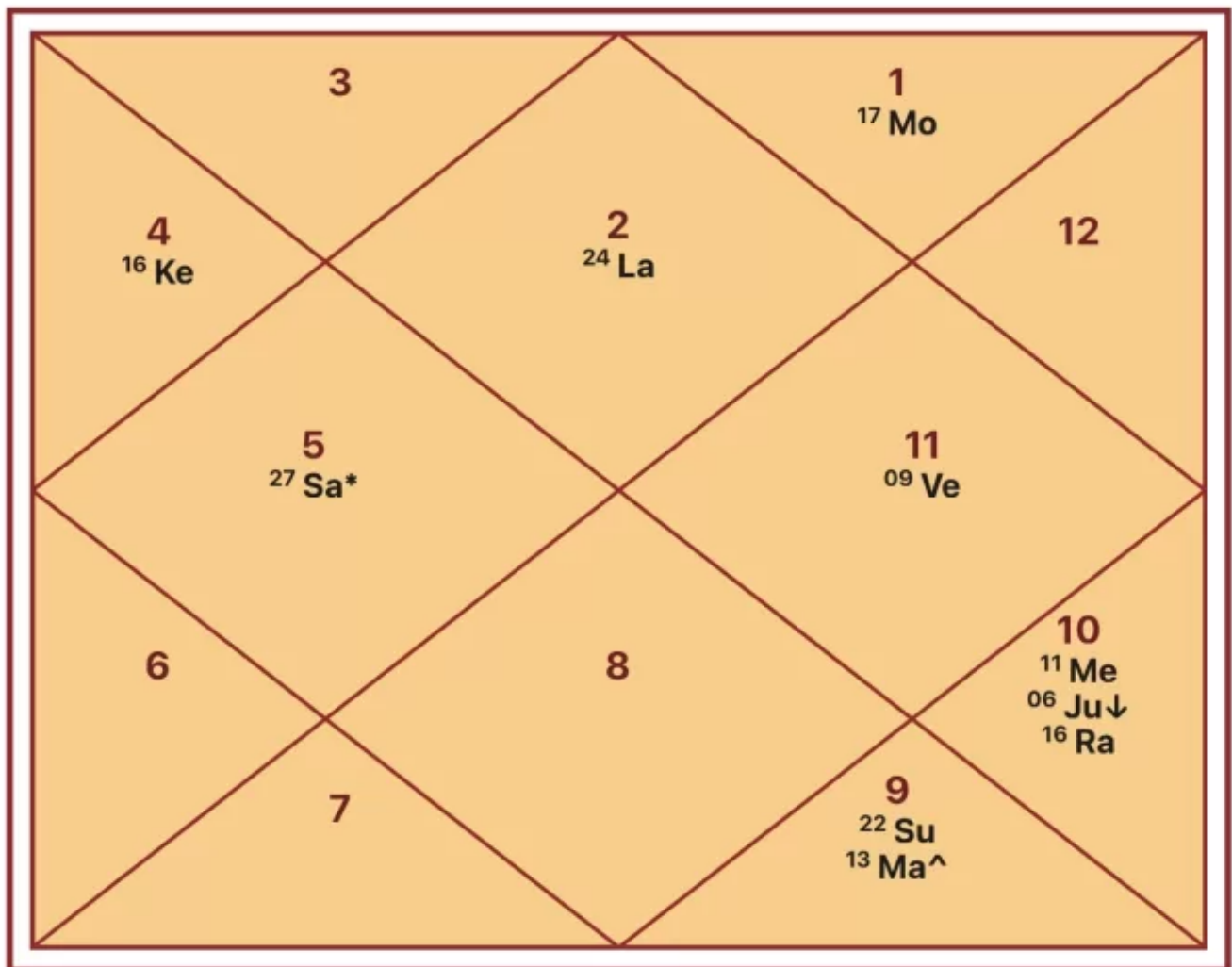
Chart

D1 – Rashi



North Indian

South Indian



- **North Indian Format (Diamond Chart):** The houses remain fixed in place. The top central diamond is always the 1st House (Lagna). The remaining houses proceed counter-clockwise from 1 to 12. The numbers written inside the houses indicate the Zodiac Signs, not the house numbers.

Chart

D1 – Rashi



North Indian

South Indian

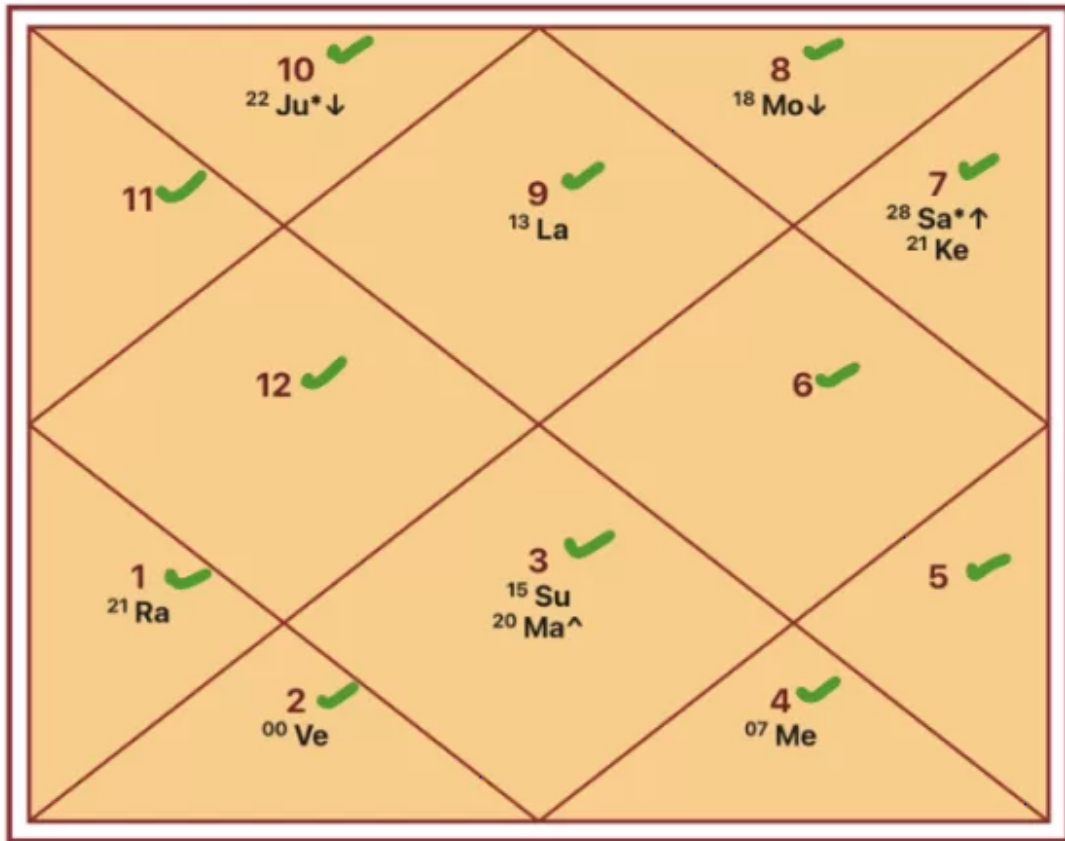
Mee	Mes ¹⁷ Mo	Vri La 24°	Mit
Kum ⁰⁹ Ve	Rāśi		Kar ¹⁶ Ke
Mak ¹¹ Me ⁰⁶ Ju↓ ¹⁶ Ra			Sim ²⁷ Sa*
Dha ²² Su ¹³ Ma^	Vri	Tul	Kan

- **South Indian Format (Square Chart):** The zodiac signs remain fixed in place (Aries is always the second box from top-left, Taurus next, etc., moving clockwise). The Lagna is marked with a diagonal slash or the label "Asc" / "La".

Step 2: Understand the 12 Signs (Rashis) and Their Numbers

In a North Indian chart, the number written in any house tells you which sign occupies that house:

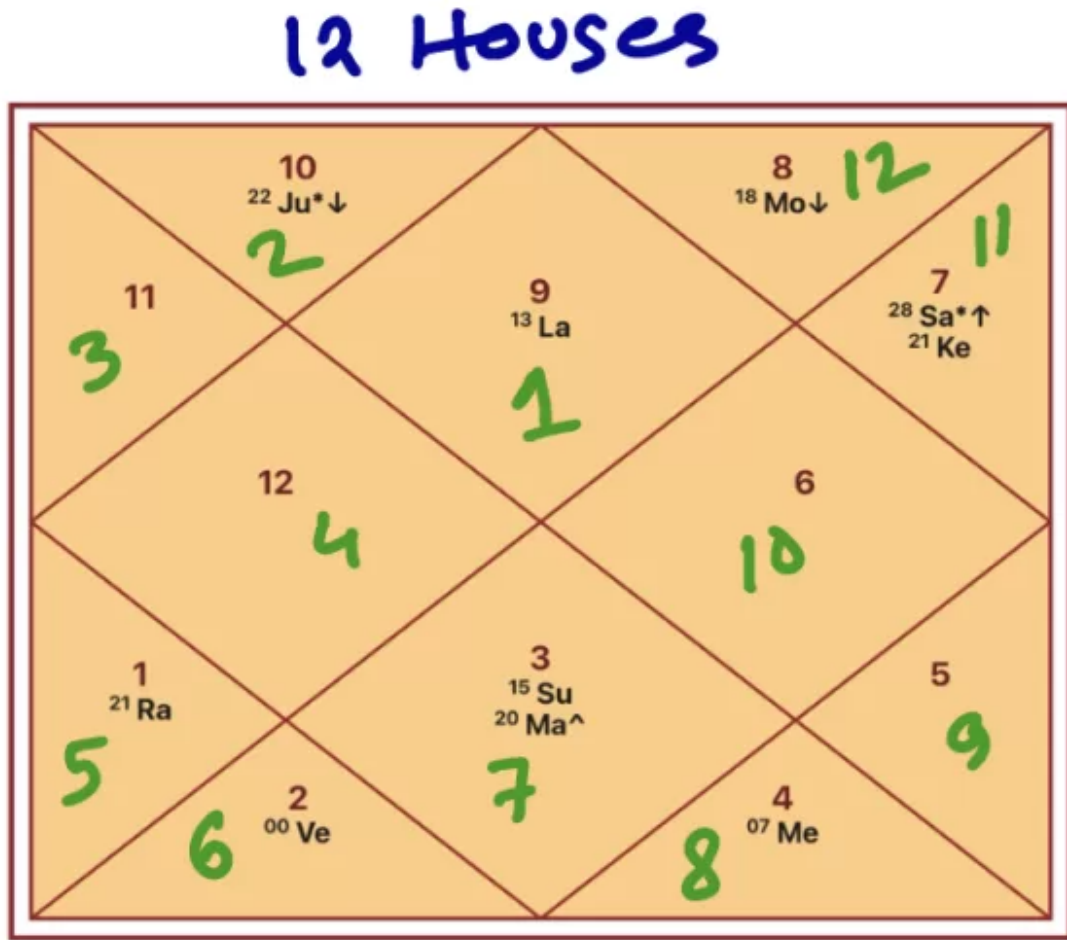
12 Moon Signs (Rashis)



- 1 - Aries (Mesha), ruled by Mars
- 2 - Taurus (Vrishabha), ruled by Venus
- 3 - Gemini (Mithuna), ruled by Mercury
- 4 - Cancer (Karka), ruled by the Moon
- 5 - Leo (Simha), ruled by the Sun
- 6 - Virgo (Kanya), ruled by Mercury
- 7 - Libra (Tula), ruled by Venus
- 8 - Scorpio (Vrishchika), ruled by Mars
- 9 - Sagittarius (Dhanu), ruled by Jupiter
- 10 - Capricorn (Makara), ruled by Saturn
- 11 - Aquarius (Kumbha), ruled by Saturn
- 12 - Pisces (Meena), ruled by Jupiter

Step 3: Learn the 12 Houses (Bhavas) and Life Domains

Each house governs specific areas of external and internal life:



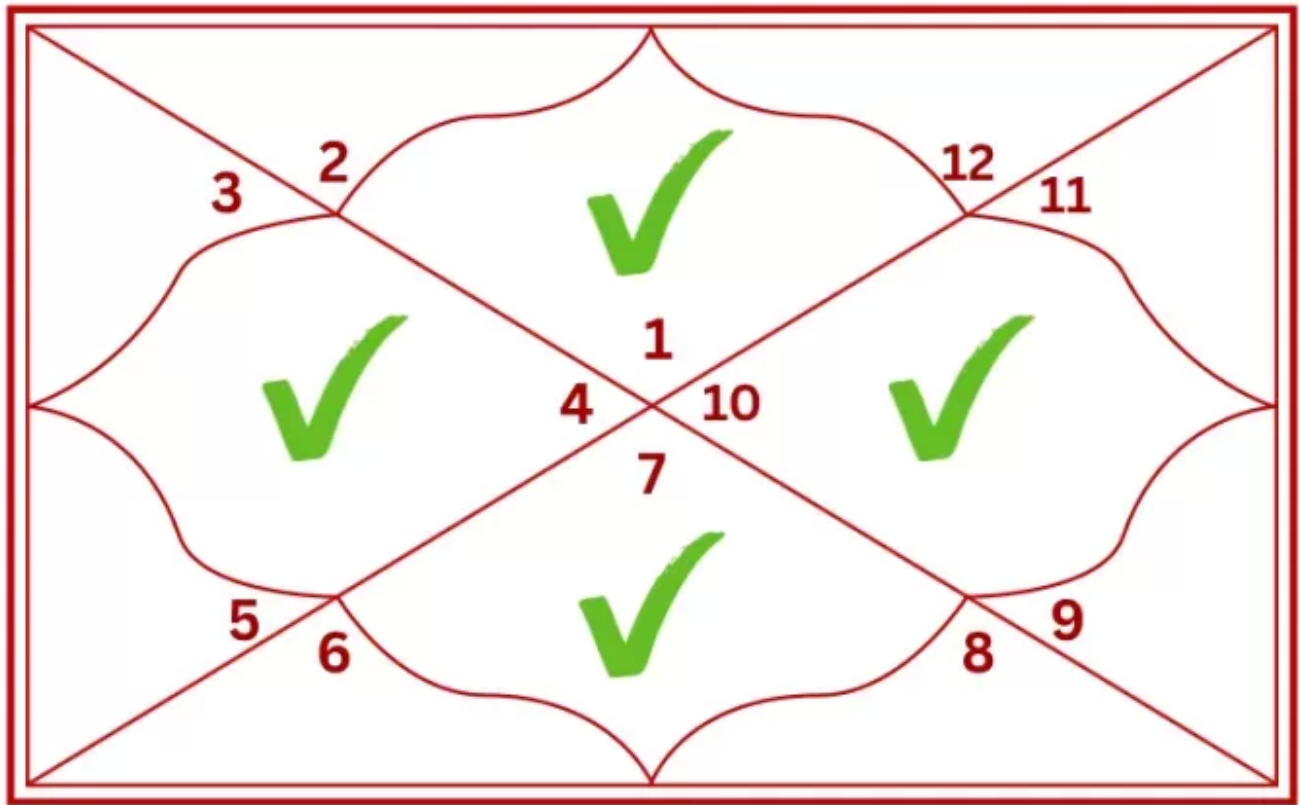
- **1st House (Tanur Bhava):** The physical body, vitality, appearance, self-identity and overall life path.
- **2nd House (Dhana Bhava):** Wealth, liquid assets, family lineage, early childhood and speech.
- **3rd House (Sahaja Bhava):** Courage, self-effort, younger siblings, communication and manual skills.
- **4th House (Sukha Bhava):** Inner peace, happiness, mother, home environment, land and vehicles.
- **5th House (Putra Bhava):** Intellect, children, creativity, romance and past-life merit (Purva

Punya).

- **6th House (Shatru Bhava):** Daily work, health issues, debts, enemies, litigation and obstacles.
- **7th House (Jaya Bhava):** Marriage, legal contracts, business partnerships and public dealings.
- **8th House (Randhra Bhava):** Longevity, sudden changes, hidden knowledge, unearned wealth and chronic crisis.
- **9th House (Dharma Bhava):** Higher philosophy, spirituality, guru/teachers, father and fortune (Bhagya).
- **10th House (Karma Bhava):** Career, public reputation, social standing, authority and professional legacy.
- **11th House (Labha Bhava):** Financial gains, social networks, large communities, elder siblings and fulfilled desires.
- **12th House (Vyaya Bhava):** Loss, expenditure, foreign travel/residence, sleep, solitude and liberation (Moksha).

Step 4: Group the Houses by Functional Category

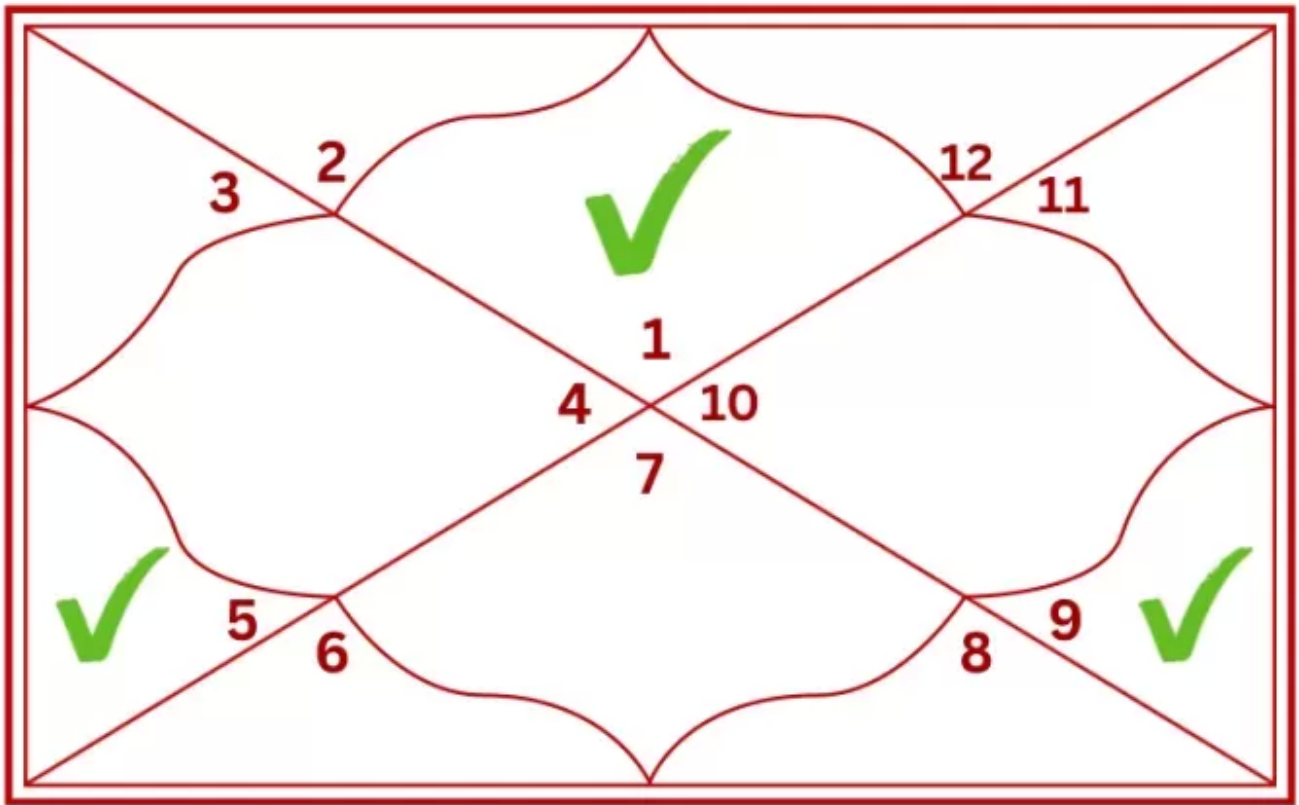
Kendra Houses



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- **Kendras (Angles - Houses 1, 4, 7, 10):** The primary pillars of life. Planets placed here act with strong public visibility and tangible impact.

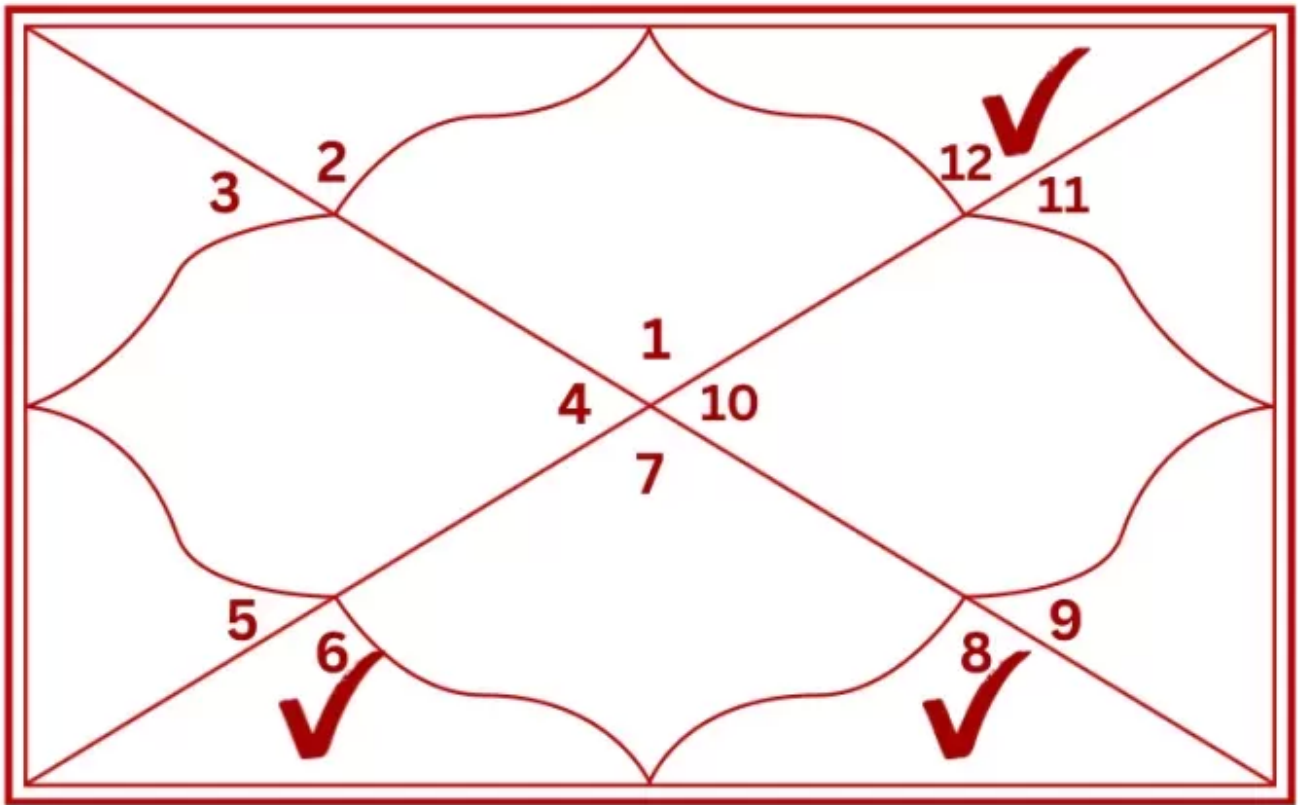
Trikona Houses



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- **Trikonas (Trines - Houses 1, 5, 9):** Auspicious houses of grace, wisdom and luck. Planets placed here generally bring blessings and positive character.

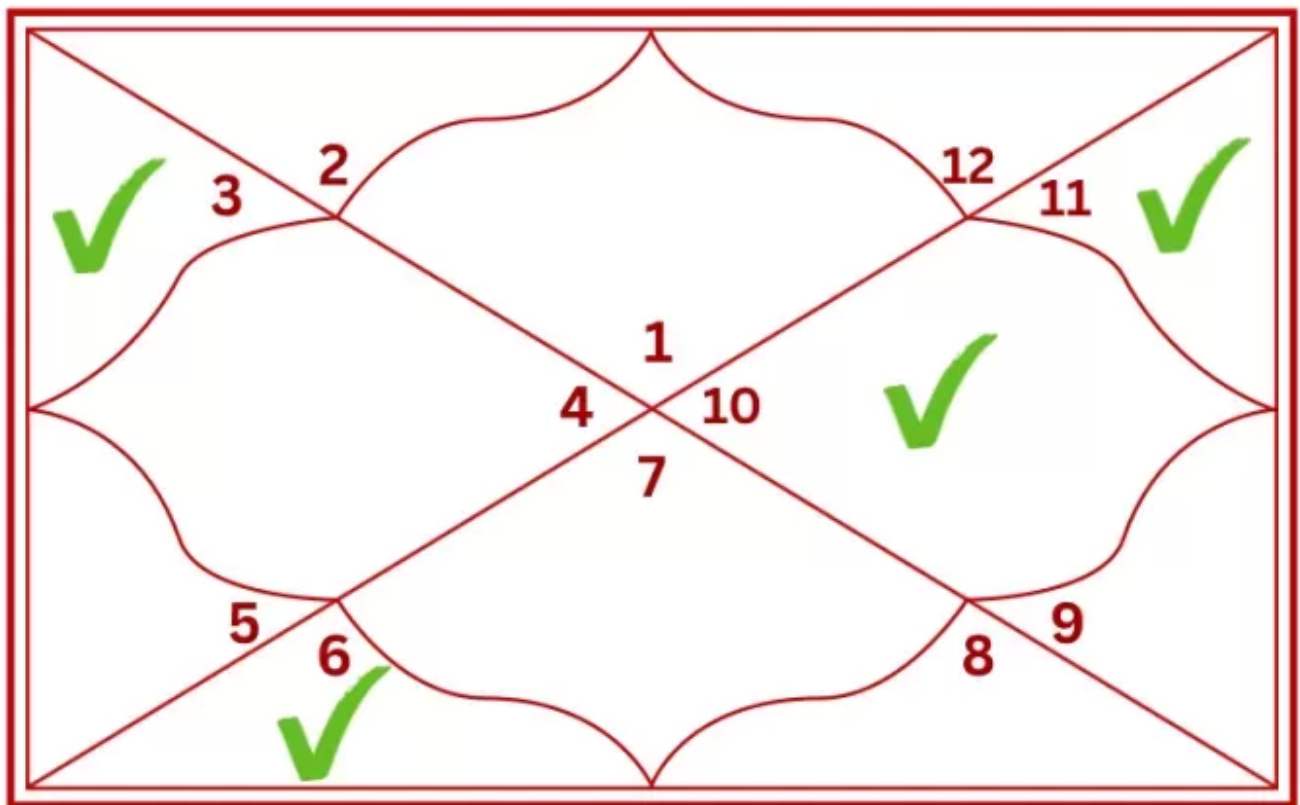
Dusthana Houses



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- **Dusthanas (Difficult Houses - 6, 8, 12):** Houses representing life's challenges, debts, transformations and separation.

Upachaya Houses



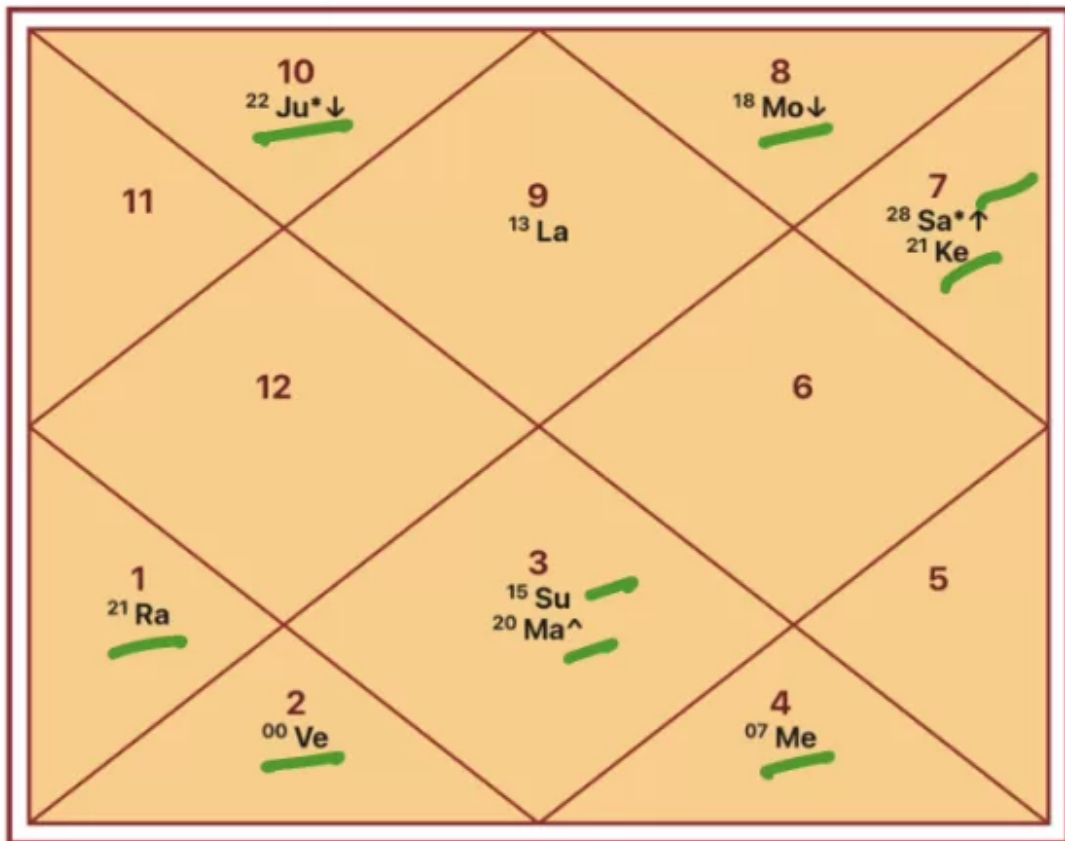
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- **Upachayas (Growth Houses - 3, 6, 10, 11):** Houses that improve with time, discipline and consistent effort. Natural malefics perform well here.

Step 5: Read the Planets (Grahas) in the Houses

Locate where the nine physical and nodal bodies sit:

9 Planets



- **Sun (Surya):** Soul, father, authority, government, confidence and physical vitality.
- **Moon (Chandra):** Mind, emotions, maternal bond, perception and public popularity.
- **Mars (Mangal):** Drive, energy, courage, siblings, real estate and mechanical skills.
- **Mercury (Budha):** Communication, commerce, analytical logic, learning and adaptability.
- **Jupiter (Guru):** Divine grace, morality, wisdom, wealth, children and spiritual teachers.
- **Venus (Shukra):** Love, marriage, arts, diplomacy, comfort, luxury and vehicles.
- **Saturn (Shani):** Discipline, time, patience, service, duty, delays and longevity.
- **Rahu (North Node):** Material obsession, unconventional paths, innovation and foreign influence.

- **Ketu (South Node):** Detachment, spiritual insight, liberation, research and non-material focus.

Step 6: Check Planetary Dignity and Strength

A planet's ability to deliver positive results depends on its dignity in the sign it occupies:

- **Exalted (Ucha):** The planet is in its highest dignity and functions with strength and confidence (e.g. Sun in Aries, Jupiter in Cancer).
- **Own Sign (Swarashi):** The planet sits comfortably in its home territory and easily delivers its portfolio (e.g. Mars in Scorpio, Venus in Taurus).
- **Debilitated (Neecha):** The planet is in its weakest sign, requiring effort, maturity or cancellation (Neecha Bhanga) to produce balanced results (e.g. Moon in Scorpio, Jupiter in Capricorn).
- **Retrograde (Vakri):** The planet appears to move backward, internalizing its energy and prompting deep re-evaluation in its domain.
- **Combust (Asta):** The planet sits too close to the Sun, causing its independent significations to be overshadowed by the solar ego.

Beginner's 4-Step Chart Reading Checklist

- 1. Find the Lagna:** Look at House 1. Note the rising sign number and locate its ruler (Lagna Lord) in the chart to see where your life focus is centered.
- 2. Find the Moon Sign (Janma Rashi):** Find the Moon to understand your emotional disposition and mental processing style.
- 3. Find the Sun Sign:** Locate the Sun to understand your professional ambitions, sense of purpose and core willpower.
- 4. Observe the Kendra and Trikona Houses:** See which planets occupy Houses 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 to identify the primary driving forces of your life.

<https://astroarpitanath.com/how-to-read-a-kundli-d1/>

Astrology is offered for guidance only. For important life decisions, please consult a qualified professional.