

Keyword Self-Test

This self-test is designed to give you an idea of which cards you know really well already, which cards you are starting to learn, and which cards need more work. Don't be discouraged if many of your cards end up in that last category right now, you will improve rapidly as you continue learning. The idea is to give you a baseline with which to judge your progress.

This self-test will help you see what you have learned from your studies and practice so far, and which cards still need special attention. If you are a very new reader, you may want to wait until you have worked through some of the 100 level courses, and had a chance to try out the book that comes with your deck. If you have already been working with tarot a while, it might be a good idea to try it now. Most readers have certain cards that give them trouble (court cards is a common group), and this will help you identify yours. Then, later you can do the test again to see how much you have learned. When all your cards fall into Categories A and B, you are ready to begin reading for others, although you may not feel fluent or comfortable right away – practice is the best way to learn more at that point.

Because there are 78 cards to go through, this exercise may take 2-3 hours. You can do it all at once, or break it up into sections. But no peeking in between!!

Step 1. Put away all your notes, books, and journal, and shuffle your deck thoroughly. Use the cards only in their upright positions. Have a blank piece of paper handy, or use your computer. Also have a timer, or some other way of noting the time.

Step 2. Turn over the cards, one by one. For each card, allow yourself two minutes, and write down or say out loud a variety of keywords, phrases, or concepts for that card. If possible, include some positive, neutral, and negative ideas for each card.

Step 3. Review the keywords or phrases you wrote down or spoke out loud. Place each card into one of three piles, as follows:

A: You were able to come up with at least 3 keywords or phrases for the card within 2 minutes, which are not all negative or all positive, but show how the card may function in a variety of different situations. These are the cards you know quite well and can use fluently.

B: You were able to come up with one or two keywords or phrases, **or** your keywords were all positive or all negative. You know these cards well enough to begin using them, but may want to work on them more until you are comfortable with them in a wider variety of situations.

C: You were not able to think of any keywords or phrases, or for any reason you are not satisfied with the ones you have learned so far. These are the cards you should focus on most as you work through the rest of the book. Don't be surprised if entire categories of cards end up here at first – like all the Aces or all the Courts – this is not unusual at all.