Introduction

Why learn numerology? Particularly as a Tarot reader, numbers may seem a long way from the visual images of the cards, particularly if we have only a dim and not too pleasant memory of mathematics at school. However, numbers form the basis of Tarot, and as the research mathematician Ian Stewart writes “by using mathematics to organise and systematize our ideas about patterns, we have discovered a great secret: nature’s patterns are not just there to be admired, they are vital clues to the rules that govern natural processes”. \(^1\) When we use Tarot to divine these natural processes, numbers can be another pattern we use as a clue to our interpretation.

In this Tarosophy® FastTrack Sheet, exclusive to Tarot Professionals, Ed Peterson will introduce you rapidly to a simple exercise of numerology, point you in various directions of study, and give you further websites and resources to explore Numerology as part of your Tarot studies or in its own context. Do enjoy the discovery, and feel encouraged to continue your journey in this fascinating subject!

If you wish to explore Numerology more fully, you might consider Numerology Basics at www.numerologyvbasics.com or Numerology by Ed Peterson. You can also calculate your Numbers or those of your friends, partner, family and colleagues at Ed’s comprehensive site, www.learntthenumbers.com.

Firstly, we give you the fast track list of things to do to get you started in Numerology!

10 Things to Do

2. Refer to the chapters in Manly P. Hall’s *The Secret Teaching of All Ages* on Pythagoras.
3. Buy *Numerology* by Ed Peterson which is a great reference guide.
4. Read about the Platonic and Archimedean Solids to see how numbers create structures.
5. Learn about Sacred Geometry (see Reading List) to see how numbers create patterns.
6. Start to reflect on the numbers 0, 22, 56 and 78 which are the most common in Tarot.
7. See how the numbers balance out in a Tarot spread and use that as part of your reading.
8. Research Gematria, the numerology of Kabbalah. What is the Gematria of Achad?
9. Calculate out Key Numbers for yourself and someone you know and place them in relationships. Start to see this relationship in your readings between the numbered cards. How does a reading with three “Two” cards in it affect the “Five” card in the spread, for example?
10. When you are ready, add a brief Numerological calculation into your services.

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Notes

Numerology takes us the basic building blocks of the Universe and Consciousness. How we create mathematics to describe the Universe and how the Universe arises in patterns discernible by numbers is a fundamental concept. In Kabbalah, the world is seen being created by “numerical emanations” and Numerology is a key device to unlock its mysteries.

Numerology also provides a common language between other divination systems, such as Astrology and the I-Ching. If you’ll pardon the pun, it’s a common denominator.

A Practical Exercise

In numerology the most important and perhaps also one of the easiest calculations is what Faith Javane and Dusty Bunker term the life lesson in their book Numerology and the Divine Triangle. You can easily calculate your Life Lesson number which represents the lessons you must learn in this lifetime and is most significant in your choice of career. Javane & Bunker also suggest that even a business or idea has a moment of birth, and thus a life lesson for that business or project can also be usefully calculated.

Calculating your Life Lesson Number/Tarot Card

The formula is: month + day + y + e + a + r of birth = one’s life lesson number

The method is as follows for your own or another’s birth date:

1. Convert the month of birth to the appropriate number:

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<td>December</td>
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2. Use the day of birth as the number itself, for example, 30th = 30, 4th = 4, etc.

3. Break the year of birth into its separate numerals and add them together, so for example 1965 = 1+9+6+5 = 21.

Example

So using November 30th, 1954 as an example, the math is:

11 + 30 + 1 + 9 + 5 + 4 = 60 = this person’s life lesson number

All of the life lesson numbers also correspond with a Tarot card. We have provided a table for you to consult the appropriate number, keywords and Tarot card.
In this case the number 60 corresponds to the Six of Swords. A 60 or Six of Swords life lesson is about moving forward, making progress, leaving your troubles behind, thinking outside of the box ... this will (or should) be reflected in your choice of career.

We have only provided the numbers and keywords for 4-71. Mathematically it is only possible for someone alive today to have a life lesson number between 4 and 71.

So you can now calculate your own life lesson number using the formula:

Life Lesson Number = month + day +y+e+a+r of birth

Then refer to the list below and discover the nature of your life lesson. The Tarot card that corresponds to the life lesson number is in parentheses. For the numbers 4 through 22 the Roman numeral of the Tarot card (trump card or major Arcana) is listed instead of the Tarot card name. So for 4, we have IV, which is the Emporer.

### The Numbers 4-71 and KeyWords

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>KeyWords</th>
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Incomplete. Quarterback. Temporary.


**Practical Application**

Take a troublesome or uncertain relationship at home or work. Calculate the Life Lesson numbers of both (or several) parties. Take the Tarot cards associated with those numbers out of the deck and place them together on your table.

If those lessons are needing to be learnt, as indicated by the numbers of the names involved, and are being shown by the cards you can see in front of you, what needs to happen to resolve those lessons? Draw an additional divinatory card and place it between the cards on the table as your practical answer to learning the lesson of this relationship.

You can also perform this method for working for a company, joining a band, or anything else which has a start date of its birth or formation. You can calculate the number of the company and the card, and your own, then divine how you will learn together the separate life lessons for which you are manifesting, whilst you are brought together.
Recommended Links

- [http://www.learnthenumbers.com](http://www.learnthenumbers.com)
- [http://www.numerologybasics.com](http://www.numerologybasics.com)

Recommended Reading

A more comprehensive approach to numerology can be found in the books *Numerology* by Ed Peterson and *Numerology and the Divine Triangle* by Faith Javane and Dusty Bunker. Mary K. Greer’s *Tarot Constellations* (shortly to be republished as *Who Are You in the Tarot?*) has a range of numerological based exercises for determining your personal destiny cards and patterns.

Matthew Goodwin provides a comprehensive work on Numerology in two volumes of *Numerology: The Complete Guide*. You may like to read Robert Lawlor’s *Sacred Geometry: Philosophy & Practice*, and the small *Platonic & Archimedean Solids* by David Sutton to see how these numbers create shape and pattern in geometry and structures.

You can then also begin to see how these shapes are evident in Tarot symbols – the **High Priestess** card is card number 2, she sits between 2 Pillars. The letter B is the 2nd letter, J is the 10th letter. She has a 4-armed cross on her breast. The word TORAH has 4 letters, 1 hand is concealed and 1 hand is revealed. She sits on what may be a 6-faced cubical altar. Her Lunar Crescent Headdress has the 3 phases of the moon. All these give a range of additional symbolic interpretation to deepen your reading skill.

*Tarot Twist* by Marcus Katz and Tali Goodwin also contains a short exercise to turn your name into a Tarot Spread (Exercise 31 of 78).