

What's Your Sign?

<u>Astrological Sign</u>	<u>Sign Dates</u>	<u>Sun Really In</u>	<u>Duration (2000)</u>
Aries	21 Mar-19 Apr	Pisces	11 Mar-17 Apr
Taurus	20 Apr-20 May	Aries	18 Apr-12 May
Gemini	21 May-21 Jun	Taurus	13 May-20 Jun
Cancer	22 Jun-22 Jul	Gemini	21 Jun-19 Jul
Leo	23 Jul-22 Aug	Cancer	20 Jul-9 Aug
Virgo	23 Aug-22 Sep	Leo	10 Aug-15 Sep
Libra	23 Sep-22 Oct	Virgo	16 Sep-29 Oct
Scorpio	23 Oct-21 Nov	Libra*	30 Oct-19 Nov
Sagittarius	22 Nov-21 Dec	Scorpius	20 Nov-16 Dec
Capricorn	22 Dec-19 Jan	Sagittarius	17 Dec-19 Jan
Aquarius	20 Jan-18 Feb	Capricornus	20 Jan-15 Feb
Pisces	19 Feb-20 Mar	Aquarius	16 Feb-10 Mar

* On 23 October the sun is still in Virgo. It doesn't enter Libra until the 30th.
I included Libra where I did for symmetry.

The zodiacal constellations are those that the sun's apparent path intersects during the earth's annual revolution. The path the sun traces through them is called the ecliptic.

The real position of the sun no longer agrees with the astrological scheme because of the earth's precession. The earth is tilted 23.5° to its orbit around the sun. Like a top, it slowly, over some 26,000 years, spins around this 23.5° angle. This causes a slow, but constant, shifting of the star coordinates in the sky.

Since the "astrological" system was first devised, the map of the sky has shifted about one constellation from what it was. Therefore, the "signs" that appear each day near the comic section of a newspaper are no longer what is evident in the sky. There is some overlap, however, and some dates may fall within the same constellation. (For example, August 11 is in Leo under both observations.)