

How to Know When an Aspect is Applying or Separating

As a rule, when a faster moving planet is in a lower degree than a slower moving planet the faster planet is **applying** or moving into aspect with the slower planet.

If the faster moving planet is in a higher degree than the slower moving planet the faster planet is **separating** (moving away) from being in aspect with the slower planet.

The exception to this rule is when the faster moving planet is in 27°, 28° or 29° degrees of a sign and the slower moving planet is in 1°, 2° or 3° degrees of a sign. If this occurs the faster moving planet will still be **applying** to the aspect even though it's in a higher degree than the slower moving planet. (Joe Biden's chart offers excellent examples.)

Example 1: In Biden's chart Venus is in 28 degrees of Scorpio and the Sun is in 27 degrees of Scorpio. Venus is the faster moving planet thus Venus is **separating** from the conjunction to the Sun because it's in a higher degree of Scorpio than the Sun. But the orb or distance between the two planets is just one degree, which is a **tight aspect**.

Example 2: As indicated above, a faster moving planet will not always have the lower degree. For example, in Biden's chart Venus is **applying** to an opposition with Uranus, which is at 2° Gemini in the 6th house.

Venus is in 28° Scorpio and Uranus is in 2° Gemini, so there's a **4° degrees orb** between the two planets. They are not in exact opposition with one another, but they are close. **4° degrees is within the orb of influence for these two planets.** ($\text{♁ } 3^\circ + 5^\circ \text{♁} = 8^\circ / 2 = 4^\circ$)

Venus, the faster moving planet, is **applying** (moving into) the opposition. The aspect between the two planets would be **exact** or **partile** if Venus was in 2° of Sagittarius.

Example 3: Venus is also **applying** to a sextile with Neptune in the 10th house. Venus is the faster moving planet (Venus is in 28° Scorpio and Neptune is in 1° Libra). The orb or distance from being partile (exact) is 3° degrees, which is within the orb of influence for aspects between these two planets. ($\text{♁ } 3^\circ + 5^\circ \text{♆} = 8^\circ / 2 = 4^\circ$)

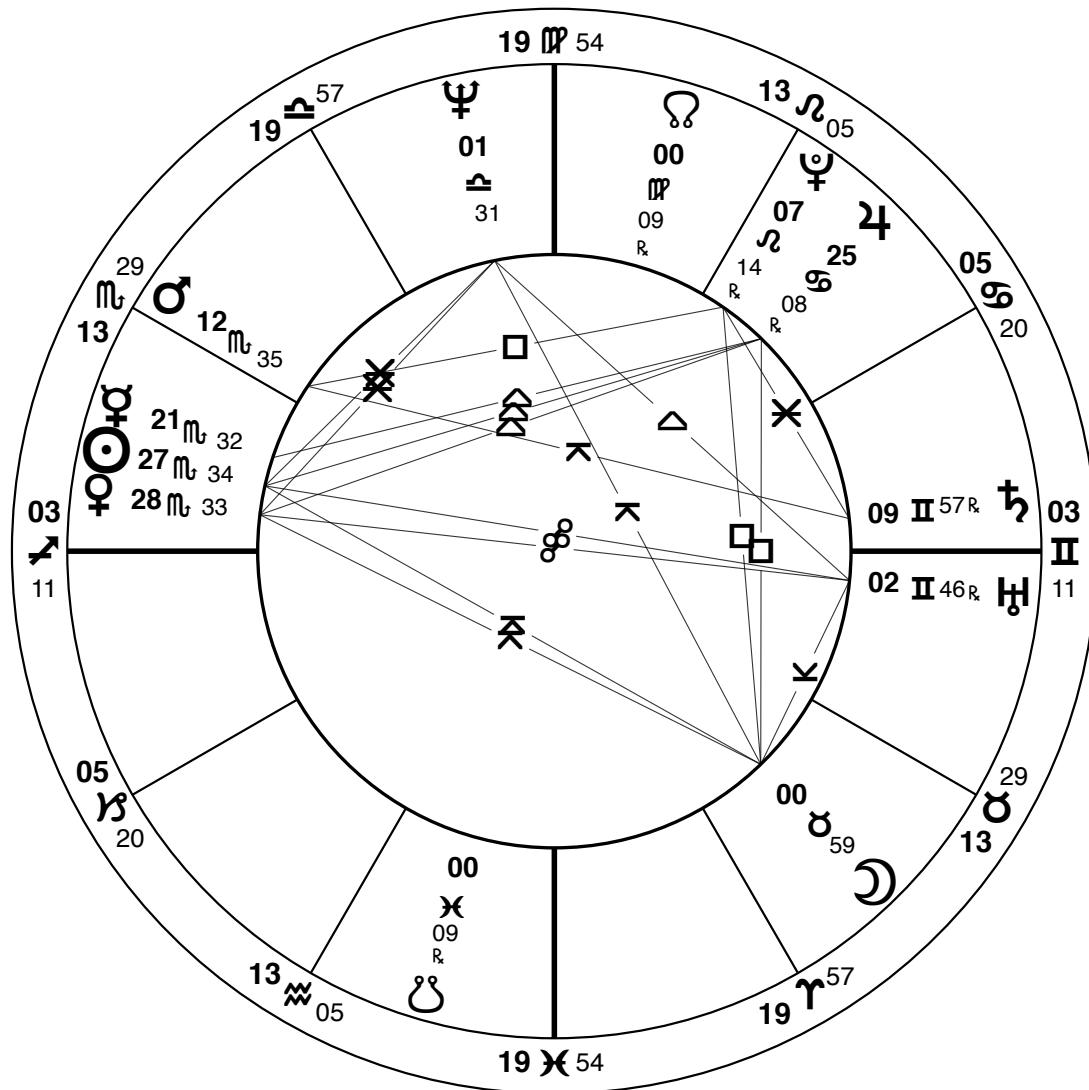
Example 4: Venus is **separating** from a trine to Jupiter in the 8th but within the orb of influence for these planets. Venus is 28° Scorpio and Jupiter 25° Cancer. ($28^\circ - 25^\circ = 3^\circ$)

Example 5: Mercury at 21° Scorpio is **applying** to a trine with Jupiter at 25° Cancer in the 8th house. The orb or distance between the two planets from partile (exact trine) is 4° ($25^\circ - 21^\circ = 4^\circ$) **within the orb of influence for these two planets** ($3^\circ + 7^\circ = 10^\circ / 2 = 5^\circ$)

Both trines will be active in the chart, but the applying trine will be stronger and more conscious, while the separating trine will be weaker and more unconscious.

Example 6: Mercury is **applying** to a conjunction with the Sun. Is the aspect within the orb of influence? Mercury is 21° Scorpio, the Sun 27° Scorpio. ($\text{♁ } 3^\circ + 7^\circ \text{☉} = 10^\circ / 2 = 5^\circ$)

Remember Aspects are Measured in degrees from Sign to Sign. Never House to House.



Orb of Influence – a distance measured in degrees defining the range at which an aspect between any two planets will be active in a chart.

Calculate the Orb of Influence between two planets in aspect using this method:

1. Determine the Orb of Influence below for each Planet involved in the Aspect
2. Add the Two Orbs of Influence Together and Divide by Two
3. The result is the **Orb of Influence** between those Two Planets in **Any Aspect**

Planetary Orbs of Influence

7° Degree Orb of Influence – for **Sun, Moon,** and larger planets **Jupiter** and **Saturn**

5° Degree Orb of Influence – for **Uranus** and **Neptune**

3° Degree Orb of Influence – for smaller planets: **Mercury, Venus, Mars** and **Pluto**

Speed of the Planets – Fastest to Slowest

It's easy to calculate if an aspect between two planets is applying or separating once you memorize the relative speed of the Planets from fastest (Moon) to slowest (Pluto).

☾ Moon

☿ Mercury

♀ Venus

☼ Sun

♂ Mars

♃ Jupiter

♄ Saturn

♅ Uranus

♆ Neptune

♇ Pluto