



WMEA St. Sergius University & Seminary
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ABOUT MERCURY RETROGRADE CYCLES



Mercury retrograde cycles are important to pay attention to, especially when making a decision which will have long-term affects upon your life. Most decisions, that will affect less than a twelve-month period, you generally do not need to be concerned about.

In general, Mercury rules thinking and perception, processing and disseminating information and all means of communication, commerce and transportation. By extension, Mercury rules people who work in these areas, especially people who work with their minds or their wits: writers and orators, commentators and critics, gossips and spin doctors, tricksters and thieves.

Mercury retrograde gives rise to personal misunderstandings; flawed, disrupted, or delayed communications, negotiations and trade; glitches and breakdowns with phones, computers, cars, buses, and trains. And all of these problems usually arise because some crucial piece of information, or component, has gone astray, or awry. You can expect problems with messages, books, letters, magazines, documents, neighbors, and the immediate environment.

It is therefore not wise to make important decisions while Mercury is retrograde, since it is very likely that these decisions will be clouded by misinformation, poor communication and careless thinking. Mercury is all about mental clarity and the power of the mind; so when Mercury is retrograde, these intellectual characteristics tend to be less acute than usual, as the critical faculties are dimmed.

The key issue here is one of focus. Mercury's retro phase tends to bring unforeseen changes and blockages, but the aggravation and frustration that many of us experience during these periods is often due to our own inability to roll with the punches. Is this due to our ego-fixation? Mercury sets out to restructure our thinking processes, and for many of us this is painful and frustrating. Moreover, these experiences reveal flaws in our internal organization as well as our external planning that can make us feel foolish and inadequate.

Mercury retrograde affects people differently, depending on where it hits their personal charts. Some people actually prosper under a retro Mercury, especially if Mercury is retrograde but otherwise well-aspected in their birth charts. It is also a time when matters begun under a previous retro period will come to fruition or completion as the case may be. Firm decisions that have been previously made when Mercury is traveling normally through the zodiac may be implemented or finalized without too much worry while Mercury is retrograde, for experience shows that this can be done without undue problems arising.

When Mercury is nearest the Earth, it appears from here to reverse in motion, traveling backward, or “retrograde,” for about three weeks. Influencing our mental processes, communication, and transportation, the retrograde motion of Mercury reflects these affairs.

As Mercury slows down in direct motion, ready to make a “station” before backing up, the smooth flow of communication begins to fade. We determinedly press on.

While Mercury is retrograde, delays are to be expected. The usual channels of communication become scrambled, devices used for communication are faulty, contacts one needs to make are impossible, etc. Mercury's retrograde periods have more effects as we become more sophisticated in our communications technology.

The best way to use Mercury's retrograde period is to *review, research, and reevaluate*. That's mostly what is being accomplished anyway. As a matter of fact, Mercury's retrograde period is really a period of opportunity to rethink, reconstruct, and redefine ideas or projects. Remaining versatile, a talent of Mercury, enables one to continue making progress it may just not be according to the schedule we'd like to have met.

It's usually recommended to hold off on putting final decisions into effect until after Mercury has returned to direct motion. Until then, things are just too “iffy” or there is one strand of missing information that could change everything. This is more important if papers need to be signed or if there is a contract. Errors are likely and likely to be missed. Agreements made now may later turn out to be unclear or inadequate. Work done during Mercury's retrograde period usually turns out to be incomplete or there are other consequences. This includes repair work, surgery, or jobs that we push through in spite of caution signs along the way.

If implementing a decision would normally be followed by a delay factor anyway, it is appropriate to carry on, but do check all the paperwork thoroughly first. Once Mercury returns to direct motion, the lines of communication once again open up. The previous problems can be resolved, plans can be carried out and all is well. If you note it carefully, you'll probably find that you actually accomplished some useful “homework” during Mercury's retrograde period; plenty of fuel for exceptional progress once it turns direct.

If during Mercury's retrograde cycle, it contacts a planet in your horoscope, there may be a special opportunity for you to benefit by observing Mercury's retrograde cycle. Some issue in particular may be the subject for your review. If it is a retrograde station, there may seem to be a more or less debilitating effect and something specific is in need of review; if a direct station, the effect is usually very positive with a strong surge of progress and opening doors. Also check the house of your horoscope where Mercury spends its retrograde period. When all is said and done, better solutions may be revealed for those affairs.

Mercury, as the “messenger,” is also the prankster. Like a child, he thinks it's quite funny to pull over a good joke on an adult.

If you were born during the retrograde motion of Mercury, things may move along better than ever for you personally with Mercury retrograde, while everyone around you is having difficulties.

Do and Don't

There are both positive and negative qualities when Mercury turns retrograde.
In general here are some basic "rules" to follow:



"DO"	"DON'T"
Complete actions that were begun prior to retro	Do not buy any electronic equipment during a retro
Correct mistakes that were made prior to retro	Do not buy a new or used automobile during a retro
Contact friends you have been missing	Do not sign long-term contracts during a retro
Do always double check reservations	Avoid holding seminars, conferences, etc.
Listen carefully to all communications to make certain you heard correctly	Do not make important decisions at this time, for retro gives rise to misunderstandings or hides information.
Do check appointment times prior to appt.	Do not buy a house during retro
Try to collect monies owed you	Do not begin a new business