

## The Movement of the True and Mean Node through the Zodiac

There are two nodes listed in the ephemeris: the **True Node** and the **Mean Node**. The Mean Node or the average daily movement of the node was traditionally used by astrologers before computers were able to accurately measure the true nodal position. Once this occurred in the 1980s, then the True Node was able to be accurately calculated.

The following table lists the nodal positions for 19 months - its retrograde travel through one sign of the zodiac, Aries. You can see how the movement of the True Node will plateau and emphasise a degree of the zodiac for 2 – 3 months, every 3 – 4 months.

### Monthly Positions of the True and Mean Nodes from July 1, 2023 – January 1, 2025

DATE at 0hr GMT	Position of the <u>True</u> North Node	Monthly retrograde travel	Position of the <u>Mean</u> North Node	Difference between the two Nodes
July 1, 2023	18°46'	1°51'	08°37'	1°09'
August 1, 2023	28°31'	3°15'	28°59'	0°28'
September 1, 2023	25°48'	2°43'	27°20'	1°32'
October 1, 2023	<b>24°53'</b>	0°55'	25°45'	0°52'
November 1, 2023	<b>24°50'</b>	0°03'	24°08'	0°42'
December 1, 2023	23°54'	0°56'	22°31'	1°23'
January 1, 2024	21°04'	2°50'	20°53'	0°11'
February 1, 2024	17°51'	3°13'	19°14'	1°23'
March 1, 2024	16°00'	1°51'	17°42'	1°42'
April 1, 2024	<b>15°37'</b>	0°23'	16°03'	0°26'
May 1, 2024	<b>15°20'</b>	0°17'	14°28'	0°52'
June 1, 2024	14°02'	1°18'	12°50'	1°12'
July 1, 2024	11°29'	2°33'	11°14'	0°15'
August 1, 2024	8°39'	2°50'	9°36'	0°57'
September 1, 2024	<b>6°49'</b>	1°50'	7°57'	1°08'
October 1, 2024	<b>6°38'</b>	0°11'	6°22'	0°16'
November 1, 2024	<b>6°25'</b>	0°13'	4°44'	1°41'
December 1, 2024	4°30'	1°55'	3°08'	1°22'
January 1, 2025	0°52'	3°38'	1°30'	0°38'
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The True Node moves through the zodiac irregularly and plateaus every 4 - 5 months for 2 - 3 months, stressing a particular degree of the zodiac</b></p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Mean Node moves through the zodiac at an average of 3 minutes per day</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Using the True North Node emphasises the transit to certain degrees of the zodiac. Its movement is like a serpent slithering through the zodiac, reminiscent of the ouroboros/dragon serpent</b></p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Mean Node's rhythmic movement is approximately:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 cycle of the Nodes = 18.6 years 1 sign of the Zodiac = 18.6 months 1 degree of the zodiac = 18.6 days</p>	

### *Which node should I use?*

There are two orientations that can be used for the lunar nodes, in fact for all planetary nodes: one is from the point of view of the Sun, or the heliocentric position, while the more commonly used is viewed from our position on Earth, the geocentric position. For purposes of the natal chart the geocentric position of the lunar nodes will be used, consistent with the other placements in the chart. These positions will always be opposite one another in zodiacal longitude.

There are also two different geocentric nodal positions that are listed in the ephemeris and most computer programs: the true node or the mean node. Which one do we use? That question is difficult to answer, so perhaps it is best to describe the differences before I respond. The Mean Node is the average position based on the overall cycle, while the True Node is the actual zodiacal position.

The Mean Node is the daily average of the 18.6 years cycle of the nodes as it retrogrades through the zodiac. The Mean Node has a harmonic that makes it easy to remember its approximate movement through the zodiac:

- The cycle of the nodes through the zodiac takes approximately 18 - 19 years
- The transit of the nodes through one sign takes approximately 18 - 19 months
- The nodes travelling one degree takes approximately 18 - 19 days
- In one year, the nodes move approximately 18 - 19 degrees

The True Node's direction is also retrograde but because it is now accurately measured, it is also listed for the days when it goes direct. The True Node moves through the zodiac in a serpentine way – it will slither backwards for about four months, then plateau near the same degree for 2 - 3 months, slipping backwards to repeat this movement. The True Node highlights certain degrees of the zodiac more than the Mean Node does.

To answer the question of which node to use, I would reflect on it this way: in researching the cycle of the nodes from the point of view of the life cycle, I use the Mean Node. This node maps out the 18 – 19-year cycles of our lives. But when looking at the natal chart and specific transits, I use the True Node.



If you use the Solar Fire program, you have the choice to choose either one – under Preferences, click on Settings and under Calculations, you will be asked for your preference for True Node or Mean Node.

The following table lists the nodal positions for 19 months - its retrograde travel through one sign of the zodiac, Taurus. You can see how the movement of the True Node will plateau and emphasise a degree of the zodiac for 2 – 3 months, every 3 – 4 months.

**Monthly Positions of the True and Mean Nodes from January 1, 2022 – July 1, 2023**

DATE at 0hr GMT	Position of the <u>True</u> North Node	Monthly Travel in degrees/ minutes	Position of the <u>Mean</u> North Node	Difference in degrees and minutes between the True and Mean Nodes
January 1, 2022	1♊12	0°32'	29♊31	1°41'
February 1, 2022	28♊46	1°16'	27♊53	0°53'
March 1, 2022	25♊44	3°02'	26♊24	0°40'
April 1, 2022	23♊06	2°38'	24♊45	1°39'
May 1, 2022	<b>22♊28</b>	0°38'	23♊10	0°42'
June 1, 2022	<b>22♊29</b>	0°01'	21♊32	0°57'
July 1, 2022	21♊29	1°00'	19♊56	1°33'
August 1, 2022	18♊39	2°50'	18♊18	0°21'
September 1, 2022	15♊34	3°05'	16♊39	1°05'
October 1, 2022	<b>13♊49</b>	1°45'	15♊04	1°15'
November 1, 2022	<b>13♊24</b>	0°25'	13♊25	0°01'
December 1, 2022	<b>13♊09</b>	0°15'	11♊50	1°19'
January 1, 2023	11♊45	1°24'	10♊12	1°33'
February 1, 2023	8♊42	3°03'	8♊33	0°09'
March 1, 2023	5♊50	2°52'	7♊04	1°14'
April 1, 2023	<b>4♊16</b>	1°34'	5♊26	1°10'
May 1, 2023	<b>4♊01</b>	0°15'	3♊50	0°11'
June 1, 2023	3♊37	0°24'	2♊12	1°25'
July 1, 2023	1♊46	1°51'	0♊37	1°09'
<p><b>The True Node moves through the zodiac irregularly and plateaus every 4 - 5 months for 2 - 3 months, stressing a particular degree of the zodiac</b></p>			<p><b>The Mean Node moves through the zodiac at an average of 3 minutes per day</b></p>	
<p><b>Using the True North Node emphasises the transit to certain degrees of the zodiac. Its movement is like a serpent slithering through the zodiac, reminiscent of the ouroboros/dragon serpent</b></p>			<p><b>The Mean Node's rhythmic movement is approximately:</b></p> <p><b>1 cycle of the Nodes = 18.6 years</b>  <b>1 sign of the Zodiac = 18.6 months</b>  <b>1 degree of the zodiac = 18.6 days</b></p>	