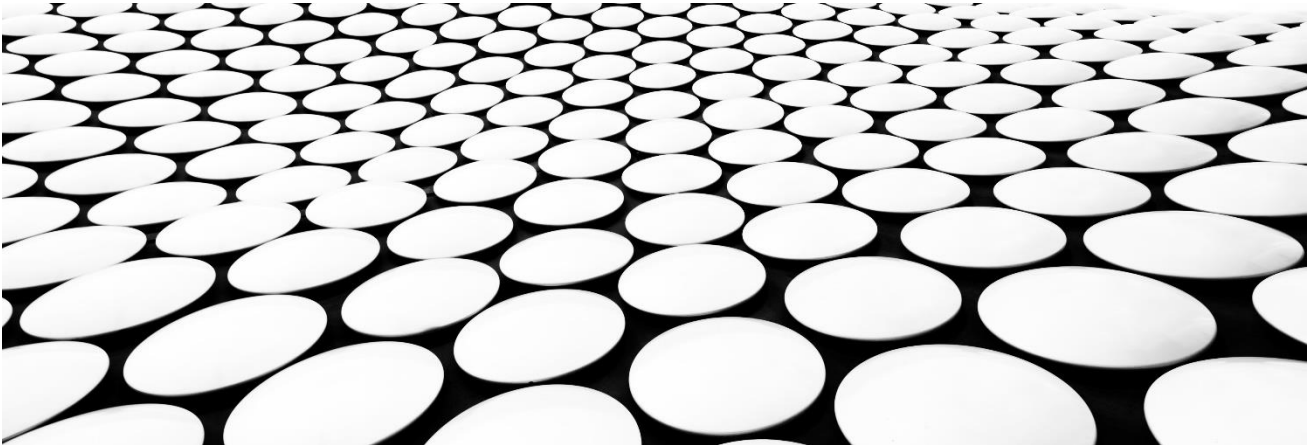


The Vertex and Anti-Vertex

Brian Clark



Summary

The Vertex-Anti-Vertex is another angle of the horoscope, often considered the third angle, along with the Ascendant-Descendant and MC-IC axis. Like the other angles, it has its own unique role in character disposition and highlights another direction and orientation to life.

Add the Vertex (and Anti-Vertex) to your horoscope. If using Solar Fire, locate Chart Options on the top menu. Click on Displayed Points. Your preferred option will come up. In the righthand boxes, click on Edit. Then click on Vertex (and Anti-Vertex) under Unselected Points; this will add the Vertex (and Anti-Vertex) to your Selected Points. The symbol for your Vertex will be Vx; for your Anti-Vertex, Ax.

Since the Vertex falls in the Western part of the chart, it is linked to relationship and significant others in our lives. It is usually considered to be where we experience less control or choice in our relationships; therefore, it is often connected with ‘fated encounters’ or ‘cosmic appointments’¹, idioms used to describe a mystery that is difficult to articulate. In this way of thinking, the Vertex has been regarded as compulsive, compelling or out of our control. The axis in our chart symbolizes the possibility of unconscious contents being evoked through relationship, bringing these instinctive, yet authentic matters to the surface. Due to something powerful erupting from the underground, it has been characterized as explosive. However, this is only an image, not necessarily a reality. Its character is electric, transformative and engaging. Being connected with others, the Vertex is sensitive and responsive to those who play a significant role in evoking these aspects of our lives.

The Anti-Vertex in the East symbolizes the resources that we can instinctually use to help meet these relational crises and to delineate a way forward out of difficult circumstances. Its energetic qualities support the personality. The Anti-Vertex can be reflected upon as an auxiliary Ascendant, backing up the Ascendant when its vitality and forcefulness diminishes. Think of the Anti-Vertex as an innate, albeit not always conscious, backing for the quest for independence and selfhood; an alter ego in a way.

To begin your study of the axis, here are a few points to consider:

- To interpret the Vertex, first consider its sign, especially in contrast to the sign on the Descendant. How do these qualities support or challenge each other?
- Secondly note the house position of the Vertex. Since the Vertex will generally fall in the 5th to 8th houses (unless the individual is born close to the equator), consider the house as the areas of life where significant encounters occur which highlight unconscious aspects of the self. Atmospheric conditions and features of this house may be more dominant. This environment

locates where an encounter with shadow material may occur, reflected by others in this setting or environment

- Consider any planet within 10 degrees of this axis as it will play a significant role in understanding captivating themes in partnerships and may indicate energy patterns that are often compelling and difficult in terms of relationships
- Reflect on the Anti-Vertex by sign and house and the qualities and essence that come to mind. Now reflect on how these qualities might back up the Ascendant

The Vertex

The Vertex pinpoints another angle on the grid of the horoscope. As far as we know, this angle was never used or conceived of before it entered our astrological tradition in the mid-20th C.² L. Edward Johndro was a Canadian astrologer, mathematician and electrical engineer, who began comparing the Anti-Vertex, to an ‘Electric Ascendant’³. His astrological colleague, Charles Jayne, who he corresponded with but never met, was also experimenting with this point. With the results of his research, Jayne reported that the opposite point, the Vertex, was more responsive, especially to Solar Arc directions. Both agreed that the Vertex was fated and represented issues beyond our control; therefore, the Vertex entered astrological thinking strongly imprinted with being a point of compulsion and fate. Falling in the horoscope’s Western hemisphere, it was naturally aligned with relationship and compromise, having the mystique of something fated or out of control. The Vertex began life symbolizing compelling relationships and strong attachments.

Both men were interested in the GEM dynamic field theory and applied this to astrology. G stands for Gravity and this was applied to the Meridian axis: the MC - IC. E represents Electrical, which was applied to the Prime Vertical – the Vertex – Anti-Vertex, while M signifies Magnetism, assigned to the Horizon or the Ascendant - Descendant axis.⁴ In a way these are descriptive metaphors of these three angles. For instance, the electric metaphor for the Vertex – Anti-Vertex conjures images of shock, sparks and reaction. With this analogy we might consider the atmosphere constellated around this axis to be electric and charged.

The Vertex – Anti-Vertex is the third angle of the horoscope and in a way stretches us into a three-dimensional view of the self. The Vertex is found in the west, formed by the intersection of the Prime Vertical with the Ecliptic,⁵ representing another dimension of self and other. The Meridian, which forges the MC-IC axis, cuts the horizon at the north and south points, while the Prime Vertical cuts the horizon at the east and west points, establishing the Anti-Vertex and the Vertex. Being vertical, we consider these two axes as more fated or compromised than the axis of the horizon; therefore, where they intersect on the ecliptic are associated with points where destiny becomes incarnate. At the Vertex, destiny disguises these parts of ourself until they arise in our relationships with others; at the Anti-Vertex we discover their underlying qualities when our personality needs more support.

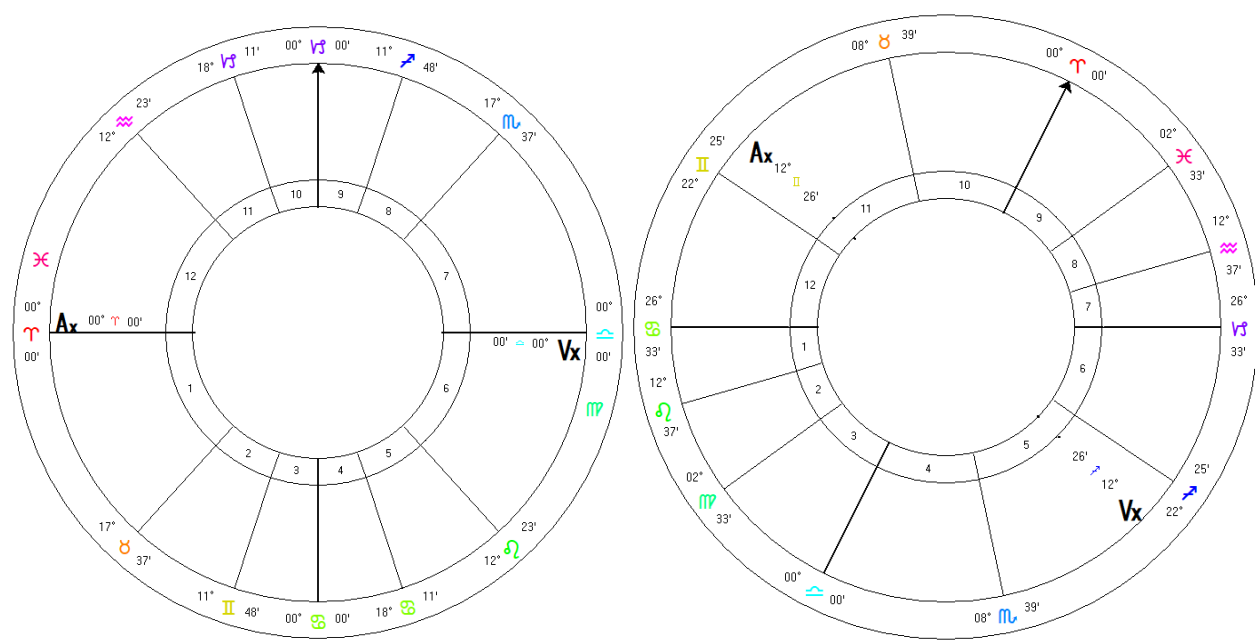
Because the Vertex is formed by the junction of fast-moving circles like the other angles, it is time sensitive, dependent on an accurate time of birth. It has not been as well defined or delineated as the traditional angles, being more mysterious and unclear, perhaps more deeply embedded in the unconscious. This angle signifies what is unable to be directly observed on the horizon of our experience. The Descendant, being directly opposite the Ascendant, symbolizes the partner’s qualities and characteristics; on an internal level these are our ‘other’ and unlived attributes, reflected back in the mirror of relationship. Being perceptible on the horizon of consciousness, the relational patterns that constellate around the Descendant are symbolic of patterns able to be perceived and noticed, unlike those arranged at the Vertex, which by nature are unseen and unknown. A revealing exercise to begin is to contrast the sign on the Descendant with the sign on the Vertex, imagining the qualities of the Descendant sign to be more known, visible or consciously available, while those of the Vertex sign are less accessible.

This angle adds a third dimension to the nature of interrelationships, offering a different angle on significant encounters, compelling engagements and the concealed agendas in relationship. Considering the Vertex – Anti-Vertex axis is similar to putting on 3-D glasses to view the horoscope. All of a sudden something that seemed at arm’s length is now right in front of you; what was in the background has come to the foreground. Subtleties are now more obvious. The Vertex has been described as fateful encounters, cosmic appointments and ‘run-ins that seem beyond our control’.⁶ The Anti-Vertex located in the eastern side of the chart complements its polar partner revealing a layer of self not visible at first glance, a hidden birth mark, an alter ego, an autonomous voice. In tandem with the Vertex, this axis often reveals untapped resources that support and sustain the personality in the tasks of life, especially work and relationship.

In moderate latitudes the Vertex will generally be located in the 5th to the 8th. In latitudes near the equator the Vertex can swing into the 4th or 9th house. When the Descendant and Vertex are in different signs, there may be a tendency to identify with the Descendant’s characteristics in others, but be blinded to the qualities and patterns represented by the Vertex. However, over time the unconscious agenda of the Vertex surfaces and can be of insight and value to each partner, albeit often unanticipated and confronting. When the Vertex and Descendant are in the same sign their qualities are intensified and difficult to differentiate.

Because of the erratic nature of the Ascendant at latitudes approaching the poles and when the Vertex is near the Equator, David Cochrane has suggested that the Vertex is more reliable than the Ascendant at higher degree while the Ascendant is more reliable than the Vertex at latitudes near the Equator. Like the Ascendant-Descendant axis, the Vertex – Anti-Vertex axis is shaped by latitude and the angle become skewed at extremes due to the curvature of the Earth.

At any latitude, when 0° of the Solstice signs, Cancer or Capricorn, are on the MC, then the Ascendant – Descendant and the Anti-Vertex – Vertex are aligned at 0° of the Equinox signs, Libra and Aries. When the MC is within orb of 0° Cancer or Capricorn, the Vertex and Descendant will probably be in the same sign.



Note both charts are cast for London, England on the same day – when 0 Capricorn is on the MC the Ascendant-Descendant and Vertex-Anti-Vertex are aligned, but when an Equinox sign is on the MC, the Vertex-Anti-Vertex are farther away in the 5th and 11th houses.

The Vertex’s earliest associations were with what was ‘fated’ and beyond conscious control. This refers to the blind spot that the Vertex reveals, the unseen qualities that arise through our relationships and transform who we are. Therefore, what might feel beyond our control or unbidden is actually an

unconscious agenda coming to light; why at the Vertex we often feel pulled toward a situation, even acting against our own better judgement. Ironically it is these relationships that are the ones that impact us and often change the course of our lives. My experience has led me to quip that the Vertex represents the relationships you can't get rid of; in other words, they dynamically alter who we are and how we relate. These are relationships not measured in time, but by intensity and impact on the direction of our lives; hence they are timeless. In the outer world they may last a season or a lifetime.

Modern astrology does not always refer to the Vertex, but my experience of it in the context of relationship astrology is very synchronous with 'karmic' relationships. It symbolizes where there may be a compelling or blind aspect in relationship. The Vertex symbolizes veiled agendas not visible until the relationship has excavated deeper emotional territory, like the image of the alchemical 'left-handed handshake' that signifies unconscious collusion. The agenda of the Vertex is often contrary to the conscious contract of the relationship; therefore, the astrological imagery of the Vertex helps to articulate hidden agendas and unconscious contracts. The Vertex is an image of what we struggle to complete, as well as what keeps us bound to the relationship, or a form of it, until it erupts through the ego defences to be confronted.

The Natal Vertex

Being the third angle of the horoscope the Vertex – Anti-Vertex plays an important role in character disposition. As discussed, the Vertex falls in the Western part of the chart and symbolizes relationships where our personal will is compromised, where we feel out of control, compulsive or left with little choice. It can personify others who play a significant role in our lives and in synastry this can be seen through aspects to the Vertex.

The Anti-Vertex in the East describes resources that we can use in relational crises to find a way forward. It is an auxiliary energy that backs up the personality reflected by the Ascendant. Johndro and Jayne's early testing of the two angles favoured the Vertex; hence it became more widely recognized, leaving the Anti-Vertex languishing on the other side of the chart. But that is its nature: the unrecognized and unseen resources lying in the umbra of the personality. The Anti-Vertex suggests the desires and urges that remain overshadowed by the Ascendant; values and resources that often lay untapped by the self. If they go unappreciated for too long, they become a siren's song that may lead us to a fateful encounter.

To interpret the Vertex, first consider its sign, especially in contrast to the sign on the Descendant. Secondly note the house position of the Vertex. The sign of the Vertex represents unidentified qualities that are seemingly at odds with our conscious intent, yet they are of great value in the scheme of our lives. Therefore, transits to this point awaken these qualities as do partner's planets when conjoining this axis. It is often an event or an individual who fuels the fire at the Vertex. And most importantly consider any planet within 10 degrees of this axis as it will play a significant role in the understanding of partnerships and may indicate energies that are often compelling and difficult in terms of relational patterns.

As mentioned, the Vertex gathers images of what is unconscious within relationship, mesmerizing, sometimes uncontrollable, often hidden from conscious view until triggered. For instance,

- if the Vertex is in Aries there may be an unconscious rivalry and competitiveness that feels compelling and unable to be satisfied. Since the Descendant may also be in Aries the individual may be surprised at the passion and reaction to being confronted or challenged in relationship.
- In Gemini it may reiterate the theme of incompleteness and compulsion around sibling relationships or a haunting need to search and research the twin soul. If the Descendant were in Taurus, the conscious agenda may be to seek more stability in relationship, yet underneath this urge may also be the desire for more mobility to search for what feels incomplete.
- When placed in Scorpio it may heighten erotic and emotional intrigue and drama or constellate an intense dread of loss of a loved one. If the Descendant were in Sagittarius, the contrast

between the concept and confidence in relationship with deeper, darker, more intense feelings would be amplified.

Differentiating the sign on the Descendant, as the more visible qualities, with the Vertex, as more invisible features, in relationship is an evocative exercise.

Unlike the other angles that are the boundary zones to a new quadrant and house of the horoscope, the Vertex occupies a house, which can be delineated. The house position of the Vertex suggests the area where critical relationships take place. Since the Vertex will generally fall in the 5th to 8th houses (unless the individual is born close to the equator), consider the house influence. This environment will often be where encounters with shadows reflected by others occur. The 5th to 8th houses, the sector where the Vertex is located in moderate latitudes, are also known as the inter-personal houses of the horoscope, where we are inclined to engage with others. This area of the horoscope embraces the journey from first love to intimacy, from attraction to commitment.

By house, the Vertex symbolizes the environment or place where we experience turning points, dynamic meetings or where we might cross paths with others who assist in our transformation. The house position of the Vertex deepens the quality of our experiences, activating and excavating more profound levels of our experience in this territory. It is an arena of destiny where we encounter something, someplace or someone that triggers an unconscious memory or deeply felt sense of recognition. For instance, if the Vertex is in the 5th house then the relationship with a child, a lover or one's own creativity is enhanced. In the 6th our relationship to work, co-workers, clients, employees, assistants or service providers comes into focus. The Vertex in the 7th stresses the area of equal partnerships and encounters with an intimate friend, a business or marriage partner who may transform our life dynamically. In the 8th house the Vertex confronts us with the loss of our naiveté and the potential death of a special relationship, highlighting themes of trust and betrayal.

Since the Vertex is fast moving in terms of time, I have also noticed its affect in events or electional horoscopes. I have seen the Vertex highly active and revealing in dream charts. These are charts cast for a dream, either when the dreamer wakes up from a dream or their best estimation of the time that it occurred. I have found the Vertex often highlights a natal planet or one in the dream chart that is significant to the understanding of the dream. Like all angles the Vertex is an intersection; therefore, it often shows up in times of important meetings, encounters or when crossing paths with someone who makes an impression on a deeper level. Therefore, include the Vertex when studying event charts as you may begin to recognize patterns in time or at certain times before you begin to get a feel of its nature in the natal horoscope.

Planets on the Vertex are influential forces that steer us towards a profound change through relationship, for instance, if the Moon is conjunct the Vertex, for a man there may be a powerful transference with the women that he encounters throughout his life, first with mother, then sisters, colleagues, wife, sister-in-law and daughters. For women, the Moon on the Vertex may suggest that the incomplete relationship with mother or motherly feelings may dominate the quest for an equal relationship. If Mars is conjunct the Vertex then we may be alert for Martian themes of aggression or competition that may not be conscious. Jupiter on the Vertex may highlight an irrational view of religion or inflated ideas and ideals, which may be stirred in relationship. The Vertex is an insightful addition to relationship astrology.⁷

To sum up some of the keywords and images:

Images and Symbols of the <i>Vertex</i>	Images and Symbols of the <i>Anti -Vertex</i>
hidden agendas in relationships, hence what is often seen as karmic or fated connections	unseen qualities of our personality that are powerful allies when presenting ourselves to the world

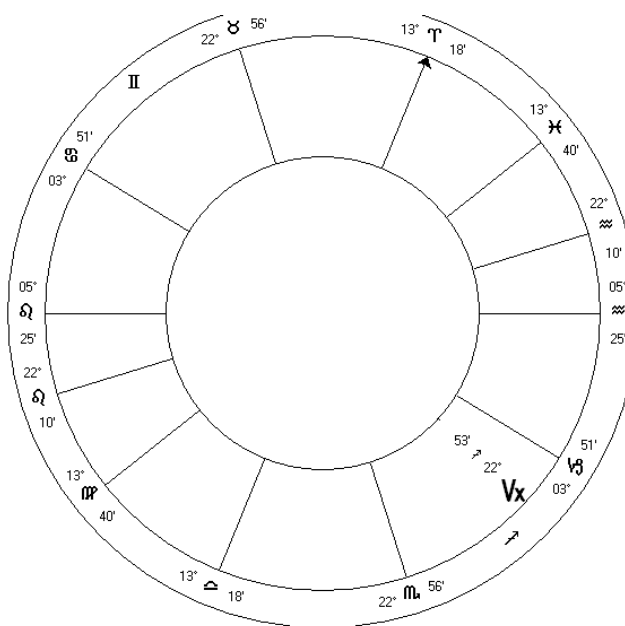
unbreakable bonds and the unconscious contracts in relationships	creative aspects of our individuality that may be overshadowed
issues and affairs beyond our control	anchoring aspects of our character
deep-seated, compelling and inescapable themes in relationship	unacknowledged traits and qualities that may not be consciously utilized
other-worldly; sensitivity to subtle realities in others	an alternate power or energy source
relationships and experiences that change our life perspective	a hidden aspect of the self that may change the way we relate to others and the world at large

The Vertex in Chart Comparison

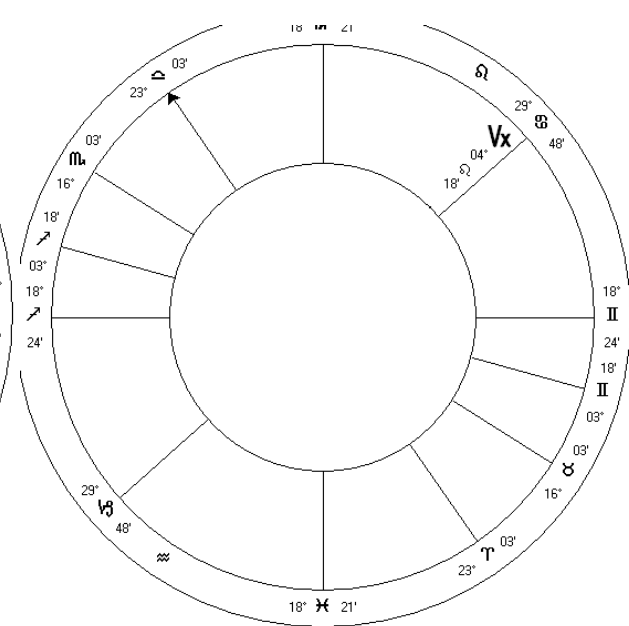
The Vertex is significant in synastry and chart comparison, as this angle can symbolize where there may be a compelling or blind aspect in relationships. The Vertex symbolizes the hidden agenda in relationships that is often not visible until the relationship has weathered with time and begun to excavate deeper emotional territory.

The analogy I often use for the Vertex is the alchemical ‘left-handed handshake’. The king and queen are bound together by a similar complex and unconsciously agree to collude on a particular agenda. However, the agenda they are agreeing to is not yet visible or known to them, and often contrary to the conscious contract of their relationship. The astrological imagery of the Vertex helps to articulate the hidden agenda. For instance, simply if the Vertex were in Taurus, perhaps a blind spot in relationship might concern money; Gemini could be communication or Cancer’s unconscious contracts might be forged around care and carelessness.

The Vertex is an image of what we struggle to complete in a relationship, as well as what keeps us bound to the relationship, or a form of it, until it erupts through the defences to be confronted. Often it is described by individuals as the relationship they ‘cannot leave’, what we might call a karmic relationship, a familial attachment or an intense love.⁸ When the Vertex is entangled in another’s horoscope, we could imagine that there is an attraction, often not conscious, but nonetheless powerful. Transits to the Vertex are often noteworthy, pointing to times of significant encounters, paths crossing or appointments that appear fated or set up for a reason not yet known.



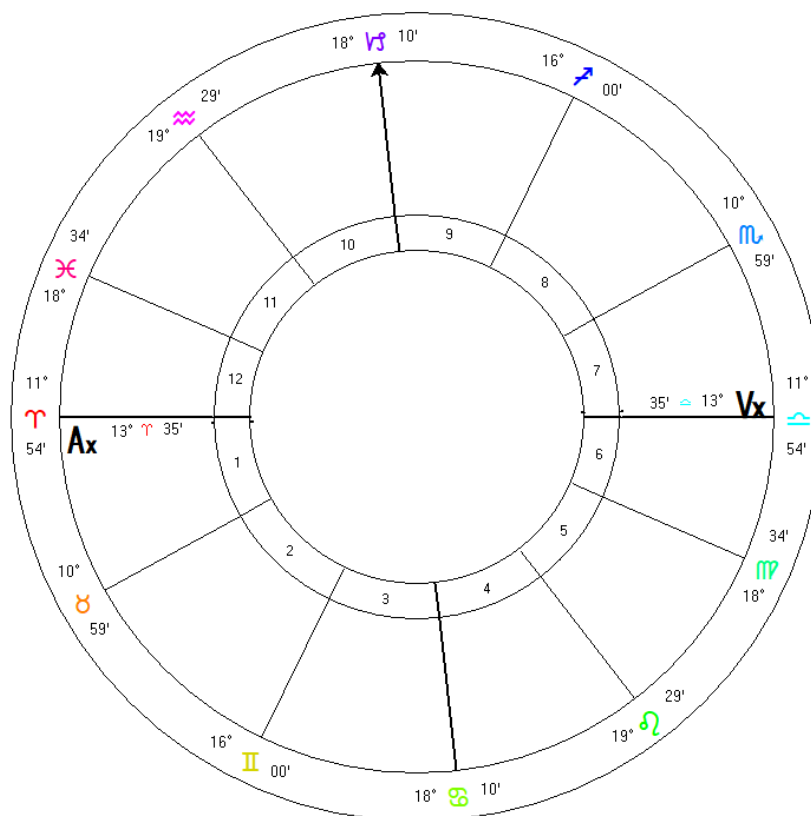
Prince Charles



Diana, Princess of Wales

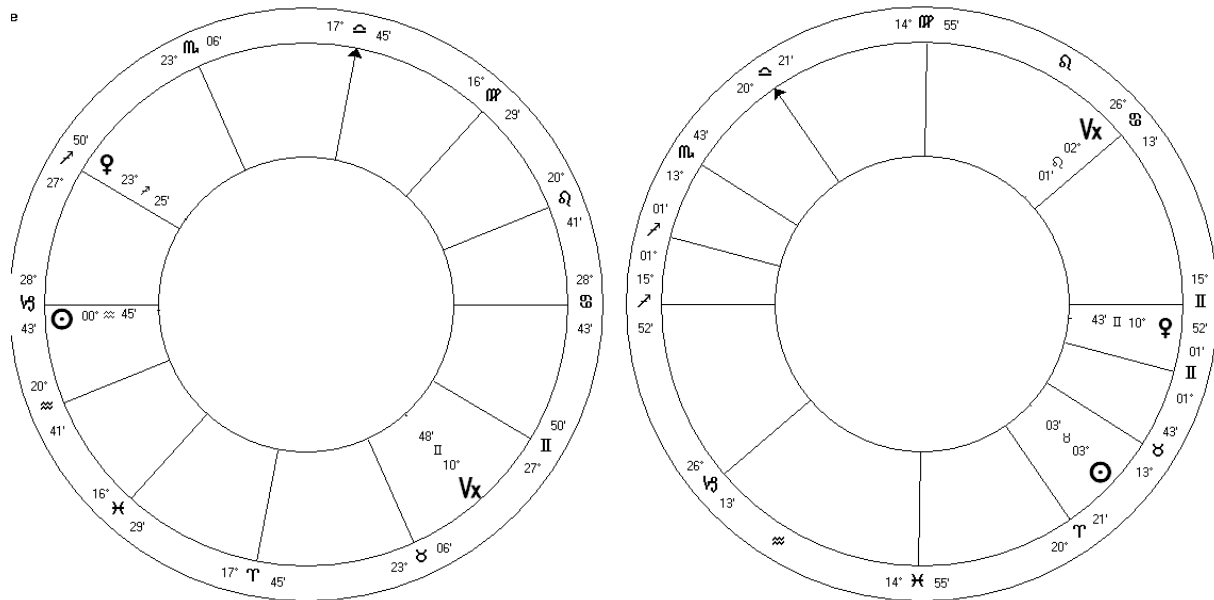
Because the Vertex gathers images of what is unconscious in relationship, it plays a significant role in synastry and chart comparison; often a conjunction (within 10 degrees) to a significant other's horoscope exists, generally to an angle or an important planet. Prince Charles's Vertex (22♌53) was conjunct Princess Diana's Ascendant (18♌24) while Diana's Vertex (4♈18) was conjunct Charles' Ascendant (5♈25). Each had the vertex conjoin the partner's ascendant, a powerful attraction.

When the Vertex is mutually aligned with each other's Ascendant, this image will be carried forward into the alchemy of their composite chart. In this case the Vertex and the Descendant become aligned in their composite chart suggesting that in the relationship many of their blind sides are now out visible, or that the compulsion and hidden agendas come to the surface of their partnership. Of interest is that the composite Vertex – Anti-Vertex falls across Charles's natal MC-IC axis; in retrospect we can see how the issues constellated by the relationship influences his personal direction.



Composite Chart – Charles and Diana

Another celebrity couple example: Michael Hutchence's Vertex was 10♌48 exactly conjunct Paula Yates' Venus at 10♌43 which was conjunct her Descendant. Paula Yates' Vertex (2♈01) was opposite Michael's Sun (0♈45) and conjunct his Descendant within 4 degrees. They met on a television set when Paula interviewed Michael in what has been described as a 'chemistry-fuelled' conversation. Part of the attraction as reported by the media was Paula's children, perhaps an unconscious aspect of Michael, so well imaged by his Vertex in the 5th house. In their composite chart, the composite Vertex aligns with the Descendant in Cancer within a degree.

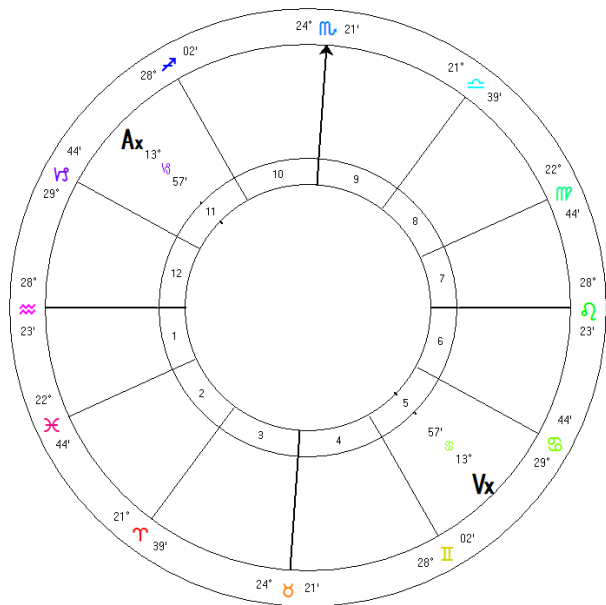


The images and revelations of this angle come alive in relationship astrology. Regularly I see this confirmation of a transformational encounter when working with couples using chart comparisons. When one person's Vertex interconnects with planets or angles in the other's chart, this can be accompanied by strong feelings that pull them towards the other. These feelings do not always include attraction, but are often magnetic or captivating as if the bond is necessary to pursue for some reason. When this is reciprocated by a strong aspect to the other's Vertex, then I am on alert for a union that plays an important step in each other's lives, whether for a moment or a lifetime.

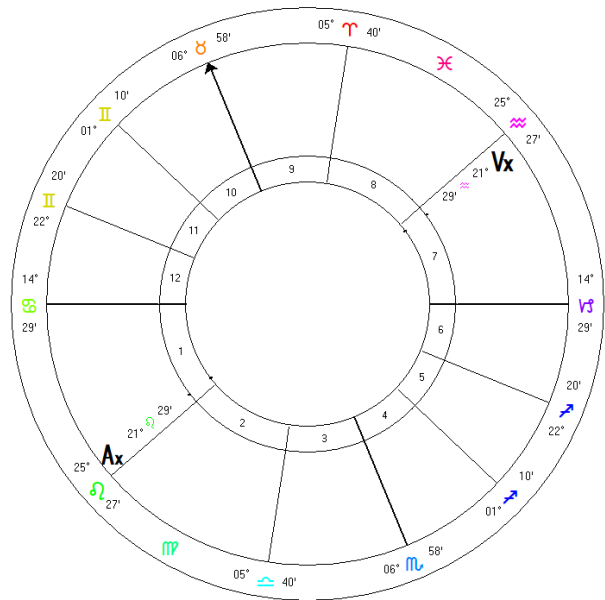
Heather and David consulted me when they were launching their own corporate consulting business. Over a series of consultations, we discussed their partnership, working relationship, goals and the possible times for the registration of their business and their public launch. David's Vertex was in Aquarius in the 7th house and conjunct Heather's Ascendant. His Descendant is Capricorn. While attracted to Heather's skill and competency, what was apparent was that there was also a fascination with her brightness, her outside the box ideas, clarity and strong independence. Heather's Vertex is in Cancer conjunct David's Ascendant and while it was clear that she was drawn to David's warmth and accomplishments, she was not so conscious of an agenda that would develop in terms of dependency and her growing sense that David wanted more than just being her business partner. She recognized how she unconsciously drew dependency towards her. David was a Leo and fulfilled her reflections of her Leonine nature on the Descendant. But over time, she recognized his dependency and needs were not part of an agenda she wanted in a business relationship

These issues were immediately flagged by this simple synastry and they were discussed. However, while we may be objectively open to discussing issues, it is a different matter when we are subjectively involved in experiencing them. Their 'left-handed handshake' brought up the issues of dependency and separateness, attachment and disconnection, safety and risk-taking and ultimately these differences became reflected in their individualistic approach to their mutual clients. Their partnership proved to be highly creative and dynamic but it did not last. The tension built a good business but could not be sustained.

The composite Vertex at 2° ♉ was conjunct their Ascendant at 6° ♉ and it was during the transit of Uranus across their composite Vertex that they saw their issues more clearly and pursued the severance of their business partnership. 6° ♉ is also David's natal MC. David bought the company, a much more dynamic and innovative business than he could have ever built himself. Heather registered her own consultancy, more aware of her own needs and dependance on others, and ways to manage that more effectively and consciously.



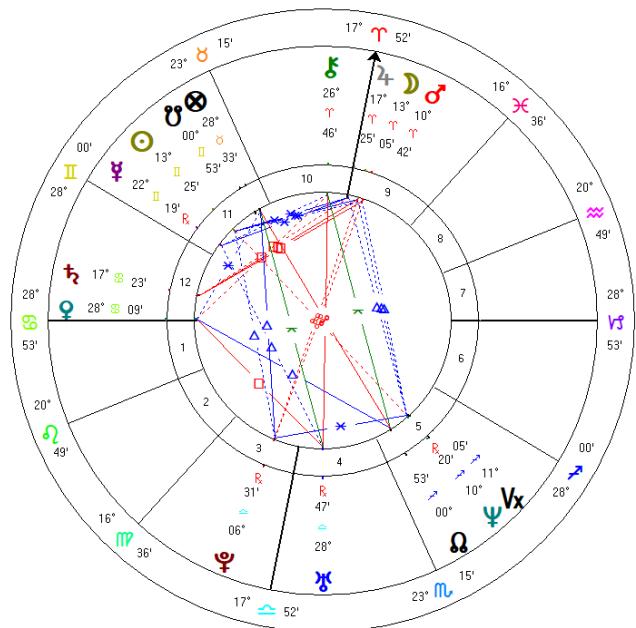
Heather



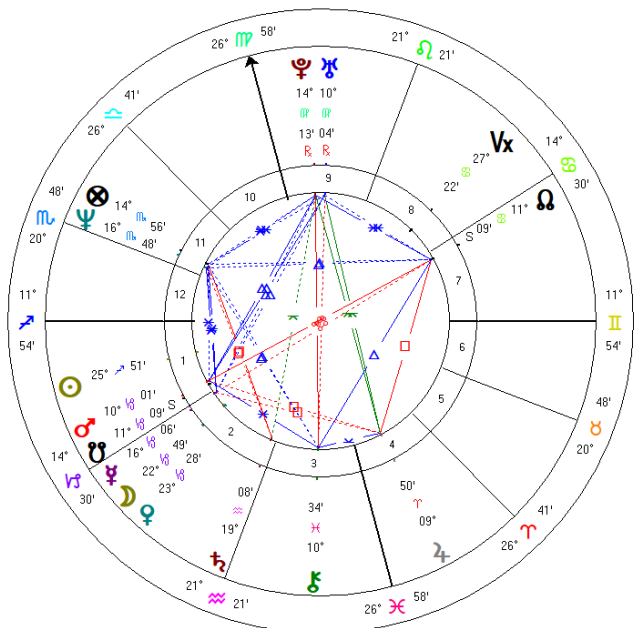
David

When writing *From the Moment we Met*, I used the charts of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie as a synastry example. Ironically, they broke up just as I was completing the book.

In Jolie's chart the Vertex is conjunct Neptune in Sagittarius opposite her Sun. This suggests that her relationship with her father and the archetype of father will significantly impact relationships through a pattern that probably swings between idealization and disappointment. In the 5th house it also brings the theme of children and creativity prominently into her relationship. Brad's Vertex is in Cancer in the 8th house opposite Venus. The themes of intimacy and familiarity are strong and will be present in his relationships. Like many other 'chemistry-fuelled' relationships, each partner's Vertex conjoins the other's Ascendant.



Angelina Jolie



Brad Pitt

Brad has 11 II 54 on the Descendant with the Vertex at 27° 21' in the 8th house. Perhaps he is conscious of being drawn to gregarious, witty and intellectual companions, but he may not be so aware of the Vertex in Cancer's agenda to become involved and entangled with family, kinship and parental issues. Angelina has her Capricorn Descendant at 28° 53' with her Vertex at 11° 05'. Astrologically we might suggest she is conscious of her attraction to maturity and self-made success, but what about her awareness of the adventuresome, the mystical and creative needs of her Neptune-Vertex in Sagittarius?

When comparing horoscopes, their angles are intertwined: Brad's Ascendant at 11♌05 is conjunct Angelina's Vertex so maybe he brings a bigger picture, some travel adventure and mysticism into their relationship. Angelina's Venus/Ascendant is conjunct Brad's Vertex and she has brought a family of six children into his life. Such a potent enmeshment between the angles was symbolized by the media attention and their being christened 'Brangelina'.

Of note, both have a luminary conjunct the Anti-Vertex. Angelina's Sun in Gemini is on her Anti-Vertex, a potent image for her heroic alter egos portrayed in her films as well as her many accolades for humanitarian work. Underlying the beauty of Venus rising is a charisma, creativity and fatherly factor. Brad's Venus-Moon conjunction in Capricorn on his Anti-Vertex suggests the essence of a receptive and caring authority that underpins the cowboy persona of his Ascendant. Interestingly in Brad's previous relationships his Vertex and Descendant had been highlighted in different ways. Gwyneth Paltrow was engaged to Brad Pitt. Their relationship lasted three years. Her Moon is 11♋33 exactly conjunct his Descendant and her South Node at 23♋05 is closely conjunct his Vertex. Both contacts demonstrate a strong and familial bond but one that perhaps is past, not present. He was married to Jennifer Aniston for five years. Her Vertex at 6♋45 aligns with his Descendant while her MC at 27♋19 overlaps his Vertex.

The Vertex plays a major role in chart comparison. The above examples show the mutual interplay between the Vertex – Anti-Vertex axis and the Descendant – Ascendant axis, a combination I have seen many times in dynamic relationships. When each one's Ascendant conjoins the other's Vertex, something invisible and deeply rooted in themselves may be mirrored effortlessly and automatically by the other, yet it may also be something not always able to be identified or integrated into the partnership. By its own nature the Vertex is often highlighted in relationship triangles and affairs. For instance Camilla Parker-Bowles shares Charles's Ascendant and Vertex. Her Ascendant of 3♌06 and Vertex of 20♌04 resonate with Charles's horoscope and replicate the aspects to Diana's chart. Bob Geldoff, Paula Yates's husband, had Moon in Sagittarius, which was conjunct Paula's Ascendant and Michael's Anti-Vertex. They shared their Vertex in Leo.

Strong links to the Vertex between horoscopes highlight the spirit of the relationship. For instance in Whitney Houston's horoscope her Vertex at 20♍50 conjoins Bobby's Moon at 19♍57. Bobby's Vertex at 22♌56 is conjunct Whitney's Sun at 16♌41. These contacts fasten the connection, fuel the compulsion and create a powerful linkup between the two involved. Similar to the Nodes, the Vertex – Anti-Vertex is like a portal for entrances and exits of significant others.

In family relationships, the Vertex is often highlighted throughout generations - strong synastry contacts to the Vertex are often found in families, as these certainly represent relational patterns which are fated or hard to leave. Prince William's Vertex at 12♌02 is the Queen's Moon at 12♌07 within orb of his father's Ascendant and mother's Vertex.

The Vertex also plays a significant role by transit or progression when partners' paths cross or separate. For instance it is suggested that the relationship between Diana and Charles became serious in the summer of 1980, as Neptune transited Diana's Ascendant and Charles' Vertex. In September 2016 as news that Angelina Jolie was filing for divorce from Brad Pitt, Saturn was transiting her Vertex and his Ascendant.

Because the Vertex axis is not easily accessible to consciousness it is not always as apparent as other factors in the natal chart and often brought into consciousness through the alchemy, enchantment and otherness of relationships. Certainly a point to be considered in context of relationship patterns and issues, timing of important encounters, as well as in reflection on our unconscious agenda in relationships.

Appendix 1: Calculating the Vertex & Anti-Vertex angle of the Horoscope

The Vertex is calculated by following these two steps:

Step 1 Find the co-latitude of birth

The co-latitude of birth is 90 degrees less the latitude of the birthplace. For instance, the latitude of Melbourne, Australia is 38 degrees south; therefore, the co-latitude is 52 degrees ($90 - 38 = 52$). For instance, the latitude of London, England is 52 degrees north; therefore, the co-latitude is 38 degrees ($90 - 52 = 38$).

Step 2 Using the Placidus Table of Houses for the **Northern Latitudes**

For individuals born with northern latitude (Northern Hemisphere) reverse the sign on the MC to the opposite sign. Using the same degree, opposite sign on the MC (this is actually the IC), go into the Placidus Table of Houses and look this up as if it were the MC. Read down to the Co-Latitude. The zodiacal position for the Ascendant is the Vertex.

For individuals born in the Southern Hemisphere, go into the Table of Houses using the Natal MC. Read down to the co-latitude and the zodiacal position in the Ascendant column is the Anti vertex. Change signs to the opposite and this will be the Vertex.

Step 2 Using the Placidus Table of Houses for the **Southern Latitudes** (these are included in *Simple Chart Calculation* –

For individuals born with southern latitude (Southern Hemisphere), reverse the sign on the MC to the opposite sign. Using the same degree, opposite sign on the MC (this is actually the IC), go into the Placidus Southern Table of Houses and look this up as if it were the MC. Read down to the co-latitude. The zodiacal position for the Ascendant is the Vertex.

For individuals born in the Northern Hemisphere, go into the Southern Table of Houses using the Natal MC. Read down to the co-latitude and the zodiacal position in the Ascendant column is the Anti vertex. Change signs to the opposite and this will be the Vertex.

Example

MC is $15^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 28$ Find the Vertex for someone born (a) **38°N** (b) **38°S**

Using the step above, follow the procedure either using the Astro*Synthesis Simple Chart Calculation Booklet for the Southern Latitudes or the Michelsen Book of Tables for Northern Latitudes. Either way, be careful of the procedure for reversing the signs.

Using the Michelsen Book of Tables, Northern Latitudes

(a) Natal MC $15^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 28 - 38^{\circ} \text{N}$

1. $90^{\circ} - 38^{\circ} = 52^{\circ}$
2. Table of House, read
 $15^{\circ} \text{Mars} 28$
Asc @ $52^{\circ} = 9^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 03$

Therefore, Vertex is $9^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 03$
Anti-Vertex is $9^{\circ} \text{Capricorn} 03$

(b) Natal MC $15^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 28 - 38^{\circ} \text{S}$

1. $90^{\circ} - 38^{\circ} = 52^{\circ}$
- Table of Houses, read
 $15^{\circ} \text{Virgo} 28$
Asc @ $52^{\circ} = 27^{\circ} \text{Libra} 12$

Therefore, Anti-Vertex is $27^{\circ} \text{Libra} 12$
Vertex is $27^{\circ} \text{Aries} 12$

Using the Simple Chart Calculation Southern Latitudes (<https://www.astrosynthesis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/simple-chart-calculation-2015.pdf>)

(a) Natal MC 15♄28 - 38°N

1. $90^\circ - 38^\circ = 52^\circ$
2. Table of House, read
15♄28
Asc @ $52^\circ = 9♅03$

Therefore, Vertex is 9♅03
Anti-Vertex is 9♅03

(b) Natal MC 15♄28 - 38°S

1. $90^\circ - 38^\circ = 52^\circ$
2. Table of Houses, read
15♄28
Asc @ $52^\circ = 27♁12$

Therefore, Vertex is 27♁12
Anti-Vertex is 27♁12

ENDNOTES

¹ This is the title of Janet Booth's article on the Vertex in the *Mountain Astrologer*, June/July 2003.

² Vertex is derived from the Latin *vertere*, meaning 'to turn'. It has many antonyms which congregate around the image of the highest point or apex, such as the crown of the head, a pinnacle or mountaintop. Other words that have this Latin root are vertebrae and vertical, denoting a spinal structure, and also vertigo and versatile, which suggest many things spinning around.

³ L. Edward Johndro equated astrology with an electromagnetic field of influence; hence why he coined the term Electric Ascendant.

⁴ For more details of Edward Johndro see <https://www.uraniatrust.org/celebrated-astrologers/edward-johndro>

⁵ The Prime Vertical is one of the Great Circles which passes through the zenith (the point directly above the observer), the nadir (the point directly below the observer) and the east and west points of the horizon. Where it intersects the Ecliptic in the East is the Anti-Vertex; in the West is the Vertex. The Meridian is the Great Circle which passes through the zenith, nadir and the north and south points of the horizon. The Meridian which engraves the MC-IC axis in the heavens is at right angles to the Vertex-Anti-Vertex.

⁶ Janet Booth, "The Vertex, Cosmic Appointments", *The Mountain Astrologer*, June/July 2003.

⁷ See Brian Clark, *From the Moment we Met: The Astrology of Adult Relationships*, Astro*Synthesis, Stanley: 2018.

⁸ Because the Vertex has this 'fated' quality, it is useful in synastry and chart comparisons, especially among bonded relationships that 'last a lifetime': parent-child, siblings, soul mates, etc.