

What is a Hexagram?

The hexagrams of the Change are all the possible combinations of six strong (yang) and supple (yin) lines.

Strong



Action: firm, underlying, moving,
persisting

Supple



Structuring: flexible, adaptable, still,
yielding, pliant, opened

Change relies on these two basic kinds of Lines to generate all its diagrams. They directly participate in the nature of the two Fundamental Powers, Force and Field, Dragon and the Dark Animal Goddess, Yang and Yin, Inspiring and Realizing Powers. In their oldest version these lines were probably used as a yes-no oracle, where the basic answer would describe what kind of stance to take toward a problem: take action, be aggressive and impose your will; or yield, stay where you are and adapt to whatever comes. Because each line can transform into its opposite, all of the hexagrams of Change flow into each other in a continuous interaction that reflects the diversity and the organization of the *Wanwu*, the Myriad Creatures or Ten Thousand Things. The Omen Words and images that make up the language of Change are set on these hexagrams, on each hexagram as a whole and on each hexagram's Transforming Lines.

All hexagrams are composed of two trigrams or three-line diagrams, one that describes the Inner World and one that describes the Outer World. The Line Positions (1-6) in a hexagram are designated from the bottom up.

Outer World Trigram

Step 6 [] Culmination
Step 5 [] Outer Center
Step 4 [] Arrival

Threshold of Manifestation

Inner World Trigram

Step 3 [] Threshold
Step 2 [] Inner Center
Step 1 [] Beginnings

Each of these Positions has an individual voice that shows you where and how to focus your energy. They become the Steps for Change in a full reading.

Inner World/Lower Trigram

- **Line Position 1: Beginnings** talks about how energy is entering your situation, a return of the spirit that can bring the entrance of a new fate. It challenges you to eliminate emotional corruption to prepare the emergence of the new. In an organization it represents the workers, employees as the base of support.
- **Line Position 2: Inner Center** talks about how things affect your heart-mind, the center of your inner life and awareness. This is an inner re-organization that can lead to harmony with others. It challenges you to correct and center your energy by re-affirming your real ideals. In an organization it represents shop leaders, group leaders and problem solvers.
- **Line Position 3: Approaching the Threshold** talks about the motivation behind your need to express yourself and the possibility of taking action in the outer world. It is an inner re-balancing that lets you make your way in life. It challenges you to let go of misplaced ambitions and compulsive drives. In an organization it represents local management, distribution and supply.

Outer World/Upper Trigram

- **Line Position 4: Arrival** talks about how to approach the outer world and prepare the future, an inner preparation that can lead to what is greater. It challenges you to eliminate fear and bad blood between friends, families, and comrades by withdrawing your projections. In an organization it represents contact people, salespeople, service base and target customers.
- **Line Position 5: Outer Center** talks about your relation to outer structures of power and influence, an inner re-grouping that can let your real purpose shine. It challenges you to let go of your compulsive need to overpower others. In an organization it represents senior management.
- **Line Position 6: Culmination** is the traditional line of the Sage that offers both wisdom and warning, an inner stripping that leads to a breakthrough. It challenges you to give up your need for domination and embrace the true power of change. In an organization it represents advisors, experts, researchers, guiding principles, founders.

Each hexagram also contains a Nuclear Figure, also called **Heart Theme** or **Core Theme** that shows its motivating energy. The Heart Theme or Nuclear Figure connects the hidden cause of the situation described in a hexagram with its goal and tells you about its central drive. It is a hexagram hidden within each figure in Change that is constructed by seeing the four inner lines of a hexagram (lines 2, 3, 4 and 5) as *two overlapping trigrams* and then unpacking them. The lower trigram of the Nuclear Figure is made from lines 2, 3 and 4 of the Primary Figure; the outer trigram of is made from lines 3, 4 and 5 of the Primary Figure.

There are 16 possible Nuclear Figures. If these are reduced to their Nuclear Figures, we find four second-generation figures. These four trace any situation back to one of four basic landmarks or Gates of Change:

- **1 Force:** You are connected to a creative force.
- **2 Field:** Be open and provide what is needed.
- **63 Already Crossing:** Co-operate with the ongoing process of change.
- **64 Not Yet Crossing:** Gather energy for a decisive new move.

In the Guideways translations each Hexagram also has a *Circle of Meanings* around its Name and a series of *Myths for Change* that tell the Story of the Time it represents. Each is given a specific place in the dynamic of the *Symbolic Life* and a *Time Cycle* that relates it to the deep process of divinatory time. Specific *Tools and Perspectives* help you understand how it works: The *Ideal and Shadow* shows you the most effective and the least effective ways to think about your situation; *Trigram Interaction* shows you how to cooperate with the energies of the Spirit Helpers that make up the hexagram; and the *Transformational Potential* shows you the deep potential for transformation that can occur as the hexagram fully permeates your awareness and fulfills all its possible changes.

Hexagrams as Tools for Change

The *Tools for Change* are a set of interpretive strategies, some traditional and some new, that rely on the hexagrams. They shift the focus of analysis from

traditional internal analysis of yin-yang line relations within a given hexagram to relations *between* hexagrams. Any hexagram can occupy any one of these positions in a reading.

In the Basic Reading

The hexagram (*gua*) generated directly from the divinatory process is the **Primary Figure** or Symbol (*xiang*), from which all other figures in a Reading are generated. In this position, a hexagram embodies the archetypal situation or moment (*shi*) that is the basic energy form or flow behind the question you inquired about. It is at once a description and a basic strategy.

When the Transforming Lines in the Primary Figure change form, they produce a second figure, called the *jigua* or **Relating Figure**. The Relating Figure shows how you are *related* to the matter presented by the Primary Figure. It is the sea or ground feeling in which the whole reading swims. It can represent future potential, overriding concerns, a warning, a goal, a desired outcome or a past situation that brought you to the present situation.

Hexagram as Heart Theme: The **Core Theme** or Nuclear Figure represents the motivating energy situated at the heart of the Primary Figure, connecting the hidden cause of the situation with its goal. It tells you where hidden action is taking place.

All of the tools are incorporated into the Reading Matrix. Together they construct an interpretive web around a basic reading that can extend and clarify the oracle's response, showing the subtle relations in an answer. They are perspectives that will become more and more familiar as you become acquainted with the figures of Change.

Reading Matrix

