

NUMEROLOGY

Tell me your name and I will tell you who you are. Give me your date of birth and I will show you your future.

Norman Shrine, 1994, *Numerology*

Numerology is defined as the psychology, philosophy and science of numbers. Intellectual credibility is accomplished by reference to mathematics and the work of luminaries such as Pythagoras and Plato.

Pythagoras said 'all things are numbers'. He popularised the link between music and mathematics, teaching that there is a mathematical basis to tone and pitch, something every physicist will verify. It is these vibrations, needed to be in resonance with the universe and individual, which are quoted as the basis of Pythagorean numerology, the most common version used today. There is no reference to Pythagoras ever adding the letters in his name or numbers in his birthdate.

Birthdates and the rhythms of the Earth

Calendars, like names, have no intrinsic, natural basis. They are human constructs which are rigged to synchronise with the sun. Since Pythagoras's day, there have been a few changes which may affect the accuracy of numerology calculations. Basing calendars on the time it takes the Earth

to travel once around the sun is problematical. The year is technically 365.242190 days long.

The Roman calendar consisted of twelve months of 29 or 30 days, and an extra month every three years. In 46 BCE Julius Caesar introduced the leap year. Augustus then renamed a month and pinched a day, so August had as many days as Caesar's July. February was the loser. About 10 BCE it was discovered that the priests responsible for the calendar had been adding a leap year every three years instead of the four decreed by Caesar. As a result of this error, no more leap years were added until 8 CE.

In 730 CE the Venerable Bede noted that a day was being lost every 128 years and, with the lightning speed typical of officialdom, this was corrected in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII. The Gregorian calendar was introduced by eliminating 5 October to 14 October 1582. Those ten days just didn't happen.

Pope Gregory XIII adjusted the leap year method by skipping leap years on three out of every four centesimal years. So 2000 was a leap year, while 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not.

Over the centuries more and more countries have accepted the Gregorian calendar, but many other calendars are still in use. The Jewish and Muslim calendars are vastly different. The starting date, 1 January 0000, is an arbitrary date.

Does this calendar sound like something so specific that a single day can change your entire life path and personality?

A similar analysis of alphabets and names since Pythagoras's day defies imagination.

Testing numerology

The main claim of the believers when confronted with such an analysis is to dismiss the need for a causal link on the grounds that the readings work.

To test numerology, I collected every book I could find

from all local libraries and downloaded two sets of readings from commercial websites. These ten references are listed at the end of the chapter. I started to compare.

The most important number seemed to be the total of the numbers in the birthdate. This was, in nine of the references, found by simply adding all the numbers including the full year. However, Pither decided the number was better calculated using the sum of the values of the letters in the months, as suggested by his wife Eve. He explained:

I was open to considering this alternative because nowhere in the literature of Pythagorean numerology is the basis for traditional principles or techniques proven, justified or even explained. Most everything is simply presented as though its truth were self-evident. I have found there are even some well-accepted techniques in numerology that are incorrect, a claim I do not make lightly.

(Steven Scott Pither, 2002, *The Complete Book of Numbers*, p. 100.)

While most called the sum of the numbers in the birthdate the Life Path Number, Shrine called it the Fate Number, while Whitaker and Struthers called it the Destiny Number. Alana, McClain and Selene called the number found by adding the letters in the full birth name the Destiny Number while Baker called this the Inheritance Number, Shrine the Name Number and Ducie the Wisdom Number. Struthers didn't use it at all.

McClain and Alana said the Destiny Number could also be called the Expression Number while Struthers and Selene used that term for the sum of the consonants in a name.

Your birthday alone gives your Psychic (Shrine) or Birthpath (Whitaker) or Goal (Barrat) or Birthday (Alana) or Personality (Ducie and Baker) Number, while your Personality Number is calculated from summing the consonants in your name according to Pither and Alana.

Alana, McClain, Selene, Struthers and Whitaker used the numbers 1 to 9, 11 and 22, while Ducie added 33, 44, 55, 66,

77, 88 and 99, without giving actual meanings. Baker included them all with meanings. Barrat and Pither used 1 to 9 and 0. Shrine had so many number combinations in grids and patterns that there was no match to any of the other references. Pither acknowledged the use of the double-digit numbers by most numerologists, and wrote:

Nevertheless, they have no place in Pythagorean numerology. Numerology is a discipline based entirely on the meanings of reduced numbers. As we shall discuss at great length in later chapters, every number consisting of two or more digits has special meaning. There is no mathematical basis for selecting certain two digit numbers for interpretation while reducing, and thereby generalizing, all the rest.

(Steven Scott Pither, 2002, *The Complete book of Numbers*, p. 103.)

Ignoring the confusion of the names, I worked on the three most commonly used numbers, those from the full birth date, the birth day and the full birth name. I read every description of every number from each of the ten references, where possible, and gave it a mark out of ten, for accuracy. The vast majority were rated at about 9. I gave full marks in the three cases which mentioned something very specific, and correct, such as teaching or communicating. It did occur to me that I couldn't think of a job which didn't require communicating, but I let that pass. The few readings that got full marks didn't match my numbers anyway. To be honest, there were five ratings below 5 out of 10, only one of which matched my numbers.

I did charts for Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein but found no reference to brutal murders or torture among the spirituality, communication, leadership and pursuit of adventure qualities.

You are only given your own reading by a numerologist. You are not given those which do not apply. Hence, the chance of you rating the reading at 90 per cent or more is highly likely. A rating of 70 per cent or above is almost a certainty.

Choose your numbers

Numerology assigns more than one number to each person, some giving separate numerical interpretations for the different numbers, but many generalising as I have below. These descriptions are drawn from an overview of the references.

Select those which you feel match your personality.

One

Number One is the ego, the number of Being. A One personality shows strength, leadership, personal resources, identity and high achievement. Ones are highly creative and ambitious. They are prone to blood pressure hassles, heart disease or eye problems. Number One people are born leaders in any profession, but may also be inventors or creators of original ideas.

Two

Two represents duality. Number Two people are sensitive, intuitive and caring but also can sense a personal imbalance and confusion. Romantic and friendly, they recognise there are opposite views. Those influenced by the number Two tend to be careful of their health, but may suffer from digestive or stomach problems as well as depression. They make good judges or diplomats, mediators, counsellors, teachers and sales representatives.

Three

The number Three tells of personal creativity, of self-confidence, sociability, action and forcefulness. It represents initiative associated with competitive and exciting people. The outdoors attract, as do strong spiritual feelings.

Order isn't high on the list, nor is long-term commitment, but achievement is. Those with number Three have a tendency to skin diseases and stress-related illnesses. The entertainment industry is a great attraction, but they also do well in advertising and journalism.

Four

The number Four is a person who is dominated by logical thought, practicality, instinctive behaviour, the material world and the need for stability. Hardworking, serious, worried and often lacking confidence, they exude intellectual energy. Four indicates a tendency to headaches, neck aches or ulcers. People under the number Four will succeed in any career that requires dedicated work habits and efficiency.

Five

The five senses dictate to those influenced by the number Five. They are extroverts, adventurous, exciting, flexible, energetic, tolerant, resourceful and highly strung people who love travel and change. They thrive on learning, productivity and unpredictability. They hate boredom. Accident prone, they may suffer from insomnia or mental disorders. Number Five indicates a career in any field which draws on the Fives' communication skills.

Six

Intellectual creativity and the imagination dominate number Six. These are homebodies, who love fantasy, abstract thinking, theory and romance. Loyal to their families, they can be perfectionists. They are peace loving, sympathetic, harmonious and fortuitous—life's beautiful people. They tend to have poor circulation and may suffer from heart

disease, throat or kidney problems. They do well in careers drawing on artistic talents and creativity.

Seven

Time rules the lives of those influenced by Seven. They are intense, tied to the natural world and aware of the limitations of the material one. Intellectual and philosophical matters attract, while they tend to be impractical, imaginative, solitary, secretive and very private people. They have a tendency to nervous disorders or depression along with urinary tract or kidney problems. Careers which require contemplation suit the reflective Sevens.

Eight

Number Eight relates to the unconscious mind. Number Eight people do what has to be done but are conscious of a timeless space. Although ambitious, outspoken, materialistic and tenacious, they are loyal. As extremists, those influenced by the number Eight may be obstinate and arrogant but they also search for balance. Organised and efficient, they are successful people in the business or legal world. With a tendency to skin or teeth problems, number Eight people can also suffer from rheumatic complaints or depression.

Nine

Number Nine indicates a humanitarian person, one who hates violence but values a sense of justice. Sensual, passionate, supersensitive and determined, Nines can be possessive and volatile. Fairness is crucial and they care deeply. With energy and common sense, their teachings are often used as a guide. Problems with the genital areas may be common, as is a tendency to kidney disease. The number Nine leads towards careers which involve caring about others.

Checking the predictability factor

So which number or numbers best suit you? Or did you recognise something of yourself in all of them? Humans are complex characters, having many aspects to their personalities. Remember the usual method is to calculate the numbers then check with the readings. So a fit is pretty likely.

Full birthdate number

This is the most important number and represents your future, your potential and your 'karmic lessons'. It is calculated by adding up all the numbers in your full birthdate. I was born on 5 November 1951.

This is written 5/11/1951. The digits are added: $5 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 9 + 5 + 1 = 23$. The digits are added again and reduced to a single number: $2 + 3 = 5$. My birthdate number is five. Checking the readings above: yes, that sounds like me.

Full birth name number

The next most commonly used number depends on the spelling of your name. As one numerology writer explained: 'Names are mirrors, that is all. Maybe your mirror is a little cloudy. You can clean it, to see your reflection better, or you can get yourself a new mirror'. So changing your name can change your personality and destiny.

Some numerologists use your full name, some don't include your middle name, some use nicknames, some calculate all and compare.

One concept was that the number from your full name as given at birth is your personal destiny. The name you use daily gives your current status.

The letters in your name are assigned the values from the table given opposite. The value is then added and reduced to a single digit. This is your name or wisdom number.

The value of letters for numerology

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

My birth certificate reads Lynne Sandra King-Smith, which gives me Three. Yes, that sounds like me. Lynne Kelly gives me Nine. So my brush with kidney disease is my husband's fault. Nine is definitely me.

Birth day number

This is calculated using the reduction of the number of the day you were born. So my birth date of 5 November gives a personality or birth path number of 5.

If you were born on the fifteenth then your personality or birth path number would be $1 + 5 = 6$.

The doubling up of this number with your Destiny Number can lead to excess. An incompatibility can lead to problems. Yes, that sounds like me, an excessive Five.

Evaluating numerology

There are plenty more numbers to calculate and ways of arranging the numbers in boxes and grids to give more complex readings. With so many manipulations and so few numbers to choose from, it would be hard for a numerologist not to be able to match them to anyone. And, yes, most of them sound like some aspect of me.

The science of numbers is distinctly unscientific.

References

- Alana, *The 'Numerology with Heart On-Line Workshop'*, Heart-core Corporation, Washington State, <www.askalana.com/numerology/> [accessed 15 April 2003]
- Baker, Colin 2002, *Number Power: Discover and Shape Your Destiny by Interpreting the Power of Numbers*, Lorenz Books, London
- Barrat, Rodford 1999, *Numerology: An Introductory Guide to the Power of Numbers as a Guide for Life*, Element Books, Shaftesbury
- Ducie, Sonia 2000, *Numerology*, Thorsons, London
- McClain, Michael, *Numerology*, Astrology-Numerology.com, <www.astrology-numerology.com> [accessed 28 March 2003]
- Pitcher, Steven Scott 2002, *The Complete Book of Numbers: The Power of Number Symbols to Shape Reality*, Llewellyn Publications, St Paul
- Selene 1989, *Predicting Your Future: The Ultimate Self-analysis Guide that Reveals Your Hidden Personality and Future*, Salamander Books, London
- Shrine, Norman 1994, *Numerology: Your Character and Future Revealed in Numbers*, Simon & Schuster, Sydney
- Struthers, Jane 1999, *The Book of Destinies: A Practical Guide to Predicting the Future*, Courage Books, Philadelphia
- Whitaker, Hazel 1997, *Numerology: A Mystical Magical Guide*, Lansdowne Publishing, Sydney