



Planetary Degrees Explained

By Arpita Nath · How to Read a Chart · 2026-07-28

In Vedic Astrology (Jyotish), knowing which zodiac sign (Rashi) a planet sits in is only half the story. To understand how much capacity a planet has to deliver its results, you must look at its exact degree.

Every zodiac sign spans exactly 30 degrees (0° to 30°). The specific degree tells you the planet's exact age, maturity and physical capacity in your birth chart (Kundli).

What Does Planetary Degree Mean?

Think of a zodiac sign as a 30-year life cycle or a room that a planet travels through:

- **0 to 6 Degrees (Infant / Bala):** The planet has just entered the sign. Like an infant, it has high energy but lacks experience and direction.
- **6 to 12 Degrees (Youth / Kumara):** The planet is growing and active, able to deliver moderate to good results through effort.
- **12 to 18 Degrees (Adult / Yuva):** Peak maturity and physical capacity! The planet operates at 100% capacity and delivers its full potential.
- **18 to 24 Degrees (Advanced / Viddha):** The planet is experienced but aging, delivering mature, subtle or delayed results.
- **24 to 30 Degrees (Dead/Old / Mrita):** The planet is at the exit door of the sign. Like an old person, it carries wisdom but lacks physical energy to produce concrete real-world results.

Degree Breakdown & Effects

1. Border Degrees (0 to 1 and 29 to 30 degrees) - The Edge

- **Core Meaning:** Transition state (Sandhi or Gandanta if between Water and Fire signs).
- **Key Effects:** The planet feels unstable or ungrounded. It struggles to anchor its physical results because it is caught on the threshold between two completely different planetary energies.

2. Early Degrees (1 to 6 degrees) - Bala Avastha (Infant)

- **Core Meaning:** High potential, low experience.

- **Key Effects:** The planet delivers about 25% of its physical results. It gives enthusiasm and new beginnings, but requires extra support from other planets to manifest long-term gains.

3. Middle Degrees (6 to 24 degrees) - Kumara & Yuva Avastha (Youth & Adult)

- **Core Meaning:** Peak operational capacity (12 to 18 degrees is the sweet spot).
- **Key Effects:** The planet delivers 75% to 100% of its capacity. Results manifest clearly and powerfully in daily life during its planetary periods (Dasha).

4. Late Degrees (24 to 29 degrees) - Viddha & Mrita Avastha (Old / Inactive)

- **Core Meaning:** Low physical stamina, high karmic/psychological weight.
- **Key Effects:** The planet delivers 0% to 15% physical capacity. While it can still bestow intellectual or spiritual insights, it struggles to give tangible, worldly results (like material wealth or physical comfort) on its own.

Why Degrees Matter for Special Rules

1. Jaimini Karakas: In Jaimini Astrology, the planet with the highest degree in your chart (excluding Rahu/Ketu) becomes your Atmakaraka - the planet representing your soul's primary purpose!

2. Combustion & Planetary War: Degrees determine whether a planet is too close to the Sun (Combust) or locked in a direct head-to-head battle with another planet within 1 degree (Graha Yuddha).

3. Divisional Charts (Vargas): The exact degree determines where a planet lands in sub-charts like the Navamsha (D9), which reveals the true hidden strength of your chart.

Summary

A planet sitting in an exalted sign can sound amazing on paper, but if it sits at 0°05' and 29°55', its physical hands are tied! Checking exact degrees ensures you read the real, tangible strength of every planet in a Kundli.