

# Transcript

Welcome to Easy Stories in English, the podcast that will take your English from OK to Good, and from Good to Great.

I am Ariel Goodbody, your host for this show. Today's episode is a tarot reading. The transcript for this episode is available to members of *Easy Stories in English Premium*, who also get this episode early. You can join *Easy Stories in English Premium* for just a few dollars a month to get ad-free episodes and bonus content. To join, go to [EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Support](https://EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Support). Then you'll get a special feed with all the bonus content, where you can also find the transcript for this episode.

So today is something quite different. First of all, it's a conversational episode. This is something new I'm trying out. I'm going to try and move to three episodes a month instead of two episodes a month, and the new episodes I'm doing are going to be conversational episodes.

I decided to do this because basically I kind of stopped doing the conversational element in the podcast. I stopped having the conversational section in the podcast episodes, in the stories, but I really like talking to you all. And, I don't know, I thought it just made sense to do it as a separate thing, and then I can record it when I want to. I don't have to worry about recording something really far in advance, and then it's not relevant anymore.

So yeah, it just lets me be more flexible and also gives you more great language learning content. I'm also improvising these a bit more. I'm not writing such a detailed script. I used to do improvised conversational segments all the time, and I do think it's useful because I obviously talk in a different way when I'm improvising. I guess I talk in a more natural way, more of a conversational style, and that's probably quite useful to you as learners.

So today we're going to do a tarot reading, and if you've never heard of tarot, Don't worry, um, I'm sure you're not the only one. So tarot is a set of cards from Europe, a set of playing cards. Originally it was just a 52-card pack of cards that people used to play games. But in the late 18th century people started to kind of make up this history about the tarot and basically say that these cards with their beautiful pictures could be used to tell the future.

And this fortune telling is called tarot reading. Or you can also say cartomancy, which is just a fancy way of saying card magic, right? And within the tarot there are two sets of cards. There's the major arcana and the minor arcana. Some tarot decks only have the major arcana, which I think is 21 cards.

And then some tarot decks are a 52-card set with the minor arcana as well. So basically, you know normally in a card pack you have one of hearts (♥), two of hearts, three of hearts, one of clubs, two of clubs, three of clubs (♣), spades (♠), and diamonds (♦). Those are the four card suits. Basically in a tarot deck, each card has a meaning associated with it.

So each card in the minor arcana has a meaning and then the major arcana specifically have characters. Some examples are the Fool, the Empress, the Lovers,

Strength, the World, and so on. And they often have very beautiful illustrations which you use to help you interpret the cards.

So usually the way tarot reading works is you shuffle the deck, you mix the cards, you put out some cards, and then you use the cards and their meanings to talk about your future, to see your future. Traditionally, I think tarot readings are given, right? Like someone reads the tarot for you. Usually I guess it would be a fortune teller.

Um, but you can also do solo tarot readings. You can also do your own tarot readings. I started doing tarot readings a few years ago because I'd wanted to do it for ages. And I wasn't really sure how to do it. And then I realized it's just kind of like a form of meditation.

So I do journaling every day. I write in a diary every day about my thoughts, how things are going in my life, coming up with ideas, exploring ideas. And I think Tarot readings are kind of similar. You're basically using the arcana with their meanings to interpret your life. And yeah, I find if I don't take it too seriously, it can be a really useful way to reflect on my life. It's kind of like a conversation with the universe.

So the card reading I like to do, because there are different ways of reading tarot. I like doing a three card reading, and one card represents the past, one card represents the present, and one card represents the future.

I also shuffle the deck in a way where the cards can be upside down. If they're upside down, or inverted, it can mean the opposite of the usual meaning, or maybe it's the usual meaning, but it's stronger or weaker, or it's the usual meaning, but there's something different, there's some kind of twist in the meaning.

For example, you might have a card that represents strength, and then if it's upside down, it could represent weakness, or it could represent a certain kind of strength, like maybe a spiritual strength instead of a physical strength.

Obviously, I can't show you my tarot cards, but the name of the deck I'm using is The Illuminated Tarot by Caitlin Keegan, and I will try to explain the pictures for you. I do recommend you look it up if you want to. The great thing about this deck is it's very beginner-friendly. It comes with a little booklet that explains the meanings of all of the different major and minor arcana.

So I've really found this a great deck to start with. I definitely want to experiment with other tarot decks. I think sometimes the meanings in the booklet of this one aren't, um, they're maybe too specific or they don't look so much into the metaphorical meanings, but, um, yeah, we'll just see how it goes today.

As I'm recording this it's the 29th of November, 2023, so by the time you listen to this some of the stuff might not be relevant anymore. I also might not talk about some details that I would normally do in a tarot reading, because obviously this is much more public than I would normally do it.

But we'll see what happens. So first of all, I'm going to open my box, take out my deck and shuffle the cards. I'm going to mix the cards. I'm very bad at shuffling, to be honest. But I haven't used this deck in a long time, so it doesn't need to be shuffled really well, to be honest. So that's fine. Um, hopefully you won't hear any embarrassing sounds of me dropping the cards all over the floor.

So, I'm just going to put out the three cards, past, present and future.

Ooh, interesting. Okay, all three cards are inverted. I have the – oh my god, I'm really bad with card suits. Um, clubs, I've got all clubs. I have the two of clubs, the three of clubs and the six of clubs. There are two red card suits and two black card suits. The red card suits are diamonds and hearts, and the black card suits are spades and clubs.

Spades (♠) are the smooth round ones that look a bit like a heart, and then clubs (♣) look a bit like a flower. They have like three leaves. So all of my cards today are clubs. Now in this deck, it gives the meanings of the suits. Clubs represent passion and creativity, the element of fire.

So that's interesting. I do love thinking about creativity and passion, so I'm doing well. And as I said before, all three of my cards are upside down. They're all inverted, which hopefully doesn't mean bad things. So the first card is the two of clubs, um, and this is representing the past. In the picture there are two people talking, their faces are facing each other, they're very close, and between them there is a campfire, there is a burning fire.

And the meaning of the two of clubs is a passionate conversation or debate. So a debate is when you're discussing a particular topic and giving your opinions on it. So something in my past, some kind of passionate conversation or debate in my past, but the meaning is inverted. So maybe there's some kind of conflict there, some kind of argument going on. Maybe the conversation actually wasn't very productive. Let me think.

Honestly, and I'm not gonna go into too much detail, but I think this is talking about my last relationship. Basically, I was in a relationship a few months ago, and it lasted for a few months. And at the beginning, I feel like I had a lot of great conversations with this person, we really connected, we had so many communal interests, so many shared interests in art, and our outlook on life, and we had really similar life experiences in some ways.

And I felt like we really connected in the conversation, in the conversations we had. But as the relationship went on, I think it got more, um, I don't know. We broke up and we had a difficult period and I felt a lot of anger towards the person. And when I talked to them afterwards, you know, we were having quite similar conversations, but I really felt very differently about the answers they were giving.

I saw a side of them that I hadn't seen before. And it made me appreciate them much less. They were saying similar things, but I interpreted them very differently, and I thought they were maybe, uh, more selfish than I realized before. I guess the message of this card is to be really careful when you're in that feeling of passion, love, a new relationship, to be really careful about the words you're hearing and the conversations you're having and to really to go deep and really figure out what the message is. Right? Because it's really easy if you like someone to just agree with everything they say and think about everything they say in a positive way, but of course I probably should have listened more closely and thought more about it.

Okay, the second card is the Three of Clubs. So this card is representing my present. It is a tent or a teepee, which is a kind of Native American tent. Um, so the

tent has been set up in a field and there are some tools outside the tent. There's a saw, there's a hammer and there's a, oh, some rope.

Okay, so a hammer is what you use to hit things, a saw you use to cut things like wood, and rope you use to tie things up. And in the distance the sun is setting, so I guess the implication of this card is you have just spent the day building this tent by yourself, and now you've made this home for yourself, and the sun is setting.

So, um, the meaning of this card, according to the booklet, is efforts rewarded, success in business. Uh oh. So, um, efforts rewarded, success in business... So, I could interpret this to mean that, right now, I'm not succeeding in my business. And my efforts are not being rewarded because, remember, the card is inverted.

I hope that's not the case. But actually, you know what? It's funny this came up because I have been thinking a lot about my business recently. I've been thinking a lot about the podcast recently. As you know, I had to take a break last year and since coming back, I've been doing fewer episodes. I've been really looking after my health and not working too hard.

But recently, with the whole process of moving, I've felt something change. I've grown a lot stronger. It's been very difficult moving to London and it's given me a lot of strength, even though it's been very hard. Also, I've had two breakups this year, so I've gone through a lot, but I think I've grown stronger.

I've grown more resilient. through these difficulties, through these hardships. So I've really been thinking recently, you know what, in 2024, I want to put more work into the podcast, which is why I'm doing episodes like this. I want to do more on the podcast. I want to bring more. I want to give more. And I want to honestly make more money. I want to be more successful.

I don't think it's shameful to say you want to make more money. Especially because it's a difficult world to live in right now, huh? Yeah, things are expensive. So I do want to succeed more in my business. So I interpret this card to mean that, okay, up to now I've maybe been working hard and then looking after my health and like my business has definitely grown a lot this year.

But I think we're getting ready to really enter a new stage. I don't know, I feel like there's a lot of potential. I feel a strong sense of growth. I feel like I'm ready to enter this new stage. Whether that's the case, I don't know. It may be that I do more work and I don't see the results straight away, and that's okay. Because I know that you will all find it useful, and that in itself is a reward. So yes.

And finally! The third card is the six of clubs, and this is my favourite card. It is one of the major arcana. It is the tower. So the tower, it's a scary card. So here there is a picture of a tower. The tower is being struck by lightning. There is lightning hitting the tower, and there are strong winds blowing.

Okay, so in this card, there's just lightning and wind. Traditionally, in the tower, in the depictions of this card, in the images of this card, the tower might also be hit by waves, like there's water hitting the tower, and often there's someone jumping out of the window of the tower. So the tower is like a really powerful card.

Like I said, it's a scary card because the tower means like a deep fundamental change in your life, like a powerful change. The message of the tower is sometimes,

you're in your tower and you're all safe but actually you're not safe because lightning is hitting it and water is hitting it and it's falling apart and the safest thing to do is to jump out of the window into the sea.

Right? Sometimes, in order to move on in life, we have to take a huge risk, and although it seems terrifying to jump out of the window, it's much safer than staying in a tower that is being destroyed. That's my interpretation of the card, anyway. The booklet says, 'A revelation or drastic shift in perspective.'

So a revelation is when you realize something very important. A drastic shift is a very big, a very dramatic shift in perspective. So, how you see the world. So, um, I said I love the tower. And the tower's my favourite card. I feel like this is one of the, um, underlying stories of my life. This is one of the messages that comes up again and again in my life.

I shift perspective a lot. I've gone through a lot of, like, quite dramatic changes, right? Like my gender journey. Transitioning and then detransitioning. My disability journey, um, burning out so badly last year that I lost the ability to speak. You know, developing catatonia. These are all hugely dramatic shifts that have made me reevaluate my whole life.

You know, these changes have made me rethink my entire life. It's been a very difficult process. So, this is in the future position. Which is great, because it means, probably, I've got to look forward to this. Yay, um, another dramatic shift. Just what I needed. I don't know though, because this is inverted, right?

So maybe it means that, hey Ariel, for once in your life, you're not going to have a horrible crazy year where your entire life is turned upside down. Maybe what this is saying is, in 2024, rather than changing my perspective, I'm just going to settle. That I'm just going to kind of grow what I already have and deepen the thoughts, deepen my perspective.

I certainly hope that's the case. I do feel like in some ways I'm returning to an energy that I haven't had for years. Like I'm feeling like a passion for my art for the podcast that I haven't felt for a really long time. I'm feeling so glad that I'm moving to London and I'm feeling all of the opportunities that's giving me.

I, you know, I'm, I've already experienced it, staying here a few months, and I feel like seeing friends, going to events, it's really feeding me artistically, it's giving me a lot of energy, so I really, I really hope what this card means is that 2024 is going to be more a year of settling, more a year of putting my roots into the ground, getting water, getting sunlight, and just letting my branches grow a bit, you know, being a lovely beautiful tree. Growing big and strong. Mm.

And if this card does mean that I'm gonna have a new revelation and a new drastic shift in perspective, okay. I'm ready for it. I'm always ready for these things because life has taught me that you have to be ready. You can't fight it.

So yeah, it's funny actually, recently I've had a lot of ups and downs while searching for a place to live. I've had so many moments where I felt hopeless, I felt like I can't do this, I've cried, I've broken down. But I found that when I let myself go, I just cry, I let out my anger and my sadness. Afterwards, I feel so much better. I wake up the next day feeling so much stronger. And each time, even though it's kind

of been doing the same thing again and again, I feel like each time has been a small shift in perspective, a kind of small tower, or maybe each time I've been going up one floor of the tower.

And now I'm about to jump off the top! No, I hope not, I hope not. Yeah, okay, that's funny. The first two cards I was very happy to analyze, but this third one has kind of scared me. I do have to say, that's the thing with tarot readings. Sometimes, it's not always the message you want to hear. Sometimes it's a bit scary.

Anyway, I really hope you enjoyed today's episode. It's something quite different, as I said, and I would love to hear your feedback. You can send me a message at [Ariel@EasyStoriesInEnglish.com](mailto:Ariel@EasyStoriesInEnglish.com) if you want to let me know what you thought. Also, if you do tarot readings, tell me about that. I'd love to hear it.

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