

Mercury Retrograde Periods in 2026

1. **February 25 to March 20** - 22 Pisces 24 to 8 Pisces 29
2. **June 29 to July 23** - 26 Cancer 15 to 16 Cancer 19
3. **October 24 to November 13** - 20 Scorpio 59 to 5 Scorpio 02

Mercury is truly the trickster planet. Although it takes just 88 days to complete an orbit around the Sun, matching the official number of constellations, it takes an entire year to 'appear' to orbit around Earth. This is so because Mercury turns retrograde three times per year, and sometimes it even borders on four times. Planets turning retrograde are based on our experiential perceptions of the cosmos.

The 'influences', eventful and psychological, of these observable phenomena is what Astrology is all about. While these observances of synchronistic events, as subtle and subjective, are true of all the planets in our solar system when they turn retrograde, the influences are especially strong regarding Mercury's tri-annual retrograde process.

As the planet generally symbolic of communications, these are accurately understood at every level and not just between people. In other words, even atoms, molecules and cells can be understood to harbor various modes of inner communication, and with other atoms, molecules and cells, as well. After all, how else would they produce the myriad forms that they do, each distinct, if sharing fundamental similarities?

So when Mercury turns retrograde, there is **an increased tendency for communications to become confused**. It can be likened to driving backwards, during which time our perspectives are not as clear and sharp as when driving forward. This 'Reverse' of the 'Retrograde' process tends to align well with keywords and their associated themes such as review, reconsider, reflect, reassess, retreat, repair, and so on... Complications can occur when we endeavor to go against this thematic current. This, miscommunications of various kinds are common during Mercury Retrograde cycles, amounting to all sorts of confusions, conundrums and subsequently as frustrations due to willful assertions to consciously or unconsciously work against the current.

Part of the complexity of the plot is that Mercury can be recognized to behave somewhat differently from one sign to another. Adding to the confusion, due to the ultimately subjective reality of life, while there are generalities, not everyone experiences the influences in the same way, adding to skeptics requiring absolute, objective empiricism,

which of course, is its own delusion. That said, there are many paradigms and perspectives in the world, much as it probably should be, not to mention personal prerogative.

So, this guideline will tell you 'what and when' regarding the Mercury Retrograde themes for 2026, and you can then be aware and cooperate with the process and conduct your own observations, all of which support a heightened state of awareness anyway, instead of simply cruising through life, half asleep with arbitrary notions of coincidence and randomness.

Among the first considerations regarding these dates is to determine **if Mercury will be retrograde on your birthday**. If it is, the general themes of reflection and revision... as outlined above can be understood to play a role over the course of your personal year until your next birthday. In other words, Mercury will be retrograde in your Solar Return chart, which represents your 'personal year' cycle, as opposed to the shared generic cycle of January 1 to December 31 each year. (These two cycles do overlap, and Numerology offers a good technique for understanding it better.)

When Mercury Retrograde moves from one sign to another, the dynamic will change, sometimes subtly, sometimes more noticeably. The signs of Mercury's Dignity, or its rulership and detriment and its exaltation and fall are deeper considerations. In any case, a deeper consideration of the Solar Return chart would be required, yet the general themes can be encompassed by horoscopes.