

How Does This Method Work?

With this new approach, you still ask a question and generate a hexagram but then you look in tables at the end of the book to find the figure and its corresponding score. **The score indicates how well the course-of-action in question aligns with the direction in which the situation is flowing** – so your interpretation is quick and easy. Let's look at an example.

⇒ Imagine you are in a quiet corner of a coffee-shop wondering whether a short trip later in the week would fit with your other commitments. You could take a piece of paper and write your question which might be:

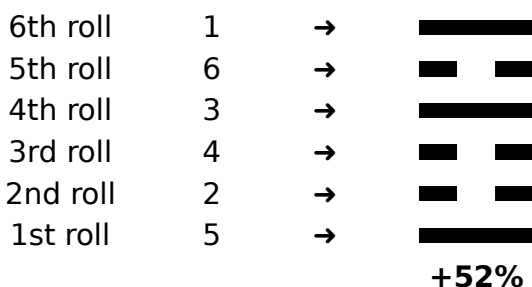
"How well does the short trip I'm considering at the end of the week fit with my other commitments?"

You would take a single 6-sided die, shake it in your hands while thinking of your question and then roll it 6 times on the coffee table. After each roll, you would

Which Way?

pause to write the number down. Let's imagine that you rolled the sequence: 5, 2, 4, 3, 6, and 1.

The six numbers you rolled would be converted into a hexagram, **working from the bottom up**. The even numbers (2, 4, 6) would be drawn as broken lines (☐ ☐) and the odd numbers (1, 3, 5) would be drawn as continuous lines (▬). Beginning at the bottom, the 5 from the first roll would be drawn as a continuous line (▬). The 2 from the second roll would be drawn as a broken line (☐ ☐) above the line from the first roll. The 4 from the third roll would be drawn as a broken line (☐ ☐) on top of the two lines you've already drawn. The 3 from the fourth roll would be drawn as a continuous line (▬) above the three previous lines. The 6 from the fifth roll would be drawn as a broken line (☐ ☐) above the other four lines. And the 1 from the sixth roll would be drawn as a continuous line (▬) at the top of the stack. You would end up with the following hexagram:



You would then find the score (+52%) in the scoring charts at the end of the book and write it down. You would have a quick answer to your question. But what does +52% mean? To understand what the scores mean, we'll use another example.

⇒ Let's imagine you were wondering whether attending a meeting today would fit with the way the day was developing. You could ask a question and cast a hexagram to find out. In this example, we'll take five possible answers and see what the score means in each case.

Question: How well does attending the meeting today fit with the way the day is developing?

If you get this hexagram ...

then it means that ...



Score = +92%

The meeting is well aligned with the course of the day's events.



Score = +52%

The meeting is partially aligned with the day's developments.



Score = +5%

The meeting is moving off at right-angles to the current of the day's events. Are there other possibilities that might match the flow of events better?



Score = -55%

The meeting is moving partially against the direction of the day's developments. Can you find more fitting alternatives?



Score = -95%

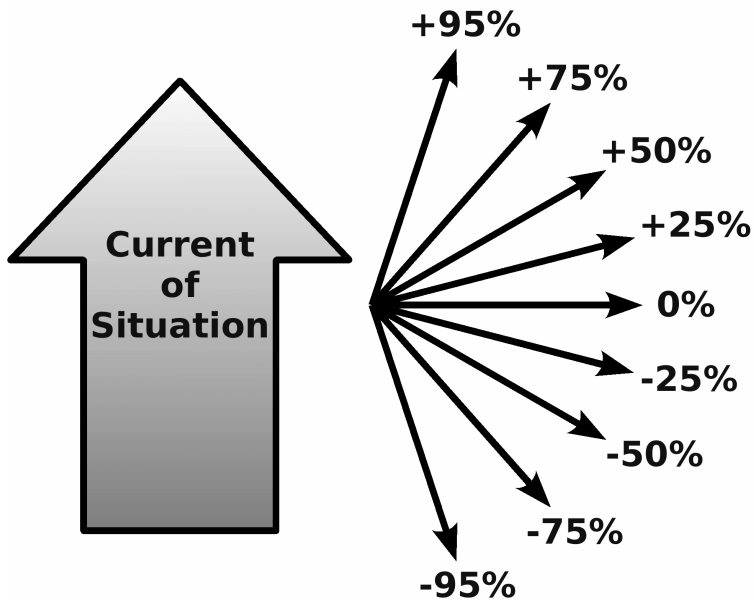
The meeting is going against the flow of the day's events. Is it important that you attend? What else could you do?

Note that the answers can be grouped into five cases:

- **Large positive score:** a proposed course-of-action is well aligned with the developing situation. You are "swimming with the current" of the situation.
- **Moderate positive score:** a proposed course-of-action is partially aligned with the flow of events.
- **Small score (positive or negative) near zero:** a proposed course-of-action is more or less at right-angles to the flow of events. You are "swimming across the current". You could explore other possible courses-of-action or times to act.

- **Moderate negative score:** a course-of-action is partially oriented against the flow of the situation. Are there other options or times?
- **Large negative score:** a course-of-action is going against the flow of events. Are there better options or times?

The directions of various scores are illustrated in the following diagram:



Now it's time for you to try it for yourself. How questions are framed is an important part of this approach and will be covered soon. For the moment, ask a question of the form:

"How well does my plan to _____ (fill in the blank) fit with the flow of the situation?"

Write your question in the space provided in the sample chart which follows. Find some dice and take one of them. Think of your question as you shake and roll the die 6 times. Write the number of each roll in the rows in the table below, **working from the bottom upwards**.

Construct your hexagram by drawing a broken line (■ ■) next to any even numbers (2, 4 or 6) and a continuous line (■■■■) next to any odd numbers (1, 3 or 5) as in the earlier example. Go to the hexagram charts, look up the score of your hexagram and write it underneath in the space provided.

Question:

	Number Rolled	Hexagram
6th roll		
5th roll		
4th roll		
3rd roll		
2nd roll		
1st roll		
	Score =	

As you have just experienced for yourself, this method is quick, easy and practical.

Notes:

- When you ask a question, the hexagram indicates how your plan fits with the flow of events within the situation at this moment. **Remember that the future is fluid** – it is influenced by your choices and actions as well as the choices and actions of others and world events. For this reason, hexagrams are only an indication and can become out-dated as the situation continues to evolve. **If your question involves a period of time, you can re-ask your question at a later date to see how the situation has developed.**
- A negative score doesn't mean that a course-of-action is "bad", impossible or that you must not follow it. A negative score simply indicates that this option would be oriented against the flow of events to some degree. You can still choose to proceed with a plan even if it has a negative score.

Conversely, a positive score doesn't mean that a course-of-action is "good" or that you *must* act on it. The positive score simply indicates that a particular option is oriented to some degree with the flow of the situation.

The score indicates the degree of alignment of a course-of-action with the flow of events.

The score does not indicate the probability of a particular outcome or result.

- Don't ask the same question more than once in any session. If you don't *like* a particular answer, then look for other possible courses-of-action or wait until the situation has changed before asking again. Or you can ignore the score and do what you *want* to do anyway.
- All the hexagrams of this chapter have been generated by tossing a single 6-sided die. If you do not want to use dice, then there are many other ways to generate hexagrams using coins, cards, beads, or even computers.

Remember:

- This approach is about exploring possible courses-of-action and comparing how well they flow with the direction of events. It is not about predicting results.
- The figures and scores provide information concerning the options you have asked about.
- This method is not a substitute for careful consideration and/or suitable professional advice.
- You are free to choose as you think is best. The figures and scores which you cast do not oblige you to choose or to do *anything*.