

# The Five Alternatives Layout

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This layout is useful when the client has several possible alternatives from which to choose, such as four or five possible career choices, courses to enrol in or suitable home locations. The client can then ask a more specific question about the best alternative after this layout.

- Step 1** List the four or five alternatives. If the client only has four possible alternatives, the fifth card can represent 'other' (an as yet unknown alternative).
- Step 2** After the client has shuffled the cards, spread the pack across the table to enable the client to select five cards.
- Step 3** The client thinks about each specific alternative as they select one card. 'Is it wise to move to London to live? Is it wise to move to Paris to live?'
- Step 4** Place each card in the order below as it is selected.



- Step 5** Explain each card according to the alternative it represents.

You may ask the client to add an extra card to any alternative if you or the client seek more clarity. Resist the urge to add two or three cards to every position.

When selecting one card for each of up to five possible paths or choices, it is important to remember that this is similar to a one-card cut. It is not the most accurate reading. In a question on a career in complementary medicine, if the client receives a 'yes' to one or more alternatives, you might suggest that they follow within a seven card layout. Then they can ask directly, 'Is it wise for me to pursue a career in herbalism?' This will give you more information to work with and clarify what the client can expect when pursuing this path.