

MATH CARD TRICKS



PICK A CARD

This is an easy card trick because it requires no sleight-of-hand to work—just simple math. Even without an understanding of how the math works, you can still perform this “magic” trick to impress all your friends!

1. Hand your friend a stack of twenty-one playing cards. Instruct them to pick one out, without showing you the card.
2. Deal the cards out face-up in three columns, working row-by-row (1st column-2nd column-3rd column, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, etc). You should have three columns of seven cards in front of you. Have your friend tell you which pile contains their card (without telling you which card it is, of course).
3. Gather the three columns into one stack of cards again. This time, be sure to put the pile that holds their card in the middle of the three piles. For example, if the first pile contained their card, then you could pick up the third pile first, then the first pile (containing the card) and then the second pile—or the second pile, then the first, then the third. It is very important that the pile containing their card goes into the middle.
4. Repeat the past two steps two more times. When done, you will have dealt the cards out a total of 3 times. If you have done the card trick correctly their card will be the 11th card in the pile of cards. Do not flip the deck over at the end, or else you won't be correct!

CARDS IN MY HAND

1. Shuffle the cards well. Holding them face down, turn over the top card and place it face up on the table. Think of it as a stack. Starting with its face value, deal face up on top of it as many more cards as needed to reach 10. For instance if it's a 3, deal seven cards on top of it; if it's a 5, deal five cards. Face cards count as 10, so no more cards are needed. An ace counts as 1 and needs nine more cards.
2. Continue making stacks as above, keeping them separate, until the deck is exhausted. If there are not enough cards to complete a final stack, keep that incomplete stack in your hand. Now choose at random any three stacks that contain at least four cards each, and turn these stacks face down.
3. Gather all the remaining cards in any order and add them to the cards (if any) in your hand. Pick any two of the three face-down stacks on the table, and turn up the top card on each of those two piles. Add their values together. Discard that many cards from those in your hand, and then discard 19 additional cards.
4. Count the remaining cards in your hand. Now turn up the top card of the third stack. Its value will equal the number of cards in your hand.

RED AND BLACK

1. Deal two piles of cards from a deck of 52 into equal piles of 26 each. This is a complete deck without the jokers. You may want to go through the deck beforehand to make sure it's complete and there aren't any duplicates.
2. Give your friend one of these piles and you keep the other. If they'd like to have more control, let them pick which pile they want.
3. Let your friend know that you are going to make the number of red cards in your pile equal to the number of black cards in his pile. Have them count the number of black cards in their pile, Then you tap your stack and then count out your red cards!