

WORD MAGIC

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These effects are excerpts from Gardner's forthcoming book on word play to be published by Sterling.

Word Magic

You'll completely mystify yourself when you try this incredible card trick. It was invented recently by California writer and magician Jim Steinmeyer.

Remove any nine cards from the deck, shuffle, and deal them face down into three piles. Pick up any pile and remember the bottom card. Let's assume it is the Ace of Clubs. Assemble the piles, making sure that the one with the Ace of Clubs goes on top.

Hold the 9-card packet face down. Spell A-C-E by dealing three cards face down on the table. Put the rest of the packet on top of the cards just dealt. Next spell O-F by dealing two more cards on top of the tabled pile. Again place the rest of the cards on top. Now spell C-L-U-B-S. Place the remaining cards on top.

Pick up the packet and spell M-A-G-I-C. Turn over the last card dealt. It will be the Ace of Clubs!

The trick works on any card chosen even though some cards, like the Ace of Clubs, spell with 10 letters, and other cards, such as the Queen of Diamonds, spell with 15 letters! No matter what card is selected, the spelling will always terminate on the card.

How Steinmeyer ever invented this marvelous trick beats me!

Spooky Card Trick

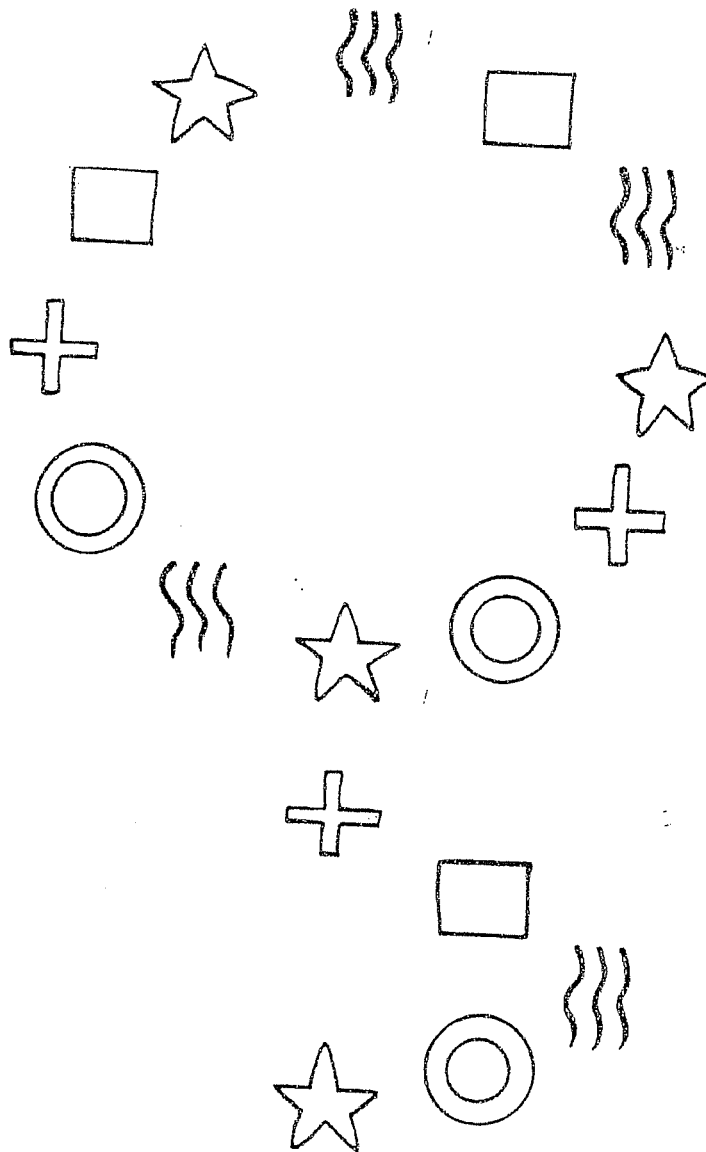
Think of any number in the 20s; that is, any number from 20 through 29. Call the number x . Deal x cards to the table. Pick up the pile and note its bottom card. Let's say it is the Queen of Hearts. Add the two digits of x to get the number y . Deal y cards from the packet back to the top of the deck and place the rest of the packet on top.

Dealing from the deck, spell THIS IS A SPOOKY TRICK by dealing a card for each letter. Turn over the last card dealt. It will be the Queen of Hearts!

The Mysterious Q

Think of any word with more than six letters. Assume you thought of mysterious. Place a finger on the star at the bottom of the Q's tail. Say "m" aloud, the first letter of mysterious. Now tap the next symbol in the Q's tail as you say "y". Continue spelling the word, tapping as you go up the tail until you reach the star at the top of the tail. Turn right. Continue tapping counter-clockwise until the spelling ends on the wavy lines.

Spell the word a second time by saying "m" as you tap the wavy lines. Continue tapping and spelling, this time going around the circle clockwise. Ignore the tail. Believe it or not, the spelling is sure to end on the star!



Another Quiz Prediction

Here's a third prediction quiz that many or may not work, but seems to work more often than not. Ask someone to write down names for the following:

1. A U.S. state that starts with A.
2. An insect that begins with the last letter of the state.
3. A wild animal that begins with the last letter of the insect.
4. A bird that begins with the last letter of the animal.

If you're lucky, the four words will be Alaska or Alabama, Ant, Tiger, and Robin.

A Smart Trick

Instruct someone to do the following. Write down a three-digit number that does not contain zero and that the first and last digits differ by more than one. Reverse the digits to make a new number. Subtract the smaller number from the larger. Reverse the digits of the difference, and add the reversed number to the previous one.

For example, suppose you start with 387. Reverse to get 783. $783 - 387 = 396$. 396 reverses to make 693, which is then added to 396.

Translate the final sum to letters by using the following chart.

S	M	A	R	T
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	0

You can predict the word that results. It will always be STAR.

Mysterious Order

Arrange the thirteen spades (or any other suit) from ace to king in the following face-down order with the 6 on top:

Q-4-A-8-K-2-7-5-10-J-3-6-9

Spell A-C-E by moving a card from the top of the packet to the bottom, except for the last card which you turn face up and deal to the table. It will be the ace. Repeat by spelling T-W-O, placing the 2 on the table. Continue spelling 3,4,5, and so on, each time transferring a card from the top to bottom except for the last card of the spelling which is dealt face up on the table. In this way you spell each card from ace to king!

You need not recall the proper sequence of cards at the start. Just follow the procedure in reverse! Start with the king. Put the queen on top as you start the spelling with Q, then transfer cards from bottom to top as you continue with U-E-E-N. After you've spelled all 13 cards, from king through ace, the packet will be in proper order for spelling ace to king.

Spell Your Name

Form a pile by dealing to the table any number of cards from 1 through 10. Alongside it form a second pile by dealing the same number of cards. Look at the top card of the remainder of the deck and replace it. Say it is the King of Hearts.

Put one of the table piles on top of the king. Next deal to the table a card for each letter in your name provided your name has more than 10 letters. (If your name is too short, use some other person's name, such as the name of a person watching you do the trick.) After spelling the name, put the tabled packet on top of the deck. Pick up the remaining pile and put it also on the deck.

Now spell your name again by dealing the cards to the table. The last dealt card will be the King of Hearts!

The trick always works in spite of the fact that each of the two original piles had an arbitrary number of cards, and regardless of the length of the name used for the final spelling.

Another Ace to King

This isn't really a magic trick, but I include it here because it is such an amazing coincidence and because it involves a deck of 52 cards.

Spell A-C-E by dealing three cards to the table. Continue with T-W-O, then T-H-R-E-E, F-O-U-R, and so on until you spell the jack, queen, and king. You will be surprised to find that the spelling ends on the last card of the deck!

Fold Two Words

F	O	L	D
W	O	R	D

Crease a rectangle of paper four times as shown above. In the squares write the words FOLD and WORD. Now fold the sheet along the creases. Do this any way you like until you have formed a square packet of eight leaves. With scissors, trim the edges of the packet to make eight separate squares.

Spread the squares on a table. Four will have their letter sides uppermost. Arrange the four letters to form a word. Out these squares aside, then turn over the four face-down squares. Make another word with them.

You may be surprised to discover that no matter how you folded the rectangle, the two words you spell will be FOLD and WORD!

Fold and Trim

A	B
C	D
E	F
G	H

Fold a sheet of paper so that when you open it flat the creases will form eight rectangles. Write in these boxes the first eight letters of the alphabet in order, as shown above.

Now fold the sheet along the creases in any manner you like to make a packet with the eight rectangles together, like the leaves of a book. With scissors, trim away all four edges of the packet. This will leave you with eight separate paper rectangles.

Spread the eight pieces on the table. Four letters will be faceup and four facedown. Try to form a word with the faceup letters. If you can't make a word, turn the pieces over and try again with the other four letters.

I'll now predict the word you will form. It's HEAD. (Thanks to Max Maven.)