

EXPLORE MAGIC!



KIDS IN THE ROTUNDA

WHAT IS MAGIC?

Magic includes making things appear, disappear or change form against natural order. In folk tales and fiction, wizards and witches have powers that give them magic, but this guide focuses on another type of magic altogether: the art or skill of performing tricks or illusions for entertainment.

ONLINE

MISDIRECTION: THE PENCIL AND THE COIN

Materials: Sweater or jacket with sleeves and a pocket; pencil or wand; coin.

Toss a coin between your hands and end with it in your left. Reach your right hand into your pocket to grab a pencil. Point it at your left hand and show the coin to the audience. Put the pencil back. Toss the coin between hands again. On the last toss, palm the coin in your right hand but pretend it was tossed to the left. Reach for the pencil while you drop the coin down your sleeve. Point the pencil at your left hand again but show there is no coin. Return the pencil and as you do drop the coin out of your sleeve into your right hand, reveal the coin to your audience! The pencil misdirects the audience by drawing attention away from the coin.

ILLUSIONS: MAGNETS AND METAL

Materials: magnets; table; small metal objects (like paperclips).

Use magnets under a table to move small metal objects on the surface. Be sneaky and act as amazed as your audience! Discuss how this method can be used by magicians to trick the audience in larger illusions.

BLUFFING: STACK OF ACES

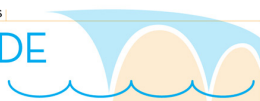
Materials: a deck of cards arranged beforehand to have all four aces on top.

Place the four aces from the top of the pile face down from left to right. Deal three more cards on top of each ace. Say “wait, I’m doing it wrong!” (this is the bluff) and put each pile back on the deck. In frustration say “oh, I guess I was doing it right” and deal the cards as before. Now all four aces will be in the pile on the right. Ask a volunteer to point to three of the piles. If they pick the three piles on the left, remove them and leave the ace pile. If they pick the ace pile, discard the one unchosen pile and ask them to select two piles from those remaining. Again, if one of the two they select is the ace pile, get rid of the third. Narrow it down until only the ace pile remains. Ask them to look at the cards. You tricked your audience into thinking they randomly selected a pile of aces!

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INTERACTIVE COMEDY MAGIC
WITH JAMES THE MAGICIAN



James the Magician performs an interactive comedy magic show. James's magic has won several awards over the years for his humor and for his skill as a magician. James believes that joy is contagious, and the best part of performing is the reciprocal relationship between the audience and himself.



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