

Math Magic Trick 5

Materials Needed:

A clock or a picture of a clock drawn on a piece of paper
A pencil

Start:

Step 1) Ask a person to think of any hour on the clock without telling you.

Step 2) Explain that you are going to point randomly to different numbers on the clock while the person silently counts up to 20. Tell him/her to start with the hour that he/she is thinking of and add one every time you point to a number.

The Trick:

When the person gets to 20, you should say, "Stop!", and your pencil will be pointing to the hour that they were thinking of in Step 1)

How teacher gets the answer:

As your friend is counting up to 20, you are counting, too. The first seven numbers that you point to can be any numbers on the clock. However, the eighth number must be 12. Then go counter clockwise around the clock until the person gets to 20.

Why it works:

The numbers counting up to 20 and the number counting counter clockwise add to 12.