

Easy Two Card Monte

Effect: You display a couple of cards, place them into a bag and then remove one. When you ask your spectator which one remains, he or she is always right or wrong. It's your choice and completely under your control.

Secret: You use a couple of trick cards. One card is a double face card. The other is a double back card. You also need a paper bag.

Fan the two cards and display them as shown. To the spectator, it looks as if one card is face up and the other is face down. Ask the spectator to remember the face up card.



Turn your hand over and show the fan on the other side. To the spectator, it looks as if he is looking at the face of the other card. In reality, he has seen a face on both sides of the same card. Ask the spectator to remember this card.

Show the bag empty and place both cards into the bag.

Remove the card that has backs on both sides. Be sure not to show that both sides are the same.

Ask the spectator to guess which card remains. If you want the spectator to be right, turn the card so the chosen card faces the spectator and remove the card from the bag. If you want the spectator to be wrong, turn the card so the other card faces the spectator and remove the card from the bag. Be careful to not display both sides. You can make one student always right and the other always wrong.

Math Application: Beginning probability - demonstrate the idea of a 1:2 chance.

For more ideas on how to use simple magic tricks to introduce math concepts or add some fun to your lesson, go to www.math-a-magic.com/downloads.htm or call 770-640-6509 (toll free 1-866-490-7323).