

More Fun with Nines

MAGICAL EFFECT: You predict in advance the answer your audience will reach when they add and subtract the numbers they choose themselves.

HOW TO PERFORM:

Write your prediction, seal it in an envelope and ask someone to hold it.

Ask the audience to give you any number with any number of digits (a phone number works well):

Invite them to join you as you:

Scramble the digits any way:

Subtract the smaller number from the larger:

Add up the digits in that sum:

$$3 + 9 + 9 + 0 + 3 + 5 + 7 =$$

36

Now add up those digits until you are left with one digit:

$$3 + 6 =$$

9

Ask the envelope-keeper to unseal and reveal your prediction.

Amazingly, it is the same \longrightarrow 9 !!!

EXAMPLE

9,070,057

-5,079,700

3,990,357

SECRET:

When you perform these operations, the answer will always be 9.

Hint: Other dramatic ways to hide and reveal your prediction:

1. Seal it inside a blown-up balloon. When it's time to reveal it, ask someone to prick the balloon and extract your prediction.
2. Write down the first and last words on the ninth page of your dictionary (eg.: accessible/accomplice). Seal those words in your prediction envelope and when it is time to reveal your prediction, ask the envelope holder to read the words aloud. Then hand her the dictionary and ask her to find on which page those words appear. Naturally, since you've prepared in advance, those words will be on page 9 !!!
3. Paint the prediction (in this case, 9) on an egg. Your secret paint should be a mixture of one teaspoon of alum (available at drug stores), dissolved in 1/3 cup clear vinegar. Use a Q-tip as a paint brush. Allow the paint to dry for a few minutes. The paint will be invisible. Now, boil the egg for fifteen minutes. Keep the egg refrigerated so it doesn't rot before performance day. As you introduce the trick, ask someone to hold the egg. Then when it is time to reveal the prediction, have them gently crack and peel the egg. There inside the shell will be your prediction—"9"!

