

Mystic Richard

You need to have two people who have learnt the trick. The thinking behind it is quite complex, so we have only done this with the older age groups.

1. An audience member shuffles the pack and deals out five cards to person B.
2. Person B says confidently that they can “psychically” transmit the identity of one of the cards to “Mystic Richard” (Person A).

How Person B must arrange the cards.



- Any five cards must feature at least one suit more than once.
- Place the cards of repeating suit in Positions 2 and 5.
- Mystic Richard will have to guess card 5. By looking at card 2, they will immediately know the suit of card 5.
- Now cards 1, 3 and 4 will tell Mystic Richard how many places they need to count on from card 2 in order to get to card 5's place value. (For example if card 2 is the 3 of hearts and card 5 is the 6 of hearts, they must count on three places.)
- Card 2 and card 5 can be arranged so that you only ever need to add on a maximum of six to card 2 in order to get card 5. (Assuming the pack is cyclic, if you add three to the King of Hearts, this will give you the 3 of Hearts.)
- Now place cards 1, 3 and 4 in order, according to the table below. Assume Ace is low.

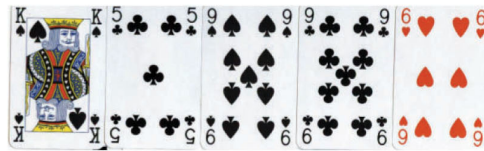
Order of cards 1, 2 and 3	How many you should count on from card 2, to get to card 5
Low Medium High	1
Low High Medium	2
Medium Low High	3
Medium High Low	4
High Low Medium	5
High Medium Low	6

- If cards 1, 3 and 4 contain a repeating value (e.g. two Kings) then you need to use Bridge Order: Clubs < Diamonds < Hearts < Spades.

3. Now Mystic Richard simply needs to look at the first four cards and they will be able to work out the identity of the fifth card (as long as person B has arranged them correctly!).

Example

Suppose you are dealt the cards below.



The Spades are repeated as well as the Clubs, so you have a choice. I would put the 5 of Clubs in the second position and the 9 of Clubs in the fifth position. This means I need to add four to the 5 of clubs in order to get the 9 of Clubs. I therefore need to put the other three cards in the order: medium high low. (Nine, King, Six)



Mystic Richard can now work out what the fifth card is.

Discussion with the class:

Some pupils will probably not believe you that this can be done for any combination of cards

The idea for this trick was given to us by Rob Eastaway. (www.robeastaway.com)