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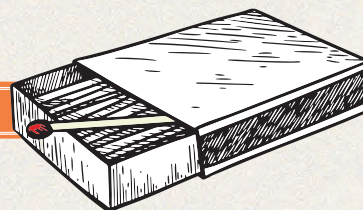
DECEPTOLOGY

SCIENCE OF MAGIC



Outwit your friends in this guessing game using the psychological principle of cross-modal perception. Watch this [video](#) for an explanation of the science behind the magic!

MATERIALS



- ❖ Four empty matchboxes
- ❖ Eight to ten small coins
- ❖ Blu Tack adhesive putty
- ❖ A thick rubber band or hair tie



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CREATIVE  VICTORIA

MATCHBOX MONTE

STEP ONE

Use the Blu Tack to stick half of the coins into the tray of one of the matchboxes. Make sure they are stuck down enough so that they no longer make a sound when the matchbox is shaken.



STEP TWO

Place the remaining coins in another matchbox. Attach this matchbox to your left wrist using the rubber band. You will need to be wearing long sleeves to hide this matchbox.

STEP THREE

Show a friend two empty matchboxes and the matchbox that has the coins stuck down with Blu Tack. Be careful they don't notice that the coins are stuck in place!

STEP FOUR

Close the sleeves of all the matchboxes and shuffle them around. Ask your friend to guess which matchbox has the coins.

STEP FIVE

As they make their choice, shake a matchbox with your *right* hand to not make a sound (showing they've chosen the wrong box) and shake a matchbox with your *left* hand to make a rattling sound (indicating the box that contains the coins). Do this as many times as you like, continuing to prove your friend's guesses wrong!

Bonus activity

Close your eyes and have your friend hide somewhere in the room. With your eyes still closed, ask your friend to make a sound. Can you guess where they are hiding by sound alone?

Play the game inside and outside or in rooms of different sizes to see if the game becomes easier or harder.

Questions and further research

1. Why don't people notice the sound is coming from your wrist and not the matchboxes on the table?

2. What senses does your friend's brain use to determine whether the box has coins inside or not?

3. Research magic by exploring the [WG Alma Conjuring Collection](#) held at State Library Victoria. Almost all images from the collection have been digitised and are available via the [Library's catalogue](#).