

Lie or Truth (The Nine Card Trick)

Here's a quick card trick that anyone who can spell can do. Start with any nine cards from a deck. Have a spectator pick one card and remember it. Holding the other eight cards face down in your left hand, pull off the top two cards and hold them in your right hand. Have the spectator return the selected card face down on top of the cards in your left hand and put the two cards in the right hand on top. The chosen card will now be third from the top.

Explain that you have developed a new lie detector. Ask the spectator to tell you the number of the card he chose. Tell him that he doesn't need to tell the truth. Remove one card for each letter as you spell the number of the card and put them one at a time on top of each other. For example, "K....I....N....G" would put the top four cards in the packet in a pile in reverse order. Then put all of the remaining cards on top of those cards. Pick up the cards again.

"Of course, it was a King of something," you say. As you spell "O...F," remove the top card and place it on the table, then the second card, putting that on top of the first. Then, put all of the remaining cards on top of the two on the table.

Next, ask the spectator to tell you what the suit of the chosen card was. Again tell him it is not necessary to tell you the truth. Spell out the suit while counting down cards from the top. As before, put the remaining cards on top.

Finally, ask the spectator to tell you whether they lied or told the truth. Once again, it is not necessary, to be honest.

Spell off cards as before for "L....I....E....D" or "T....R....U....T....H" if he said he lied, show him the very next card in the pack. If he said he told the truth, show him the last card removed from the pack and placed on the table, and it will be the card he chose.