

Number Puzzles

Try these tricks on your friends and family.

Birthday trick

Get your friend to do the following steps.

1. Write down the month of their birth as a number. For example February is 2.
2. Double this number.
3. Add 5.
4. Multiply by 50.
5. Add their age.
6. Subtract 65.

At this point get your friend to call out the total.

In your head secretly add 115. You will now have a three- or four-digit number. For a three-digit number, the first digit will be the month of their birth. For a four-digit number, the first two digits will be the month of their birth. The last two digits will be their age. So for example: 240 would mean that they were born in February and that they are 40 years old.

A number trick which doesn't go out of date

Get your friend to do the following steps.

1. Write down the year in which they were born.
2. Write down an important year in their lifetime.
3. Write down the number of years which have elapsed since that important year.
4. Write down their age this year on their birthday.
5. Add up the numbers on their list.
6. Divide by 2.

They should be left with the current calendar year.

Three Jugs Problem

Two friends who have an eight-quart jug of water wish to share it evenly. They also have two empty jars, one holding five quarts, the other three. How can they each measure exactly four quarts of water?

Investigate!

