

How the Mind Reading Math Trick Works

You ask audience for a four digit number. Make sure that you ask for a number less than 9000, that has no pattern (such as 1 2 3 4) and no repeating digits (such as 3 3 3 3). You will see why you do these restrictions in a few paragraphs.

- (1) Let's say, as in the video, the person chooses 4 2 1 7. You write that down, and then jot something on a piece of paper and then hide it. Exaggerate that if you can, put it in a bag, in a briefcase, under books etc.
- (2) Then you ask for another 4 digit number from the audience. As in the video, you get 5 3 8 6.
- (3) You then write down your 4 digit number 4 6 1 3.
- (4) You ask for a third 4 digit number from the audience. As in the video, you get 6 9 3 7.
- (5) You then write down your 4 digit number 3 0 6 2.
- (6) At this time, you ask an audience member to add the five numbers on a calculator and tell you the answer. As in the video, the person tells you the answer is 2 4 2 1 5.
- (7) At this time you make a great show of getting back the piece of paper that you wrote something on. Remind the audience that you wrote that something, before you knew the next two audience numbers. But since you can mind read, and tell the future, you knew what they were going to choose!! You show the what is on the paper, and lo and behold it is 2 4 2 1 5 !!!! Wow!.

This is how it works: your numbers on the board should look like this:

4 2 1 7

5 3 8 6

4 6 1 3

6 9 3 7

3 0 6 2

2 4 2 1 5

The trick is to get the audience to add up numbers 2 and 3, and then add numbers 4 and 5.

When they do that this is what they should see:

4 2 1 7

(5 3 8 6 +

4 6 1 3) = 9 9 9 9, or 10 000 - 1

(6 9 3 7 +

3 0 6 2) = 9 9 9 9, or 10 000 - 1

2 4 2 1 5

So, to the original number I am adding on 10 000 - 1 twice!

So my answer is merely the original number 4 217 subtract 2 (this gives me 4 215), with a 2 attached in front, (this gives me the answer of 24 215). So that is what I write on the paper that I hide. Mathematically:

$$4\,217 + (9\,999) + (9\,999) = 4\,217 + (10\,000 - 1) + (10\,000 - 1) = 4\,217 + 20\,000 - 2 = 24\,217 - 2 = 24\,215.$$

Of course, if someone gives a number like 1 2 3 4, you would have to choose 8 7 6 5 to make the total 9 9 9 9. If you were given 3 3 3 3, then you would have to choose 6 6 6 6 to make the total 9 9 9 9. In either case it might become obvious to the audience what you were doing and the trick would not be so astounding. Also, if they give you a 4 digit number above 8 999, like 9 3 5 2, you would have to reply with 0 6 4 7 to make the total 9 9 9 9. To not have people argue 0 6 4 7 is really a 3 digit number 647, I avoid that by asking for numbers less than 9 000.

Have fun. Be creative. What would you do if you asked for another number and you replied with a number, again to make the total 9 999? Then the answer would be your original number - 3 with a 3 attached in front, since to your original number you would be adding 30 000 - 3.