

THE COIN CONUNDRUM

A conundrum is a type of puzzle. In this mind-reading trick, the puzzle is for people to work out how you did it. It looks impossible, yet it always works.

You will need: • Six large matching coins, with different dates on them • Plate
• At least five friends

- 1 Put your coins on a plate.
- 2 Get together several friends and show them that the coins have different dates on them. Now, while covering your eyes, ask one friend to select a coin at random and, keeping that coin in their hand, put the plate with the remaining coins out of your sight. No one must touch them.
- 3 Next, explain to your friends that you will read their minds and tell them the date on the chosen coin.
- 4 Then tell your friends they must each check the date on the coin. They must then pass the coin between them and
- 5 and press the coin on to their forehead for ten seconds. Say that it is very important that they concentrate on the date. Act super-mysterious. Once everyone has done this the coin can be returned to the plate.
- 5 You need to act quickly now. Pick up each of the coins from the plate and hold them in your hand one at a time, pretending to concentrate. What you are actually doing is feeling which coin is warm. This is the coin that has been held against their heads. The others will be cooler. When you have the warm coin in your hand, read the date out loud. Your friends will be amazed.

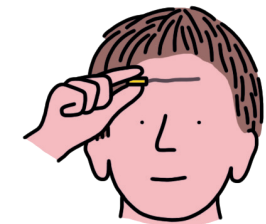
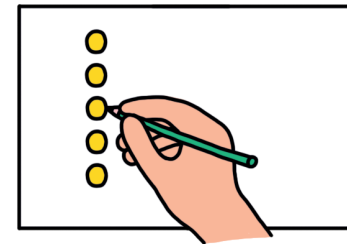


Top tip! If you want to get your friends really committed to this trick, offer to let them keep all the coins if you fail to read their minds. It's a pretty safe bet!

THE COIN CONUNDRUM: PRANK VERSION

Attempt an incredible feat of fakery with this silly prank.

You will need: • Six large matching coins, with different dates on • Paper
• Plate • B or 2B pencil



- 1 Place five of your coins on a piece of paper and draw around each coin several times with a pencil, so that a thick layer of lead builds up on the edge of each coin. Put the five coins on a plate.
- 2 Get together a group of friends and select one, claiming that you feel such a strong mental connection with them that you'd like to try reading their mind.
- 4 Next, ask them to choose one of the five coins from the plate. To prove that you are not cheating, turn your back and tell them to roll the coin across their forehead and concentrate hard on the date on that coin.
- 5 Start pretending that you are trying to connect with their mind. After five seconds or so, proclaim, 'I have it!' and turn around.



- 3 Take out the sixth – clean – coin from your pocket and, holding it between your fingers so that it can turn like a wheel, run it from side to side across your forehead. Get your friend to practise using the same coin. Tell them: 'This is how we do top-level mind reading.'
- 6 Guess a date. Any date. It doesn't matter if it is right or not. In fact, it is even funnier if you are wildly wrong. If you are wrong, just shrug and say: 'Oh well! Looks like I need to practise more.' What your friend won't know – until they look in a mirror – is that they will have drawn a black line across their forehead! If you happen to be with them when they do, run!