

Abracadabra!

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow it.



Have you ever watched someone doing magic tricks and wished that you could do some too? Would you like to discover how they are done? The secret is simple and can be told in just three words: Practice. Practice. Practice.

Before you try the magic tricks that follow, here is some **advice**. Never miss a chance to make those watching you laugh. When people are laughing, they are less likely to follow what your hands are doing. Now here are three tricks that anyone can do—with a little practice, of course.

First, let's learn how to make a coin disappear by magic. You need two sheets of white paper, a **transparent** drinking glass, a handkerchief, and a coin. Take one of the sheets of paper and place the glass, upside down, over it. Draw a circle around the rim. Cut around the line you have drawn and glue the paper circle to the rim of the glass. Now you are ready. Place the coin on the other sheet of white paper with the glass next to it. No one sees the paper circle you have glued to the rim. All they see is an empty glass resting on the piece of paper. Keep talking as you do each step so that no one thinks to ask to see the glass. Take the handkerchief and place it over the glass, covering it completely. Pick up the glass and place it over the coin. Say a magic word. Then remove the handkerchief. The coin has **vanished**. Only you know that it is hidden under the paper glued to the glass.

Now here is a card trick sure to **mystify** those who watch you do it. Take a deck of cards and remove the four jacks. **Fan** them out and hold them up. Everyone sees you holding up four jacks. Actually, you are holding up eight cards, not four. You have hidden four **additional** cards behind the jack that is closest to you as you hold them up. They can be any cards. Keeping the four extra cards hidden is what takes practice. Now bring the eight cards together and place them face down on top of the deck. Without letting anyone see their faces, pick up the top four cards and place them anywhere in the middle of the deck. Say some magic words and then, one by one, lift the top four cards. Each one is a jack that in some strange way has made its way from the middle of the deck to the top.