Magic maths tricks

These handy little calculator tricks are easy to teach and learn, and will give students the chance to impress friends and family with their magical number abilities.

The magic number

Use this nifty calculator trick to guess your classmate's secret number!

1. Have your classmate think of a number between 1 and 100.
2. On your calculator, perform the following operations:

Start with your age.	(8)
Multiply by 2.	(8 x 2 = 16)
Add 5.	(16 + 5 = 21)
Multiply by 50.	(21 x 50 = 1050)
Subtract 365.	(1050 – 365 = 685)

3. Leave the final number on your calculator and pass it to your classmate. Tell them to add their secret number to the number on the screen, then add 115. They return the calculator to you.
4. Look at the number. The first part of the number is your age, and the second part is your classmate's secret number!

Be a mind-reader!

Read your friends' minds with this neat little number trick!

1. Ask your friends to think of a number between 2 and 9. (4)
2. Get them to multiply that number by 9. (4 x 9 = 36)
3. Have them add two digits of the result. (3 + 6 = 9)
4. Subtract 5 from the answer. (9 – 5 = 4)
5. Tell your friend to think of the alphabet in correspondence with a number (e.g. A = 1, B = 2 etc.)
6. Have them think of a country that starts with the letter that matches their number. (4=D=Denmark)
7. Ask your friend to pick the next letter of the alphabet and think of an animal. (E = Elephant)
8. Ask your friend, 'Are you thinking of elephants in Denmark?' This is the answer most people will come up with ... and if they don't, tell them you MUST have heard them thinking it!

Magical maths tricks!

You can play these tricks on people with or without a calculator.

Trick 1

Think of a number between 1 and 9.	(8)
Double that number.	(8 x 2 = 16)
Add 6.	(16 + 6 = 22)
Divide by 2.	(22 ÷ 2 = 11)
Subtract the original number.	(11 – 8 = 3)

The answer is always **3**!

Trick 2

Think of any number.	(56)
Subtract 1.	(56 – 1 = 55)
Multiply by 3.	(55 x 3 = 165)
Add 12.	(165 + 12 = 177)
Divide by 3.	(177 ÷ 3 = 59)
Add 5.	(59 + 5 = 64)
Subtract the original number.	(64 – 56 = 8)

The answer is always **8**!

Trick 3

Think of any number.	(237)
Multiply by 3.	(237 x 3 = 711)
Add 45.	(711 + 45 = 756)
Double the number.	(756 + 756 = 1512)
Divide by 6.	(1512 ÷ 6 = 252)
Subtract the original number.	(252 – 237 = 15)

The answer is always **15**!