

Lucky Number

Get Ready

Print out this page and carefully cut out the nine squares. Then read the instructions on the next page to learn how you can guess the sum of the three numbers your friend will pick.



Make Magic!

Here's how to arrange the squares for **Lucky Number**.

1. Arrange the squares in three rows, just like the picture to the right. When you perform for your friends, you can remember how to arrange the squares without looking at the picture because the images are in alphabetical order.

Apples, **B**ananas, **C**lover, **D**ice, **F**ingers,
Goldfish, **H**exagon, **K**ey, and **O**ctopus



2. After you've arranged the squares in three rows, say to your friend, "*When my eyes are closed, I want you to pick any three numbers that are in a row, in a column, or on a diagonal.*" As you tell him what to do, point to the rows, the columns and the diagonals, so he understands.
3. Close your eyes tightly. Say, "*Hold the three numbers in one hand, add them up in your head, and remember the sum.*" With your other hand, put the rest of the numbers in a pile and turn them upside down.
4. When he is done, open your eyes, stare at him and say, "*I have a lucky number, and it's the same as the number you're thinking of right now. It's 15!*"

How'd it Work?

Look at the picture above and add up any row, column or diagonal. See how each one adds up to 15? As long as you put each number card in the correct position, any row, column, or diagonal that your friend picks will add up to 15! This arrangement of numbers is called a **Magic Square**. Magic Squares with nine numbers were first mentioned in Chinese literature over 2,500 years ago.

Try it Again!

If your friend asks you to do it again, try this. Close your eyes and say, "*I want you to pick any three numbers that are in a row, column or diagonal. But this time, take them away. Now add up the six numbers that are left and turn over each of them, so I can't see.*" When your friend adds up the six remaining numbers, the total will *always* be 30. So, when you open your eyes, you can say, "*This time you're thinking of my other lucky number, 30!*"