

The Amazing Prediction

Get Ready

Print out this page and carefully cut out the prediction below. Glue or tape it to a piece of cardboard or thick paper so your friend can't see through it. Write **PREDICTION** on the back of it.



Make Magic!

If you give your friend the following instructions, and he follows them exactly, this magic trick will have a surprising ending. Hold the **PREDICTION** in your hand so your friend can't see the picture. You may want to have a calculator for your friend so he does the arithmetic correctly. Here's what you say:

1. Think of a secret number between 1 and 20.
2. Double it.
3. Add 12.
4. Divide your answer by 2.
5. Now subtract your original secret number and remember the answer.
6. Change this answer into its corresponding letter of the alphabet.
(1 is A, 2 is B, 3 is C and so on.)
7. Think of a U.S. state that begins with that letter of the alphabet.
8. Now think of a fruit that begins with the *last* letter of that state.
9. Tell me the name of the state and the fruit that you're thinking of.
10. Really? I didn't think apples grew in Florida.

Turn over the picture to show your prediction was right.

And what should you say if someone says apricot? You could say: *"Really? I didn't think those grew in Florida. By the way, some people might think my picture of an apricot looks like an apple, but it's really just a blushing apricot!"*

How'd it Work?

Magicians call this a **Force**. Even though your friend could've picked any number, the magic of mathematics (disguised in steps 2 – 5) made sure that his final answer would be 6. Since **FLORIDA** is the *only* state that begins with **F**, and **APPLE** is the most popular fruit that begins with **A**, your friend is "*forced*" to choose them both.

