



Chapter 13: Tricks

A trick or stunt always adds to the fun of a tribal meeting. You don't have to be an expert to have fun with tricks and stunts. The tricks are more or less designed to fool someone in one way or another or challenge their physical or mental abilities with **FUN** being the most important part of the activity. It also provides a terrific filler during that "dead time" which could occur while the host is making final preparations for refreshments. As the Host Big and Little Indians are putting the ice in the cups, etc., a trick would fit in nicely.

To perform some tricks or stunts you may need to know a secret way to do something. Perhaps you may seem to be doing one thing when you are actually doing something else. At times you will depend on equipment or props. At other times you may use scientific principles or possibly just play a joke on the other braves/princesses. Some tricks or stunts just take practice to perform.

When presenting the tricks to your tribe, be sure that you and your child understand the trick. Practice it together before the tribe meeting. Certain kinds of tricks can be improved by practicing them in front of a mirror so that you can see how it will look to others. Try to learn the trick well enough so that you can keep the braves/princesses guessing and ultimately fascinate them. Fool them, if necessary, by calling their attention away from what you are really doing.

It's always a good idea to include one or more braves/princesses in doing your tricks!

Blowing Through a Bottle

A candle is lit and set on one side of a bottle. Blow against the bottle and the candle is extinguished. You have, apparently, blown through the solid bottle! A round bottle must be used. When you blow against it, the air currents are divided, but rejoin on the other side to extinguish the candle. Two or three bottles or a bottle and a glass may be used. The result will always be the same.

Bread on Thread

Two small cubes of bread are placed into the mouth. Now a piece of sewing thread is also placed into the mouth. The two cubes of bread are removed from the mouth threaded. **Secret:** Performer has two similar pieces of bread threaded and hidden in his mouth. The two pieces that were placed in the mouth are swallowed and the threaded pieces are pulled out.

Division belongs in math class, not in God's family.



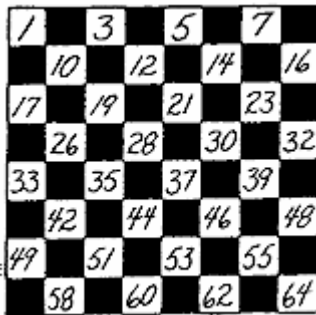


Card and Coin Trick

This is a showy little trick with a bit of juggling that is difficult yet easily learned. With the help of your child, balance a card on the tip of your left forefinger. Upon it place a coin, the heavier the better. With your right forefinger flip the card, and it will sail away across the room, leaving the coin balanced on your finger. Once you have the knack, you can do it every time.

Checkerboard Puzzle

The problem is to place eight checkers on a checkerboard so that no two checkers will be on a line either horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Use both black and red squares. **Solution:** Father and child place checkers on numbers 5-15-18-30-35-41-56-60.



Chinese Push Up

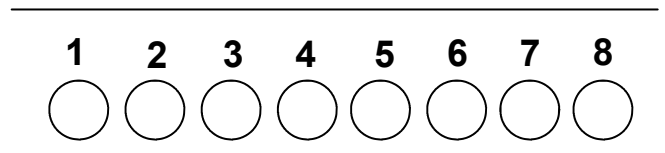
Father and child sit on the floor, back to back, with arms locked. They attempt to stand up without releasing arms. **Solution:** It's done by pushing against each other and bringing feet close to the body.

The Coin on the Forehead

This is an amusing trick. Place a coin against your forehead, and it remains there, as though magnetized. Simply place the coin against the forehead and push it upward about an inch, with pressure. The coin will remain there on its own.

Coin Puzzle

Father and child place eight coins in a row. The idea is to take a coin, jump over two coins and place it on top. Then take another coin, jump over two more coins and place it on top. The object is to finish up with four double coins like "Kings" in checkers. You must jump two each time. When a coin becomes a King it is counted as two coins. **Solution:** Move 5 to 2, 3 to 7, 8 to 6, 1 to 4.



Corkscrew

Place a small object or piece of paper on the outer side of right foot. Try to pick up the object with the left hand after passing left hand in front of body, around outside of the right leg, forward between the legs, and around in front of the right leg.

Cut String Restored

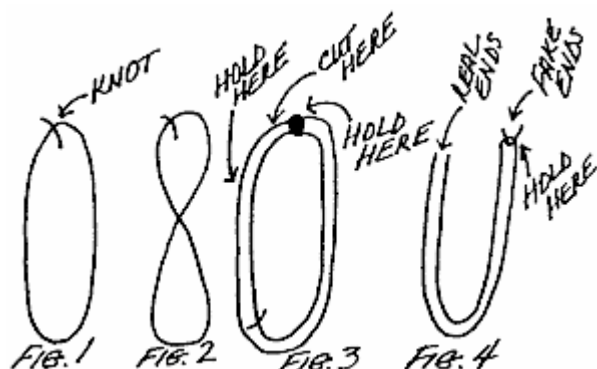
Here's a simple and highly effective trick which is quite mystifying when you do not know the secret.

Trick: A borrowed piece of string is knotted. It is now doubled and cut. The four ends are visible. The string is then restored to one piece and handed out for examination.

Secret: When you double the string, give it a half twist as in Illustration #1 so that after it is doubled it forms two interlocking loops as in Illustration #2. You hold your thumb and forefinger over the loops so that they are concealed. Now invite your child to cut the string about one-half inch from the loop. Four ends will now be visible. However, only two ends are real, the other two being fake. Put the fake ends in your mouth and work

People are alike in their promises. It is only in their deeds that they differ.

the small piece off with your teeth. Now hand the restored string out for examination. At the first opportunity, get rid of the fake piece in your mouth.

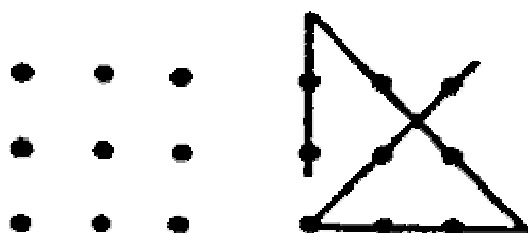


Cut the Circle

Father and child take a sheet of newspaper and cut off a two-inch strip about three inches long. Give the strip a half twist, overlap the ends, and paste them together to make a circle. Cut the strip down the center lengthwise. You should get two circles, shouldn't you? But look! You have one circle twice as large as your first circle. Now cut this strip down the center, lengthwise. Will you get another circle twice as big as the one you were cutting? No, you have two pieces linked together like a chain.

Dots and Lines

Father and child make nine dots as in Illustration #1, and then ask a fellow tribe member to draw four continuous



Drink of Water

Put a glass of water on a table and cover it with a napkin. Tell one of the children that you can drink the water without touching the napkin. **Trick:** Walk around the table, saying some magic words. Ask the child to lift the napkin to see if the water is still there. Quickly take the glass and drink the water. You didn't touch the napkin, did you?

Eleven Fingers

This is more of a joke than a trick, yet it really mystifies many people. Tell the group that you have 11 fingers, counting your thumbs (Father could count while child holds up hands.) Using your right forefinger as a pointer touch each finger of the left hand, counting "one, two, three, four, five." Then your left forefinger counts the right fingers: "Six, seven, eight, nine, ten." "Strange," you say, "I thought I had eleven. Let's try again." You start counting backwards, pointing to the fingers of the right hand. "Ten, nine, eight, seven, six," then stop, hold up your left hand and say: "And five are eleven!" Executed rapidly, this clever method of counting is very deceptive.

Famous "T" Puzzle

Father and child draw the letter "T" as in Illustration #1 and then cut it into four pieces as in Illustration #2. Ask your fellow tribe members to make the letter "T" with the pieces and watch them sweat. This trick puzzle is not easy to solve.



The only discipline that lasts is self-discipline.



Floating Glass

Father and child place a glass of water on the table and apply the palm of one hand squarely over the top. The fingers should be bent downward, at a right angle. Now stretch out your fingers, making your palm tight with tension, thus producing a partial vacuum beneath your hand. The glass of water will adhere to your hand.

Hand Out

Father and child take a piece of string about four feet long. Tie the ends together. Put the string over your thumbs, in front of your palms, and over your little fingers. Turn palms toward each other. Stick the right middle finger up and under the loop which is across the left-hand palm. Ask someone to put his hand up through the middle of the string formation. It looks as if his hand is in the middle of a loop of string. Release the string from all your fingers, but not from your thumbs it is not around the person's hand at all.

Heads or Tails

Father and child ask another member of the tribe to spin a quarter on a table while your backs are turned and you will tell whether it falls heads or tails ten times out of ten. **Secret:** Make a notch on the edge of the coin near the head side, at an angle with a knife or file. Now spin the coin on a hard surface, such as a table and listen to the 'ring' as the coin stops. You will notice if you listen carefully that the ringing sound is longer when it settles head up than when it settles tail up.

How Do They Do It?

Six men and two boys wanted to cross a river. The small boat they had could only hold one man or two boys. How did they all get across? **Answer:** First the two boys cross. One brings back the boat. Now a man crosses and the other boy brings back the boat. They are now in a position to repeat the process until they are all across.

It Can't Be Done

Father and child say to fellow tribe members that you can place them in such a position that they will be unable to lift their left foot from the floor although the foot is free. Stand them against a wall with the right cheek touching the wall and the side of their right foot also touching the wall. Now tell them to try to lift the left foot. Try it yourself.

It Looks So Easy

Father and child make twelve dots on a piece of paper. Now take eleven pennies. Start at any dot, count six dots and let the penny rest on the sixth dot. The object is to place eleven pennies on eleven dots in this manner.

When a penny is resting on a dot you count it the same as a vacant lot, but you must start each count from a vacant dot.

Solution: Start at any dot, count six and place a penny on the sixth dot, but remember where you started. Now start the second penny on a dot so that it comes to rest on the dot where you started the first penny. Start the third penny so that it comes to rest on the dot where you started the second penny, etc. In other words, you work backwards.

You are only what you are when non one else is looking.



The Jumping Ruler

A ruler is pushed down into the closed fist. At the word "Go," the ruler jumps up to the ceiling. **Secret:** Slip a rubber band over the second finger of the hand. Close the fist with the thumb in front and the elastic will not be seen. Push the ruler down into the fist so that it engages the rubber band, but clench the ruler firmly. As soon as you release pressure the ruler will jump out of the hand. The rubber band may be dropped on the floor.

"Just Like Me"

Ask all the tribe members to repeat "Just Like Me" after every sentence you say.

"I was climbing some stairs." ("Just like me")
"I went up one flight of stairs." ("Just like me")
"I went up two flights of stairs." ("Just like me")
"I went up three flights of stairs." ("Just like me")
"I went up four flights of stairs." ("Just like me")
"I went up five flights of stairs." ("Just like me")
"I looked into a mirror." ("Just like me")
"And there I saw a monkey." ("Just like me")

The Live Fish

Cut out a fish shape from thin, transparent paper used as a wrapper for candy boxes. Lay the "fish" on the palm of your hand, and when you breathe upon it, it will twist and turn, raising its head and its tail, as though imbued with life. If the hand is slightly moist, the "fish" will become more active.

The Magic Knock-Out

Ten checkers are stacked up by father and child. All the checkers are red except the fourth from the bottom. Stand another checker on edge, and pressing down with your finger, snap it so that it shoots rapidly on edge against the stack of checkers. Instead of the stack falling or the bottom checker going out, the one black checker, fourth from the bottom, flies from the stack while the other checkers do not fall. **Note:** If unusually thick checkers are used, it is possible that the third checker from the bottom may be the one ejected. This can be determined by experiment, and the black checker should be placed at the proper position.

Make Your Mark

A child toes a line, holds a piece of chalk in his/her right hand, and squats. He brings the right arm in back of the right leg, and then between the legs. The child makes a mark as far ahead of him/her as he can without moving the toes from the line. He/She must come back to an upright position without losing his/her balance. Children may compete to see who can make a mark the farthest ahead.

Matchbox Coin Vanish

Father and child place a coin in a matchbox. Close the matchbox and shake it to show that the coin is still there. When the box is opened the coin has disappeared.

Secret: The box is prepared by cutting in one end of the drawer a slit just large enough to admit a coin. The opening will not be noticed. When the box is shaken sideways, the coin will rattle, but as soon as you tilt the box towards yourself, with the trick end inwards, the coin will slide out into your hand. The other hand should then take the box and lay it aside, to be opened later.

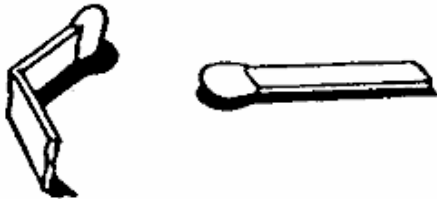
A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future.



Match Falls on Edge

Father and child hold an ordinary match about two feet above a table and let it drop it will invariably fall on its side. Challenge anyone to make it fall on its edge.

Secret: Bend the match in half, let it drop from a height of two feet and it will fall on its edge.

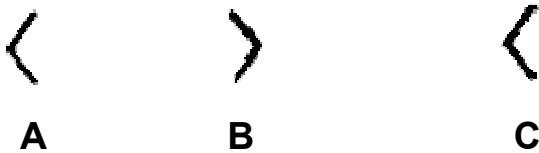


A Missing Coin

Father and child fill a glass of water to the brim, cover it with a small plate, and set it on top of a coin. Then invite tribe members to look into the glass and tell you if there is anything beneath it. As they must look through the side of the glass, they won't be able to see the coin. When you lift the glass and reveal the coin, everyone will wonder where it came from!

Optical Illusion

Which distance is greater? A-to-B or B-to-C?



Answer: They are both the same. Father and child measure it together.

Penny Pick-Up

Tell one of the children to stand with their feet against the wall. Place a penny eighteen inches in front of the toes. Tell them the penny is theirs if they can pick it up without losing their balance or moving their heels from against the wall. **Secret::** Your penny is safe. It can't be done.

Pull Stick

Two children sit on the floor, facing each other. Each has their legs together and the soles of the feet pressing against those of their opponent. They grasp a broom handle between them. At a signal, each tries to pull the other off the ground or make them lose their balance.

Put Yourself Through a Postcard

You can cut a postcard, or sheet of paper postcard size, in such a way that you can put yourself through it. Father and child fold the postcard in half, lengthwise. Start at the folded edge, near one end, cut through the double thickness almost to the straight edge. One eighth inch from the cut, start at the straight edge and cut almost to the folded edge. Start alternately at the folded edge and at the straight edge until you have made twenty-five or thirty cuts, all narrow strips. The last cut must start at the folded edge. Now cut each loop on the folded edge except the first and last loops. Open the postcard or paper. You will have a large circle. Put it over your head and let it drop to your feet.

No one can be good to others without being good to himself or herself.



The Ring and String

This is a simple trick that can be performed very rapidly. Father and child make a loop of string and thread a ring on it. Ask someone to extend his forefinger upward, and slip one end of the loop over each finger, so the forefingers hold the string with the ring between them. The problem is to remove the ring without taking the string from the person's fingers. To do this, take hold of one string to the right of the ring, and slip the string over the person's right finger, which will be to your left. Immediately remove the loop that was already over the right finger, and the ring will fall off, but the string will run from finger to finger.

A Riot of Fun

Father and child place about eight dishes on the floor, about two feet apart. Blindfold a tribe member and challenge them to walk between all the dishes, back and forth, without touching any of the dishes with their shoes. They must not walk naturally and not slide their feet.

After they're blindfolded, quietly remove the dishes. After they pass the point where they think the sixth dish is located, quietly place the dishes back. Finally place the last dish in front of their feet, making it touch one of their feet. Have the person take off the blindfold and wonder how they did it.

Rising Egg

Father and child put a hard-boiled egg into a glass jar containing about four inches of fresh water. Ask someone to pour in more water. The egg stays at the bottom of the jar. Pour the water out of the jar. With magic words, add magic water from another pitcher slowly the egg rises to the top of the jar. Explanation: The second pitcher contains a strong solution of salt water. The density of the salt water is greater than that of the egg, and so the egg floats.

Stacked Checkers

Father and child place six checkers one on top of another. Lay a ruler flat on the table and with a quick motion strike the bottom checker, knocking it out while keeping the stack standing. Continue hitting the bottom checker until there's only one checker left.

String Through Your Neck

In this trick, it looks for all the world as if you were pulling a string right through your neck. Take a piece of string about four feet long. Tie the ends together so that the string forms a loop. Put the loop over your two thumbs. Put the double string in back of your neck. Slip the first two fingers of your left hand over the closest side of the loop which is around your right thumb. Let the string slip off your left thumb. Pull the loop in front of you, sliding the string off your fingers and onto your left thumb. You end up with the loop on your two thumbs in front of you.

Take Away One

How can you have four, take away one, and get five? Answer: Take a piece of paper. Point to the four corners of the paper. Then cut off one of the corners. Now there are five corners.

The best medicine for frustration is to go count your blessings.



They're All Wet

Father and child state that you're going to perform a wonderful trick. Place a small flat dish, with water in it, on the table. Now place a human hair in the water. Light a match and state that you will make the hair stand on end in the water. Have your fellow tribe members place their heads close to the dish to witness this miracle. When their interest is intense, smack the water in the dish with the open palm of your hand. The water will splash into their faces from every direction. They will remember this trick. It might be a good idea to start running immediately after the performance.

They Will Never Guess

Father and child tell your friends that you are going to show them something that they had never seen before and that no living being will ever see again. Crack open a walnut, dig out the nut inside, show it and eat it.. Then bow.

Try This One

Father and child place a dime or a penny on the table. Father then lays one palm flat on the coin, quickly raises his hand and closes his fist. The coin is in his fist. **Secret:** Place your hand on the coin so that the palm at the end of the third finger rests on the coin. Now press down hard, and quickly lift your hand and close it. The coin will be in your fist.

Water From a Quarter

Soak a small wad of tissue paper in water and hide it behind your right ear. Tell the tribe that you can make the eagle on a quarter cry. Bend your right hand so you can reach the wad of paper behind your ear. At the same time rub a quarter on your right elbow. Hide the wet paper behind the quarter. Tell the victim to hold out his hand and squeeze a few drops of water on his hand. This always gets a laugh.

You Can't Fail

Have your friend roll three dice while your back is turned and have them total the three numbers that come up. Now them to turn over any one of the dice and add the bottom number. Now have them throw the same one they turned over and add whatever number comes up. You turn around and name the total. **Secret:** Add 7 to the total you see on the table.



Be patient with the faults of others. They have to be patient with yours.