

Cheatsheet for Being Savvy: Menu of Magic Tricks

Make it hard to see

- Sleight of hand
- Obscuring
- Flash-blinding

Palm objects or hide them up your sleeve. Drape handkerchiefs and use curtains or mirrors. Flash lights to blind your audience.

Use tricky objects

- Gimmicks
- Special devices
- Gaff cards

Gimmicks or trick devices look like normal objects, but have hidden compartments, false bottoms, or other special features. Gaff card decks have special trick cards to help you pull off a trick.

Manipulate the audience

- Misdirection
- Implanting ideas
- Forcing

Wave the wand around to control the attention of the audience. Subtly suggest ideas to your volunteer, or make sure the person is forced to “choose” a certain card.

Surprise with reality

- Contorting the body
- Unbelievable skill
- Math and physics

Find a magicians’ assistant who can contort their body and fit into tiny spaces. Practice tricks over and over to gain unbelievable skills. Or just use surprising properties of math and physics!

Be sneaky

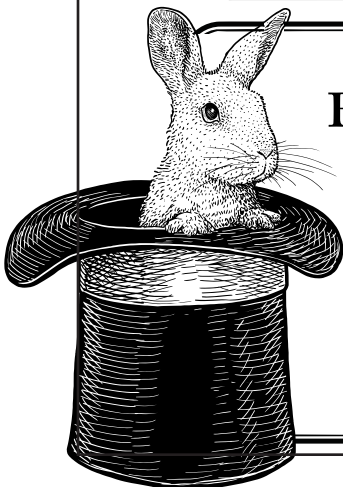
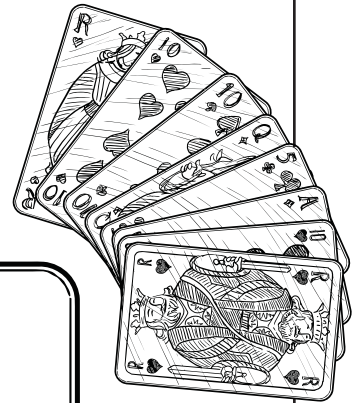
- Peeking
- Multiple outs

A quick peek will help you “guess” the card. Or plan multiple outs, so depending on what the volunteer says, a card in each pocket, sleeves or your hat will provide the right ending.

Use helpers

- Stooges
- Pre-show work

Talk to audience members before the show to glean useful information ... or just have a secret assistant act as your “volunteer”.



Learn how to use this from the book:
CRITICAL THINKING: Teach your kid
how to be smart, make good decisions,
and get things done, by C. H. Dadmun



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Cheatsheet for Being Savvy: Menu of Cognitive Biases

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| <p>Anchoring Bias</p> <p>People are overly influenced by the first information they see.</p> <p>“This t-shirt is cheap compared to the \$200 one!”</p> | <p>Availability</p> <p>Vivid examples that jump to mind have undue influence.</p> <p>“I’m more scared of sharks than drowning.”</p> | <p>Bandwagon</p> <p>People feel an urge to join in group behavior.</p> <p>“Everyone else is doing it, so you should too.”</p> |
| <p>Barnum Effect</p> <p>People embrace generic descriptions that apply to everyone.</p> <p>“You seem like an independent thinker...”</p> | <p>Confirmation Bias</p> <p>We believe information that supports our pre-existing beliefs.</p> <p>“When I google my belief I get websites that say its true!”</p> | <p>Delay Discounting</p> <p>We value things less when a reward is delayed.</p> <p>“I’d rather have \$5 now than \$10 in a month.”</p> |
| <p>Empathy Gap</p> <p>We can’t imagine how we will feel in another time or state.</p> <p>“When I am a parent, I will never do that!”</p> | <p>Framing Effect</p> <p>The way information is framed affects our response.</p> <p>“The high price tells you that it’s high quality.”</p> | <p>Halo Effect</p> <p>Attractiveness, or other traits can make us trust opinions.</p> <p>“A beautiful celebrity says our car engines are the best.”</p> |
| <p>In-Group Bias</p> <p>We tend to favor or agree with people who are like ourselves.</p> <p>“You like the Yankees? I’m a Yankee fan too!”</p> | <p>Just-World Bias</p> <p>We tend to believe people get what they deserve.</p> <p>“Wow that’s sad. What did she do wrong to make that happen?”</p> | <p>Reactance</p> <p>We strongly resist others’ attempts to persuade us.</p> <p>“Whatever you do, make sure you don’t...”</p> |
| <p>Repetition Bias</p> <p>The more we hear a claim, the more likely we are to believe it.</p> <p>“Carrots are good for your eyes.”</p> | <p>Spotlight Effect</p> <p>We feel that everyone is watching and judging us.</p> <p>“They’re laughing at my ugly nose.”</p> | <p>Sunk Cost Fallacy</p> <p>We tend to stick with a previous choice that cost time or money.</p> <p>“I can’t quit now, I’ve already lost \$500!”</p> |

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