

The 27 Card Trick

They think of a card and name any number from 1 to 27. Three deals later it is there. This is every number and where their pile goes on each deal.

sleightless.com/tricks/27-card-trick/ · Every row on this sheet was dealt through before it was printed.

HOW TO USE IT

1. Count out 27 cards. They think of one and name a number from 1 to 27.
2. Find their number in the table. Read across.
3. Deal the 27 into three piles, left to right, one card at a time.
4. Ask which pile holds their card, and gather the three with that pile where the row says.
5. Deal and gather twice more, following columns two and three.
6. Count down to their number. Their card is there.

WITHOUT THE SHEET

Take one off their number and write what is left in base three. Read the digits right to left, one per deal: **0** puts their pile on top, **1** in the middle, **2** underneath.

Twenty less one is nineteen. Nineteen in base three is 201, and reading it right to left gives 1, 0, 2 — so their pile goes in the middle, then on top, then underneath.

-  on top
-  in the middle
-  underneath

TWO THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Number 1 is their pile on top three times and number 27 is underneath three times. If those two look right, the sheet is the right way round.

Deal left to right across the piles, never one whole pile at a time. The whole trick is the order the cards fall in.

THEIR NUMBER	BASE 3	DEAL 1	DEAL 2	DEAL 3
1	000	on top	on top	on top
2	001	in the middle	on top	on top
3	002	underneath	on top	on top
4	010	on top	in the middle	on top
5	011	in the middle	in the middle	on top
6	012	underneath	in the middle	on top
7	020	on top	underneath	on top
8	021	in the middle	underneath	on top
9	022	underneath	underneath	on top
10	100	on top	on top	in the middle
11	101	in the middle	on top	in the middle
12	102	underneath	on top	in the middle
13	110	on top	in the middle	in the middle
14	111	in the middle	in the middle	in the middle
15	112	underneath	in the middle	in the middle
16	120	on top	underneath	in the middle
17	121	in the middle	underneath	in the middle
18	122	underneath	underneath	in the middle
19	200	on top	on top	underneath
20	201	in the middle	on top	underneath
21	202	underneath	on top	underneath
22	210	on top	in the middle	underneath
23	211	in the middle	in the middle	underneath
24	212	underneath	in the middle	underneath
25	220	on top	underneath	underneath
26	221	in the middle	underneath	underneath
27	222	underneath	underneath	underneath