

19 LEARNING A DECK OF CARDS- after they are shuffled.

This episode is about memorising a pack of cards after they are shuffled. Apart from the fun element, you may never need this skill, and it is very challenging in one way. The reason is that Stephen Fry on QI, recreated the maths based on 52 cards in each deck and the total possible combination. The result would equal 8.06×10^{67} . This number is MASSIVE. On Reddit https://www.reddit.com/r/theydidthemath/comments/1x4mw3/just_how_many_possible_card_combinations_are_there/ it was explained as follows: Say that there exist 10 Billion people on every planet, 1 Billion planets in every solar system, 200 Billion solar systems in every galaxy, and 500 Billion galaxies in the universe. If every single person on every planet has been shuffling decks of cards completely at random at 1 Million shuffles per second since the BEGINNING OF TIME, every possible deck combination would still yet be "shuffled".

Now that I trust you are suitably daunted, I promise you that it is perfectly possible to memorize a newly shuffled pack of cards due to your imaginative powers and extraordinary brain. I have done it and I am in no way extraordinary, in fact, I couldn't describe in words 8.06×10^{67} .

However, the following two exercises will challenge your imagination and creativity. There are several stages to this and I will split them into 2 podcasts. You will need to understand Part 1 thoroughly before going on to Part 2.

1. You need a strong image for the 4 suits. Not too difficult:
SPADES: A large spade
HEARTS: a heart, a heart-shaped box of chocolates: I found that this image morphed into any chocolate and it became an especially useful image. *This is what happens as you create images, eventually, you make them your own.*
DIAMONDS: diamonds, diamond ring
CLUBS: Club: this morphed into cavemen and became another useful image. Avoid negative images around clubs so Fred Flintstone would be a good choice. You could also use a nightclub.
2. You need a strong image for the court cards. These are just suggestions, feel free to make up your own just if they are strong and memorable. Remember the rules for imagining – exaggeration, humour, naughty, sexy, movement, sound.

SPADES: a large spade

KING: a BLACK KING – I use a Pirate King using a spade to dig up his treasure

QUEEN: a BLACK QUEEN - the queen from Snow White with her mirror or Maleficent- Angelina Jolie with her extraordinary horned head-dress

JACK: a BAD BOY – Will Smith/Denis the Menace or a Prince – the Musician Prince – (a genius and not a Bad Boy)

HEARTS: a heart, a heart shaped box of chocolates

KING: The King in Alice in Wonderland who was tiny compared to the Queen. A favourite heartthrob from film or TV. Hugh Grant from 4 Weddings etc

QUEEN: fearsome Queen from Alice, shouting 'off with his head' or Princess Di – famous interview where she said she wanted to be Queen of Hearts.

JACK: Prince Harry smitten with Meghan. Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Will Smith again, so if you choose him then have someone else for your Jack of Spades.

DIAMONDS: diamond, diamond ring

KING: Someone rich and recognisable. Elton John (draped in diamonds), David Beckham, George Cluny

QUEEN: HM Queen Elizabeth wearing the crown jewels

JACK: a rich young man – Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber.

CLUBS: club

KING: Flintstone family – Fred

QUEEN: Donna Summer- Queen of the disco club, or Wilma Flintstone

JACK: Bam Bam (Barney Rubble's baby son)/John Travolta (Saturday Night Fever)

Don't forget you can always mix and match so if you choose the Flintstone family to represent Clubs, you can also have Donna Summer or the Bee Gees singing in the background.

3. Once you have decided on the images for the court cards you need an image for 1 to 10 of the number cards in the suits.

There are 3 numerical systems which turn numbers into images

'Shape' (a picture of the shape of numbers)

'Rhyming' (a picture which rhymes with the number i.e. 1, Sun, 2, shoe, 3, tree)

'The Major System' (images for consonants)

Shape and rhyming are the simplest and hardly need to be learned at all, so use these two systems as you only need to go up to 10. Here is a recap but you will have already used these images in the early episodes when you memorised the rivers and mountains.

SHAPE SYSTEM

1. PAINTBRUSH/PENCIL/PENIS/FINGER

2. SWAN

3. PREGNANT WOMAN- Beyoncé's- her iconic Instagram post when she was pregnant, Meghan Markle with her moveable bump.

4. SAILBOAT

5. HOOK

6. CHERRY

7. CLIFF

8. HOUR-GLASS/ SNOWMAN/Marylyn Monroe for her 'hourglass' figure)

9. BALLOON on a STRING

10 BAT and BALL, this morphed into a cricket match for me.

RHYMING SYSTEM

1. ONE: sun, bun (any cake), gun, fun fair

2. TWO-SHOE: Pooh(Winnie), loo, poo (naughty does work in memory)

3. THREE-TREE: any season, any type of tree. Climb it, sit under it, hang stuff on the branches.
4. FOUR-DOOR: anything can be behind it when it is opened.
5. FIVE-HIVE: see, hear the bees. Smell, taste and touch the honey. Honeycomb.
6. SIX-STICKS: any sort of stick, chop sticks, drumsticks, one you throw to a dog, sticks you put on a bonfire, sticks you use to play games.
7. SEVEN-HEAVEN: angels and fluffy clouds. Angel Delight.
8. EIGHT-GATE: sit on it open it, see through it, go through it.
9. NINE-LINE, WINE: a washing line, peg things on it, tie up something, race to the finishing line.
10. TEN-HEN: see her, feel her, and hear her! Where does she nest or lay her eggs? What does she lay apart from eggs?

These are just suggested images to get your imagination going.

Now fix the number images to your suits. It might help to use the SHAPE images for the BLACK suits and the RHYME images for the RED suits.

- 1 (ACE – shape Pencil) SPADES – break a PENCIL with a SPADE
- 1 (ACE – shape Pencil) CLUBS – break a PENCIL with a CLUB
- 2 (shape Swan) SPADES – a black SWAN digging with a SPADE
- 2 (shape Swan) CLUBS – a black SWAN in a night CLUB
- 3 (shape Pregnant Lady) SPADES – Beyoncé or Meghan Markle DIGGING
- 3 (shape Pregnant Lady) CLUBS – Beyoncé or Meghan in a nightclub CLUBBING
- 4 (shape Sail Boat) SPADES – BOAT using a SPADE as an oar
- 4 (shape Sail Boat) CLUBS – BOAT caveman in a boat
- 5 (shape Hook) SPADES – Hang a SPADE on a HOOK
- 5 (shape Hook) CLUBS – a caveman hangs a CLUB on a HOOK

This will give you the idea. Create similar images for the numbers 6 – 10

For the red suits use RHYMING

- 1 (rhyming Sun) (ACE) HEARTS –Chocolate Hearts melt in the sun
- 1 (rhyming Sun) (ACE) DIAMONDS – Diamond sun, gun shoots diamonds, robber runs with the diamonds
- 2 (rhyming Shoe) HEARTS –Chocolate shoe
- 2 (rhyming Shoe) DIAMONDS – diamond buckles on a shoe
- 3 (rhyming Tree) HEARTS – heart carved on a tree, chocolate hung on a tree
- 3 (rhyming Tree) DIAMONDS – diamonds hung on a tree

This will give you the idea. Create similar images for the numbers 4 – 10

Practice with these images for all the 52 cards until you are quite confident with them. The fun part

comes next in Part 2 when you create a linking story with a random shuffled pack of cards. You will need to be very confident with the images you have created as the order of the cards will change every time the cards are shuffled.

So do your homework. Trust me, you can do this, amaze your friends but even more importantly exercise your imagination. I hope to see you next time when I give you an example of a linking story for a randomly shuffled pack of cards – goodbye until then.