

Grey Elephant in Denmark

The Method: This is another trick that almost works by itself. Here's what you say...just have your students follow your directions:

Think of any number from 1 to 10.

When you have it, multiply it by 9. [Pause while they do this.]

If it is a two-digit number, add them together.

Now, subtract 5 from the number in your head. [Pause again.]

Now, think of the letter in the alphabet that corresponds with the number you are thinking about. For instance, if you are thinking of the number "ONE" it would be "A". Number "TWO" would be "B". "THREE" is "C" and so on.

Do you have a letter in your head? Good.

Now, think of a country that starts with the letter you are thinking of. Good. Spell the name of that country in your head. [Pause here.]

Fine...think about the second letter in that country's name. Now, quickly think of an animal whose name begins with that letter.

Now, think of the animal's color.

[Pause here while you look like you are concentrating.]

That's funny...this can't be right ...there are NO GRAY ELEPHANTS IN DENMARK!

That's it! The only chance it won't work is if they mess up the arithmetic or think of some bizarre country beginning with "D".

Have fun with this one...it's a favorite!

