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Secret update...

...pass it on!!

Dear John

This month, an idea you can use during a presentation to make a point or just to have fun with socially.

I'm going to teach you how to make the portrait of the queen on a bank note smile or frown. How? Then read on...

The Background

As I'm known as an [after dinner speaker](#) and [conference speaker](#) with a strong emphasis on comedy and magic, I was recently invited to speak in front of an audience of professional speakers about how I communicate my clients' messages with magic. Most speakers and presenters use stories to make their point, very few use props and magic. A pity really as it's been scientifically proven that information retention of an audience is much higher when facts are supported with visual aids.

I'm delighted the presentation was so well received I've been asked to repeat it for the benefit of other speakers.

So this month I'm going to teach you one of my little secrets and I'll make a suggestion or two as to the type of message you might want to convey. The beauty of this item is that you can carry it with you anywhere and do it at anytime.

The Sneaky Stunt - How to make the Queen smile... or frown

You'll need a bank note and by making three simple folds you'll be able to make the portrait of the Queen smile or frown.

For our international friends, it obviously won't be the Queen but the portrait of whoever is on your paper money.

The newer the note the better.

Make a nice crisp valley fold (just fold it) right through the centre of one of the Queens's eyes. This fold should be parallel to the short sides of the note. Unfold it so the note is fairly flat.

Make another nice crisp valley fold (fold the same way as the other fold) through the centre of the Queen's other eye, make sure this fold is parallel to the first fold. Once again unfold the note so it's fairly flat.

The final fold is a mountain fold (yup, we're now folding in the opposite direction) through the centre of the Queen's mouth. Once again this fold goes along the full length of the note and make it as sharp as you can.

Just as a check. If you hold the note so you're looking down from above it and look at the long edge you'll see the folds have formed a 'V' shape.

Now for the good bit.

Hold the note by the short ends and tilt it slight away from you and the Queen will frown. Tilt the note slightly towards yourself and Queen smiles.

Possible Messages

Being an optical illusion this would be great to illustrate perception.

Once you've pointed out the portrait is not actually smiling or frowning but is due to the perspective it's looked at.

When talking to a client you could make a point about the perceived value of your products and services and the actual value to them. The initial investment may seem like a lot (show sad face) but with the following benefits (mention some benefits) it won't be long before they get a massive return from their investment (show smiley face).

When talking to staff or office colleagues you could make a point about change. We have to continuously change to keep up with the times. What is actually happening and what appears to be happening may be two different things. If we look at what we're doing from one angle it might appear like a struggle (show sad face) when in fact if we look at the situation from another angle there will far more long term benefits for us all.

When socialising you could win yourself a drink by suggesting you can make the Queen's portrait smile or frown at any time you wish. If you can't you'll buy a round of drinks, if you can your friend/s can buy you a drink.

These are three examples, obviously when you flex your little gray cells you'll come up with better and more fitting presentations to suit your needs.

The Challenge - For a bit of fun, I challenge you to drop this useless fact in to your next conversation

To click a mouse (not a real one but a computer one) burns 0.0000024 kcals of energy, so if you eat a chocolate bar you'll need to click your mouse 765,551,000 times to burn it off.

To get you started you might want to click on the links in the 'Finally' section.

Finally

If you're looking for a hilarious after dinner speaker with a difference then please [click here](#) for more information.

If you have a corporate message to communicate at your next conference or product launch and you're looking for a unique speaker to help you make your message stick then please [click here](#).

For general information please visit my web site at www.hotowka.co.uk.

Better still pick up the phone now and call me on 01274 685152 to discuss how I can help you make your next event not just a success but an investment in which you'll receive a return.

I promise, it won't just be the Queen smiling but you as well.

Have a great week.

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