

# Forgetful



**Mikey Jay**  
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## Introduction

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Thank-you for buying this premium release from [FreeMentalism.com](http://FreeMentalism.com).

What you've got here is a beautifully streamlined effect that seemingly gives you complete control of your spectator's memory. Best of all – unlike so many amnesia effects – it doesn't involve any hypnosis and it works 100% of the time.

Imagine having the power to cause people to forget any small piece of information - no matter how hard someone tries they are unable to remember even a simple three digit number.

You show them a number written on a piece of card and ask them to remember it, they place their signature on the card so that nothing can be tampered with, then they hold the card tightly in their hands while you say some special words that cause them to forget the number they were remembering!

You can even plant a fresh memory in place of the old one!

Packs small, plays big and works every time. You can even adapt the principle to force people to forget names, objects or anything else you can write on a card!



## What the Audience See

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After a discussion about memory and how some things are easier to forget than others you remove a stack of blank business cards from your pocket and say...

**You:** Let's try a little experiment. What I'm going to do is write a number on this card and ask you to memorize it. Its only three digits long so it shouldn't be too difficult – even for the most forgetful people. Take a look and just say the three numbers to yourself a few times and try your best to remember them. Don't say what they are out loud – I want all this memorisation to take place inside your head.

*You quickly write a 3 digit number on the top card on the stack and hand it to the spectator to memorize.<sup>1</sup>*

**You:** And just so we can be sure later of what you are memorising, please put your signature on the card as well. You can use this pen...

*The spectator writes their signature right below the number.*

**You:** Good, perfect. Now you've memorised the number, I want to take the number out of your view. But I want you to keep hold of the card yourself. Hold out your hand, I'm going to place it here and I want you to cover it with your other hand.

*You take the stack of cards back off the spectator and remove the top signed card. You then place it face down in the spectators hand and request that they place their other hand on top of it.*

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<sup>1</sup> You can write the number on the card before the effect starts if you like. I have done this for ease of explanation in the instructions that follow later in the book.

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**You:** Perfect. So I've written a 3 digit number on a card, I've asked you to remember it, to sign the card and now sandwich it between your hands so that you can no longer see it. The question is, can you still remember it?

**Jane:** Yes.

**You:** Good. Keep trying your best, because I'm going to try my hardest not only to make you forget it, but actually to replace your memory of the number with a false one of my own creation.

*As you say this, you look the spectator in the eye and with a look of concentration you lightly place your hand on their shoulder and very gently sway them back and forth as you say...*

**You:** Memory is a funny thing, sometimes the harder we try to remember, the easier it is to forget; you probably know that feeling yourself when you try to remember a number by repeating it and suddenly; its just gone. The trick is not to try too hard – but the impression I'm getting from you is that the memory is already fading. As you try harder and harder to keep those three little digits in mind, you just feel them slowly slipping away from you. And worst of all, the harder you try to remember them, the quicker they seem to disappear – only to see them replaced by something just a bit different introduced by a SHOCK.

*You say the word "shock" much louder than your other words and you give the spectator a harder sway with the intention of genuinely shocking them – but then continue straight away by saying...*

**You:** A shock, and then something totally out of the ordinary – did you know that I ate five chocolate bars today?

*This will often provoke some genuine confusion or looks of surprise from the spectator.*

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**Jane:** No, I didn't know that!

**You:** Well, after all that confusion you might not even know whether you've managed to remember those three little digits. I definitely saw a sign that you took my suggestion and if I was a betting man, I'd say that the original number is well and truly forgotten. Now in a nice clear voice, say aloud your best recollection of the number that you memorised.

**Jane:** 985

**You:** Funny how the mind is so forgetful, and even funnier how easy it is to plant a memory within it. Take a look at the card.

*Jane looks at the card and sees the number she was supposed to memorise was actually 185, not 985! She is totally amazed that she could be manipulated by you in such a manner. You go on to explain exactly how you did it...*

**You:** It's nothing to be ashamed of – its just the mechanical nature of how the mind works. I told you to repeat the number to yourself – and that is one of the worst ways to remember anything! Then I took hold of you by the shoulder, the very movement of your body was a distraction to your brain. And I was talking directly to you and no matter how you interpreted my words, they were all suggestions to forget what you were trying to remember. In fact, the more you tried to remember, the more my words were subconsciously forcing you to forget. Then finally, when I sensed that you had nearly forgotten, I shocked you and said a sentence filled with the numbers I wanted to implant – and your brain – shocked and fatigued, grabbed hold of these numbers and continued trying to remember them as if nothing happened. Do you remember what I said? "I ate five chocolate bars" – or thought of another way, 1 8 5 chocolate bars.

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*As you say "1 8 5 chocolate bars" you point at the 185 written on the signed card that Jane is holding confirming to her and all watching that not only did she genuinely forget what she was supposed to remember, but that you expertly planted a fresh memory in her mind.*

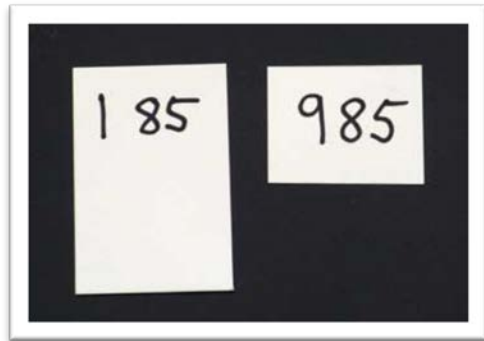


## Secret & Preparation:

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This is an ancient secret principle updated with a 21<sup>st</sup> century psychological presentation. It involves what has become known as the “out to lunch” principle which dates back at least 150 years in the magic community. “Forgetful” is an application of the principle to the world of pseudo-subliminal mentalism.

You need to prepare one card with the number 185 and a half card with the number 985 as pictured opposite.



Then you need to position these two cards on the top of a stack of business cards and secure the stack with an elastic band ensuring that the band covers the join. When it's done, the half card will be totally undetectable.

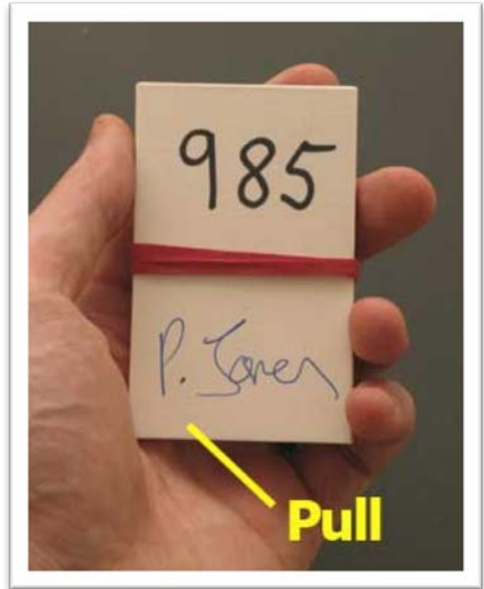
Because the number is written so big, the person is forced to sign the card below the elastic band – but the whole area below the elastic band is really the card below the 985.

Ensure that you pick an elastic band that is wide enough to hide the edge of the half card and that is also tight enough to ensure that the half card doesn't fall out or slip.



After the person has memorised the number 985 and signed their name below the rubber band take the stack

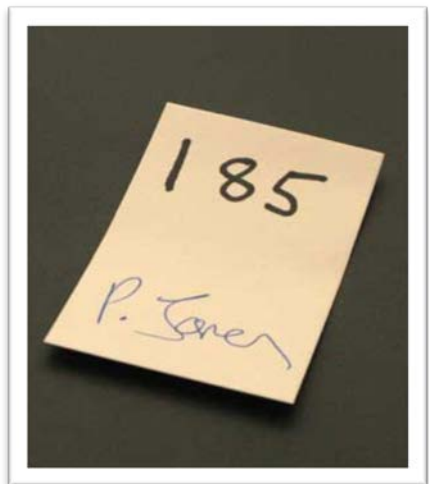
of business cards back off them but immediately remove the top full card by pulling from the end that has the signature on it. This will remove the signed card with the number 185, leaving the half card with 985 attached to the stack. Then immediately place the card face down on the spectators hand in accordance with the script above. This looks so fair because it happens so openly and so fast and you are even saying that you want the spectator to “keep hold” of the card as you do it.



As soon as you’ve removed the card, and as you are placing it face down in the spectator’s hand – you can dump the remainder of the stack of card into your pocket hiding the evidence of the half card. Better still, with a bit of practice you can momentarily put the stack into your pocket – push off the half card with your thumb and then bring the entire stack out of your pocket again and put it on the table. This can be done in a just a couple of seconds while you are placing the card onto the spectators hand and asking them to “sandwich” it.

When the time comes for the spectator to turn over the card in their hand to see the number they were supposed to remember – it will look something like this:

The final sections of the script then provide a wonderfully plausible explanation as to what happened.



## Variations & Other Thoughts

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You'll find that sometimes people really will forget the number that you've asked them to remember. This happens much more often than you might think and is certainly helped by the double bind that you place the spectator in: "the harder you try to remember, the more you will forget it". If your spectator is at all susceptible to such suggestions then there is a chance they will just totally forget the number.

If this happens – be happy – take a bow and move on with the next effect!

Notice that I chose the numbers 185 and 985 – this adds a little plausibility to the forgetfulness with only one number different. You can of course change the numbers as you please. Most numbers can be interpreted as a word – for example 1 = won, 2 = too, 3 = free, 4 = for and so on. This opens up a whole world of opportunity to create pseudo-subliminal explanations as to how you caused the person to forget and how you planted a fresh memory in their mind.

The whole idea of planting a memory in someone's mind is very topical as a result of the movie "Inception" that was released a couple of years ago. I've not tried it, but I've always thought that a demonstration of performing "Inception" would be a great premise for a mentalism routine. Give it a try!

You don't need to restrict yourself to numbers. You can use the same principle for shapes, words, names and so on. Any simple thing that can fit on half of a business card can be used.

Don't make a big deal about the elastic band or about discarding the stack of business cards after you have removed the signed card. It is perfectly sensible to use an elastic band to keep a bunch of cards together – so don't worry about people suspecting the stack or the elastic band. As you place the signed card face down on the spectator's hand –

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everyone will be looking right at it. You have plenty of time to ditch the half card (or the entire stack) in your pocket!

As always, if you have any problems performing; if you have feedback; or if you want to share your own variations, get in touch with me via email.

**Happy Mind Reading! – MikeyJay@FreeMentalism.com**

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The image shows two silhouettes of people facing each other, with blue concentric circles representing a signal or connection between them. The background is white with blue text.

If you've seen mentalists like Derren Brown, Keith Barry or David Blaine on TV – you'll have seen their mind-blowing performances that use no props or gimmicks.

I've made a free video that teaches two top-secret methods and shows you how you can use them too.

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