

MATH MAGIC AND NUMBERS

1. PREDICTING THE GUESS

Let's start with a simple magic trick.

Problem 1.1. *Pick any number between 1 and 10. Then perform the following steps (show your work on the side!)*

- (1) *Take your number, and add 5 to it.*
- (2) *Take that number, and multiply it by 2.*
- (3) *Take that number, and subtract from it twice the number you picked at the beginning of the game.*
- (4) *Compare your answer with your neighbour.*

Do you have the same number? How did the magic trick work?

Having understood the above trick, Can you see a similar trick in the following problem?

Problem 1.2. *Pick any number between 1 and 10. Then perform the following steps (show your work on the side!)*

- (1) *Take your number, and add 3 to it.*
- (2) *Take that number, and multiply it by 3.*
- (3) *Take that number, and subtract from it thrice the number you picked at the beginning of the game.*
- (4) *Compare your answer with your neighbour.*

Do you have the same number? How did the magic trick work?

The following problem is also based on the same trick. Try and figure out the magic trick!

Problem 1.3. *Pick any number between 1 and 10. Then perform the following steps (show your work on the side!)*

- (1) *Take your number, and multiply it by 2.*
- (2) *Take that number, and add 8 to it.*
- (3) *Take that number, and divide it by 2.*
- (4) *Take that number, and subtract from it the number you picked at the beginning of the game.*
- (5) *Compare your answer with your neighbour.*

Do you have the same number? How did the magic trick work? Can you explain this trick to others?