

# How to Perform the “Zeno Mind-Reading Trick”

**Location:** [smmcroberts.net/zeno](http://smmcroberts.net/zeno)

This trick was created long before voice-recognition and web-cams, which now have the potential to easily hear or “see” the card. So, care must be taken to eliminate this possibility. Instead of having your spectator name a card, I suggest having them pick out a card (all on their own, without you ever touching the deck). Then you can say, “Just let me sneak a peek at it, away from the computer, so I can also enjoy seeing whether Zeno is figuring it out or not.” Or, you could just use any *pick-a-card* trick you know, where you will be aware of the card chosen.

You convey information about the card to the computer by where you click on the Submit button (which you click after clicking the Yes radio-button). The Submit button is divided into five areas (0-4). Each time the Submit button appears (i.e., each time a new question is asked), the areas have a different meaning.

Just think of a playing card, and Zeno will read your mind!

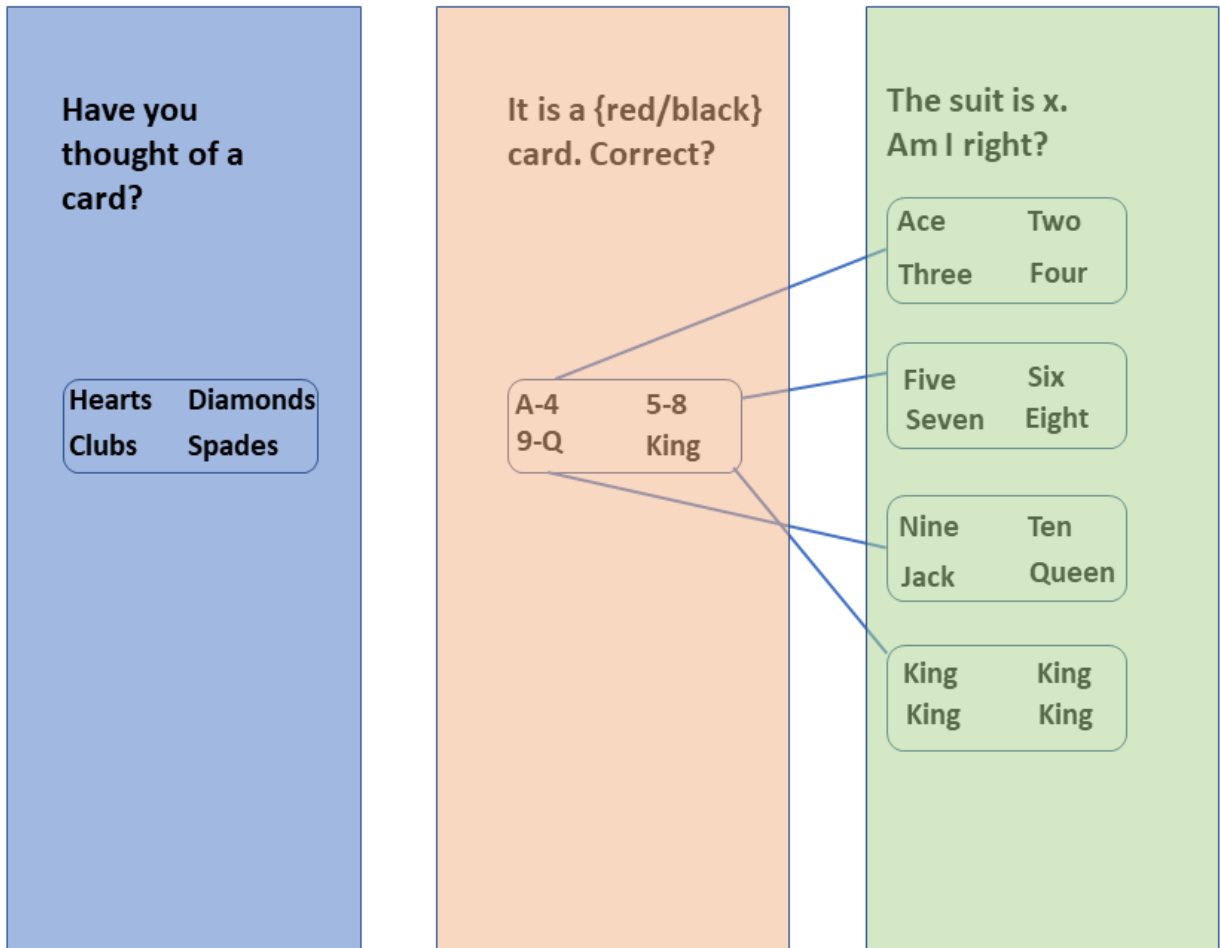
Have you thought of a card?

Yes    No



Prompt	Area				
	0	1	2	3	4
1. Have you thought of a card?	Joker	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs	Spades
2. I get the image of a [red/black] card. Is this correct?	Backup	A-4	5-8	9-Q	K
3. The suit appears to me to be ---- Am I right?	Backup	A,5,9,K	2,6,10,K	3,7,J,K	4,8,Q,K

The third prompt's meaning is based on the answer to the second prompt. The following illustration should make it clear:



The zero area is for when the spectator picks the Joker on the initial prompt. For all other prompts, the zero area allows you to correct a mistake; it backs up one step (but substitutes: "Are you concentrating?" for the normal prompt.) This gives you a chance to click on the correct area for the prompt immediately after making a mistake.

The Yes/No radio-button is for distraction; otherwise the spectator might wonder why you keep moving the mouse to a different spot on the Submit button. Moving back and forth between the Yes/No and the Submit button, no one pays attention to the fact that you're landing on a different spot of the Submit button each time. But, if you do make an uncorrectable mistake, answering No will abandon the card, allowing you to start over with a new card.

Other than the above circumstance, it's best to not repeat the trick. (This is true of all magic tricks.)