

Book Test 4 Dummies

**Text Revised by
Mr. LARRY BECKER**

A mentalism demonstration with books is usually termed a " book test ", I personally have always preferred calling them " word tests. So why introduce another method to the thousands already out there? Simply because this version is totally impromptu (which in itself is an advantage over some you al ready know).

This effect doesn't require any pre-show preparation, memory system or the need to pump for the appropriate information. You don't even have to see the book until the participant hands it to you. Moreover, there is no restriction as to which book should be used.

The maneuver allowing you to gain the necessary information is inspired in part by a routine created by the genius of Orville Meyer. Also, finesse from Annemann also contributes to the success of the demonstration.

Presentation: You borrow a book and ask for the assistance of a participant. The man of mystery (that's you!) riffles through the pages of the book until the helper says "Stop!" The participant is instructed to concentrate on and remember the most interesting word in the first line.

The roles are then reversed. Indeed, the participant riffles through the pages until you stop him, and it is now your turn, to note an interesting word in the first line of the chosen page. Both of you then write, your respective chosen words on a business card. To the amazement of everyone, both words are similar.

The secret: If the situation permits, borrow a book, or if you are doing a radio spot, ask the host to bring a book from his personal collection to the show, without telling or showing you the book in question. This will later be part of your presentation, when you recap where the book came from.

State that in a few moments the participant is going to try read your mind. As if wanting to demonstrate first what the participant is going to do, you show the action you want the helper to follow. Take the book and start riffing the pages and ask the person the say stop, whenever they like, At this point you can even offer to go a few pages forward or backward if the person desires.

Once a page chosen (this must be a complete free choice and must be played up accordingly), the volunteer notes and memorizes the first line and you ask him to concentrate only on one word, one of the more interesting and longer words in the first line. In fact, the longer the word, the more challenging it will be. In short, you give him subtle direction to take the longest words, but, you talk more about a "interesting" word, than the longest word.

As these instructions are given, your head must be turned away, and the attention is focused on the fact that you can't see the chosen page by accident. When the participant announces that he has his chosen word, you turn and facing him, you ask if he would like to change his mind. At this precise moment, you briefly glimpse at the number at the top of the page facing you, for example page 155.

You immediately close the book. Please keep also in mind, that the page the participant is looking at is the page preceding the one you just memorized, in this case, page 154.

Now, state that it is the participant's turn to play the role of the mind reader. Therefore he is to take the book and riffle through the pages until you stop him. In the best case scenario, you are going to try to stop him on the page that he previously chose, even though does not happen very often.

If you indeed succeeded in stopping the participant at the right page, you just note the most interesting and longest word on the first line of page 154, in our example, and you are all set for the best of finishes! If you are less than perfect, let's say, 5 pages away from the participant's chosen page, you only have to ask your helpers to go forward or back, pretending that no interesting words are on the first line.

Remember, at this point, you must play the role of the participant, and you must not seem to looking for a page in particular. A bit of acting on your part is therefore required here.

In the majority of cases however, you won't be in an immediate position to get the participant's chosen word. In such a situation, you must simulate the act of memorizing an appropriate word (in fact you remember nothings at this point, only the page number that you have seeing at the first part, minus one).

After that, ask your helpers to try to send you the chosen word, when you try to do the same thing with you own word. Now hand a business card or a piece of paper to your helper and take one for yourself. Begin to write your word before the participant has begun to write anything.

If you don't already know the identity of the chosen word, you obviously need to check in the book to finally learn it. So, you pretend to write your word as you give the impression of having a problem with the spelling. At this point, you simply retrieve the book and flip thru the pages, to casually find your own page. Actually you are, in fact, looking for the participant's page, to check his word. This part of the routine is done with a nonchalant attitude.

With this action, your helper will believe you are only trying not to make a mistake in the spelling of your word. This is very bold, and if played correctly will pass almost invisibly to the participant, because it seems so natural and unimportant.

When you finally have the secret word, start writing your chosen word again, in fact, writing the helper's word, on your paper, which is then placed on the table, word-side down. The participant then is asked to do the same with his word, and to place it just beneath yours on the table, in full view.

Take some time to summarize the events, that the book is not yours, you never in fact touched the book, until now. This is where the story of the selection of the book comes in. Play up the fact the host selected one of his own books and point out the way he tried to hide the book from you.

Now reveal the word chosen by the participant first, then give some comment about the fact, that he could have chosen any word, but his mind focused on this one. Then reveal for the first time your written word, and compare. Of course both words will match !!!

Here, let me say, that it is better to not write the same exact word. In other words, if the helper's word is " hospital ", you can write a related word like " doctor. " This will put some distance between your word and his, but the similarity will be perceived as a hit.

Comments: If the page numbering of the chosen book is located at the bottom of the pages, here is how you can get to the page number. After the participant states that he has noted a word on his page, close the book while keeping a little finger break between the two pages. At the moment that the book is placed on the table, the break permits you to sight the number of the page. You obviously look down only at the last moment. Then you conclude the routine as previously explained.

I must say that the primary inspiration for the bold routine, came from the remarkable man himself, Chan Canasta, he was doing his own version of the book test on the Mike Douglas TV show, and when you know how the routine is done, you can understand that he had missed, but with the nerves of a warrior, he continued without a pause to finish his demonstration with the desired climax. I will never forget this lesson in boldness.