

HOW TO

How to... 'Read' people's minds

In 1607, Venetian nobleman Andrea Ghisi invented a way to read minds – or at least to make it seem as if he could. His book *Il Laberinto* (*The Labyrinth*) features 21 pages of tables, each corresponding to a letter in the Italian alphabet. The same 60 images are arranged in seemingly random configurations on each page. Without instructions, the method behind the magic is obscure, but Italian mathematician Mariano Tomatis has mapped the maze. Here's how to use a 17th-century text to divine what someone is thinking.

Kathryn Nave



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1 2 3

CHOOSE AN IMAGE

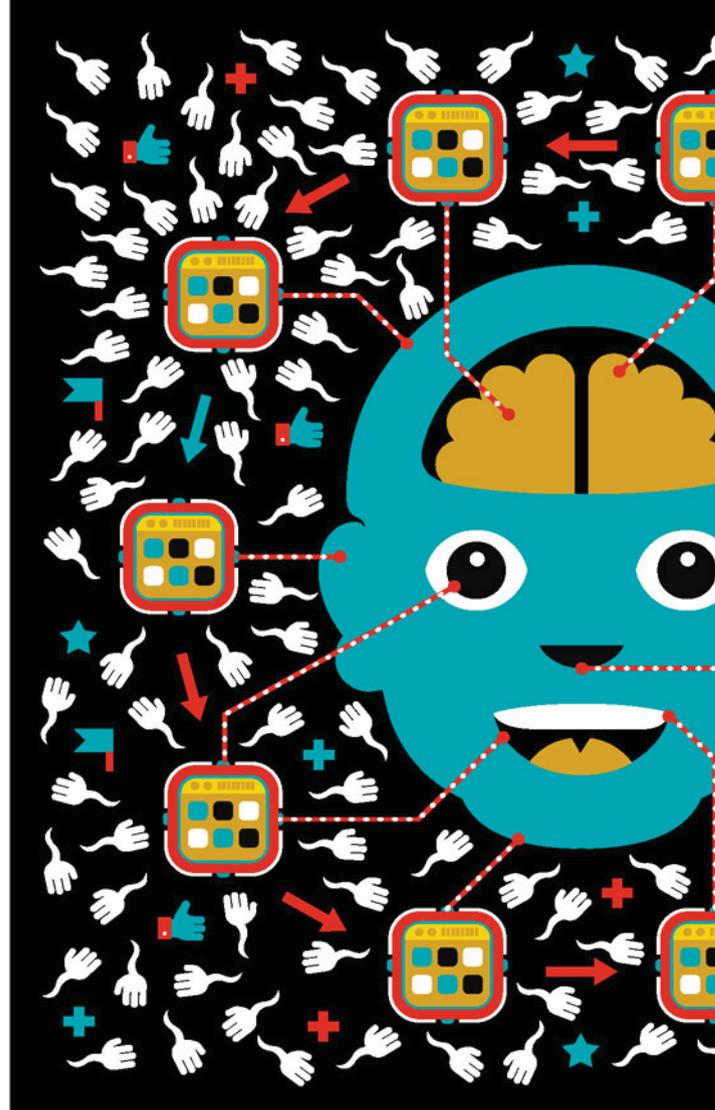
Download the text, as below. Open table A. "You're given the choice of one image out of 60, divided into four sectors of 15 images each," Tomatis says. "Ask your spectator to select which sector their image is in, then take the first letter of the first image in that sector and browse to the table which corresponds to that letter." So, if they select an image in the sector of which "Girasole" is the first figure, navigate to table G.

NOW CHOOSE ANOTHER

You've eliminated 75 per cent of the images, so only 15 of the 60 images in this table are relevant possibilities. "Most of the images are useless, they're only there to make the trick more confusing to the eye," says Tomatis. Repeat the same process as before, asking your dupe to choose the sector with their image, then navigate to the table whose letter corresponds to the first letter of the first figure in that sector.

DEDUCE THE ANSWER

Only four images in this table [one in each sector] are possibilities, and the process is different. "You're looking for an image within the same sector," explains Tomatis. "The letter in this case should be translated to its position in the alphabet." If they select the sector of which the first image is "Dante", you count four images along to the one they're thinking of. Magic! tinyurl.com/p6eyk62



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How to...

Toughen up your passwords

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Brilliant move, using the same password on Gmail, Amazon and that fixie forum! WIRED really enjoyed reading your email and taking over your bank account. Here's how to stop us. Mat Honan



1 USE A MANAGER

The best passwords are long strings of letters, numbers and symbols that you can't remember. You need a tool to keep track – ideally, one you can access from any device. Look for one that not only stores passwords but generates them for you, like 1Password, which works on OSX, Windows, iOS and Android.

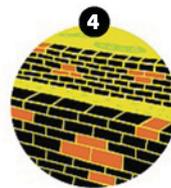
3 SEARCH YOUR EMAIL

Your inbox is a treasure trove of simply deduced passwords. An easy solution: do a simple search for "password" and delete all of the results returned. Also search for "login" and "username". This way, even if someone does get into your email, they'll have a much harder time finding all your accounts.



2 PERFORM AN AUDIT

Import all your passwords into your password manager. Search for reused passwords; these are a security risk. Eliminate every repetition. Then search for schemes (such as 1234Google). A hacker – or cracking program – will get past those in seconds. Rate your passwords by strength and change the weak ones.



4 TAKE THE TWO-STEP

Your bank, email, phone, ISP and data-storage accounts are critical. Take extra steps to protect these. If you haven't done so, set up two-step verification for these. Two-step requires an additional code that's sent to your phone (the code changes each time). If your bank doesn't offer two-step, change to one that does.