

Presidential Prediction

A Magic Trick by Dick Larson in *GAMES*

The Presidents of the United States, in the order in which they were elected, are listed below.

WASHINGTON
J ADAMS
JEFFERSON
MADISON
MONROE
J Q ADAMS
JACKSON
VAN BUREN
W HARRISON
TYLER
POLK
TAYLOR
FILLMORE
PIERCE
BUCHANAN
LINCOLN
A JOHNSON
GRANT
HAYES
GARFIELD
ARTHUR
CLEVELAND
B HARRISON
CLEVELAND
MCKINLEY
T ROOSEVELT
TAFT
W WILSON
HARDING
COOLIDGE
HOOVER
F ROOSEVELT
TRUMAN
EISENHOWER
KENNEDY
L JOHNSON
NIXON
FORD
CARTER
REAGAN
G H W BUSH
CLINTON
G W BUSH
OBAMA

Choose any one of the first sixteen Presidents – that is from Washington to Lincoln. Point to the name you have chosen, and then spell that name out, one letter at a time, as you move down the list from that name one line at a time.

For example, if you select “J. ADAMS,” you would say “J” as you point to JEFFERSON, “A” as you point to MADISON, “D” as you point to MONROE, etc., until you say “S” while ending at VAN BUREN. Then take the name of the President you have landed on and repeat the process – e.g., say the “V” from Van Buren as you point to W. HARRISON, etc. Keep repeating the process, stopping only when you reach a name you can’t spell out because it is longer than the number of names left on the list. Remember the name of the President on which you ended.

Presumably, there is no way we could know which President you chose to start with. Nevertheless, we have confidence that the President you have ended on is ...

Clinton!