

Who is John Edward?

John Edward McGee, Jr. (born October 19, 1969) is an American television personality and psychic medium. He is best known for his TV shows *Crossing Over with John Edward* and *John Edward Cross Country*, both of which are premised on Edward's claims of communicating with the spirits of the audience members' deceased relatives.

What might John Edward be doing when he appears to "speak" to those who have "crossed over"?

"Cold Reading" is an artful method of gleaning information from the sitter, then feeding it back as mystical revelation.

The "psychic" can obtain clues by observing dress and body language (noting expressions that indicate when one is on or off track), asking questions (which if correct will appear as "hits" but otherwise will seem innocent queries), and inviting the subject to interpret the vague statements offered. For example, nearly anyone can respond to the mention of a common object (like a ring or watch) with a personal recollection that can seem to transform the mention into a hit.

The following Cold Reader Bingo Card can be used to demonstrate the psychic's skill at using the technique.

COLD READER BINGO

HOST PRAISES READER - "WOW!" OR SIMILAR	"CHEST AREA" or "BREATHING TROUBLE"	"DO YOU UNDERSTAND?"	"S" NAME	COMPLETE MISS ON ALL GUESSES
"YES YOU DO!"	AUDIENCE MEMBER ACCEPTS MISS AS A HIT	DOG OR CAT	"JEWELRY"	"BOXES"
THE DEAD RELATIVE IS "OK" "FINE"	FATHER FIGURE / OLDER MALE	ASKS ABOUT CHILD or "TOYS"	"BIRTHDAY" "WEDDING"	"CANCER"
MULTIPLE FISHING QUESTIONS	WILD-ASS GUESS	"WRITE THIS DOWN"	ANY NUMBER FROM 1 TO 12	"HEAD AREA"
"BADGE" "FLAG"	"R" NAME (Includes "Bob")	"J" (or "J sounding" - includes "G") NAME	"M" NAME	MOTHER FIGURE / OLDER FEMALE

The material in this flyer has been adapted from the following sources:

http://www.ottawaskeptics.org/s_flyer1_print.pdf

<http://www.skeptics.com.au/publications/articles/guide-to-cold-reading-ray-hyman/>

http://www.csicop.org/si/show/john_edward_hustling_the_be_reaved/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edward

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Biggest_Douche_in_the_Universe

<http://skeptico.blogs.com/skeptico/2007/11/john-edward-jam.html>

How to Be a Psychic

Many people are amazed by a self-professed psychic's ability to discover seemingly personal facts about an audience member and their absent family, friends or acquaintances with just a few minutes of concentration.

You can learn to do this too, with a few simple techniques:

1. **"Shotgun" the audience:** offer a lot of general statements, preferably to a large audience. Find someone who will respond to a name or general description, such as "someone who's gone through relationship troubles" or "and older man with heart problems"
2. **Use variations of names:** Don't say "Bill". Say "Bill, or Will, or Bil or Bobby..." If there are no 'hits', be even more general "Definitely a male name starting with B..."
3. **Observe the subject:** As you talk to them, their body language will tell you whether they're anxious or upset... signs that you've said something that hits close to home.
4. **Ask questions that will seem like statements:** Don't say "Your grandfather's name was Billy." Say "Who was Billy? Was he your grandfather?" If you're right it seems like a hit, but if you're wrong you can keep going. "Maybe an uncle? A family friend?"
5. **Use what they tell you:** Your subject will probably give you more information than they realize. If they say "Billy was my uncle," you know he died. You say "And Billy passed away, right?" Another hit.
6. **Use pregnant pauses:** A slight pause will likely prompt your subject to offer a bit of information, which you can then build on.
7. **Pretend their answers are yours:** Your subject might say "I want help making a big decision." You can say "That's right, you do, and it's something that's been bothering you for a long time." It seems like another hit, but you haven't said anything new.
8. **Use 'Barnum statements':** These statements seem very personal to the individual experiencing a reading, but really apply to most people. Examples: "you lost someone important to you, and felt that you never had the chance to say goodbye" or "you have had conflict within your family."
9. **Make predictions that can't be tested:** Tell the audience member that they have a health problem, or where to look for something they've lost. It makes the audience think you're onto something, but by the time there's any proof the show is long over.
10. **Tell them something they want to hear:** Tell them a lost loved one wants them to be happy, and is watching over them. Everyone wants that to be true.
11. **Ignore your mistakes!** Only skeptical audience members will notice how many times you get it wrong. Most people will only remember your hits – it's human nature.

Read this information before you believe anything you see inside today.

Faith, belief and wishful thinking may help you through a tough time and be comforting, but are they real?

Are psychics real?



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