

Smart Money

"Have you ever seen coins spell their own names?"

What do you think your friends and family would say if you asked them this question? Using the following system you can show them how this is possible!

You will need to arrange coins in a line on a table or other flat surface in this order: penny, nickel, quarter and dime. Be sure that you put them in this exact order.



Spell the name of any one of the coins by starting at the left of the line of coins, touching the penny for the first letter, the nickel for the second one, and so forth. If you reach the end of the line of coins and haven't finished spelling the name, keep going by touching the penny at the start of the row for the next letter.

When you finish the last letter your finger will be on the coin you have been spelling! Try spelling the names of the other coins. (Always start at the left of the line of coins.)

Have you figured out how each coin "knows its name" yet?

How Does It Work?

It's really not as hard as it looks! Look at the names of the four coins:

D I M E
P E N N Y
N I C K E L
Q U A R T E R

The word "dime" has four letters, "penny" has five letters, "nickel" has six letters, and "quarter" has seven letters. Did you notice that each name has just one more letter than the one before it? The secret is to arrange the coins so that the dime falls in the fourth place, the penny in the fifth place,

"Smart Money" - Can Coins Spell Their Names?

the nickel sixth, and the quarter in the seventh.

Now that you know the secret to the "spelling coins" can you find some different ways to arrange the coins and still get the right answers? Experiment with adding more coins to the line.

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