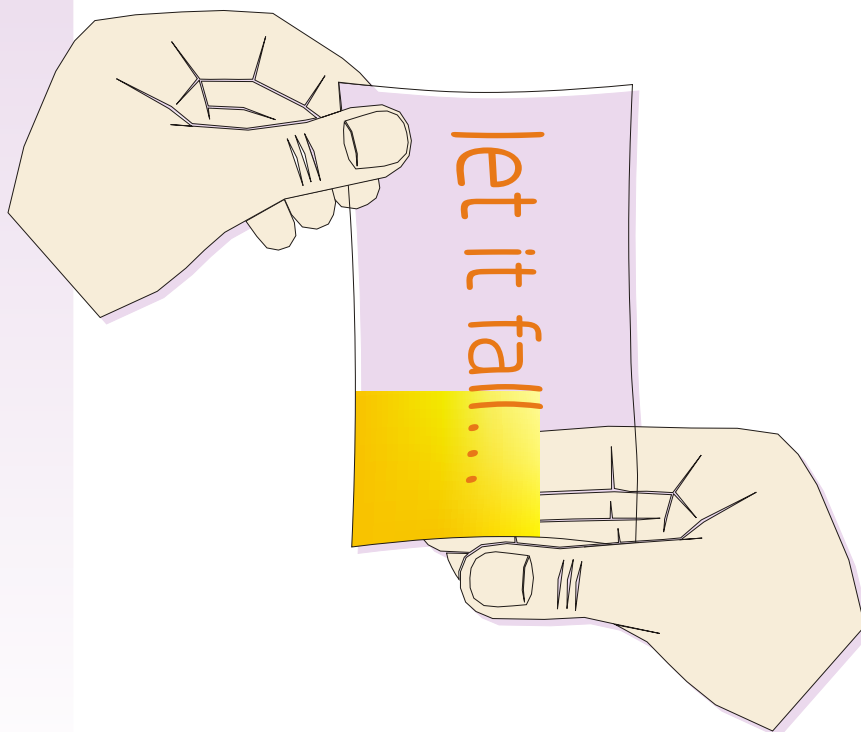


Treasure of Classic
and Modern Puzzles

Toys



Catch or Pass *after Martin Gardner*

Do you want to see if your friend can catch the postcard when you let it go? Just take a postcard in your hand and let your friend hold his/her fingers on each side of the postcard as shown in the figure on the left, but his/her fingers aren't touching the postcard.

Let the postcard go. Your friend will not catch it. You can repeat it many times. The result will be the same - the postcard will easily "flow away" between your friend's fingers.

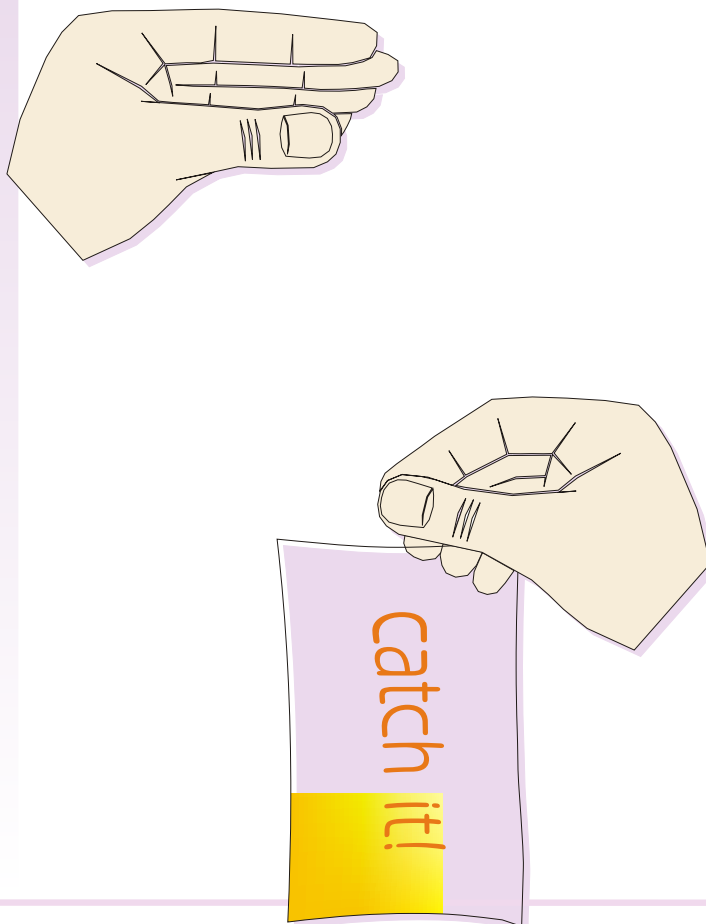
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Toys



Catch or Pass (explanation)

If you try to drop and catch the postcard yourself you will find you are successful at it, because your brain can send "let it go" and "catch" signals to your two hands at the same moment.

But when you hold the postcard for your friend to catch, his/her brain must first see that the postcard is falling, then send a "catch" signal to his fingers. This takes more time. That is why your friend can't catch it.