The Long-Lost Secrets of Mental Math

The amazing story of how a simple 3000 year-old method of doing mental calculations was rediscovered in the forests of India.

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Introduction

Think back.

Did you become frustrated with numbers at an early age?

Did you have a bad math teacher?

Did you fall behind?

Many people have negative memories and opinions toward Math. But whether you struggled to understand the lessons or you were just mentally lazy, there is one thing that did NOT cause the problem…

… your basic intelligence level.

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Jedediah Buxton (1702 – 1772) was an illiterate, "simple-
minded" man who could multiply huge numbers by methods
entirely of his own invention.

How is this possible?

He was no scholar.  He simply saw a relationship among
numbers that most people don't see.

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This special perspective on numbers and their relationships has only been available to those people fortunate enough to discover it for themselves.

However there is a method that can give you this number sense - a method that was first used over 3000 years ago…

How I Discovered and Used Vedic Math

In school, I was mentally lazy, and I was reminded of this frequently throughout my schooling experience.

(I now understand that these adults were right about me. And I haven't changed!)

But, as life has its twists and turns, I became a Math teacher, and it was during my teacher training that I came across a book about Vedic Mathematics by Sri Bharati Krsna Trthaji.

I was instantly amazed by this book. It actually changed my life in ways I could have never predicted.

As I read the book, I was amazed that I had not learned Math in this way. Why was the whole world not using these methods? They were so easy, and the system was so complete.

That was over thirty years ago. The Vedic system is becoming more popular today. But at the same time, the educational establishment isn't quick to adopt radically new ways of seeing, as an individual can.

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It took over 100 years for our current number system to
be adopted in Europe.

Have you ever tried doing arithmetic with Roman numerals?

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So, excited with the possibilities, I studied Vedic Math and expanded upon it.

I showed Vedic samples and techniques to my students. The inevitable response was:

"Why weren't we shown this before?"

Slow pupils found the simple patterns and methods really easy.

The fast pupils enjoyed the challenge of applying one of the many special methods to make solutions even easier.

What Will Vedic Math Do For You and How?

FACT: Once the basic numbers are understood, the whole subject of Math can be developed without any external help.

Numbers are totally reliable and dependable. Unlike human beings, they always behave in the same way.

Basically, you need a new perspective, and Vedic Math offers just that. The benefits of using Vedic Math are many:

> ➢ It will increase your mental agility.

> ➢ It will improve your memory.

> ➢ It will give you more confidence.

> ➢ You will gain the ability to make quick calculations: in the shop, at work, on the phone, etc.

The Vedic system is so successful because it is **completely natural**. It works the way your mind works.

For example, in order to subtract 28 from 55, you would probably set the numbers out one below the other and use the subtraction method you have been taught (one of the two main methods currently in education).

But stop and study these numbers briefly. Notice that 28 is 2 below 30. So, simply take 30 from 55 (which gives 25) and add 2 back to get 27. Thus, 55 – 28 = 27.

Such a process is more in tune with our natural thinking processes than the traditional, formal steps we learn in school.

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The Vedic system doesn't just apply in arithmetic, but to
all branches of math.

There are problems in advanced math, normally requiring a
page of work, that can be solved instantly with Vedic
Math.

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Where Does Vedic Math Come From?

Sri Bharati Krsna Trthaji, the author and scholar mentioned above, did not invent Vedic Mathematics. Vedic Math originated in ancient India.

The Vedas are ancient Sanskrit texts. These texts were discovered and studied in the West towards the end of the 19th century and were found to contain profound knowledge on all kinds of subjects, including astronomy, architecture, medicine and so on.

The sections entitled "Ganita Sutras", which means "Mathematics", however, could not be interpreted as mathematics. The most revered scholars were not able to make any mathematical sense out of the texts, and so they were dismissed as nonsense.

Bharati Krsna, though, did not easily accept the notion that this section of the Vedas was simply nonsense. He became determined to find the text's mathematical content.

Bharati Krsna was well qualified for this task, as he had passed his degree at the age of nineteen and a year later took seven MAs, securing highest honors

in all of them. These subjects included Sanskrit, Philosophy, English, Mathematics and History.

For seven years (from 1911 to 1918), virtually alone in the forests of India, he studied the documents and eventually reconstructed the entire system.

The reason the other scholars failed was because the system was deliberately hidden by using a code in which letters are given numerical values.

Once Bharati Krsna discovered this code, he was gradually able to unlock the entire system.

Apparently, the ancient Indians, thousands of years ago, knew about calculus, coordinate geometry and various other subjects thought to have been discovered only in recent times.

Their methods of calculation were extremely advanced. In fact, it must be said, far in advance of anything taught today.

Intriguing Success Stories

Story One:

A boy who was taught Vedic Math at a school near where I live went to apply for a job.

There were several other applicants, and they were each asked many questions, including one about finding a percentage of a number.

This boy gave the answer immediately. When asked how he did it, he said he used Vedic Math.

None of the other applicants gave the right answer. The boy got the job.

Story Two:

Once when I was doing supply teaching, I was sent to the home of a boy who had broken his leg.

I was supposed to help with all subjects, but he liked math, so we did quite a lot of it.

The boy noticed that I tended to do calculations mentally, and he started to do the same. So, I taught him how to multiply two 2-figure numbers in his head, which he mastered quickly.

This boy was about 13 years old and was in the bottom class out of six at his school, so he didn't think he could do Math. He was quite excited about what I had shown him, so I went on to multiplying two 3-figure numbers mentally.

When he understood, I gave him two numbers to multiply. After a while he gave the correct answer, and when I confirmed it was correct, the face of this shy lad suddenly lit up with amazement and delight.

This boy had done something that probably no one else in his school (including the teachers) could have done!

If this boy, in the bottom class of his year, and after a few minutes of being taught, can multiply two 3-figure numbers in his head, surely you can do the same.

Such brain power is only the beginning with Vedic Math.

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