198 Trick

This trick is a shorter version of the more famous 1089 trick. Write the number 198 on a piece of paper, fold it, and place it on the desk. Make the 6 look like an upside down 9 if you can, Turn the paper 180 degrees and see if the number 198 now looks like 861.

Ask a student to get out a piece of paper

Step 1: Ask the student to write down a 3 digit number where the digits are descending consecutive numbers that get smaller as you go form left to right. Say" for example 876 has 3 digits that are next to each other and get smaller as you go form the left to the right.

Step 2. Ask the student to write a new number by switching the ones and the hundreds digits of the first number. In other words reverse the digits.

Step 3: Ask the student to select the largest of the two numbers and SUBTRACT the smallest of the two numbers from it to get a new number.

Have the student announce their answer. Show the prediction card but have it upside down so the number looks like 861. When they see your prediction is not correct turn the card 180 degrees and show them ii is correct.

Example:

They pick 765
They write a new number by switching the ones and the hundreds digits of the first number.
They write 567
They SUBTRACT the smallest of the two numbers from the largest to get a new number.

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   765
 − 567
   198
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Note: The restriction in the 1089 trick is that their number needs to have the first and last digits (ones and hundreds places) at least 2 digits apart "like 2 and 5 or 1 and 7" is bothersome to many teachers. It is useful for the 1089 trick but must be changed for this trick.

Note: You can extend the trick to numbers with more digits. A 4 digit number with descending consecutive numbers will differ form its reverse by 3087. A 5 digit number with descending consecutive numbers will differ form its reverse by 3087. 41976